

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

May 1998 £1.60

# SOLDIER

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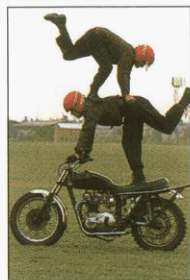
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Duke of  
Westminster:  
Page 22



RA museum:  
Page 28



Who dares:  
Page 32



Glencorse:  
Page 34

How to contact  
*Soldier* –  
see Page 70

# In this issue

## 13 Faugh-a-Ballagh!

Focus on 3rd and 8th Battalions,  
The Royal Irish Regiment

## 16 African first

Senegal provides some  
unusual challenges

## 19 Canal Zone

Veterans in new push to win  
Suez campaign medal

## 22 My Army

Duke of Westminster so  
proud to wear uniform

## 25 Avalanche warning

RMP shows Norwegians how  
to search for victims

## 28 Woolwich target

RA Museum sets sights on  
a world-class future

## 31 Chuckle with Chip

Dapper sappers

## 32 Who dares

White Helmets,  
white knuckles

## 34 ATR Glencorse

Training them, not  
breaking them . . .

## 36 Images

National model soldier  
collection celebrates

## 40 Horseshoe Barracks

The ghosts of  
Shoeburyness



## 20 COVER STORY

High-flyer: Cpl Stephen Ferguson of The  
Parachute Regiment equipped for freefall  
at the Joint Air Transport Establishment  
(JATE) at RAF Brize Norton

Picture: Terry Champion

## 57 Pay scales

TA and Reserve service

## 61 World of wheels

The Mercedes-Benz  
E-class Avant-garde

## 62 Mailbag

How Jim Davidson  
banished the blues

## 64 Reviews

Riotous times: the night  
Aldershot got smashed

## 70 Vox pop

Do you spend enough  
time on the ranges?

# SOLDIER to soldier

## Things we do for a story

HAVING a good head for heights helps if you work for this magazine, especially if you are involved in *Who Dares*, our series of white-knuckle features. But frankly, we don't care if our writers like heights or not.

This month one of them claimed that the mere thought of changing a light bulb was enough to induce vertigo and violent nausea in him, but we weren't having that. We sent him off to spend a day with the White Helmets motor-cycle display team, where, teeth gritted and pasty-faced, he careered around atop a human pyramid balanced on a solitary bike. (That may not sound very high, but just take a look at a picture on Page 33).

### BLOWN AWAY

Encouraged, we dispatched him to the Brecon Beacons to join a tri-Service hang-gliding course. Suspended beneath the flimsy wire and nylon aircraft, his complaints were blown away on the frigid wind, disturbing no one but the hardy Welsh sheep. The results can be seen in our next issue (if a letter of resignation does not arrive first).

By this time we were on a roll, so we whisked him off to the Joint Air Transport Establishment, RAF Brize Norton (see *One-Stop Drop-Shop* on Page 20-21). We strongly suggested he should have a bash at fast-roping from a helicopter – one of JATE's specialities. But this was the limit. Most unreasonably, we thought, our hitherto intrepid writer flatly refused to leave a helicopter hovering at 100ft using only a thick rope and two gloved hands to slow his descent.

All rather disappointing really, but there is an upside. Our offices have never been so well lit. We just can't stop him changing light bulbs.

### PLUS

4 People, places, events 26 Issues 38 In Parliament 39 Kitstop  
42 Sport 49 HOAY 66 Bulletin board 68 Diary



# People (and pooches), places, events

## Dog's life of Brian

IT IS definitely not a dog's life for LCpl Brian Boru VI, the Irish Wolfhound mascot of The Royal Irish Regiment (seen here with his handler Ranger Gary Thompson). The giant pooch receives a modest monthly salary, mostly spent on grooming equipment and doggy treats.

According to Gary, Brian Boru likes his creature comforts. His kennel is stocked with deodorising sprays, shampoos, talc, combs and brushes. But as Gary explains, he needs to take care of himself – or, better still, have someone else take care of him. "He's a show dog really. We need to make him presentable because he's in the public eye."

According to his handler, Brian Boru has a strong character, and at times little respect for authority. During his first ceremonial parade, and in the presence of hundreds of spectators, he lifted a leg against the saluting dais.

Then, he went AWOL while promoting the regiment in Liverpool. Rumours that a poodle had been involved are denied but that might explain why LCpl Boru is taking an inordinate time (in doggy years) to get his second stripe.

● Unit spotlight – Pages 13-15

## Pte Prig steps into Mutley's pawprints

A STRAY mongrel retriever called Prig is the Army's latest canine recruit in Northern Ireland. She is replacing Mutley, the Girdwood Barracks dog, who is retiring from north Belfast to a less vigorous lifestyle with a soldier's family in Shrewsbury.

After being officially retired at the end of April, Mutley is to join the family of Sgt Rod Steele, of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry. Sgt Steele, whose wife took a liking to Mutley during a visit, is one of several soldiers who have been looking after the old dog in recent months.

Prig, revelling in the rank of private, goes on patrol in north Belfast with troops stationed at Girdwood. Named after an anti-armour terrorist rocket device, she befriended Cpl Ian Wilcox, a member of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, and Pte Paul Taylor, of the Roulement Transport Squadron. The soldiers pay any veterinary fees and feed Prig from their own rations.

She continues a distinguished line of dogs who have attached themselves to patrols in the Province. There was Tripod, a three-legged Jack Russell who patrolled with soldiers in south Armagh, and, most famous of all, Rats.



Picture: Terry Champion

## New deal for officers promoted from ranks

UNDER measures to provide more rewarding careers for Late Entry officers, soldiers promoted from the ranks will be commissioned as captains rather than lieutenants and allowed to serve longer.

The changes are seen as giving a strong incentive to warrant officers aspiring to a career as an officer while safeguarding for the Army the wealth of experience that Late Entry (LE) officers possess. At the same time, they are not seen as detrimental to the quality needed in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, or to the rank of WO1.

It is expected that the new steps will be widely welcomed and help to dispel the perception that LE commissions "plug the gaps" in the mainstream structure.

The changes, which came into effect on April 1, are aimed at addressing the immediate need to provide a more stable, coherent and rewarding career for current LE officers.

Most will be able to serve to at least the age of 50, in preference to the current limited number serving to 55. Other measures will decrease the

uncertainty that affect LE officers in planning their careers.

The main points of the new structure are:

- Commissioning of all Late Entry officers (except QARANC) as captains;
- Extension of the Short Service Commission (LE) from five to six years (the equivalent of two full three-year tours);

- Introduction of a new Special Regular Commission (SCR) for LE officers, with retirement at 50. Conversion to a Regular Commission (LE) would occur at ages 48-49, with those selected serving a full career to the age of 55;

- Change of rules for promotion to lieutenant colonel (LE) so they can be selected for promotion in an age zone of 51-52 (rather than 49 at present). Ensure all lieutenant colonels, (LE) and mainstream, are employed in SO1-level appointments. Some are currently in SO2 jobs;

- Vacancies for LE officers on the Joint Command Staff Course (JCSC) allocated by the Army Personnel Centre. Selection should ensure places go to those with the most potential.

### IN BRIEF

**PATHFINDER** Platoon of 5 Airborne Brigade celebrated its first year as an official unit in the Order of Battle last month by issuing a "purple challenge" to other Services and announcing a series of open days from July 20-24 for those interested in joining the platoon. Details of the challenge and selection cadres are available from CSM Reaper on Aldershot Mil (722) 4419 or 01252 349419.

- Gütersloh-based 1 General Support Regiment RLC is officially twinned with Transportbataillon 120, a Bundeswehr logistic regiment from Werlte in Lower Saxony. Scrolls were formally exchanged during a parade on March 5.

- Colchester's Military Corrective Training Centre and 156 Provost Company RMP were granted the Freedom of the

## Troops to rescue as floods hit UK

REGULAR and Territorial Army troops all over the country were mobilised to work with emergency services when flooding hit wide areas of the United Kingdom over Easter.

In one incident, three RMA Sandhurst cadets returning home from the Sovereign's Parade at the end of their first term rescued eight people trapped by floodwater from the Avon.

OCdts Barry John, Peter Beaumont and Nic Lilley were driving north when they made a detour through the Vale of Evesham to avoid traffic jams on the M40. They stopped at Welford-on-Avon pub and were themselves trapped by rising water.

During the night they kept a check on elderly people living in nearby mobile homes and caravans, wading through freezing and waist-deep water to rescue those most at risk. The next morning they used a boat to help four more people to safety.

Elsewhere, specialist combat engineers from Aldershot-based 9 Parachute Squadron RE were recalled from Easter leave and deployed to the raging Avon in Warwickshire by Puma helicopter while troops in East Anglia got stuck in as the rivers Nene, Great Ouse, Welland and Cam flood-

ed. Assault boats, Gemini craft and crews from 39 Engineer Regiment were used in the evacuation of 250 civilians, and the sappers also provided bedding and lighting to three evacuation centres in Northampton.

Lt Col David Baylis, Commander of 158 (R Anglian) Regiment RLC (V), co-ordinated the Army's involvement in north Cambridgeshire. He said: "The way the majority of my TA soldiers answered the call, on a bank holiday Friday, speaks volumes for their professionalism, dedication and sense of duty in an impending crisis."

In Bedford, 100 soldiers from 16 and 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC worked alongside 3 and 4 Regiments RLC to support local police. Other units involved across the stricken counties included 3 and 4 Combat Support Regiments; 6th and 7th Battalions, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 73 Engineer Regiment; ATR Basingstoke; and 118 Recovery Company. Men of the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets stood by in Milton Keynes to evacuate the elderly and provide meals on a portable Army field kitchen.

Officers at Chilwell co-ordinated action in the worst-hit areas of Northamptonshire and Cam-

bridgeshire. Nottingham became the centre of 49 (East) Brigade's efforts in the East Midlands and East Anglia. Troops were also on standby to assist in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

Boats, boat-handlers and vehicles were provided by 3 RSME and 27 Transport Regiment RLC. Craft crewed by 22 Special Air Service were also rushed into service in the Evesham area, while Central Engineer Park, Long Marston teamed up

with 9 Para Sqn RE's specialists to get their boats into flooded town and villages.

At Stratford-on-Avon, 67 Signal Squadron (V) turned out in force.

Soldiers from the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray helped carry elderly people from flooded ground-floor flats. Sgt Ron Shergold organised camp beds and with DAC volunteers filled sandbags.



All aboard: 7 R Anglian soldiers rescue a mother and daughter at Thrapston, Northants

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

## A first at Sandhurst...



Picture: Jim Farrar

Junior Under Officer Fiona Stewart became the first woman officer cadet to win the Sword of Honour when she passed out from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, last month. Aged 23, she is to be commissioned into the Royal Signals and will join 3 (UK) Division HQ and Signal Regiment at Bulford.

The Queen's Medal was awarded at the Sovereign's Parade to OCdt Paul Keilthy, who is to join the Irish Guards in Munster in September.

More than 700 officer cadets were on the parade, which was inspected by the Duke of Kent.

## ... and on Bosnia roads



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Girl power has made Pte Anna Olson "Queen of the Road". . . in Bosnia. Pte Olson, of 12 Transport Squadron RLC, is the first woman to win the Driver of the Month competition in Bosnia. Her job, driving DROPS and heavy goods vehicles from the Croatian port of Split into Bosnia, involved an average of about 2,000km a week along twisting mountain roads covered in snow, without crash barriers and often in the dark. Anna's prize included a Leatherman combination tool and a week's extra R and R at home in Wales. She is now back in Marne Barracks, Catterick after a six-month tour with the NATO Stabilisation Force.



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# People, places, events

## Army's new web site has lift-off

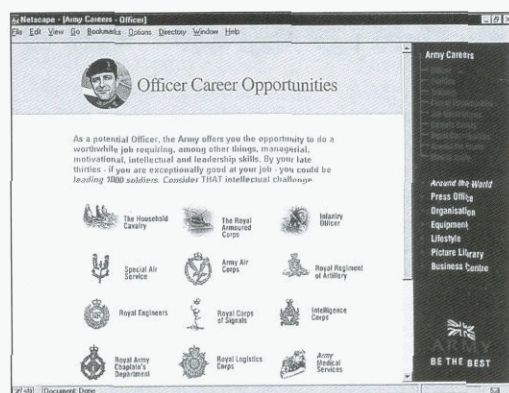
THE British Army's award-winning web site, which has proved to be a major factor in boosting recruitment, has been re-launched with a new graduate recruiting section.

With more than ten per cent of all career inquiries now coming from the web, the Army site is reckoned to be the most cost-effective and fastest-growing recruitment medium available to the Army.

Since its launch in July 1996, the site has received more than 1,650 requests for career information and recruiters estimate that more than 80 officers have been recruited from the web site.

"The site has had a tremendous impact, particularly in universities," said Col Andy Craig, Director of Recruiting, during the re-launch at the National Army Museum.

A sophisticated new response tracking system will ensure that anyone who makes an initial career enquiry via the Internet is tracked through until they join a regiment.



Detail from a page on the new Army web site

A new feature is the "Friends and Families" section of the site, which will provide soldiers and their families with information on welfare facilities, Service housing, pay and pensions, garrison details and schooling.

There will also be a link to the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) site to allow families to research details of schools in areas to which they are being posted.

A "Business Centre" will allow organisations such as film companies to search a list of facilities and locations available for hire from the Army and book them on-line.

The business site will also make it easier for the Army to communicate with defence contractors and the US Army, who already put much of their material on the Internet.

Brig Robert Gordon, Director of Public Relations (Army), said: "The Army is using the web more and more. For example, many units are setting up an e-mail and chat facility when they are in Bosnia so that troops can talk on-line with their families in England, saving the cost of expensive telephone calls."

As part of the re-launch, the Army will be taking advertising space on-line. Surfers using Yahoo.co.uk to search for Army-related keywords will also be linked directly to the recruitment section.

● The Army's web site – at [www.Army.mod.uk](http://www.Army.mod.uk) – won last year's British Interactive Media Award.

## Full circle for Dr John



Hospital consultant and Territorial Army officer Col John Hamilton first put on uniform in 1952 when he joined his school's Combined Cadet Force. He believes he is the only ex-National Serviceman to have served with the NATO Stabilisation Force in Bosnia. After six months working as a surgeon with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Sipovo, he is now back at his job as Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.

Col Hamilton spent two years from 1955 with the Royal Air Force as a National Serviceman before starting medical training. He joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a medical student in 1961.

"I was lucky to join the HAC, which is the oldest military unit in our Services, and have now been with them for 37 years," he said. "I've ended up at my basic rank of musketeer once more and am part of the bodyguard for the Lord Mayor of London."

Col Hamilton was so keen to do a tour in Bosnia that he dropped a rank to lieutenant colonel for six months and went back to basics as a general surgeon in a field hospital.

He volunteered to go to the Falklands during the 1982 conflict and to the Gulf, and both times was disappointed not to. He has served in Hong Kong, Belize, Germany, Denmark and Northern Ireland, and has a second bar to his Territorial Decoration.

● Military training aimed at 16-year-olds and based on the successful Scottish School Leavers Scheme is to start at ATR Bassingbourn in September. The existing scheme at Glencorse is to be extended beyond its originally planned end date of spring 1999.

## Bovington changes from green to blue

AN ARMY of blue-overalled civilians has moved into the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington to take over training and maintenance of vehicles.

Since the beginning of April, Phase 2 recruits have been taught driving, maintenance, signals and gunnery by 62 civilians – all of whom are ex-Servicemen. A further 258 civilian vehicle support operatives, many of whom are also ex-Servicemen, are responsible for maintaining, servicing, test-driving and repairing the tanks the recruits train on, as well as working on the ranges and in the stores.

They are employed by Hunting Con-

tract Services who bid against three other competitors to win the contract, worth more than £6 million a year.

The changeover has meant that the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, the armoured reconnaissance regiment based at Bovington to carry out the tasks of training and maintenance, has now been released for operational duty, and is serving in Bosnia. It has also meant 100 new civilian jobs being created in the local area.

Michael Furlong, Hunting's Driving and Maintenance Group Manager, was a warrant officer with the Queen's Royal Lancers before retiring last year. "This has

been a marvellous opportunity for me," he said. "I have not had to move out of my house and my wife can carry on with her job. I spent eight out of my 22 years at Bovington doing driving and maintenance, so this is just an extension of that."

"Some of our new employees, six corporals and a sergeant, are still serving and when they leave will change out of green into blue."

Col Christopher Day, Commander of RACC, said it was significant because it was the first large contract to be awarded by an Army Training and Recruitment Agency operating division.



# People, places, events



Picture: Mike Weston

**Sound of Music remembered:** Before launching his showbiz career, singer and entertainer Vince Hill (right) was a National Serviceman with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. And before performing with the band in concert in Bournemouth last month, he and his wife, Annie, visited Blandford Camp to meet the musicians

and their director of music, Maj David Wall. After a tour of the camp, Vince sat down to lunch with the band before rehearsing with them. As a National Serviceman he performed at major venues, including the Edinburgh Festival. He topped the charts in the mid-1960s with his version of *Edelweiss*, from *The Sound of Music*.

## Army advertises drive for equality

A MAJOR £2½ million nationwide recruitment advertising campaign has been launched by the British Army to put its equal opportunities message across.

Advertisements aimed specifically at women and ethnic minorities have appeared on television, radio and billboards, in ethnic and national newspapers, and on screens in 500 cinemas across the country. A series of advertisement features, explaining the opportunities for women in the Army, are to appear in young women's magazines aimed at 14- to 20-year-olds.

The campaign was developed by the advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, which has produced all the Army's advertising for the past four years.

Announcing the launch of the campaign at the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces Minister John Reid said: "We have now got the message across that we are in the market to offer rewarding and challenging careers to young people. We want the best and the brightest, irrespective of sex, social background and colour."

He said the overall recruitment campaign was working and 1997-98 figures showed an increase of two per cent for soldiers and seven per cent for officers over the previous year – the best results since 1992.

The increase in recruitment among ethnic minorities was "modest but significant". This was especially encouraging, he said, as Army recruitment often

went down when national unemployment was falling.

In the 1996-97 recruiting year, 98 soldiers of ethnic minority origin were enlisted into the Army. In 1997-98 the figure rose to 239. This equated to 1.7 per cent of all enlistments, an increase of one per cent on the previous year.

Nearly 7,000 women are currently fully employed in the Army, and at the beginning of April new trades in the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Logistic Corps, were opened to women.

These measures raised the percentage of jobs available to women from 47 to 70 per cent.

Brig Andy Craig, Commander of Army Recruiting, said: "Attracting an increasing number of ethnic minorities and females into the Army is my highest priority."

The Army has set itself ethnic minority recruitment targets which involve a two per cent increase in 1998-1999 rising to five per cent by the year 2002.

### IN BRIEF

MORE than 200 soldiers from the 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets based in Oxford have carried out their annual live-firing exercise, Pegasus Power, on Salisbury Plain.

● The Royal Anglian Regiment Museum in the Land Warfare Hall at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford has launched a £50,000 development appeal

to build a small sales outlet and install a CD-ROM retrieval system in its archives.

● Tidworth, one of the largest mounting areas for soldiers who went to the trenches in the First World War, finally has its own war memorial. Lt Gen Jack Deverell, Deputy C-in-C Land Command and a previous Commander Tidworth Garrison, unveiled the bronze memorial

## CRE lifts notice of discrimination order

THE COMMISSION for Racial Equality has lifted the threat of enforcing a Non-Discrimination Notice on the Army. It has now entered into an historic five-year "partnership agreement" with the Armed Forces.

The agreement, the first of its kind between the CRE and another body, was signed by the CRE chairman, Sir Herman Ouseley, and the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie.

Two years ago the CRE found that the Army and the MoD had committed acts of racial discrimination following a formal investigation under the Race Relations Act into the Army's Household Division. The MoD agreed to comply with a racial equality plan while the CRE reserved the right to impose measures if it was felt the plan was not being fulfilled.

The CRE says now that the Armed Forces "are committed to achieving permanent change".

Sir Herman said: "The leadership now being shown at the top of the Armed Forces is an example to all. Vigorous action is being taken to deal with racial harassment which, in the past, has affected the lives of many ethnic minority soldiers."

"The Army's outreach work is exemplary and it has set itself tough, testing, but realisable targets for the recruitment of ethnic minority soldiers."

### TA gets new ambulance

TERRITORIAL Army medics serving with 253 (North Irish) Field Ambulance RAMC(V) have become the first TA unit to be issued with and use the Army's new battlefield ambulance for live medical support. The Defender XD Military Ambulance is based on the new Wolf Land Rover series and carries emergency equipment similar to that in civilian vehicles.



Armed Forces Minister John Reid with soldiers who helped launch the new equal opportunities recruiting advertising campaign

Picture: Terry Champion

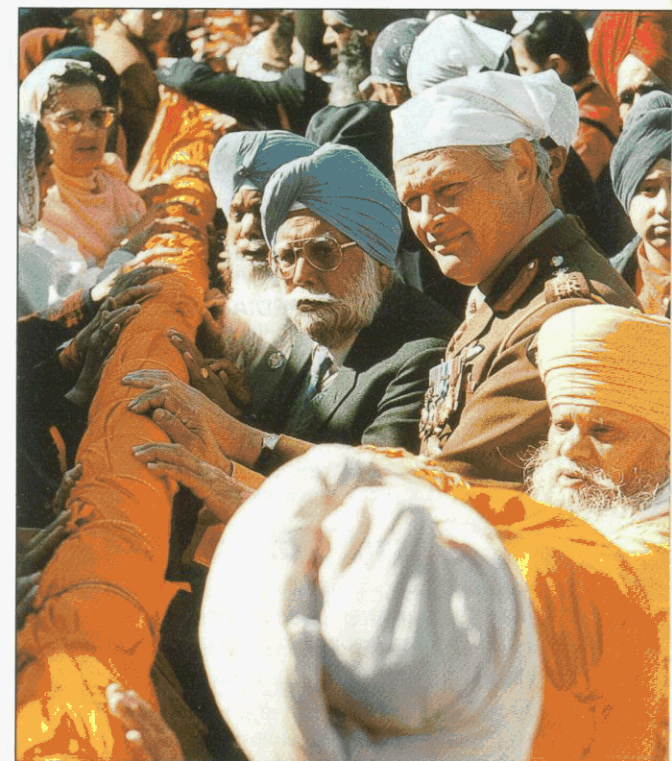
statue of a 1914-18 soldier, created by noted sculptress Viv Mallock, on a site in front of the Royal British Legion Club.

● The tenth anniversary of the re-forming of 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)(V) was celebrated in style. The annual regimental cocktail party was held at the Mansion House in London. The Lord Mayor of London, the Rt Hon

Richard Nichols, is also Honorary Colonel of the regiment.

● Soltau-Lüneburg Training Area, familiar to generations of British soldiers serving in Germany, was finally consigned to history when reinstatement work was completed at the end of March, marking the return of the area to the German Government.

### C-in-C's Sikh ceremony



Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, breaks new ground by visiting one of the country's oldest Sikh temples to take part in celebrations marking the 299th anniversary of the birth of the Sikh religion. The ceremony, in Leicester, was attended by 20 Asian veterans of the Second World War. Gen Walker told hundreds of people at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara that the Army was making strenuous efforts to dispel the image of an organisation which failed to reflect Britain's multi-cultural diversity.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

### Madam Speaker ...



Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, finds out about life in Cyprus's buffer zone during a visit to soldiers of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment serving with the United Nations. With her is Lt Col David Eccles, CO 1 RTR. The regiment is currently on a six-month tour on the Green Line dividing north and south. Also in the picture are (back, left to right) WO1 Neil Kellet and WO2 Willie Finlay.



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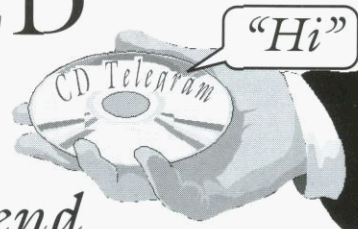
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# People, places, events



It goes there: Soldiers of 10 Para get to grips with changing a wheel on a Land Rover during the annual Courage Trophy military competition at Longmoor Camp

## Londoners take Courage

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers from all over London descended on Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, for the 25th annual London District military skills and leadership competition, the Courage Trophy, which was won by a team from The London Regiment.

B Company took the honours by a single point from 101 Regiment RE, with 100 Regiment RA close behind in third. They were among a record 38 teams to take part in the gruelling weekend competition.

Everything hung on the results of the speed march, and the Londoners were declared the winners only after a re-count.

Teams of eight had to march around 11 stands spread across the Longmoor Training Area, to be tested in shooting, communications, driving and NBC warfare, an assault course, a 10km speed march and a

falling plate knockout competition. Lt Maynard Williams, the winning team captain, said: "Because the competition tests a wide range of military skills, it means that no single unit has an advantage over the others."

"My team worked extremely hard to prepare and that has paid off."

The competition has become something of an institution among London TA units and Scottish Courage, the brewers, are delighted to be involved. "We've been a part of this competition right from the start and we are very pleased to continue to be associated with it," said John McAllister, a Courage representative.

A new element was introduced in the assault course section, during which the teams had to negotiate their way through a FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas) village via underground drains and roof-tops.

## Troops ferry across Severn

A FIRST crossing of the River Severn by military ferries was part of a large-scale humanitarian and combat operations exercise involving troops from Tidworth-based 1st Mechanised Brigade last month.

Army units joined forces with 1 Group, Royal Air Force for Exercise Head First, which began on Castle-martin, Sennybridge and Caerwent training areas in South Wales and

moved back to Salisbury Plain via Keevil Airfield.

RAF assets, including helicopters, transport aircraft, fast jets and ground-support staff enhanced the exercise, which culminated in a parachute drop on Salisbury Plain.

The Severn was forded at two points: the original ferry crossing between Beachley and Aust Cliff, and at Lower Lode near Tewkesbury.

## 'Normalisation' to follow peace referendum

A COMMITMENT to a "normalisation" of security arrangements and practices in Northern Ireland is given in the historic Ulster Agreement signed in Belfast on April 10.

Troop levels, the role of the Armed Forces, and the removal of security installations and emergency powers would be addressed by the British Government should peace return to the province. The ground-breaking document is to be put to the people of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic in a referendum.

Participants in the peace talks also committed themselves to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations and set a deadline for all paramilitary arms to be decommissioned within two years of the referendum's endorsement.

● The peace deal may aid the early release of two Scots Guardsmen, James Wright and Mark Fisher, junior Northern Ireland minister Lord Dabs told the House of Lords. The guardsmen were convicted of shooting a teenage terrorist suspect in Belfast in 1992.

## Brighton to host CIOR 50

UP TO 1,000 reserve officers from 15 NATO countries will converge on Brighton this summer for the 50th anniversary congress of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR).

Britain currently holds the presidency of CIOR, the membership of which is made up of serving or recently retired reserve officers from naval, air and ground officers, who are also leaders in their civilian professions.

The five-day conference will take place from July 13 to 17, and a military competition, involving 300 young reserve officers from NATO and some East European countries, will take place at Aldershot between July 14 and 16.

## 'Ranks' author dies

HUGH Howton, whose series "Questions of Rank" has been a regular feature in *Soldier*, has died suddenly at the age of 60.

Formerly a newspaper reporter, National Serviceman and Army public relations officer in Germany, Hugh, who spoke Russian, Serbo-Croat, French and German, was a feature writer on the *Soldier* staff from 1967 to 1971.

With his last article on ranks and insignia due to appear in this issue (see Page 67), he had started researching a series on Army mascots.

## IN BRIEF

THREE soldiers killed in the Battle of Arras in 1917 were laid to rest with full military honours at the British Cemetery in Monchy Le Preux, northern France, on April 15. A report will appear in the next issue.

● An Army Gazelle helicopter crew from 5 Regiment AAC, supported by two RUC boats, saved the life of a woman jet-skier missing in Lough Erne, Fermanagh. She had run out of fuel and was found by Omagh-based pilot Sgt Steve Finnegan and his crew after a five-hour search and rescue operation.



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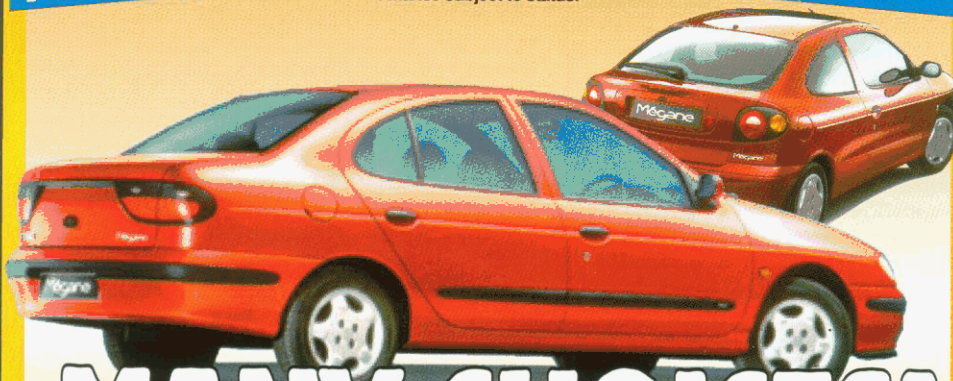
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Unit spotlight

# Faugh-a-Ballagh!



Ceremonial dress for St Patrick's Day. Men of the Royal Irish Regiment with Armagh City in the background

**Reports: Graham Bound**  
**Pictures: Terry Champion**

THE Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment are unique in several ways. They are a mix of full-time and part-time soldiers; they live within the civilian communities of Northern Ireland; and, in the words of Maj Leo Callow of Armagh-based 8 R Irish, "their career is a 22-year operational tour".

While other regiments are posted to the province for several months – a few years at most – and then go home, the Royal Irish have enjoyed no such relief. Theirs is an operational posting which has lasted as long as the Troubles, and will continue for as long as the Royal Ulster Constabulary needs military support in the defeat of terrorism.

That is not to say that the Royal Irish itself has been present throughout that time. The Army's largest regiment, with

## 3 and 8 R Irish help clear the way for peace in their troubled world

its five Home Service and one General Service battalion (the only one which operates outside Northern Ireland) was formed in 1992, from the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment. Many of today's full- and part-time Royal Irish soldiers can look back on years of similar service with the old regiments.

The saying "it's all relative" might have been invented for the soldiers of Northern Ireland, because, notwithstanding the cease-fire and the peace talks, it remains a

hugely challenging task for those who garrison and police it. There is certainly less violence than in the 70s and 80s, but by the standards of most societies, soldiering here can still be a daunting pursuit. Despite everything, they do not relax their guard.

The marching season, for which Armagh is a major centre, has generated annual violence, while small but active extremist groups from each side of the community divide have continued to plan and execute terrorist attacks. Even the larger groups, which claim to be observing the cease-fires, reportedly go on stockpiling weapons and planning for possible attacks.

And the personal threat facing the soldiers in their homes and (in the case of part-time soldiers) at work has hardly diminished. In a very real sense, the men and women who wear the Green Hackle

● Turn to next page



# Unit spotlight

LIKE so many in the Home Service battalions of The Royal Irish Regiment, Capt Christine Taylor juggles her life. She is part soldier working in a defended base and part civilian living in the community.

She is also battalion recruitment officer, and a mother. All of which can lead to a demanding and challenging lifestyle.

It undoubtedly helps to remember why she joined the regiment and why she wishes to bring others into the organisation.

"I signed up because I wanted to make the community a safer place for our chil-

## Recruiting across the divide

dren," she said. She most emphatically is not in it for the money and says that few of the men and women she recruits are particularly concerned about this aspect of the job.

Many share Christine's desire to contribute to the fight against all types of terrorism and enjoy the camaraderie of a close

band of soldiers.

Recruits frequently follow a parent, brother or sister into the regiment and some can trace their links back to its forerunners, the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment.

"The regiment is very family-oriented," Christine Taylor said.

But extending battalion membership into the wider community is a challenge which constantly preoccupies the recruiters.

"In our recruitment drives we target schools, youth clubs and other institutions in both Catholic and Protestant areas right across the country," she said. "We do as much as we can but peer and family pressures are sometimes very difficult to overcome."

"It is important to show the communities of whatever political colour or religious persuasion that we are on their side."

# The Armagh Experience

To 3 R Irish it's a byword for success in continuing search for deadly hoards

THE ARMAGH Experience may sound a little like a theme park white-knuckle ride, but suggest this to any of the men and women in the 3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, based in Portadown, and they will put you straight in no uncertain terms.

There is, after all, no theme park in the world where the game is to find concealed home-made anti-tank weapons, rifles, pistols and booby traps filled with "shipyard confetti" while facing hostile crowds.

But this comprehensive search operation, which took place last year in a district of Armagh described by one 3 R Irish officer as "a busy operational area with a determined suspected terrorist grouping" – has become a byword for success, and the knowledge gained during the Armagh Experience has been incorporated into aspects of Army counter-terrorist training.

Ironically, it occurred while the first Provisional IRA cease-fire was still in effect. Army patrols had been scaled-down in response to the reduction in the perceived threat, but because there was evidence to suggest that the suspected



Soldiers with 3 R Irish display a home-made anti-armour missile and launcher recovered recently from a terrorist arms cache. They are helped by a team of dogs in their searches

terrorists were still stockpiling weapons and gathering intelligence on possible civilian and military targets, they had not been abandoned.

It was a chance find by one of the patrols which led to the extended search operation and an impressive arms haul.

Among the home-made and conventional weapons denied to the terrorists as a result of the operation were a Mk16

mortar, a "PRIG" missile, three pistols, a rifle and an anti-personnel bomb stuffed with the notorious "shipyard confetti" – nuts, bolts and other sundry bits of improvised shrapnel.

Sgt Phil Lorrimer stressed that terrorists are ever more skilful in building weapons and devising their crucial hides.

"The days of the old milk churn and the 40-gallon oil drum are certainly over," he

said. The challenge is to keep up with them, teaching troops how to recognise the components of weapons, which may be relatively ordinary pieces of hardware or household items, and how to spot the hides.

The battalion takes special pride in these skills. Recently it was called on by the RUC following the infamous Poyntzpass killings of a Catholic and Protestant and in the aftermath of the Portadown bomb in early March.

"Operations like this give us a chance to show that our techniques and training are well-founded," said Sgt Lorrimer.

He gives full credit not only to his colleagues, but also the four-legged team members – the force of five dogs, each trained to detect arms and explosive concealed in the ground, in buildings and vehicles.

An example to all the dogs and handlers is search dog Cobb, a Labrador who recently retired but remains at 3 R Irish's Portadown base as a much-loved inspiration to all who follow in his paw-steps.

### HOT DOG

In ten years of active service Cobb uncovered, among other fiendish things, bombs weighing 600lb and 1,200lb in South Armagh, three anti-armour grenades in Newry, two shotguns with 500 rounds, a radio transceiver, a store of bomb detonators and detonator cord, an AK47 rifle and 200 rounds in Lurgan, plus various barrel, pipe and bunker hides.

Such were his achievements that the Duke of York, the Regimental Colonel, promoted Cobb to lance corporal.

The dogs greatly improve efficiency. Handler LCpl Willy Black and his colleagues showed how a springer spaniel called Benson can search a car or van in ten seconds. Without him, it would take two men ten minutes to do the same job, creating increased delays at checkpoints.

"To the dogs," LCpl Black observed, "it's all a game, but to the handler and the guys behind, it can be a matter of life or death."

### ● From Page 13

are never off duty. For every-one it means constant vigilance and caution.

The experience of one former soldier, now retired, shows that the risk to every member of the Royal Irish is very real.

A postman in civilian life, he will never forget the day he almost died. He stopped his van at a farm near Armagh City and was walking towards the house with a handful of letters. Instead of the usual welcoming farmer, two gunmen emerged from behind the building and opened fire, hitting the postman several times. He replied with the weapon he always carried

## Faugh-a-Ballagh!

for personal protection, and wounded one of his attackers.

With blood pouring from his wounds, the postman made it back to his van and drove towards the nearest RUC station. He was hospitalised for months and still suffers the after-effects of the wound. But he returned to 8 R Irish refusing to let the would-be killers affect his life in any way.

"I joined up to protect my community, my family and myself. I'm very proud to have done it," he says now.

The veteran soldier's experience was far from unique, as the regiment's grim statistics show. Since the troubles began, the Royal Irish family has lost 76 members while off-duty. The regiment has as much reason as anyone in Ireland – perhaps more – to hope for peace, but until it prevails it is doing more than its bit to make the province a better place for people of decency in both communities.

*Faugh-a-Ballagh* – Clear the Way – is the regiment's Gaelic motto. In support of the RUC, the soldiers of the Royal Irish are clearing the way for peace.

# Keeping the peace

8 R Irish get spectacular patrol results

FROM their headquarters on the outskirts of Armagh City, the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment maintains a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation in support of the civilian officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

It is a partnership which, according to the battalion CO, Lt Col Farron Drury, works remarkably well.

"It helps greatly that we have excellent relations," he said. "We do feel that we help them restore normality and protect the vast majority of people on both sides of the community divide who hate the violence."

"We can help with their anxieties and give them the reassurance which helps to reduce the influence of terrorists."

Armagh is an area where smaller terrorist groups have paid scant attention to cease-fires. Loyalist terrorist Billy Wright, murdered in the Maze Prison, was from the area and the revenge killings which followed also centred on the county.

The notorious Poyntzpass killings took place nearby and in late March a retired RUC officer was murdered while shopping with his wife in Armagh City.

It is not surprising, therefore, that unlike some battalions, 8 R Irish and their support squadron from the Queen's Royal Hussars have continued to patrol throughout the IRA cease-fires. The base helipad is busy with RAF Pumas ferrying patrols to the outlying areas.

This vigilance paid off in spectacular fashion in March when a patrol discovered a battery of mortar tubes, primed and timed for launching at the nearby Newry Road RUC station. The terrorists were long gone, but the patrol was



Patrolling remains a constant duty, and produces results

able to evacuate the area. Their rapid action probably saved lives. Three of the five mortar-bombs exploded within the station perimeter.

Lt Col Drury is proud of the men and women under his command. They show real dedication. What is more, they know how to enjoy themselves.

"You can never get away from the crack," he said, no doubt remembering the camaraderie, music and celebration of St Patrick's Day and the regiment's very own Barrosa Day. Then, as the newly-arrived CO, he had to drink from the notoriously potent cocktail of the Barrosa Cup.

Perhaps this capacity for fun, and the willingness of the Irish soldiers to make the best of a situation which can be at times deeply unpleasant, explains a paradox which puzzles him.

"When the situation here gets worse, you would expect recruitment to be difficult. But the opposite is true. Our recruiting goes up. People just seem to want to do something to help."



On exercise

# Spiders keep lads on edge in Senegal



As part of the peacekeeping exercise the Fusiliers were required to secure Bakel Airfield

**Report: Capt James Anderson**  
**Pictures: Sgt Steve Dock**

FOR THE first time, British soldiers have been on exercise in the West African country of Senegal. They were there at the invitation of the French, demonstrating UK political backing for France's new African peacekeeping policy.

Sixty soldiers – 34 of them from the Reconnaissance Platoon, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based in Celle – worked alongside troops from France, America, and seven other African nations. Exercise Guidimakha took place in the border area between Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

The British soldiers played a small but significant part in the ten-day exercise. Working alongside two French and one American platoon, they had to seize and hold the small airport of Bakel before handing it over to the African peacekeeping troops.

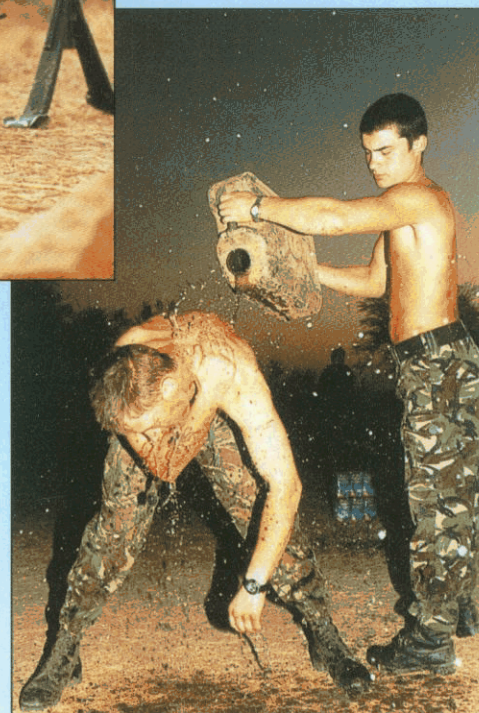
After leaving the airfield the platoon

was able to spend two days on low-level training and had a chance to visit the capital, Dakar, and see something of central Senegal.

Temperatures in the open scrubland where the exercise took place reached more than 40C and there was scant protection from the harsh sun. The British had little time to acclimatise and found the heat one of the main challenges.

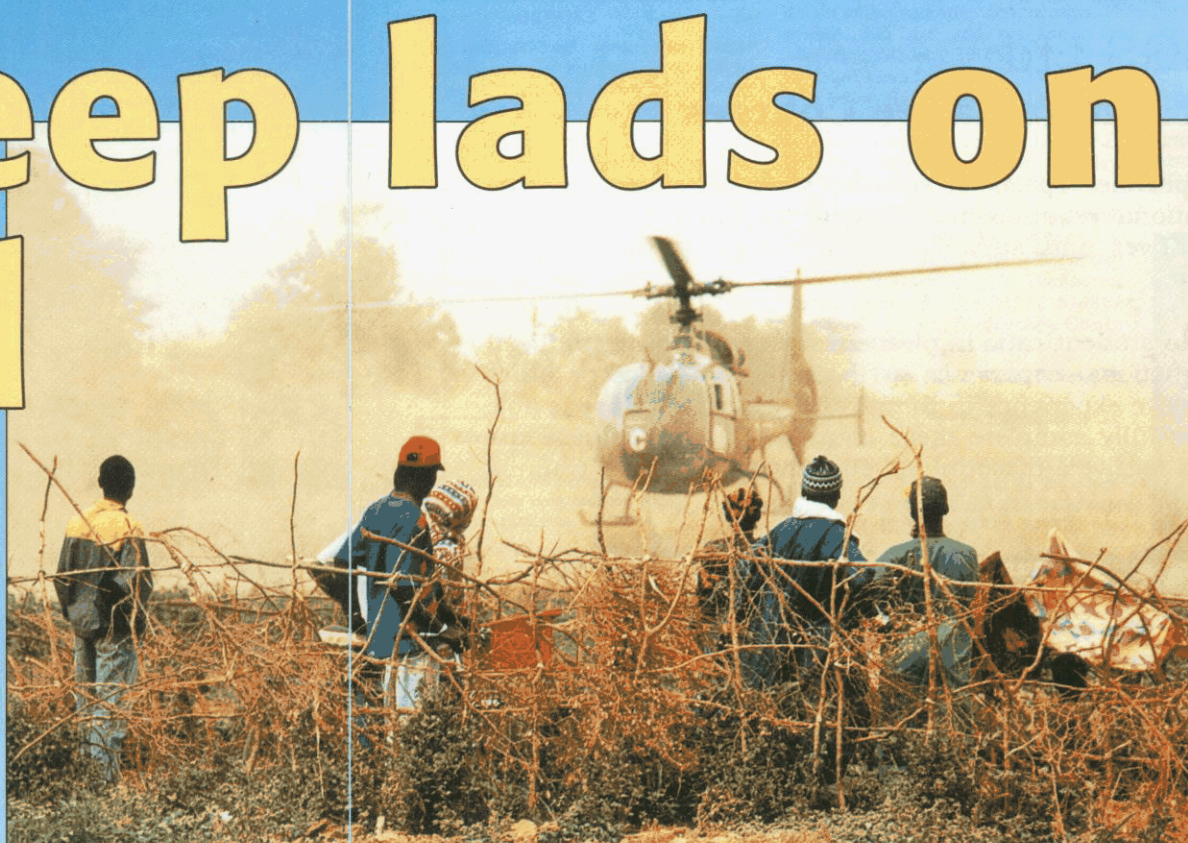
Cpl Tim Wright, the platoon medic, said: "Dehydration can be a real problem here. The recommended intake is at least eight litres of bottled water a day. That seems a lot but you definitely need it, and drinking soon becomes second nature. Fortunately none of the guys has had any real problems."

The local wildlife was also a distraction. Senegal boasts some particularly nasty inhabitants: four types of poisonous snake, scorpions, and knife spiders – similar to tarantulas but with long fangs which can cut into the skin. It was not

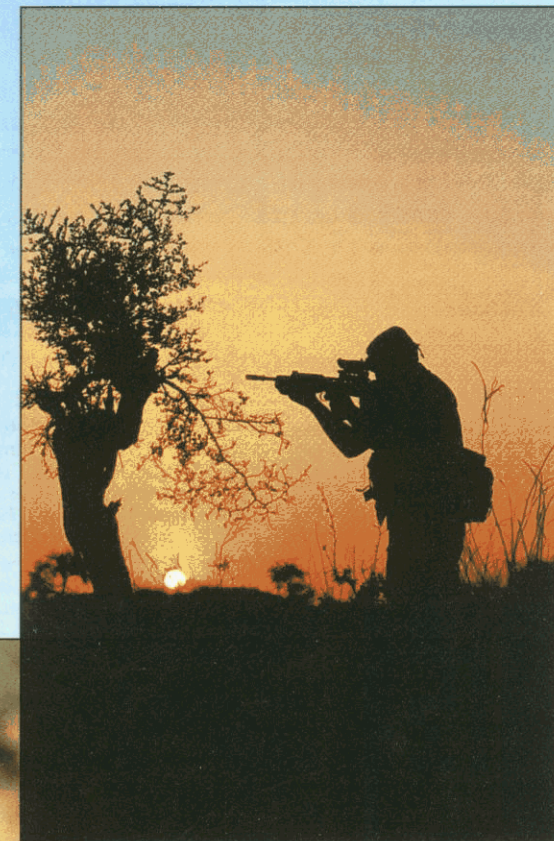


LCpl Phil Watkins gets a "power shower", courtesy of Fus John Hitchins

until a number of these spiders were found on camp beds that the soldiers realised if they were going to use mosquito nets they should not drape down to the ground, but be tucked around the mattress, otherwise they could serve as useful ladders for the eight-legged creatures.



A French Gazelle carries out forward recce as locals look on



Above – Dusk in Senegal comes as a welcome relief after the scorching sun

Left – A fine layer of dust seems to coat everything. A paint brush proves to be just the tool for weapon cleaning



The red-and-white hackle of the Fusiliers was of particular interest to the French soldiers. Legend has it that after the Battle of St Lucia in 1778, the Fusiliers took the hackles and dipped them in the blood of the dead French, thereby giving them their distinctive look. The French were enthralled by this information and many were keen to trade beret badges.

France has strong historical links with Senegal and there was a great deal that could be learnt from the French soldiers, providing of course, that the language

barrier could be overcome. "Because of France's close ties with the region, almost everyone speaks French," explained Capt Jeremy Robinson, the platoon commander. "We seemed to get by with the use of sign language and the little French we know... skiing French as I call it."

For all of the 11 nations taking part, Exercise Guidimakha was a practical demonstration of how France would implement her new policy on peacekeeping operations in Africa, which was announced by the French government in May 1997. Senegal, Mali and Mauri-

tania were the main players, which was particularly relevant as these countries were recently involved in border disputes.

The policy is called RECAMP, an abbreviation for the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities (translated from the French). Central to this concept is the ability of African nations to commit about 3,500 troops to peacekeeping missions.

The French are to provide assistance with training and have also pre-positioned equipment in Dakar. With more than 100 vehicles, equipment for over 600 men and an air-portable field hospital, the RECAMP Battalion can be quickly mobilised in support of peacekeeping operations.

By making a military contribution to the exercise both the UK and USA showed their willingness to offer political backing and, if required, military support for this initiative.





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# Campaign



British troops escort auxiliary police captured during the Ismailia battle involving units of the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Dragoon Guards

## 20,000 support Suez Medal plea to minister

SUEZ Canal Zone veterans' hopes were raised when a Government minister promised to consider their latest plea for official medal recognition for their part in the early 1950s emergency.

Defence minister John Spellar gave his assurance after an hour-long meeting at the House of Commons with an eight-strong delegation who presented a petition of 20,000 signatures supporting their case.

Veterans' spokesman Col (Retd) Pip Newton told Mr Spellar the "long overdue" medal was originally sought on January 18, 1952 by Gen Sir Brian Robertson, C-in-C Middle East Land Forces, for active service troops involved in the "vicious" anti-terrorist operation. Since October of the previous year 33 had been killed and at least 69 wounded.

On January 25, 1952 the 1st Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers and other units lost a further five killed and 13 wounded in an attack on the police barracks in Ismailia to disarm paramilitaries involved in the murder of many Servicemen. Forty-three police were killed and 60 wounded; Sgt Henry Foster LF was awarded the George Medal.

Col Newton contended that the Foreign Office vetoed Gen Robertson's medal request because the Government did not want to upset relations with a newly-formed Egyptian government. The Egyptians, however, awarded a medal to their paramilitaries.

By the end of the emergency on October 19, 1954, a total of 64 Servicemen had been killed and 124 wounded by Egyptian police and terrorists.

Col Newton said that contrary to the official line, the case for a medal was never officially rejected by the Army

Council and was not even considered by the Committee on Honours and Decorations (HDC).

Whitehall, he said, claimed the Servicemen were "merely guarding installations against thefts, that they were not on active service, that conditions of service were not so bad as other theatres and casualties were low".

When seven years ago the medal campaigners again sought official recognition, said Col Newton, they were told the case had been examined in December 1956, at the same time as the Suez Invasion medal, and rejected. The Army conceded in 1991 that there was a case for the award of a Suez Canal Zone clasp to the previous GSM, he said, but decided not to pursue the matter.

### ON MERIT

He said the Chiefs of Staff should now be requested to submit a case formally to the HDC "based entirely on merit and not mixed-up in any way with the political issues involved, as was the case for the Suez Invasion 1956 and Cyprus bars to the GSM".

There were several cases, he added, of medals being awarded many years after the event, the longest being the MGSM 1793-1814, awarded in 1848.

The Suez Medal case was also supported by former Chief of the Defence Staff Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, who in a letter to Andrew Bennett MP, acting as intermediary for the meeting on March 19, described the lack of eligibility for the GSM as an "injustice".

Other delegation members were Brig (Retd) Stuart Ryder, Danny Davenport, Charles Golder, Cyril Blackburn, Len Oliver, Tom Radford and Pete Newton (no relation to the colonel).

## Force for good

### Soldiers on the run . . .

FIVE REME soldiers serving with the **Falkland Islands Engineering Unit** marched from Mount Pleasant Airfield to the 1982 war memorial in Stanley, a distance of 37 miles, in a few minutes under seven hours. Led by Cpl Dusty Miller, their efforts raised £249 for Cancer Research.

❑ Soccer-mad soldiers from Colchester-base **1st Battalion, The Royal Scots** played a 24-hour five-a-side match to raise funds for the Erskine Hospital in Scotland, which cares for war veterans.

❑ Six instructors from the Armoured Wing of the **Driving and Maintenance School** at HQ RAC Centre, Bovington Camp, ran for 24 hours around the all-weather driving circuit and raised more than £400 for the Wessex Cancer Children's Research Fund and a ward at Southampton General Hospital.

❑ Soldiers from **3 Cheshire, 33 Signal Regt** and **4 Para** presented cheques to the David Lewes Centre for children with epilepsy at Alderley Edge, Cheshire after raising nearly £13,000 for play equipment by competing in a sponsored triathlon.

❑ A team of seven from the **British Army Liaison Team Kenya** ran 115 miles in relay from Nairobi to Nanyuki to raise £1,200 for the orphanage at Nanyuki. The money will go towards a water system, furniture and clothes.

❑ Eight soldiers from the **1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment** rowed to France and back five times in a day – without leaving their Aldershot barracks. Their marathon, on exercise machines, raised money to buy an electric wheelchair for a Farnham schoolboy who suffers from diastrophic dysplasia.

❑ Salisbury Hospital's Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit has been given £400 by Larkhill-based **32nd Regiment RA**. The money is part of £2,500 raised for good causes by the gunners during a six-month tour of Cyprus last year.

❑ An eight-year-old Chelmsford boy suffering from an incurable condition which affects his mobility, speech and immune system was treated to a day with the Army at Colchester Garrison. He was looked after by Sgt Steve Walton of **210 Signal Squadron**.

❑ Cpl Lee Slack and Pte James Fitzwater from **ATR Lichfield** got themselves sponsored to cycle more than 220 miles across the Judean desert to the Red Sea. They completed the marathon, five-day event and raised more than £1,850 each for Mencap. Both men are members of The Parachute Regiment.



# One-stop drop-shop

At an air base in Oxfordshire, a tri-Service team led by an Army colonel develops the latest techniques in aerial delivery. The Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE) will stow almost anything in an aircraft – and then happily throw it out again from several thousand feet

Report: Graham Bound

CLOSE your eyes and stand very quietly in one of the giant hangars which are home to the Joint Air Transport Establishment at RAF Brize Norton and faintly, from behind a pile of parachutes and a crumpled Land Rover, you just might hear the distant words of "Q".

"Now listen carefully, 007," Bond's favourite boffin might say. "This special parachute will take you, your amphibious Lotus and the exploding cocktail cabinet precisely on to target. Oh and 007, do try and bring it back in one piece."

The distinct *wokker-wokker* of a Chinook helicopter drowns out Q's imaginary patter as the giant machine hovers 90ft above the verdant Oxfordshire countryside, fast-roping a stream of men to the ground.

It is that kind of place; a boys'-own paradise, where a small band of engineers, technicians, pilots and soldiers develop the techniques and equipment necessary to deliver every imaginable piece of military hardware to its target. Equally importantly, the boffins also work on techniques for delivering the troops who use the kit; invariably by dropping them out of aircraft.

JATE does it all: techniques are conceived and developed according to the needs of clients, which could be any Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force unit, but are frequently 5 Airborne Brigade or the Special Forces. The equipment is developed, manuals written, and personnel trained. Specialist equipment is even designed and manufactured in the unit's workshops. It is, in short, the military's one-stop drop-shop.

The work of the unit's 134 tri-Service and civilian staff, including 45 soldiers, is divided into five broad areas: air-dropping, under-slung helicopter loads, inter-

nal aircraft loads, fast-roping techniques, and training.

JATE's commandant, Col Tim Bradwell, has been overseeing the multiple activities of this unit for just over a year and the challenge continues to thrill him.

It is telling that he slips easily into the jargon of the test pilot and the scientist. "We

are pushing the envelope of everything we do," he said. "We

always do our research meticulously on paper and on computer, but it is still dangerous work. If we are working on a new delivery system and we get our calculations wrong, then the result could be disaster. It makes us sit up and think about what we are doing."

Maj Nick Luck of the Aerial Delivery Section illustrated the colonel's point by mentioning a large assault boat for which a client unit needed an air-dropping procedure. A video of the test drop revealed a boat almost half the size of the aircraft fuselage slipping from the back door of a C130 Hercules and descending into the sea beneath a cluster of parachutes.

"If we had got that wrong, it could have seriously damaged the aircraft, not to mention the boat," said Maj Luck.

It is the job of JATE's specialist Aerial Delivery Section to ensure that such dis-

asters do not occur. These experts use a bewildering array of parachute systems, inflatable airbags, shock absorbing pallets, flotation bags and aluminium cradles, to establish the very best means of delivery for a particular cargo. If they get it right, then a vehicle, even a Scorpion armoured vehicle, can be driven from a drop-zone within 15 minutes. Get it wrong, and the result might resemble one of the crumpled Land Rovers which stand forlornly in a JATE hangar.

Loads may be dragged from the rear of a Hercules, attached to a static line, or even strapped to a free-fall parachutist of the airborne trials unit who guides it to a precise target. This method does nothing for the dignity of a parachutist. With a



Just another day at work. Parachutists of the highly-experienced Airborne Trials section put new kit through its paces

load weighing up to 450lb attached to his front, a JATE test jumper is unable to walk, and must be dragged to the open door to be thrown unceremoniously from the aircraft.

These free-fall dare-devils have the experience of more than 14,000 jumps between them. When not strapped to a cargo, they may be jumping alongside it with a video camera, recording whether the equipment is functioning correctly.

The team also tests new developments in the almost constantly evolving field of personal parachuting. Recently, it trialled a low-level system which allows airborne forces to be dropped from around 250ft, and it regularly establishes safe methods for parachutists to carry new kit.

Many of the ideas originate at DERA Boscombe Down, but, as Ft Lt Rhys Cowdill explained: "Although they might say that something can be done, we have to test it and decide whether it is suitable for troops to use operationally. If it is, then we write the drills and advise on the training necessary. We are constantly working on the edge of practicality because the Army always wants soldiers to jump with as much kit as possible."

Slightly less exotic but every bit as challenging is the work of the Air-portability Section, which establishes how loads that are not to be dropped by parachute can be safely delivered within an aircraft. Jim Pascoe, a civilian member of the 18-

strong design team, stresses the importance of getting it right.

"Nothing is moved without JATE authorising it," he said. "Otherwise things can go seriously wrong." Carelessly stowed cargoes have been known to tip stationary VC10 transport planes on their tails, while C130s can bend noticeably if weight is unevenly distributed or wrongly lashed down.

## WILL IT FIT?

Until the arrival of specialised computer software, devising the loading plans and "rigging", as the complicated lashing systems are known, could take many days of calculation and trials, but now Jim Pascoe and his colleagues simply have to select an aircraft type from the design software and enter a load's dimensions to find out if and how a piece of kit can be carried. Nevertheless, if clearance from roofs and door frames is measured in inches, the load will be tested in one of two dummy aircraft fuselages.

Client units from all three Services come knocking on JATE's door with some unconventional requirements. Recently the Air-portability Section was tasked to plan the air shipment of a dismantled Spitfire. The Second World War fighter was to be flown to the United States where it would take part in celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of

the American Air Force. Even with the help of Jim Pascoe's computer programme, shoe-horning the veteran fighter in a C130 was a tough job.

Recently a growing number of foreign customers have also been finding their way to Brize Norton. Seeking solutions to their own thorny aerial delivery problems, such clients are prepared to pay realistic prices for JATE's services. As a consequence, the one-stop drop-shop has adopted a more commercial profile; so much so that JATE is now a Department of Trade and Industry-registered "quality company".

Col Bradwell says that the next step is for JATE to secure the Design Authority status required to patent its own engineering products. Such is the sophistication of this unique tri-Service unit.

But, in the best tradition of innovation, a surprising number of projects – particularly those instigated by the Special Forces – begin life in a way that is only slightly more sophisticated than the proverbial back-of-an-envelope sketch.

UORs (Urgent Operational Requirements), sometimes just a rough one-page specification, can put JATE into overdrive. "UORs are a real challenge," said Maj Luck of Aerial Delivery. "It's a matter of pride that we can be testing a delivery system from the back of an aircraft within a week."

Q would approve.



## Second career for a duke

The Duke of Westminster is a Territorial officer "to his bootstraps". *Soldier* visited him at his Cheshire estate to find out why soldiering is in his blood

Interview: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE light of a true enthusiast gleams in Colonel His Grace the Duke of Westminster's eyes when he talks about the Territorial Army.

Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, the sixth Duke of Westminster, realised early on that his destiny was to be a soldier. One of the first Normans to set foot on English soil was Le Gros Veneur (The Great Huntsman), who led William the Conqueror's horse up the beach at Hastings in 1066.

"We've been soldiers ever since," he said. "In fact, it was Winston Churchill who said the only time the Grosvenors were any good was when they were at war."

That has patently been proved untrue by the present Duke, reputedly one of the richest men in the country, who successfully runs his massive business empire from offices in London and his estate just outside Chester.

Despite this he has been a committed TA soldier since 1971 when he joined the Queen's Own Yeomanry at 19. He eventually commanded the regiment, which he described as "a great privilege and the biggest joy in the world", and is now Deputy Commander 143 (West Midlands) Brigade. He had planned to join the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, the regiment his uncle commanded at the Battle of El Alamein, but his father became seriously ill at that time and it became clear he could not take up a Regular commission because of duties on the estate.

"I suppose I could have gone into the Army but I knew where my responsibilities lay," he reflected. "The Yeomanry has been in our blood for hundreds of years – my great grandfather actually raised a number of Yeomanry regiments – so it was not a difficult decision to make."

The Duke did not take his military responsibilities lightly, and was on the tank park as a trooper nearly every weekend for two years before being commissioned.

"I loved every minute of it," he said. "I was with a whole bunch of scousers who

had, not to put too fine a point on it, a different outlook on life from me. It was the best grounding for a Territorial officer one could possibly have.

"We weren't in the officers' mess, we didn't wear white tabs, there was no distinction. We lived with the boys, worked with them, ate with them, and that is a system I thoroughly believe in.

"We were doing three to four weekends a month and used to go to Germany every year.

"It was an armoured reconnaissance regiment, so when you're playing with large and expensive pieces of equipment, it takes a very high degree of commitment both as a soldier and an officer."

The Duke was brought up to believe that you succeeded by your own efforts, but for reasons beyond his control he found him-



self in a situation where ability did not come into the equation. The TA, as well as offering "extraordinary therapy", also offered a chance to prove himself as Tpr Grosvenor.

"I always wanted a second career where I could be judged against my own peers," he said. "I wanted to do it, and I wanted to do it well and to achieve something without being merely born on the right side of the green baize door.

"It was important to me, for my own self-confidence and self-esteem, to know that I could actually achieve something in

the real world. I know full well that if it had gone pear-shaped I would not have commanded my own regiment. Contrary to what some people think, commanders are picked for ability, and if we are not considered fit for the job we don't get it, so it felt good, that, really good.

"It also gave me a contact with life which I would never have experienced. To command a regiment from the northern counties means you end up somewhere between a social service and an agony aunt – getting every single problem on your desk concerning all the soldiers under your command."

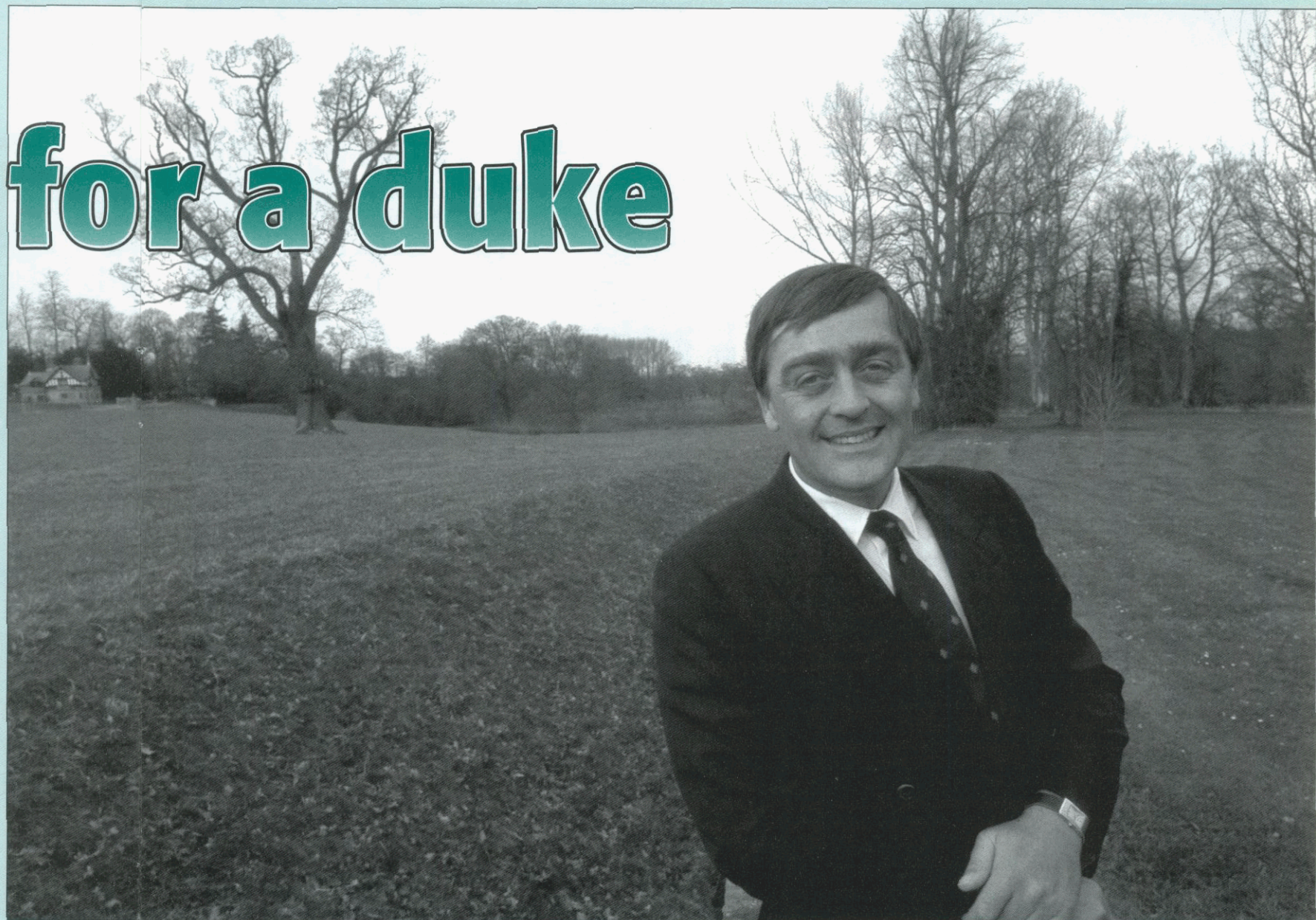
He looks back on his seven years as troop leader as some of the happiest times in his life. His troop sergeant, a long-distance lorry driver from Liverpool, guided him through his early years with wisdom and firmness, and is now a lifelong friend.

Succeeding jobs took him to Newcastle and Bovington, distances which to most other TA members could have been a problem. Not to be deterred, the Duke travelled the 500-mile round trips in his own Cessna Citation jet, which cut the journeys to 40 minutes.

"It was rather unconventional, but I didn't claim for fuel," he said with a shout of laughter.

His time as commanding officer was "fun personified". He said he laughed a lot and got a few grey hairs having to make some difficult decisions. The Duke has exacting standards, and his refusal to accept a consignment of Scimitars which, he says, were in "a revolting condition" is now part of regimental legend.

"If I sent out vehicles, they were in perfect condition and I expected these to be the same, so I rejected them," he explained. "That got me into deep trouble, but I didn't see why I, on a tight man-



Soldier peer: the Duke of Westminster on his estate near Chester. "It was important for me to know I could actually achieve something in the real world"

training-day budget, should be doing a job someone else should have done. I sent them back and they came back pristine.

"It is a big, complicated regiment – I had a thousand soldiers under my command – and is based on the same matrix as an armoured reconnaissance regiment. We were always expected to meet the gunnery standards of a Regular regiment and I had to have 98 per cent of my vehicles available at any one time. But we did have tremendous support from the Regular Army and a lot of permanent staff who were very much the core and backbone of the regiment."

The impression one gets, talking to the Duke about his military life, is that it has been unqualified enjoyment. He describes himself as a "pure recce man to the bootstraps", and thinks he inherited this, in some part, from one of his forebears, Bendor, the 2nd Duke.

Feeling he needed to contribute to the Army during the First World War, Bendor bought a fleet of Rolls Royces, cut the tops off, put in Maxim machine guns and manned them with estate workers. After this "modern cavalry" was turned down by Gen Haig, he offered his services to the Royal Navy, which promptly sent this first

squadron of armoured cars into the deserts of North Africa to rescue kidnapped British sailors.

"It was absolutely bizarre," the present Duke said. "There was this armoured recce squadron floating around the desert flying the White Ensign. They would only have had a map and dead reckoning to go into miles of desert to find an oasis held by a tribe with a whole bunch of Welsh sailors from Anglesey. The tribesmen would offer them back for a couple of hundred quid.

"I suppose the same blood flows in my veins."

### OBVIOUS PRIDE

As well as enjoyment, there is obvious pride in belonging to the Territorial Army, and the Duke, who calls himself a Northern Irishman, does not care who knows it. He said that contrary to all the rules he travels in uniform and is quite happy to be seen in public in military clothes.

"I wear the uniform with pride and I believe it ought to be seen," he said. "To be driven behind barbed wire in civilian clothes is losing the identity of the military in the minds of civilian communities."

"I am a son of the Troubles: my father was an Ulster Unionist Member of Parliament, so was my godfather. I was born and bred with the Troubles, and ever since 1967 I've known nothing else. I've seen people from the Ulster Defence Regiment going to their place of duty in uniform running huge risks. The fact that I can't fly from Chester to Newcastle in uniform is, frankly, disturbing.

"I feel so passionately about this. We swear loyalty to the Queen and to the uniform that we wear, and I am, for one, not embarrassed to wear it. I think there should be a high visibility. Why is it that the Americans can travel on public airlines in full uniform, and in many respects they also have a security problem from the Middle East and elsewhere?

"I think it is driving us out of the public mind and it is therefore more difficult for the public to relate to an armed force without seeing them. The Regular Army does very good KAPE [Keeping the Army in the Public Eye] tours, the Household Cavalry Regiment come out with their horses, but that is minuscule in terms of what the TA do – agricultural shows, public events,

● Turn to Page 25



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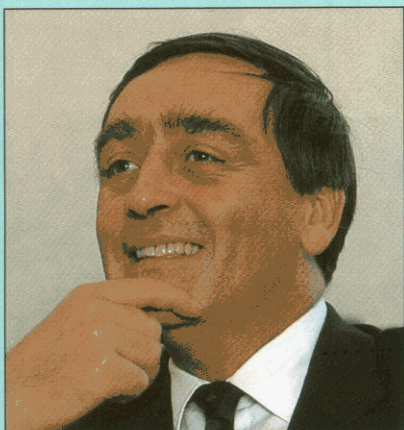
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## The Duke of Westminster

● From Page 23

Uttoxeter races, you name it, we've got people out there in uniform and we are actually saying we are proud of what we're doing.

"It is by far the best way to recruit. A young soldier has such enormous pride in the uniform he wears and he wants to show it off to his muckers. It is this pride in the uniform and the regiment that gives the British Army this cohesion.

"Quite frankly, if someone can put a bullet into the President of the United States they are going to find a target in Britain. The whole thing is completely absurd.

### BODYGUARDS

"My European counterparts come up to me and say, in my civilian life, why don't you have bodyguards, and I say the whole thing is a bloody waste of time. Albert Moreau had millions of bodyguards and ended up in the boot of a car. Let's get real."

The Duke now has a job which, he says, consists mainly of paperwork, and advising his brigadier on the "black art" of the TA. He does however still try to get out on the ground as much as possible and invites himself along to weekend exercises and competitions.

"It is so easy to become distant from the needs, hopes and aspirations of the soldiers. The great thing about a Territorial soldier is that he has a healthy disrespect for the chain of command and will tell you exactly what he thinks. That's always refreshing."

### TA STALWART

The Duke will fight the TA corner to the last and is sad that the "depressing" gap between the Regular Army and Territorial Army has never really been bridged. He said he still hears derogatory remarks about the TA from full-time soldiers, and yet experience proved once Regulars worked alongside Territorials respect always built up.

"We have to do a lot of hard work to bridge that gap," he said. "I don't know who said, 'The Regular Army starts the wars that the TA finishes', but he was a much wiser man than I."

## Feature

# Avalanche!



Military police use latest technology to find people buried in snow

A casualty awaits evacuation by helicopter

AVALANCHES, those tidal waves of rocks and snow, are a constant danger to skiers and climbers. Because of this, members of the Royal Military Police have been taking part in an avalanche rescue exercise with the Norwegian Red Cross, **writes Mike Poloway.**

Every year an RMP platoon attached to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) maintains a 24-hour avalanche watch for the unit. Although all RMPs complete Arctic survival courses during their three-month stay in Norway, new skills and techniques are learnt during joint training days with local volunteers from the Red Cross.

Capt Andrew Banks, commander of the RMP detachment, said: "The training we receive in conjunction with the Red Cross is invaluable. Each year people are killed in avalanches, and our ability to get to the accident site quickly and be able to begin immediate searching is paramount to saving lives."

During Exercise Hardfall '98, the Army was able to introduce the RECCO radio detection system to the Red Cross.

The system uses radio waves to detect the location of victims buried by an avalanche. Radio waves bounce off a reflector attached to the person's clothing and all British soldiers operating in Norway are now issued with these reflectors as a safety precaution.

During the exercise two soldiers were buried in separate locations in a simulated avalanche scenario.

A Red Cross volunteer traversed the avalanche site using the RECCO system and successfully located the site where the soldiers were buried.

Once the area to be searched had been narrowed down, a line of RMPs and Red Cross volunteers used avalanche probes and rescue dogs to determine the

exact location of the soldiers.

"New technology is all well and good, but not everyone carries RECCO reflectors, especially civilians, so we need back-up," Capt Banks said.

"For years we have used specially-trained dogs to search avalanche sites for buried people and RMPs train with the dogs to learn the best way of using them."



A team of RMPs and Red Cross volunteers dig a victim out of the snow in Hardfall '98



# Issues

## Shell-shocked by rank: stress for the officers, hysteria for the soldiers

EXPERIENCE in conflicts such as the Gulf has taught us nothing new about how to deal with combat stress.

This is the apparent conclusion drawn by Hans Binnevel, Professor of Social History at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, in his new book, *From Shellshock to Combat Stress*.

Main thrust of this scholarly work is to compare and contrast civilian and military psychology and to see if the experience of war has added anything to research in the field of therapy. Sadly, the answer seems to be no.

The book is divided into two parts. The first traces the historical experience of the mentally-wounded soldier and, while meticulous, uncovers little that will be new to those who know this ground well.

The second part concentrates on the development of military psychology and includes some truly dreadful examples of therapy. It also highlights the tension that existed, especially during the world wars, between the need to treat shell-shocked soldiers and the need for a constant supply of men to fight.

The origin of the term "shell-shock" is examined, as is the work of Capt Charles Myers RAMC, who wrote extensively in *The Lancet* about it. By 1916 he had seen several hundred cases and was one of the first to chronicle the multiplicity of symptoms which could be attributed to traumatic experiences on the battlefield. His research did much to further the understanding of civilian and military doctors about the treatment of wounded soldiers.

Terms and definitions are important in this field. Prof Binnevel highlights the way in which the name given to a disorder often determined the process of treatment. Shell-shock, for example, was divided into two classes called hysteria and neurasthenia. Hysteria included serious anti-social behaviour and was the label given most frequently to soldiers. Neurasthenia was thought to be a product of constant stress and included less severe symptoms. More officers were diagnosed with this than soldiers.

Much of the book seems to be based on American research and experience – especially that of returning Vietnam veterans – but case studies include the Gulf and Korean wars as well.

There is also a chapter on recent efforts, particularly by the USA, to screen entrants to the Services on the premise that prevention is better than cure. In some ways it makes depressing reading because the only conclusion is that no one can predict how any one person is going to react in a terrifying crisis.

This book isn't an easy read and would probably appeal only to professionals working in the field of military psychology but anyone who is in a position of command would do well to study it.

Just reading the historical accounts of young soldiers exposed to the horrors of war and then to the horrors of experimental psychology is truly humbling. – CR

**From Shellshock to Combat Stress** by Hans Binnevel. Amsterdam University Press, paperback, £19.95.

## Moving needn't be cause of gloom

### Ask Cari...

Caring for children in a Service environment can have its problems... as well as its compensations. In her column, Cari responds to three letters relating to children and childcare.

You can write to her, in confidence, c/o *Soldier*

**Dear Cari,** WE are moving – again – and it's just at a time when my daughter, who is six, has made a lot of new friends. It was difficult getting her to go to school because she's shy and now we're going to have to start again in the new place. I'm not looking forward to the trauma. – **Mrs T** (UK).

**Cari replies:** Moving can be both the best and worst thing about Service life. For children it can have positive benefits. As a teacher with Service Children's Schools (many years ago!), I was impressed by the way in which children from Forces families were usually much more articulate and adaptable than children in civilian schools back in the United Kingdom.

Your daughter's reaction to the impending move will have a lot to do with how you react. You, too, are going to be meeting new people. You could show your daughter that you're looking

forward to it – even if you're not. You could both make up address books and photo albums with pictures of all your current friends and favourite places. Take out your old photos and show your daughter all the people with whom you still keep in touch by letter or 'phone or e-mail.

Stress that you don't have to lose old friends just because you make new ones. See if you can get information about the new place ahead of your arrival there and look for it on a map together. Try to stay positive about the move and if you feel utterly miserable about the whole process try to wait until your daughter has gone to bed before you let your own feelings out.



Cari Roberts

**Dear Cari,** MY son was born with Down's Syndrome and a lot of other physical problems. He can't eat and has to be fed through a tube. He has breathing difficulties, too. I have a lot of help from doctors and clinics but I get very low. Everyone's been very kind – even the Army, which was a surprise – but I feel very lonely. – **Mrs F** (UK).

**Cari replies:** Some years ago I met a Service couple who had a wonderful daughter with Down's Syndrome. They had

had a very difficult time because the husband, who was the serving partner, had been told that his career had effectively come to a standstill. The needs of his daughter, he said, were always going to dictate his postings.

I'm delighted to hear that someone has had a good experience. No matter how kind people are, though, only another parent in a similar situation is going to understand how you feel about your son – particularly as he has other problems to contend with at the same time.

Children with Down's Syndrome are, from a bystander's point of view, immensely lovable but the constant vigilance and care required is absolutely draining.

Do get in touch with an organisation called Contact a Family. They are a support group for families caring for children with special needs and they operate local parent support groups, national support networks and one-to-one links for families. In the UK their contact line number is 0171 383 3555 (and overseas you can get hold of them through your local SSAFA/Forces Help office).

They can support people like you who

**CARING for children is difficult enough if you live in a good location and your family is relaxed and cheerful. Once you include factors such as stress, financial worries and peer-group pressure it gets more difficult. Service families have to contend with all of these while packing up and moving every few years.**

**The making and breaking of friendships can be upsetting for adults and**

### Cari comments:

children alike but the extent to which it affects children depends on what they observe in the adults. If adults set a mood of bleakness and sadness children will follow.

If the adults balance sadness with excitement about the next move children

have probably got all the information they need about the specific conditions affecting their child but need the emotional support of another parent. They can also help parents whose children are affected by rare conditions for which little information is available.

**Dear Cari,** I'VE had every bit of advice there is on ways to stop my baby crying. It's got so bad that I daren't go out. I live in a block of flats and I'm sure everyone's fed up with us or think I'm doing something terrible to the baby. I'm sick of it, too. – **Mrs Y** (BFG).

**Cari replies:** I'll bet you are. You must be worn out. A crying baby is like a snoring partner... something no one takes seriously until it happens to them.

There is a very good book on the subject called *Sleepless Children* by Dr David Haslam, published by Piatkus in paperback at £6.99. Dr Haslam is a practising GP, freelance journalist and co-patron, along with Jane Asher and Claire Rayner, of CRYISIS, a self-help group for parents of sleepless children.

Like them, he's been through the experience.

There are chapters on bedtime difficulties, bed-wetting and hyperactive children as well, so it might come in handy later on.

stand a better chance of picking it up. I loved teaching children from Forces families. They always had plenty to say and would always rise to a challenge. Even if the future brings fewer and less frequent moves I hope Forces parents continue to encourage their children to take an interest in the world around them... wherever they are.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS Radio.

### Other issues

THE NHS has confirmed in a letter to the Army's Directorate of Personal Services that Service families should not be disadvantaged by moving on posting. They should, it says, have the option of remaining on the list of the original hospital, or transferring to a local hospital where consideration would be made of time already spent waiting.

The NHS Waiting Time Unit has asked to be informed of any cases where treatment has been denied because the patient was unlikely to be dealt with before another posting.

Territorial Army soldier Sgt Glenn Bennett, who serves with 73 Engineer Regiment's Chesterfield-based 575 Field Squadron, is back in uniform after winning his battle with cancer. Glenn, a fitness fanatic, confounded

his doctors by keeping up a punishing physical training programme, broken only when chemotherapy treatment reduced his breathing capacity so much that he could not carry on. The 34-year-old was serving in Bosnia when he became ill.



Brave: Sgt Glen Bennett

Maj Simon Bate, serving with HQ 3 (UK) Division at Bulford, received a BA honours degree from the Open University last month after five years of study during which his text

books followed him to Northern Ireland and Bosnia. About to take up a NATO post in Brussels, he says the MoD paid 80 per cent of his tuition fees and covered travel costs.

The current **Forces Railcard** has been



Brainy: Maj Simon Bate

extended until July 1. The new card will be available at a cost of £2 to serving personnel and dependants and units should bid for it from CSE Llangennech.

The Royal Caledonian Educational Trust has launched a series of scholarships aimed at increasing the range of young people who are able to take part in "year out" projects between leaving school and either further education or employment. The scholarships, in grants of up to £1,000, are available to the children of

Scottish Servicemen and women and will involve applicants writing, in 750 words, on the value of a project to the community. For details, contact John Horsfield on 0181 421 8845 or write to the Trust office at 80A, High Street, Bushey, Herts WD2 3DE.

### Top tips to get wives back on the road



Mrs Annette Downie gets some engine tips from Cfn Mark Gallymore during a training day organised by the REME Workshop of Gutersloh-based 2 Close Support Regiment RLC for the wives of the regiment.

Capt Mark Dean, OC Workshop, said his soldiers felt that the day was time well spent if just one of the wives was better able to deal with an emergency breakdown.

### Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684  
Army Families Federation 01980 615525  
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065  
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725  
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 0181 376 2144  
Confidential support line:  
UK 0800 731 4880  
Germany 0800 1827 393  
Cyprus 080 91065  
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90  
Service Children's Education 01980 618244  
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358  
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783  
WRVS 01235 442954

● Naafi Select, the mail order home shopping catalogue, has already delivered more than 300 orders to troops in Bosnia, 100 to Kenya, 50 to Belize and 25 to Ascension Island.



# Royal Artillery sets its sights on world-class new museum

Celebrating the achievements of thousands of ordinary gunners

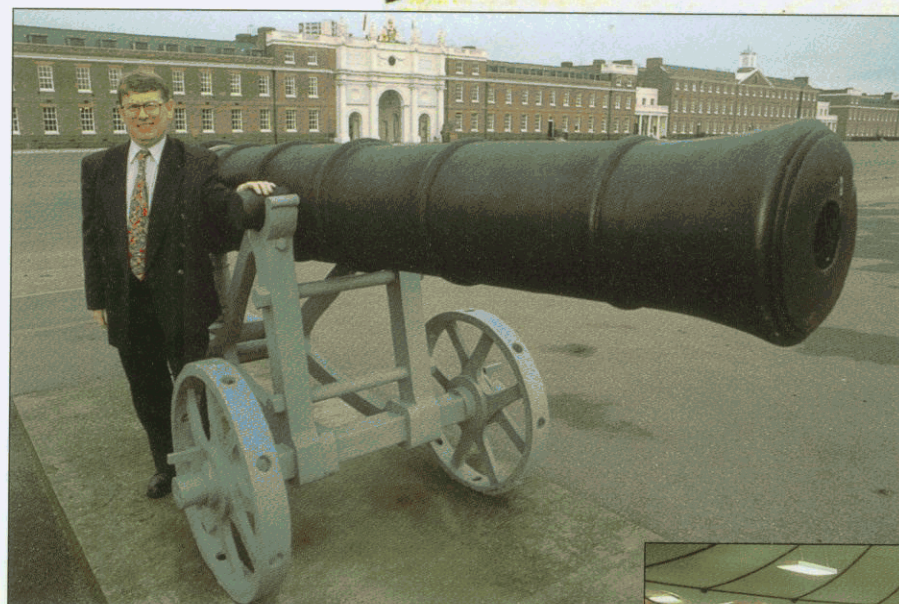
Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE GUNNERS of Woolwich Arsenal are used to hitting their targets, often under difficult circumstances. But rarely have they faced one as demanding as this. By May 2001 – three years from now – the regiment and its supporters intend to raise around £35m and build the largest regimental museum in Europe, a military heritage centre second only in size to the Imperial War Museum.

When the new complex is open, the public will be able to see, even touch, the thousands of weapons, trophies, documents, and other artefacts which tell the story of the Army's largest regiment, from the Battle of Minden in 1759 to its most recent action in the mountains of Bosnia.

Because the Royal Artillery has fought in every British campaign and war since the 18th century (its single battle honour is *Ubique* – everywhere) the story told in the museum will also be that of the modern British Army.

With the development planned for the old Arsenal site in Woolwich, the spiritual home of the gunners, it will be a happy reaffirmation of the regiment's link with the area. The Royal Artillery's presence in Woolwich has gradually declined over the past decade as defence reviews have taken their toll. Now, though, their redundant



Above – Fund-raiser and ex-gunner Robbie Astick in front of a Sebastopol cannon from which VCs are still made

buildings are to be refurbished, reoccupied and linked under a massive glass-roofed quadrangle to create the high-tech museum.

Perhaps taking its cue from the Millennium Dome just a few miles down the Thames, the complex will use modern exhibition technology not only to show visitors the fearsome weapons of the gunner – they range from muzzle-loading cannon to cold war missiles – but also to bring them the sights, smells and sounds of battle.

The science of artillery will be explained, while more down-to-earth exhibits will give an insight into the lives of the men who took the big guns into action. If its better-known neighbour is to be called the Millennium Experience, then the Woolwich project could be called The Gunners' Experience.

Right – A small part of the gunners' valuable collection is already on show at the Rotunda in Woolwich. In 2001, it will be incorporated into the vast new museum



While old and serving soldiers alike are delighted that their heritage is to be cared for in such style and in a place so closely associated with the regiment, local people are equally pleased. Their fortunes have always been closely linked to the presence of the Royal Artillery. In the years following the Second World War, for example, around 80,000 people were employed in



Colourful and deadly. Ammunition, from cannonballs to high explosive shells, will also find a home in the museum



Above – Artist's impression of the museum. Redundant buildings are to be renovated and linked under a massive glass roof

Left – Also destined for the new museum, the regiment's vast collection of trophies and mess silver

their support. Sir Harry Secombe recently drew the winning numbers in a fund-raising raffle, while Sir Denis Thatcher and Sir Robin Day are also lending their names to the appeal.

But, grateful though he is for this high-profile help, Robbie Astick, an ex-gunner staff sergeant himself, knows that the museum is being built mainly to perpetuate the achievements of thousands of very ordinary soldiers. Their donations, often of just a few pounds each, are equally welcome and every bit as meaningful. There have been many such gifts.

"It goes to show the depth of feeling that they have for the regiment," says the fund-raiser. He understand their affection because he shares it.

"I didn't give it much thought when I was serving, but when you leave, you realise how important our history is. I want to come back here with my grandchildren and show them a great museum."

He doesn't have any grandchildren yet, but if that 2001 target is reached, one day Robbie will return to a great Woolwich museum and say "this is my regiment."

cut, can be expected to bring as many as 250,000 visitors a year to Woolwich. All will want services which can be provided by the local community, and the councilors have shown their pleasure by donating £1.5 million to the project.

Crucially, the National Lottery has also smiled on the fund, swelling it by £5 million. A second application for Lottery funds will be considered soon.

The Museum Fund's Marketing Manager, Robbie Astick, is delighted that almost 40 per cent of the required amount has already been raised, mainly from official and corporate sources. But he stresses that individuals have also been hugely supportive.

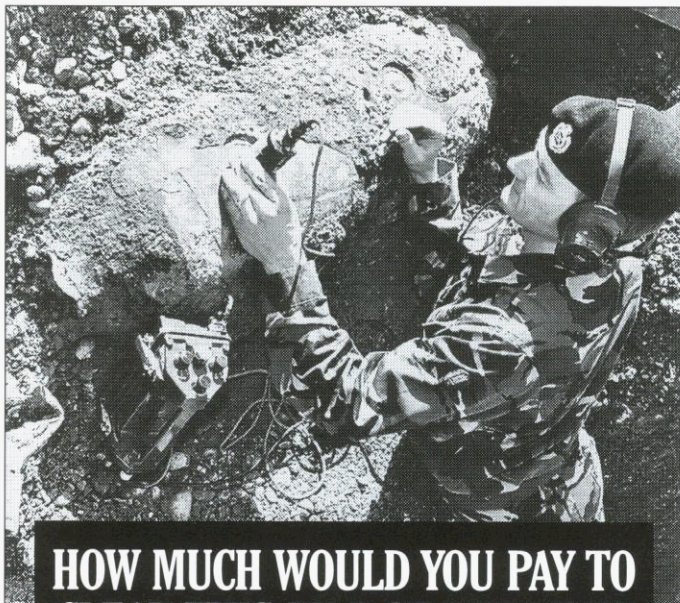
The widow of author and one-time gunner James Clavell has donated £250,000, which will be used specifically to re-house the regiment's valuable archive and 30,000-volume library.

Other famous ex-gunners have added

the Arsenal's factories and workshops. Now only a handful of locals work as security guards around the decaying site.

There can be no return to the old days, but a museum exhibiting such awe-inspiring artefacts as cannon from the Tudor warship *Mary Rose*, a section of the Iraqi supergun, and the original Crimean guns from which metal for Victoria Crosses is





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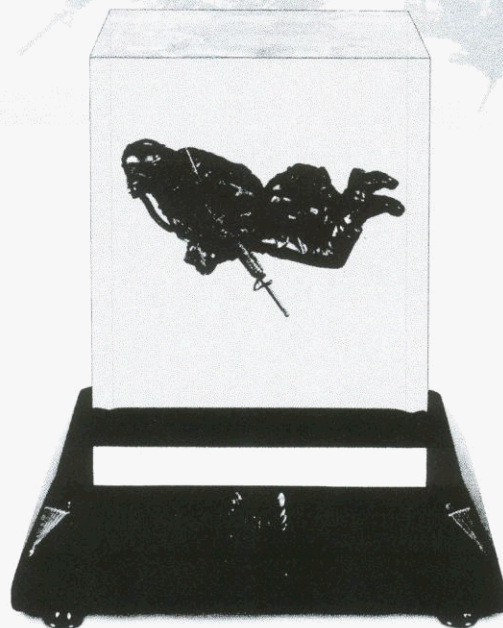
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"Sappers make me very nervous when they smirk like that!"

## SAPPER SMILES

"If that computer thing doesn't stop it, give it a whack with the shovel... It used to work every time!"



"Staff's going to get really annoyed if you don't start taking this seriously!"



"Unfortunately Colonel, the Engineers have held up the advance on ecological grounds!"



"Suddenly, I'm not so upset about being turned down for the Sappers!"





Who dares . . .

# Bikes that run on adrenalin

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Terry Champion

"I RODE with the White Helmets motor-cycle team. I wasn't too bad, either. You know that human pyramid thing they do, with nine guys on one bike? Well I was at the top; the bloke with his arms sticking out? That was me!"

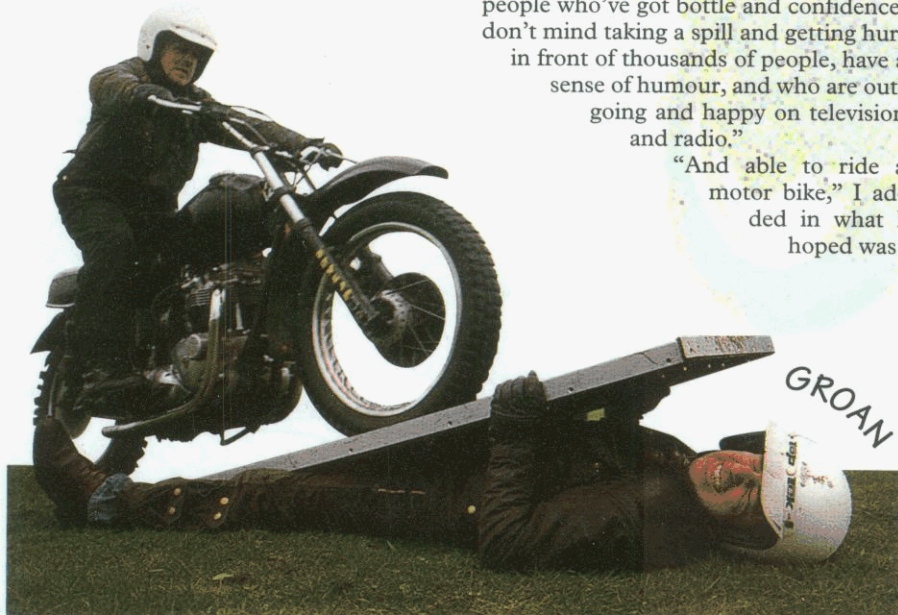
"Yeah mate, and I was Steve McQueen's stunt double. Mine's a pint."

"No, but . . ."

"No buts, mate. Mine's a pint."

It's been a bit like that since I spent a day with the dare-devils from the Royal Signals at their training camp in Cheshire. I've wanted to talk about it, but it just comes out like one big bar-room brag. Perhaps I need some minor injury, like a handlebar-shaped dent in a non-vital part. "How do you think I got *that*, then?" I'll say. "Your round, I believe."

I bet veteran White Helmet instructor and mechanic LCpl Paul Forster, known to all as Fozzy, never has any trouble telling his stories. During his seven years with the team he's broken two legs, several ribs, an arm, his nose and a wrist.



Ramp cramp. What fiendish mind devised this trick?

## What's it like to be a motor-cycle display rider? There was only one way to find out: we joined the White Helmets

Had I known then of Fozzy's shocking record I might have been a little reluctant to don a white helmet, swing a leg over my borrowed bike and follow Fozzy out into the training arena.

But I did, and it was all thanks to team manager Capt Lisa Giles (yes, she's a woman, and yes she does do some tricks), who was keen to show that display riding is not a black art. Lisa had been very persuasive over the phone to our office, and, as I prepared for the practice arena, was even more so.

"Have a crack at it," she said cheerily. "We're not looking for supermen, just people who've got bottle and confidence, don't mind taking a spill and getting hurt in front of thousands of people, have a sense of humour, and who are outgoing and happy on television and radio."

"And able to ride a motor bike," I added in what I hoped was

a laconic tone while wondering what dictionary Lisa used.

"No, that's one thing we don't insist on," chipped in Sgt Don Brebner, who with nine years' under his belt is the White Helmets' ring master, the man responsible for everything that goes on in the arena. "The ones who haven't ridden a bike are sometimes the best trainees, because they don't have any bad habits and we can teach them everything from A to Z."

I had momentary doubts about getting very far past "C" for crash; perhaps "H" for humiliation at the outside, but Don seemed to think I was up to it and I liked the look of the lovely old Triumph Tiger 750cc bikes lined up before us. They are traditional, tough and look the business. I badly wanted to open the throttle on one of them, spit some turf from the back wheel and hear that throaty British-bike exhaust note. I wasn't surprised to learn from Don that audiences also love it when 28 silencer-less cylinders are kicked into life at once.

### INTO THE ARENA

With all the gravitas of a medieval knight slamming his visor down, I jammed on the helmet, cinched the strap in tight and followed trainer Fozzy out on to the practice arena for the confidence test that all greenhorns have to go through. They might take a week performing these exercises and showing their metal, but I only had a few hours. There was a lot to cram in.

We roared around the course, Fozzy always leaning a little further into the bends and going that bit faster. But I was doing OK, so Fozzy raised the stakes. Taking both feet of the footrests, he lay prone along the bike. I followed suit, only to see my personal trainer clambering to his feet on the seat and perch there with one leg extended back and up into the air like a dog's tail.

By this time I was enjoying myself and wanted to prove to Lisa and Don that I had the right stuff. Up I went and in these daft positions we circled the track. But it had to stop soon and when I saw Fozzy go

### Fancy a tour with the White Helmets?

YOU need to be a member of the Royal Signals, with the rank of corporal or below.

Men and women can attend the annual two-week selection course, which takes place in November. Riders who pass go on to four months of intensive training before spending six months on the road during the summer show season. This year, the team expects to perform in Belgium, Germany and Greece. Next year's calendar includes the Royal Tournament and the Berlin Tattoo.

Most riders remain in the team for three years, but a lucky few stay on for longer.

Still interested? If so, contact Maj Keith Russell or Capt Lisa Giles on (military) 737 2365 or (civilian) 01258 482365.

through unfathomable contortions to seat himself back-to-front on the handlebars, I knew the moment had arrived.

Never mind, I had proved I could ride the bike in a few ways that would get me arrested on the Queen's highway and the team seemed to approve. They immediately introduced me to my first trick, which, surprisingly, did not involve my being on a bike at all. Instead, I was to use my body to support a ramp which would launch the bikes into the air. Don Brebner took it all very seriously, as well he might considering my vulnerable position.

Laying me flat on my back, he wedged a heavy board between my legs and instructed me how to support the raised end with my arms. "Lock 'em tight and turn your head to the side." I did so, and closed my eyes as I heard several Triumphs heading towards me. Suddenly that exhaust note did not sound so sexy. Their impact on the ramp was not gentle but my arms held, and with a flourish I discarded the bit of wood and clambered to my feet. *Voilà!*

A ripple of applause ran around the audience of riders, and, frankly, I deserved it. But the best was yet to come. I was to be the top man in the "tableau", the classic nine-men-on-a-bike pyramid. "Get it right and it opens up like a flower," said Lisa, presenting a delightful image. She didn't mention the alternative.

The key to this trick is the steel ladder which slots on to the bike and acts as a frame for the pyramid. After a few quick circuits of the arena, getting the hang of climbing up and down this structure and even hanging off it, I was ready . . . ready for my *pièce d' résistance*, my show-stopper.

Two team members held the Triumph

Look mum, no hands!



There's a Triumph Tiger under there somewhere. Our man gets to the top of the tableau

upright as Cpl Bob Sizeland gunned the engine and leaned forward to counterbalance the huge weight behind him. I was first up, legs straddling the ladder and trying not to kick Bob in the head. Around me, the other guys clipped harnesses on to the ladder or just held on grimly. We teetered and we wobbled, but we moved off and gained speed around the track. As we "opened up like a flower" I proudly extended both of my arms. I didn't feel happy, and I'm sure I didn't look it. But, by God, I was pleased.

The White Helmets have a lot more tricks up their sleeve including the famous fire jumps (alas, no time for them during my visit) and the "Irish Whip", which is their most dangerous speed trick.

This involves several drivers racing towards the same point, missing each other by inches, or, occasionally, as in the case of Cpl Andy Butterfield, not. His broken fingers and bent bike told of a Whip which went wrong.

But I was happy, no *delighted*, with my taste of display riding. I don't think I'll be giving up the day job, at least not yet, but if the White Helmets ever call and invite me for another day full of adrenalin and roaring exhausts, I'll be there.

And quite possibly I'll be at the top of the pyramid. Because I did that once, you know. Look, I've got the photos to prove it. Now why didn't I think of that in the pub?



# Army Training Regiment Glencorse

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Terry Champion

IT IS an hour after dawn on a cold hillside just outside Edinburgh. Breath becomes mist, and a thin layer of ice makes the grass and the mud of the hillside brittle. It is the sort of morning when a body longs to turn over in bed and go back to sleep.

There is no such option for the platoon of young recruits on this hillside. Their sleeping bags and bashes are already packed, and they are gathering around an NCO who is briefing them about the next phase of their 72 hours in the field. It is to be more basic skills, patrolling and reacting to incoming fire. Almost inexplicably, they are grinning and swapping banter among themselves, and even with the corporal trainer. They seem to be enjoying it.

Lt Jim Kirk, Platoon Commander of Arnhem Platoon, Army Training Regiment Glencorse, had distanced himself slightly and was keeping an eye on the trainees. He was satisfied with what he could see.

"They were a bit less cheerful than this when they woke up. Some got a bit cold on stag, but now they're moving around, they are fine, and spirits are high. It's just what we like to see."

It may not have been blatantly obvious, but the keen young men (never young women at Glencorse, because only infantry are trained there) were the result of a new ethos that drives basic training throughout the five Infantry Training Regiments of England and Scotland.

A mile or so away at the sprawling 1950s-vintage army camp where the recruits destined for the Scottish regiments and the King's Division spend most of the vital weeks of basic training, the commanding officer, Lt Col Carrick Allison, a Royal Highland Fusilier who has been in charge of Glencorse for almost two years, explained the new approach and the reasons behind it.

"We are dealing with the real world here," said Lt Col Allison. "And it is a world which has changed a lot in recent years. It varies, of course, but many youngsters grow up with less discipline and fewer opportunities to play games

'We care' might be the motto of the Army's trainers in Scotland. It's a far cry from the old days, as *Soldier* found out when on a visit to ATR Glencorse



What it's all about. Four newly-qualified soldiers and four different cap badges

and sport than they might have had years ago. Consequently, the qualities that we are looking for do not come so easily to them.

We realised that traditional training methods do not suit today's youngsters, so we have adjusted them."

Fundamental to this change was the development of the Army Foundation Scheme, a course trialled at Glencorse from December 1995, and now accepted as the standard introduction to an Army career. During the course, recruits are introduced relatively gently to the realities of barrack-room life and brought up to an adequate standard of physical fitness. If necessary, the training is highly personalised.

"It takes time for these young people to adjust to the Army," said Lt Col Allison, reflecting the new philosophy which he

summed up as "train them rather than break them". He added: "It is a matter of settling down into a new way of life, and learning the ropes."

The CO recognises that individuals vary, so they can stay in the company for longer than the usual three weeks if necessary. Conversely, recruits who are already fit may be moved on to the Common Military Syllabus of Phase One training very quickly.

According to Maj Charlie Platt, who is responsible for the Foundation Course, today's training is a bit like driving a new car. "You do not expect to go into top gear at full revs on day one." But things can be too slow as well. "If we don't get them into soldiering pretty quickly," says the Major, "they can become disillusioned. Their idea of the Army is all about having a weapon and getting cam cream on their faces."



Make safe! Two trainees at ATR Glencorse learn one of the most basic skills from their corporal instructor

The new-found willingness to adapt to a changing world is also evident in the Phase One training which follows the foundation course. The basic course was recently lengthened by a week, giving the young soldiers more time to rest and recover between training activities which remain tough and stressful.

There is a safety net for recruits who are injured or are flagging for any reason. In the remedial platoon, injured soldiers or those who are finding difficulty with particular aspects of the training are helped to catch up with their colleagues. In the old days, such recruits might have quit or been shown the camp gate.

The remedial platoon is led by WO1 Garry Mills, who says that maintaining morale can be a challenge. "We design the remedial programme to improve morale as much as anything. This might include visits to local sites like Edinburgh Castle. We might even take them ten-pin bowling or to the cinema. At the end of the day, we will do what is necessary to keep these lads in the Army if they want to be here."

A recruit is free to leave, but not before he is encouraged to talk through his problems. A young man who is homesick and having doubts about the Army might be taken home so that he can sit down with his parents and a trainer to discuss his problems. More often than not, he will agree to give it another go.

Against the background of an undermanned army, the supply of fully-trained and motivated soldiers to the regiments is the gauge of success. The drop-out rate remains higher than the trainers would like, but around 1,200 infantrymen graduate to Phase Two training each year, and that number is increasing steadily.

Even those recruits who do leave are not necessarily lost to the Army for ever.



Glencorse CO, Lt Col Carrick Allison: "We are dealing with the real world"

Many still harbour ambitions to be soldiers. They may have quit reluctantly because of injury or simply accepted that they are not yet ready for Army life. Whatever the reason, a satisfying number return to basic training a year or two later, and, second time around, pass without difficulty.

So what do the fledgling infantrymen themselves think about the new caring face of basic training, especially at Army Training Regiment Glencorse? Back on the frigid hillside with the sun still low on the horizon, there were some mixed thoughts. Clearly no one thought that life

in the Army is a picnic, but most seemed to be happy enough. 19 year-old Pte Paul Wilde was upbeat: "It's different from any other job I've had, and discipline isn't that bad."

"It's certainly not a boot camp," added Pte Brian McGuire. "But they push you to the extent that they need to, to bring the best out of you."

The new-style basic training being pioneered at Glencorse continues to evolve. The Scotland School Leavers' Scheme was launched in January with 105 younger recruits between the ages of 16 and 17 enrolled. For them the new 33-week course includes the Army Foundation Scheme and the Common Military Syllabus of Phase One basic training, but adds adventurous pursuits, such as climbing and canoeing, and classroom work which can lead to a nationally recognised qualification in leisure and recreation: the same qualification awarded to footballers.

The scheme is still being trialled, and so far it only applies to the Scottish regiments. But the trainers hope that the School Leavers course will bring back some of the much-missed virtues of the old Junior Soldiers scheme, which was scrapped several years ago. Those who complete the course should have an extremely sound basis for a military career.



# Figure perfect

Pictures: Mike Weston

Britain's national collection of model soldiers is celebrating its 25th anniversary

ANY child who ever enjoyed the rugged company of a box of battered toy soldiers might think he (or she) was in paradise should they happen to call at Hatfield House, the Hertfordshire home of Lord Salisbury, writes John Elliott.

And they would be in good company, not just among a vast display of 8,000 miniature troops, but with the grown-ups who take the existence of the military models very seriously indeed.

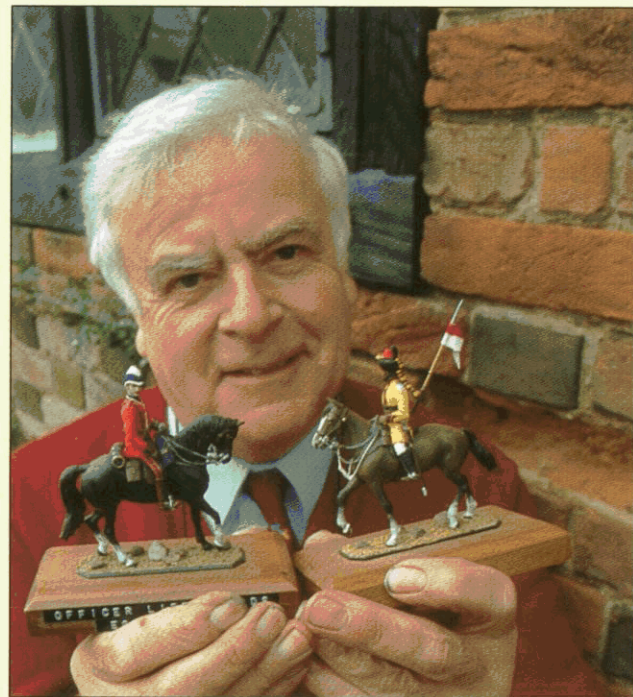
Hatfield House is home to the national collection, administered by the British Model Soldier Society and this year celebrates the 25th year of its creation.

Since its first few ranks formed up in 1973 at Dodington House, near Bath – home to the embryonic collection for five years – this tiny army has, like Topsy, just “grewed and grewed”. The Hatfield House “army” is just part of the toy story, with a second garrison quartered in the Combined Services’ Museum in the Redoubt Fortress on Eastbourne’s seafloor.

Model soldiers in the national collection cover all ages: from the Romans to the mediaeval armies, the English Civil War, Marlborough’s campaigns, Waterloo, the Crimea, the Indian Mutiny and the First and Second Wars. There is a 1,000-strong Trooping the Colour tableau at Hatfield House.

John Ruddle, curator of the collection, says the anniversary will be celebrated with a special open day on May 17. “To mark our first 25 years and the 20th anniversary of our arrival at Hatfield, we are producing a new model in our Collectors Line, a Hatfield Grenadier, which will go on display from that day.”

The collection will be open from 1100 to 1620 on May 17. The house is 21 miles north of London on the A1000, with easy access from the M1 and A1(M).



John Ruddle, curator of the national collection with two exhibits from Hatfield House



Above – Boer War, 21st Lancer

Left – Musketeer, 1608



Above – Trooping the Colour 1907 in the presence of King Edward VII, depicted in realistic miniature

Below – Detail from a tableau entitled The Prisoner, part of the English Civil War collection



Above – Items from the collection of the late Jack Higgs, Dunkirk veteran and 12th Lancers, of Aldershot. The model is of a Churchill crocodile flame-thrower in France in 1944



# From Westminster to Wapping

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

## IN PARLIAMENT

# Future soldier: UK in front line

RESEARCH into the technology systems for the infantry soldier of the future has put the United Kingdom into a leading position in NATO to challenge the American model.

This assessment was made by John Chisholm, chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), in a letter to MP Matthew Taylor contained in a Commons written answer.

Mr Chisholm said that since the Future Infantry System Technology (FIST) programme started in 1994, feasibility trials of experimental hardware had been carried out, many highly successfully, followed by a technical demonstrator programme and the adoption of a systems engineering approach to enhance cost-effectiveness.

The current FIST programme covered operational modelling and field trials as well as work on human factors relating to the individual soldier's effectiveness on the battlefield.

"This overall approach, now well advanced, has put the UK into a leading position in NATO," Mr Chisholm said on March 30. "Industry will now be best placed to offer a real alternative to the Land Warrior programme (US)."

In addition, the UK was playing a leading role in NATO's working group on soldier modernisation. DERA was actively involved in this and other international groups, he said.

Among units involved in the FIST project,

which is directed and tasked by the Director of Operational Requirements (Land), are DERA Fort Halstead, DERA Farnborough, the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency at Colchester, and a military advisory team based at Warminster (Infantry Trials and Development Unit and HQ Infantry).



Illustration: Scicon Ltd

Other points from Parliament:

**School cadets:** Forty-nine per cent of officer entrants into the Army in 1996-97 were former members of school Combined Cadet Forces. During that year the Government allocated £6.2m to 241 schools to support their CCF contingents, which had a total of nearly 40,000 pupil cadets.

**Russian resettlement:** Since 1991, the British Government has spent more than £3.6m on re-training projects for former Soviet Army officers in Russia.

**Loan service:** As at March 12, 1998, the number of UK loan service personnel stationed in the countries listed was: Oman, 102; Kuwait, 58; United Arab Emirates, 11; and Bahrain, one.

**Art, lost and found:** Since a Ministry of Defence memorandum on missing works of art was issued in 1994, 17 have been found and 21 "otherwise accounted for".

## IN THE PRESS

# Cut-back stories 'speculative'

THE Armed Forces will have to share more facilities under plans to streamline the Services being considered by Ministers. — *Times*

□ The changes will mean hundreds of tanks and troops being withdrawn from Germany. — *Daily Telegraph*

(The stories above were described by Defence Secretary George Robertson as "speculative and full of contradiction".)

□ A leading member of a Government panel investigating "Gulf War syndrome" has criticised MoD investigations as "disappointingly lacking in co-ordination", too theoretical and communicating too little with Gulf veterans. Armed Forces Minister John Reid rejected the criticisms by Prof Malcolm Hooper, veterans' representative on the panel. — *Sunday Telegraph*

□ More than 300 soldiers shot for cowardice during the First World War are likely to be granted an official expression of regret or apology rather than a full legal pardon, Armed Forces Minister John Reid said in a radio interview. — *Daily Telegraph*

□ Troops across Europe are set to be mobilised to help distribute 80 billion coins weighing 300,000 tonnes when the single European currency comes into circulation. — *Observer*

□ Every senior officer in the Armed Forces is to receive instruction on race relations and equal opportunities to underline the latest MoD drive against discrimination. Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, will be among the first to attend the seminars at Shrivenham. — *Times*

□ After years of debate, the Austrian army has opened its ranks to women. — *Daily Telegraph*

## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

March 7, 1998

**Four-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,625 each):** Capt KP Douglas, 24 Cadet Trg Team, Edinburgh; Sgt RK Helms, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Cpl KD Oxy, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia; Cpl J Rooney, BOD Donnington.

**22-way tie for fifth prize (17 goals, £68.18 each):** Gnr IDJ Acraman, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Maj R Archer, ASC, Aldershot; Capt RJ Boyd, RMA, Sandhurst; Capt MC Cornell, 604 Signal Tp, Aldershot; WO2 WA Evers, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbommel; LCpl NC Forbes, 2 LI; Sgt DJ Franks, 176 Pro Coy RMP; LCpl BG Gavin, 4 R Irish; Maj DN Hamilton, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Capt HW Jelley, King's Troop RHA, London; Capt AW Johnstone, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester; Cpl M Leither, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford; WO1 G Markham, 103 Regt RA (V), St Helens; Fus TF McCormick, 1 RHF, Fallingbommel; Cpl RK McEvoy, HQ MND (C), Rheindahlen; Capt AJ Parsons, 33 Signal Regt (V), Liverpool; Sgt I Potheary, RAC Centre, Bovington; Maj T Scott, Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow; Maj BS Smy, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; WO2 PP Storrs, SEAE, Arborfield; Sgt PA Sydenham, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; LCpl CD Thomas, QDG, Sennelager.

March 14, 1998

**First prize (23 goals, £3,012.50):** Capt SPSP Mieczkowski, JACIG, RAF Henlow.

**Seven-way tie for second prize (22 goals, £712.50):** SSgt A Bartholemew, The Light Dragoons, Hohn; Maj AC Glasgow, HQ RSME, Chatham; Sgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison; General Sir Charles Guthrie, MOD

CDS; Col TE Hall, UK Mil Rep NATO, Brussels; Capt RA Acott, 39 Signal Regt (V), Bristol; Cpl S Spys, KRH, Münster.

March 21, 1998

**Ten-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £800 each):** LCpl DC Bell, 5 AB Bde CSS Bn, Aldershot; Capt AL Binger, 84 PC Sqn RLC, Aldergrove; Sgt RA Lackenby, SEAE, Arborfield; Spr SL Maybourne, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Cpl SM Poland, 57 Sup Sqn RLC; Maj D Rennie, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; WO2 A Scott, 32 Signal Regt (V), Glasgow; LCpl MA Smith, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Capt CG Vere-Whiting, 1 RWF, Chepstow; LCpl PLE Wilkinson, 2 RTR, Fallingbommel.

March 28, 1998

**Three-way tie for first prize (16 goals, £1,900 each):** Cpl AM Crump, HQ Brunei Garrison; WO1 FJ Pattison, HQ Episkopi Garrison; Cpl SC Stockman, 3 Fd Wksp REME, Tidworth.

**23-way tie for fourth prize (15 goals, £100 each):** CStg AG Aitken, 3 R Irish; Lt Col JFJ Allen, BLO France; WO1 BW Austin, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Brig JBA Bailey, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; WO2 SF Best, CATC BG, Warminster; Maj RK Bhabutta, 1 GH, Osnabrück; SSgt R Blanchard, 127 Fd Sqn RE (V), Brighton; Cpl J Buxton, HQ 5 Div, Shrewsbury; Cpl C Grice, RMP Cyprus, Dhekelia; WO2 CP Ireson, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford; LCpl PD Jones, QDG, Sennelager; LCpl AJ Le Gallais, HCMR, London; Sgt MA Lloyd, 22 Regt RA, Kirtom in Lindsey; WO1 JF Mannix, ATSA Woolwich; Sgt T McKee, 1 HLDRS, Catterick; LCpl MA McLean; Cpl JS Morton, RDG, Tidworth; Cpl P Parker, APC Glasgow; Lt Col DNF Stewart, NI Trg

Wing, Shorncliffe; Sgt SG Taylor, AFCD Dundee; Cpl GME Traill, ATR Lichfield; Sgt DJ White, 2 Signal Regt, York; Capt LGD Williams, KRH, Münster.

April 4, 1998

**First prize (15 goals, £3,000):** Capt RM Abernethy, Ghurka Trg Wing, Church Crookham.

**34-way tie for second prize (14 goals, £147.06 each):** LCpl PG Anders, RDG, Tidworth; Cpl MB Beaton, FI Admin Unit; LCpl MA Burrows, 22 Regt RA, Kirtom in Lindsey; Capt JD Cavanagh, 1 D and D Warminster; Cpl JP Chamberlain, 1 WG, London; SSgt JA Champion, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Maj RG Corbey, RSC Pirbright; Cpl SB Davison, 46 Wksp REME; WO2 PD Denton, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Cpl PJ Duffield, HQ 5 AB Bde, Aldershot; Pte LA Footitt, 2 LI; Cpl DJ Ginger, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; LCpl KD Goldsmith, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; Sgt AE Haire, Duchess of Kent Hosp, Catterick; WO1 KS Jeram, AFV Gny School, Bovington; WO2 A Koszwenko, HQ UKNSE, Bosnia; Cpl W Laing, 1 BW, Fort George; Maj PJ Lambert, Royal Yeomanry, London; Cpl DP Macey, 1 WFR, Tidworth; Capt EA McKinney-Bennett, 1 KOSB, Edinburgh; Cpl IC Meadow, 1 Kings, Preston; Lt Col DM Mills, HQ UKSC (G), Rheindahlen; Capt BE Nicholl, QRH, Catterick; SSgt TJ Roberts, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück; Capt K-A Robins, AFCD, Leicester; Sgt W Smith, 1 BW, Fort George; Capt J Tate, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford; SSgt CM Thomas, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; Maj AJ Tilling, CCRIO RMP, Chichester; Sgt J Turner, ASC, Aldershot; Sgt IJ Walling, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; WO2 SJ Ward, RSA, Larkhill; Capt LGD Williams, KRH, Münster; Capt SP Wood, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh.



## Biting the laser bullet

New small arms simulators bring judgemental training to the Army

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Mike Weston

TO SHOOT or not to shoot? It is the most agonising and crucial question that an armed soldier or police officer may ever face.

On paper, the justification for opening fire in given circumstances – the rules of engagement – are well defined, but in the extreme stress of an armed encounter, the outcome relies totally on the skill and judgement of the person behind the sights. *Get it wrong, in other words break the rules of engagement*, and the result could be unnecessary death and a legal, emotional and mental nightmare which goes on for years.

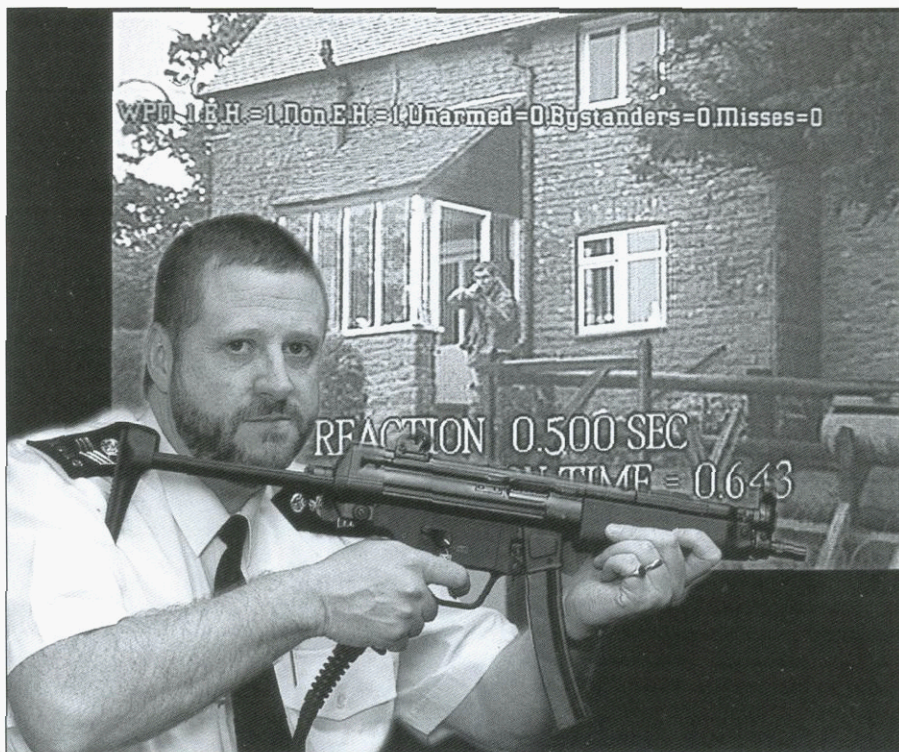
No end of lectures and range work can totally prepare a soldier or police officer for that moment, but major new developments in the field of computer-controlled small-arms trainers, or SATs, (which in their basic form have been used as aids to Army marksmanship since 1993) are now reducing the risk of fatal mistakes.

Whereas the older SATs use mainly static scenes to teach a soldier *where* to shoot, the new technology uses dramatic moving images to train marksmen *when* to shoot.

The Ministry of Defence has been so impressed with the new judgemental trainers that it has purchased 18 top-of-the-range upgrade kits, at a cost of around £70,000 each. A further six will be procured later and the remaining 136 basic SATs in service are to be given limited upgrades.

Much of the old SAT technology is retained in the new systems. Laser "bullets", compressed gas recoil, simulated detonations and computer-generated performance statistics are standard. But the new-generation kit also comes with improved laser disks containing an impressive menu of mock scenarios, and video equipment which enables operators to create scenarios based on their own area of operations.

It is quite possible to stage mock incidents at the main gate of an Army base



Virtual reality to test reactions: Ministry of Defence Police firearms instructor Sgt Steve Nichols demonstrates use of a specially-adapted Heckler and Koch. Behind him, a threatening scenario is played out and data on the performance of a student is displayed

and then play them back on the simulator a few hundred yards away. Guards can swap their real bullets for lasers and exercise that vital judgement.

To get first-hand experience of the new simulators, *Soldier* visited the MoD Police at their Fire Arms Training Centre in Essex. The unit has been using the high-spec judgemental trainer for more than a year. We found a system which is so realistic that the heart-rate increases almost as soon as you pick up a training weapon.

### REAL WEAPONS

The Heckler and Koch sub-machine guns (a favourite of the MoD Police), Army-issue SA80s and Browning 9mm pistols are real weapons which have been fitted with lasers, electronics and pneumatic systems, giving them the feel and sound of the real thing.

Amid all this it is easy to overlook one conventional but vital component: the human controller. In charge of the MoD Police simulator when we visited was firearms instructor Sgt Steve Nichols. It is his responsibility to brief students on their training scenario, control the on-screen action and grade trainees' judgement and accuracy. To complicate life, he might also programme-in high wind speeds or a jamming weapon.

Steve Nichols introduced us to two of

the scenarios, one from the laser disk and one a convincing piece of video amateur dramatics produced on the camp. The laser disk portrayed a "domestic" which had become terribly out of hand.

A man emerged from the front door of the house to confront armed police surrounding the building. Shouting abuse, he fired both barrels of a shotgun into the air, apparently as a warning. Our tester fired the laser weapon and hit the man.

But it was a premature response. In the heat of the moment – and on this simulator it *does* feel hot – none of us had realised that, having fired both barrels, the man's gun was empty. He was, for the moment anyway, no longer a threat.

Our performance was rather different in the home-produced scenario. The brief was to cover the camp gate as a guard checked the identities of those entering. Suddenly a masked man jumped from a car brandishing a pistol and grabbing a hostage. Becoming aware of the armed guard, he dropped the human shield and raised the pistol to shoot. Our man chose that moment to fire twice, hitting him. It was the correct decision.

Even in that short time, the new judgemental trainer had demonstrated its capability, and hammered home its fundamental message: **think before you fire.**



# Death of a garrison

In its heyday Shoeburyness was the centre of the artillery world. Now the ranges remain, but the old camp has become a ghost town

Report: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Mike Weston

BUILDINGS stand empty and silent. The horseshoe-shaped parade ground, where ranks of soldiers once stood to attention in their scarlet tunics, is deserted.

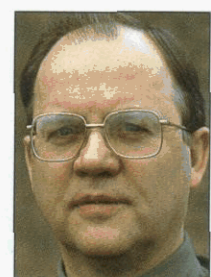
Horseshoe Barracks, Shoeburyness, the first British School of Gunnery in the mid-1800s, and a lively Army camp until 1979, is now a ghost town. After a long and glorious career, the garrison closed completely on April 1, a few weeks after the Army bade farewell with a final sunset ceremony. The Victorian barrack blocks, cookhouses and messes are empty shells, and the church, described as one of the most beautiful of all garrison churches, celebrated its last service on Christmas Eve before finally closing its doors to worshippers.

Situated at the mouth of the Thames estuary, the sea mist rolls off the Essex coast and curls through old streets with military names that once echoed to the clatter of horses' hooves. The last few people to live there said it was not haunted. But if there are such things as ghosts, the spirits of the dead must surely walk among the old buildings of Shoeburyness.

The garrison is on the site of a Viking settlement and the grassy remains of old ramparts can still be seen near the sea wall. If the souls of those ancient Norsemen have found rest, maybe those of soldiers killed while serving at Shoeburyness have not. Windows and memorial plaques in the church commemorate those who died.

One of the worst tragedies was a gun accident in 1885, when a fuse being tapped home detonated a shell and killed seven men.

Four of them were buried in the village churchyard, and a



Lt Col Eric Happé, last senior officer

local resident recorded at the time: "Over 3,000 troops were in attendance... There was [sic] two bands. The Royal Artillery Band from Woolwich and the Royal Engineer Band from Chatham. Thousands of people came from all parts, even from London and Woolwich... Biggest funeral ever seen and I expect ever will be seen again."

At the time of the disaster Shoeburyness was a major source of news and interest because of the experiments and tests carried out on the nearby ranges, known then as the Proof and Experimental Establishment.

"It used to be the hub of the gunner testing world," Lt Col Eric Happé, the last senior officer at Shoeburyness, explained. "Every conceivable kind of land, coastal, air and naval artillery was tested here."

The first gunners arrived in the area in the early 19th century. In 1805 Lt Col (later Lt Gen Sir Henry) Shrapnel tested the shell named after him on the Ness at Shoebury, and artillery trials continued through the whole period of the Napoleonic Wars.

Most of the trials took place across the river on the Plumstead Marshes, but river traffic on the Thames was getting busier and farmers were becoming increasingly irritated by explosives falling into their

fields and setting their crops alight.

On a bright July morning in 1849, local people in the small fishing village of Shoebury noticed a small party of sappers and miners busy around the coastguard station on the Ness. The soldiers soon started building a battery emplacement for 32-pounder smooth-bore guns, together with accompanying buildings. The two powder magazines, built at that time, are still standing.

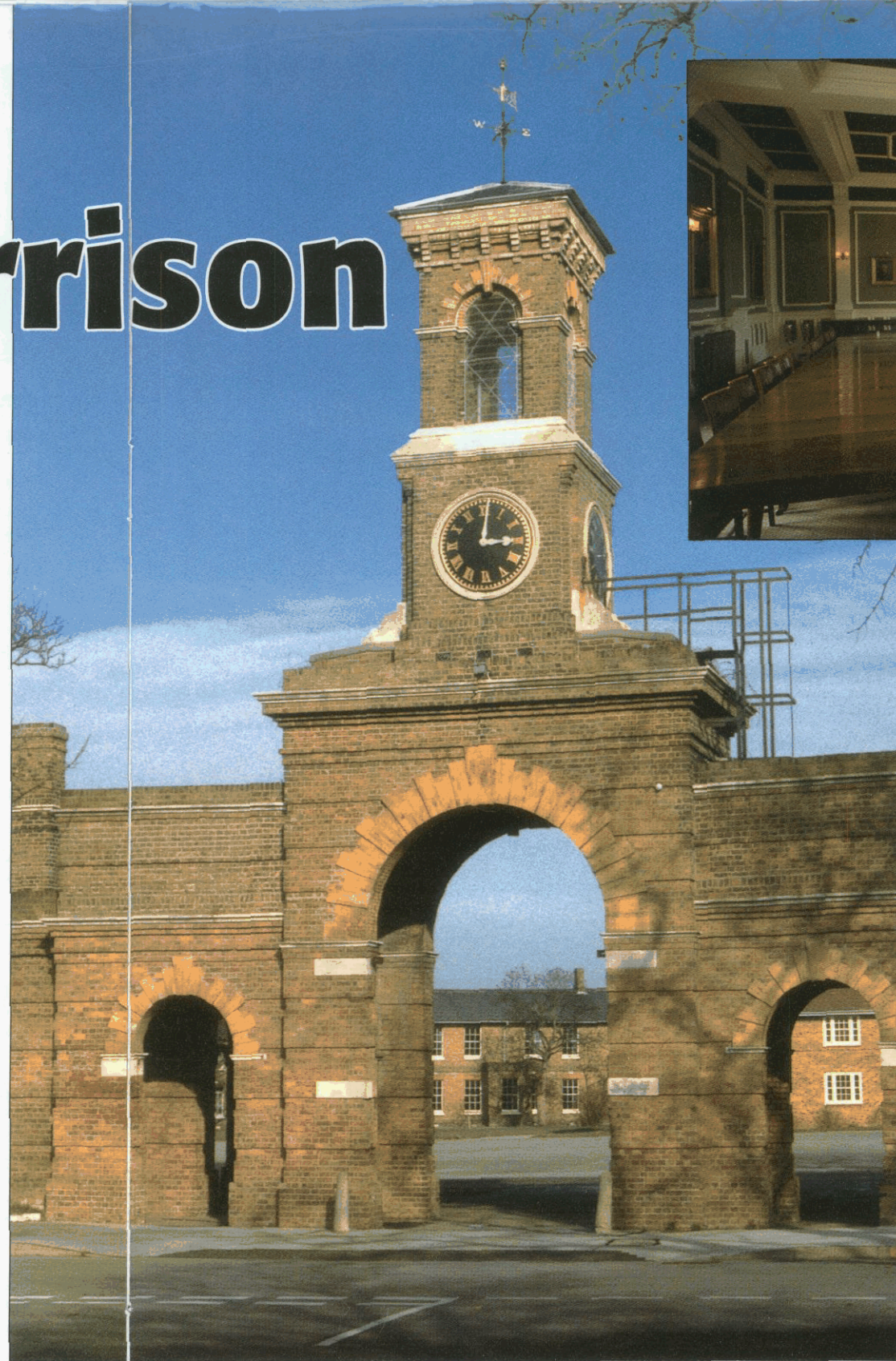
The first British School of Gunnery was established at Shoeburyness on April 1, 1859, and a major building programme was started. The King's Troop was formed at the camp and the School of Gunnery remained there until 1920 when the horse and field artillery elements moved to Larkhill. The coastal element remained as the Coast Artillery School until 1940.

The original land for the new permanent artillery ranges was a narrow coastal strip bought from the local lord of the manor. More land was bought and leased until finally, in 1915, Foulness Island was purchased. By the time the garrison closed, the ranges stretched over 7,500 acres, which expanded to 35,000 acres when the tide was out.

The last unit to use Shoeburyness was The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, which left in 1979. Until that time there was a garrison school, a large Naafi store and a military hospital.

"It was a totally military environment," Lt Col Happé said. "And Shoeburyness was a military town. Local people were shocked and unhappy when the garrison closed and there was a lot of worry about what the site would be used for in the future."

The old barge pier, now neglected and



Above - The dining room in the officers' mess was one of the last rooms to be used  
Left - The clock tower leading to Horse-shoe Barracks is a famous landmark of Shoeburyness

Below - Capt Derek Baker, station staff officer

wintry, early afternoon sun, were a reminder of young men who reclined on the easy chairs 100 years ago and gazed out to sea.

Capt Baker had the dining room repainted in the original colours from the days when it was a ballroom, and had much of the old furniture restored. He admits he was certain that Shoeburyness would get a last-minute reprieve and took a great deal of pride in making sure that the camp was not neglected during its last years.

"I am in tears over the whole thing," he said. "I moved here in 1992 as a retired officer, and although it was derelict and everyone said it wasn't going to survive, I was convinced it was."

The camp has been declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest and so whoever finally becomes the new owner will have to overcome a number of planning problems before any major building or alterations can take place. There are further difficulties because of the garrison's history as a testing area.

"It would take more than 25 years to clear all the hardware," said Lt Col Happé. "There are no records of what happened here in the early years. We still find bits on the seashore which have been washed up."

The future of Shoeburyness garrison is uncertain, but whatever happens it will never be forgotten. The protection orders on the buildings mean that the old camp which saw some of the most dramatic changes in artillery design over the last 150 years will survive in one form or other.

Which will be a relief to the ghosts who, they say, definitely do not walk there.



The garrison church of St Peter and St Paul

rotting, still bears testament to the days when the two barges, *Gog* and *Magog*, used to carry the ammunition from Woolwich.

Shoeburyness's ranges will continue to be used by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) for testing military equipment.

Capt (Retd) Derek Baker, ex-Royal Corps of Transport, is the station staff officer who was responsible for overseeing the closure of the 188-acre camp. Because all the buildings are Grade II listed, they have all had to be wind- and weather-proofed, and Capt Baker was keen that the site would be in the best

possible condition when it was finally taken over by the Defence Estates Organisation.

As a result the flower beds were full, the grass cut and the roses pruned. Woodwork was painted in "spruce" and the roads were improved. The windows in the church were re-lead and a privet cross was planted.

It all adds to the feeling of unreality. One of the last buildings to be used was the officers' mess, an imposing building on the water's edge. Walking into the old rooms just weeks before it closed was like taking a walk back in time. The old books, with their leather covers gleaming in the



## FOOTBALL

### Services off to a flyer

Belgium AF 1, Combined Services 4

COMBINED Services opened their 1998 Kentish Cup campaign with a resounding victory over their Belgian counterparts at Knocke on the Belgian coast, writes **Derrick Bly**.

WO2 Alan Higgins, SAC Scott Taylor (RAF) and POAEM Nigel Thwaites (RN) scored first-half goals and SAC Chris McGuire (RAF) restored the advantage after the hosts had pulled one back in the 57th minute.

This was a good performance by Combined Services, giving them some confidence for their final match against the Netherlands Armed Forces at Aldershot Military Stadium on April 28.

1 RWF 3, 1 Cheshire 2

LCpl David Powell scored eight minutes from the end of the Infantry Challenge Cup final to win the trophy for the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers at a wet and blustery Tidworth Oval. His goal also ended an astonishing run of success by 1 RWF's opponents.

The 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regi-



Jubilant players from 1 RWF celebrate victory over defending champions 1 Cheshire in the Infantry Challenge Cup final at the Tidworth Oval

ment, the defending champions, scored first when LCpl Mazza Mazzoni headed home in the 12th minute. Cpl John Whitehead equalised ten minutes later.

With the wind in their favour during the second half, Pte Lee Badrock gave the Cheshires the lead for a second time, only for the Fusiliers to level through Fus Curly Jones.

After Powell's decisive strike, the Cheshires – attempting to win the trophy for the fifth time in succession – did get

the ball in the net, only for the goal to be ruled out by an offside decision.

● Football-mad Sgt Craig Green (REME) scored four penalties out of five to match a Royal Navy marksman in a penalty shoot-out in front of 20,000 fans during the Ipswich Town v Charlton Athletic match. The half-time contest coincided with a visit to Ipswich by its adopted naval frigate.

Sgt Green is attached to 4 Regiment AAC at nearby Wattisham Airfield.

## SHOOTING

### Royal Irish hot-shots

SOLDIERS of The Royal Irish Regiment take great pride in their shooting skills and are currently top of the regimental league.

The high level of skill is, explained Cpl Robert Cousins of 3 R Irish in Portadown, simply due to the amount of training available to soldiers in the regiment.

"In any other unit you would have great difficulty doing so well," he said, "but the Royal Irish give us all we need in terms of time and resources."

Cpl Cousins and battalion colleague Cpl Robert Doak, both full-timers, competed with considerable success at Bisley and in Canada. Between them they have won a heavyweight range of medals, now on display in the battalion trophy room.

At the 8 R Irish base, ten miles away in

## RUNNING

### Finch so Fleet-footed but loggies miss out

INTERNATIONAL middle distance runner WO2 Rod Finch picked up three titles during a good day's work at the Fleet half marathon.

He won the race in 1hr 6min 47sec and with it claimed the Army and Inter-Services half-marathon titles, which are run concurrently. Unfortunately, Finch (AGC att 7 (Para) RHA) missed the medal presentations because he was in the St John Ambulance tent recovering from his all-out efforts.

More than 500 Army runners entered the race and 366 crossed the finish line. Sgt Sue Sharp (RMAS) won the women's title, Maj Peter Marsh (MoD) the veteran's and Sgt Amanda Flack (ACIO Brighton) the veteran women's.

Pte Alison O'Connor was the second-placed Army female runner, and Marsh was followed home in the veterans' race by LCpl Sean Malone and Capt Keith Donkin.

Sgt Kenny Butler and WO2 Ray Keeney of 5 Airborne Logistic Battalion were sixth and ninth overall in the senior race to claim silver and bronze in the Army and Inter-Services categories.

But the airborne loggies missed a trick by entering the Fleet race and not the Army championships as well. Although

they helped the Army to victory in the Inter-Services, their runners did not qualify for Army individual or team medals. Had they entered as a unit, 5 AB Log Bn would have won the Army team event by more than eight minutes.

Army athletics secretary Maj Peter Lyons said the entry fee to the Army championships was £1 a head and entitled team or individual to travel to Fleet and home at Army expense.

## ROAD RACES

But there was no mistake by the loggies in the Army one-mile road race staged at ATR Basingbourn, which Kenny Butler won in a time of 4min 33.53sec.

He was also a member of the four-man 5 AB Log Bn team which won the three-mile relay championships in a time of 54min 8sec, half a minute ahead of 2 Signal Regiment. Basingbourn were third in 55:38.

Other members of the winning Log Bn team were Ray Keeney, Capt Steve Weetman and Cpl Andy Martin.

Training Regiment RLC took the junior honours and also won the women's title.

Veteran Maj Barry Smith (HQ Arborfield Gar) was second to Butler in the one-mile race, with SSgt Peter Freeman (32 Regt RA) third. Pte Lawton (Trg Regt RLC) won the junior event.

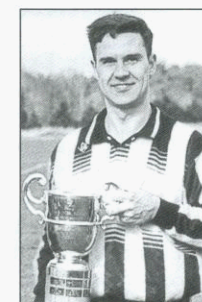
## IN BRIEF

### Biel 100 anniversary

A REMINDER that the international Biel 100km race – the equivalent of 2½ full marathons in less than 22 hours – celebrates its 40th anniversary on June 12. Two teams from 21 Engineer Regiment at Osnabrück have entered and are looking for sponsorship to help offset the considerable costs of preparing, entering and having a back-up crew.

### Close (support) final

CPL Scouse Hingham (right), captain of the 23 Brigade Support Squadron football team, holds the RLC (Germany) Minor Units Cup after his team had beaten 76 Bde Sp Sqn 3-0 in the final. Both squadrons are part of 2 Close Support Regiment RLC based in Gutersloh.



### Bosnia 'Olympic' ski meet

BDR Kevin Denby won the best novice award at a ski meeting organised for HQ Multi-National Division (South West) by the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment at the 1984 Winter Olympics resort of Jahorina, near Pale, overlooked by Mount Igman.

● Gütersloh-based 2 Close Support Regiment RLC retained the unit cup at the RLC skiing championships at Zwiesel in Germany by winning the Nordic competition and finishing second in the Alpine events to tie with 8 Regt. Victory in the patrol race gave 2 Regt the trophy. Peterborough-based 158 (R Anglian) Regt RLC (V) picked up eight prizes at Zwiesel.

### Ian's long stride to recovery

WHEN he suffered a severe brain haemorrhage six years ago, Lt Col Ian Chant-Sempill (right) of the Highlanders lost his sense of taste and smell. After a series of operations and many traumatic steps to recovery, he was preparing to run in the 1998 London Marathon as this issue went to press. Last year he completed the race in 4hr 34min and raised more than £1,700 for charity. This year he was running for Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids (SPARKS).



## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Sappers at leaguer-heads

TWO sapper sides met in the final of the Army Rugby League nines tournament at Brompton Stadium, Chatham, with 1 Royal School of Mechanical Engineering beating 25 Engineer Regiment by 14 points to six.

Fourteen teams from the Army and unit sides from Royal Navy and Royal Air Force took part in the fourth and most eagerly contested nines tournament, with the quarter-finalists being decided by the winners of four pool groups.

Units with little training were soon found out, although newcomers 39 Engr Regt, 2 Para and AMS Aldershot made good impressions. There was excellent progress from 1 DWR and 25 Engr Regt.

HMS Collingwood beat 7 (Para) RHA in a sudden-death finale to the plate final

after the scores were level at 12-12 after full time.

RSME's reward for winning the main competition was to represent ARL in the Army Rugby Union sevens. Spr Simon Morgan (1 RSME) was named the player of the tournament.

With the 13-man code gaining in popularity every season, 36 teams will be competing for the Army Challenge Cup. Units and individuals who want to learn more about the game should contact secretary Martin Coyd on Chatham Mil (766) 2686 or press officer WO1 (RSM) Steve Tranter on Preston Mil (754) 2632.

All past and present players are eligible to join the Army Rugby League Association and can contact the chairman, M J Pavey, on tel/fax 01634 408279.



Heavyweight shooters: Cpls Robert Cousins and Robert Doak with medals

Picture: Terry Champion

Armagh, there is similar enthusiasm. The battalion marksmen are led by CSgt Tom Gourley, also known as "Fingers", thanks to the missing trigger digit on his right hand. He says: "It means I have to work a bit harder to prove I'm as good as any other high-standard soldier."

Which he certainly is. In 1996, Tom came 18th in the Bisley Army 100, and was selected for the Army combat shooting team against the South African army.

But despite the regiment's willingness to dedicate time and resources to the sport, operational duties, in particular the huge demands of the marching season, often

rule out practice and competition. Last year's clashes at Drumcree conflicted directly with the Bisley competition.

● See also "Irish on target" in Page 45



# Debs' silver success



Maj Debs Kershaw (left) displays her world championship silver medal and (above) is pictured preparing for world championship action in Miami with helmsman Greg Eaton

MAJ Debs Kershaw took on the world's finest dinghy sailors in Miami and returned with a silver medal.

Competing with helmsman Greg Eaton in the Great Britain second string boat, she beat the favoured GB1 team at the Vanguard 15 world championships.

"At the end of four days' racing we were the only undefeated team in the round-robin competition, having disposed of the

USA, the Czechs, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Eire, Australia and Canada," she said.

It was not until they were narrowly beaten by GB1 that they were toppled from the head of their group. But it meant that both British crews were in the quarter-finals.

Having seen off the other GB dinghy, Kershaw and Eaton defeated the highly-

fancied Australians in the semi-finals before losing narrowly to the American entry.

On the back of her success, Maj Kershaw, a desk officer at the MoD, has been offered a place on the Army's J24 yacht, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, at the world championships in San Francisco in July. Her husband, Maj George Kershaw, also works in Whitehall.

## HOCKEY

# Triple champions

THE Army achieved a virtual clean sweep of the major Inter-Services hockey honours, winning the men's, women's and Under-23 tournaments and finishing as runners-up to the Royal Navy in the veterans' competition.

A 3-1 win against the Royal Air Force by the senior men was followed by a 1-1 draw against the Navy, enough to give the Army the title when the RAF beat the RN 4-3.

The Army women won both their games convincingly, firing in five goals in each without conceding one. The RAF beat the Navy 7-0.

Goals were also plentiful in the U-23 competition, in which the Army hammered the Navy 9-1 and drew with the

airmen 5-5. The Army's veterans beat the RAF 5-3 and lost 5-7 to the matelots.

In their build-up to the tournament, the Army men's team beat British Police 6-5 and the Civil Service 3-2.

The AGC Centre won the Major Units hockey final at Aldershot, beating HQ 3 (UK) Division and Signal Regiment 3-2 in a close game. The Minor Units final was more clear cut, with 42 Survey Engineer Group thrashing HQ 39 Brigade by five goals to nil.

The women's final, between a combined AGC Centre/ATR Winchester side and HQ 3 (UK) Division and Signal Regiment, ended with a 3-2 victory for the former.

## BOXING

# Para-magic

EIGHT hundred noisy and partisan spectators created a superb atmosphere inside Aldershot's Maida Gym for the final of the novice grade three major units team boxing competition between the locally-based 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 7 Transport Regiment RLC from Germany.

The paras won by eight bouts to one to take the trophy for the first time. But the matches were far from one-sided and the loggies came close to winning two other contests. The high standard of boxing and courage was appreciated by the capacity crowd.

Last year's champions, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, were unable to enter the competition because of operational commitments.



## HOCKEY



Outnumbered. An AGC Centre player on the ball in the Major Units Challenge Cup final against HQ 3 (UK) Div and Signal Regiment at Aldershot. The AGC Centre won by three goals to two. Army triumphs at Inter-Services – see “Triple Champions”, opposite

## RUGBY

# Army (G) in control

THE Germany-based British Army proved too strong for the Royal Air Force (Germany) in the annual fixture played this year at RAF Brüggen.

Tries by Capt Rob Campbell, Lt Anthony Pearce (2), Cpl Andy Kershaw, LCpl Darrell Cooper and Capt Chris Cox, plus a penalty gave the Army a comfortable 33-10 victory.

BFG sportsman of the year and Army team captain WO2 Billy Innes received the trophy from Air Commodore Nigel Maddox.

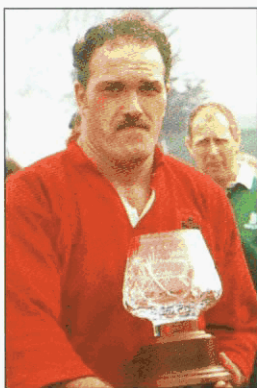
### UNDER 21s

West Point beat the Army Under-21s by 27 points to 14 in the annual fixture, this year played at a quite frantic pace in Aldershot.

London and SE Division overcame the Combined Services by 38-points to ten in an U-21 fixture played at Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. Pte Malcolm Roberts and LAC James Buckley scored first-half tries and Cpl Bart Simpson was named the Services' man of the match.

Spr Tony Richards was called into the Welsh Youth team and played against France.

CS U-21s, led by Spr Bruno Green,



WO2 Billy Innes

beat Devon U-21s by 29 points to nil at Devonport Services RFC. Sig Steve Blight, 2nd Lt Neil Hill (2) crossed for tries, and Cfn Steve Tretheway was awarded his colours.

### MERIT TABLE

Few people would have predicted that the Infantry A rugby team would finish bottom of the Inter-Corps merit table division one and have to play off against Infantry B, winners of division two, for a place in next season's top bracket.

Infantry A gained promotion two seasons ago and finished as runners-up to the Royal Artillery 12 months ago. Infantry B, effectively Infantry Northern Ireland with a strong element of Royal Irish Regiment RFC players, have topped the division two merit table for the past two seasons.

The play-off at Pirbright ended in an uncompromising 13-13 at full time. Although Infantry B had scored two tries to their opponent's one, extra-time was ordered and the rampaging Irishmen overan the A team to win by 31-16. It was a result which means Infantry B gained promotion and relegated their seniors to the second division.

## IN BRIEF

### Irish on target

A VERY poor entry took the gloss off a high-class inter-district/division small-bore target rifle final at SEME Bordon. Of the nine eligible teams, only 4 Division and Northern Ireland were represented. Seven of the eight-man NI team were from 3 R Irish and they steadily built up a lead to win the match. And 3 R Irish also won the final of the Land Command competition with a score just one short of the record.

The Army won the women's Inter-Services small-bore rifle championships at SEME Bordon, finishing just three points ahead of the Royal Navy.

### Golf, with honours

THE Army golf team beat Oxford University, lost to ALGA and were prevented from playing Kent by a flooded course. The team were runners-up in the Brent Knoll Bowl at the end of March.

### Tug veteran returns

MAJ (Retd) Dick Field has been enticed out of retirement to take up his old post as secretary of Army tug of war following the retirement of Capt Tony Henderson. He has 28 unbroken years' involvement with the sport as competitor and administrator and can be contacted on 01252 312186. The Jack Smith Memorial tug of war takes place at the Aldershot Show on May 4, followed by the Princess Royal's open Inter-Services at Windsor on May 24, the Land championships on June 17 at South Cerney, and the Army finals at Larkhill on June 27.

### Cricket warm-up

KENT county cricketers were put through their paces during a training day with the 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Leros Barracks, Canterbury. The cricketers completed a five-mile march, an assault course and learned how to throw grenades.

### David's high achievement

WO1 (RSM) David Stacey (right) of The Black Watch, who played football for the Army and Combined Services, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, was presented with the LS and GC Medal . . . on the top of Ben Chonzie, a 931m munro in Perthshire. David is the office support manager at the Armed Forces Careers Office in Glasgow.



### Swimming pool dates

THE Army water polo, individual and unit swimming and unit single-event relays take place at RMA Sandhurst on July 1-2.



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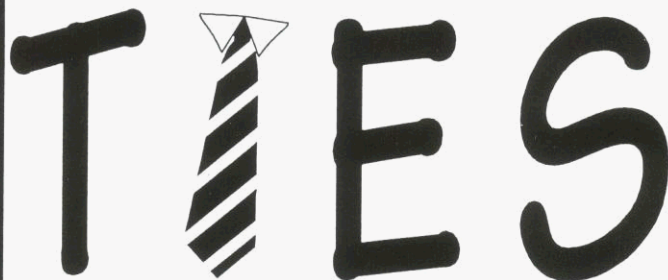
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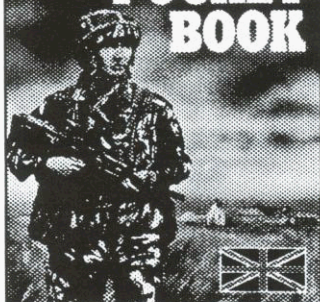


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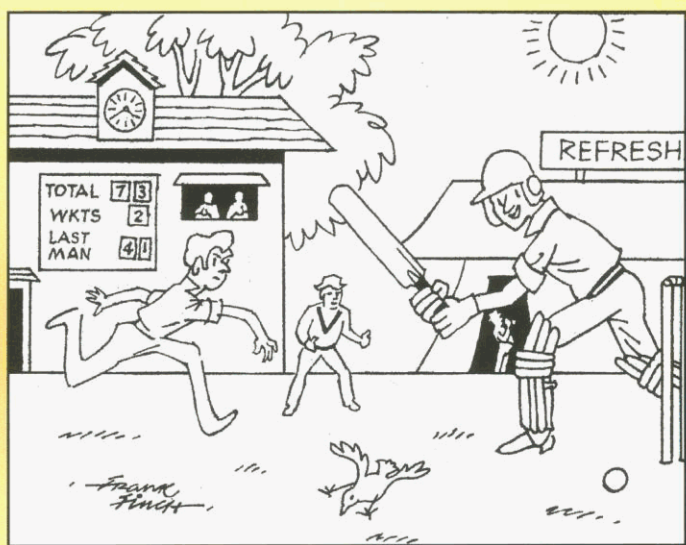
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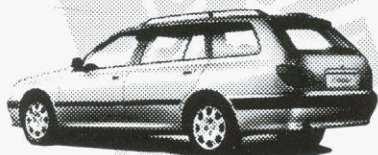
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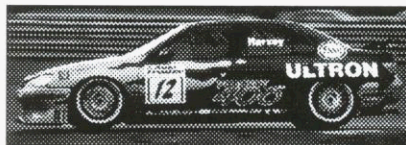
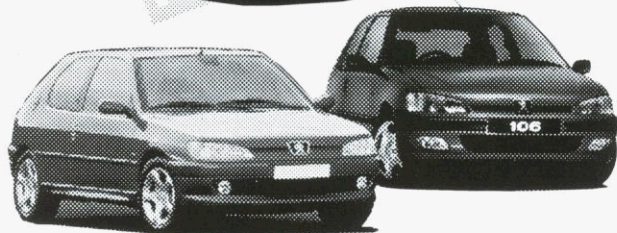
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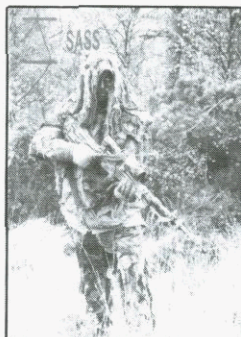
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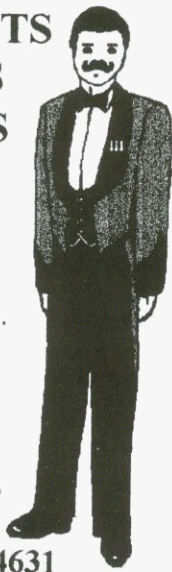
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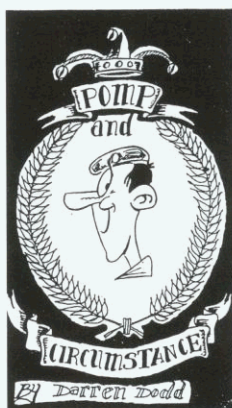
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## NOTICES

**Edith Magee, wife of Sergeant Trigger Magee, formerly of the 8th & 5th Royal Tank Regiments, died at her daughter's home, Posbrook Gardens, Triangle Lane, Titchfield on the 20th March, 1998 after a long and difficult illness.** 05/98

## REUNIONS

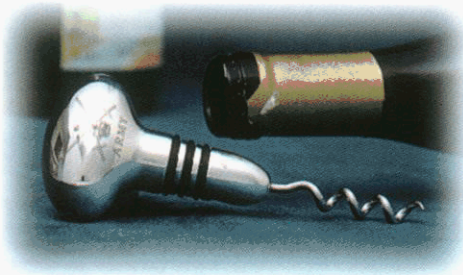
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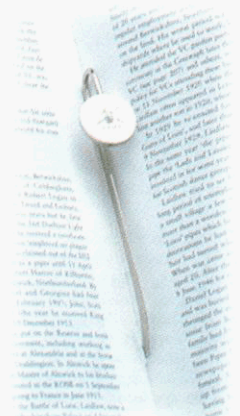
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Item	Price	Quantity	Total
3-in-1 bar tool	£15.99		
Hip flask	£18.99		
Champagne stopper	£9.99		
Book clock	£32.00		
Compact	£9.99		
Cufflinks	£9.99		
Bookmark	£6.99		
<b>Grand Total</b>			



# 1998 TA PAY SCALES

**SOLDIER**  
SPECIAL FEATURE

## OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
<b>2nd Lt</b>		38.33	38.98
<b>Lt</b>	On appointment	50.67	51.54
	+1	52.00	52.89
	+2	53.33	54.24
	+3	54.66	55.59
	+4	55.99	56.94
<b>Capt</b>	On appointment	64.60	65.71
	+1	66.36	67.49
	+2	68.10	69.27
	+3	69.85	71.05
	+4	71.61	72.83
	+5	73.35	74.62
	+6	75.10	76.40
<b>Maj</b>	On appointment	81.92	83.32
	+1	83.95	85.39
	+2	85.98	87.45
	+3	88.00	89.51
	+4	90.03	91.57
	+5	92.06	93.64
	+6	94.09	95.70
	+7	96.11	97.76
	+8	98.14	99.82
<b>Lt Col</b>	On appointment/ U 19 service	115.58	117.55
	2/19 in rank/ service	118.61	120.65
	4/21 in rank/ service	121.65	123.74
	6/23 in rank/ service	127.60	129.79
	8/25 in rank/ service	130.85	133.09
	On appointment	137.87	140.24
<b>Col</b>	+2	141.65	144.08
	+4	145.42	147.92
	+6	151.90	154.51
	+8	155.67	158.35
<b>Brig</b>		173.16	176.13

## OFFICERS – ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
Chaplains Class 4			
(Capt), Class 3 (Maj)			
	On appointment	64.60	65.71
	+2	69.36	70.55
	+4	74.11	75.38
	+6	78.86	80.22
	+8	83.62	85.05
	+10	88.37	89.89
	+12	93.12	94.72
	+14	97.87	99.55
	+16	102.63	104.38
	+18	107.38	109.22
	+20	112.13	114.06
	+22	116.88	118.88
	+24	121.65	123.74
	+26	126.40	128.58

## OFFICERS – QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
<b>Lt/ Capt/ Maj</b>	On appointment	78.62	79.96
	+1	79.84	81.23
	+2	81.02	82.43
	+3	82.21	83.63
	+4	83.39	84.83
	+5	84.58	86.03
	+6	85.76	87.23
	+8	86.95	88.43
	+10	88.26	89.76
	+12	89.57	91.11
	+14	90.92	92.48
	+16	92.29	93.86
	On appointment	104.02	105.79
<b>Lt Col</b>	+3	105.48	107.28

## VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
<b>Capt/ Maj</b>	On appointment	64.60	65.71
	+1	69.19	70.37
	+3	73.76	75.03
	+5	78.35	79.69
	+7	82.92	84.35
	+9	88.07	89.01
	+11	92.06	93.64
	+13	96.80	98.47
	+15	101.59	103.34
	+17	106.39	108.22
	+19	111.18	113.09
<b>Lt Col</b>	On appointment	120.05	122.11
	+2	123.89	126.02
	+4	127.73	129.93
<b>Col</b>	On appointment	134.42	136.63
	+2	137.86	140.23

## OFFICER CADETS AND JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Rank	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
Cadet on entry	26.90	27.36
Junior Soldier	14.98	15.24
Young Soldier	18.18	18.50

## GROUP A NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	On appt After 3 yrs 6 yrs 9 yrs			
	£	£	£	£
Pte	31.45	31.55	31.65	31.75
LCpl	36.16	36.26	36.36	36.46
Cpl Class 2	43.55	43.65	43.75	43.85
Cpl Class 1	46.38	46.48	46.58	46.68
Sgt	50.90	51.00	51.10	51.20
SSgt	53.50	53.60	53.70	53.80
WO2	62.97	63.07	63.17	63.27
WO1	72.58	72.68	72.78	72.88

### Effective from December 1, 1998

Pte	32.13	32.23	32.33	32.43
LCpl	36.79	36.89	36.99	37.09
Cpl Class 2	44.28	44.38	44.48	44.58
Cpl Class 1	47.16	47.26	47.36	47.46
Sgt	51.75	51.85	51.95	52.05
SSgt	54.41	54.51	54.61	54.71
WO2	64.04	64.14	64.24	64.34
WO1	73.82	73.92	74.02	74.12

## GROUP B NRPS – SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	On appt After 3 yrs 6 yrs 9 yrs			
	£	£	£	£
Pte	31.45	31.55	31.65	31.75
LCpl	36.16	36.26	36.36	36.46
Cpl Class 2	43.55	43.65	43.75	43.85

### Effective from December 1, 1998

Pte	32.13	32.23	32.33	32.43
LCpl	36.79	36.89	36.99	37.09
Cpl Class 2	44.28	44.38	44.48	44.58

## SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
			£	£	£
<b>Pte</b>	4	1	24.04	24.34	24.79
		1	26.92	27.22	27.67
		2	31.26	31.56	32.01
	3	3	36.07	36.37	36.82
		1	30.10	30.40	30.85
		2	34.47	34.77	35.22
	2	3	39.28	39.58	40.03
		1	32.74	33.04	33.49
		2	37.10	37.40	37.85
	1	3	41.90	42.20	42.65
		1	32.74	33.04	33.49
		2	37.10	37.40	37.85
<b>LCpl</b>	3	3	41.90	42.20	42.65
		1	35.01	35.31	35.76
		2	39.37	39.67	40.12
	2	3	44.59	44.89	45.34
		1	37.65	37.95	38.40
		2	42.04	42.34	42.79
	1	3	47.23	47.53	47.98
		1	40.27	40.57	41.02
		2	44.63	44.93	45.38
	2	3	49.84	50.14	50.59
		1	43.24	43.54	43.99
		2	47.58	47.88	48.33
<b>Cpl</b>	1	3	52.78	53.08	53.53
		4	47.55	47.85	48.30
		5	52.28	52.58	53.03
	<b>Sgt</b>	6	57.45	57.75	58.20
		4	50.29	50.59	51.04
		5	55.00	55.30	55.75
	<b>SSgt</b>	6	60.20	60.50	60.95
		7	66.43	66.73	67.18
		4	53.77	54.07	54.52
	<b>WO2</b>	5	58.50	58.80	59.25
		6	64.87	65.17	65.62
		7	71.25	71.55	72.00
<b>WO1</b>	4	5	57.34	57.64	58.09
		5	62.05	62.35	62.80
		6	68.52	68.82	69.27
	7	7	74.88	75.18	75.63

Effective from December 1, 1998

<b>Pte</b>	4	1	24.45	24.75	25.20
		1	27.52	27.82	28.27
		2	31.94	32.24	32.69
	3	3	36.85	37.15	37.60
		1	30.76	31.06	31.51
		2	35.22	35.52	35.97
	2	3	40.13	40.43	40.88
		1	33.45	33.75	34.20
		2	37.90	38.20	38.65
	1	3	42.81	43.11	43.56
		1	33.45	33.75	34.20
		2	37.90	38.20	38.65
<b>LCpl</b>	3	3	42.81	43.11	43.56
		1	35.61	35.91	36.36
		2	40.06	40.36	40.81
	2	3	45.36	45.66	46.11
		1	38.31	38.61	39.06
		2	42.76	43.06	43.51
	1	3	48.05	48.35	48.80
		1	40.97	41.27	41.72
		2	45.40	45.70	46.15
	2	3	50.70	51.00	51.45
		1	43.99	44.29	44.74
		2	48.40	48.70	49.15
<b>Cpl</b>	1	3	53.69	53.99	54.44
		4	48.38	48.68	49.13
		5	53.18	53.48	53.93
	<b>Sgt</b>	6	58.43	58.73	59.18
		4	51.15	51.45	51.90
		5	55.95	56.25	56.70
	<b>SSgt</b>	6	61.23	61.53	61.98
		7	67.58	67.88	68.33
		4	54.69	54.99	55.44
	<b>WO2</b>	5	59.51	59.81	60.26
		6	65.99	66.29	66.74
		7	72.48	72.78	73.23
<b>WO1</b>	4	5	58.32	58.62	59.07
		5	63.13	63.43	63.88
		6	69.70	70.00	70.45
	7	7	76.17	76.47	76.92



# 1998 FULL-TIME RESERVE SERVICE PAY SCALES

## OFFICERS – NORMAL RATES

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment – X-factor)					
		Full – 12%		Limited – 5%		Home – 0%	
		1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£	£	£	£	£
2nd Lt		40.88	41.58	38.33	38.98	36.50	37.13
Lt	On appointment	54.05	54.98	50.67	51.54	48.26	49.09
	+1	55.47	56.42	52.00	52.89	49.53	50.38
	+2	56.89	57.86	53.33	54.24	50.79	51.66
	+3	58.30	59.30	54.66	55.59	52.05	52.95
	+4	59.72	60.74	55.99	56.94	53.32	54.23
Capt	On appointment	68.91	70.09	64.60	65.71	61.53	62.58
	+1	70.78	71.99	66.36	67.49	63.20	64.28
	+2	72.64	73.89	68.10	69.27	64.86	65.97
	+3	74.51	75.79	69.85	71.05	66.53	67.67
	+4	76.38	77.69	71.61	72.83	68.20	69.37
Maj	On appointment	87.38	88.88	81.92	83.32	78.02	79.36
	+1	89.55	91.08	83.95	85.39	79.96	81.32
	+2	91.71	93.28	85.98	87.45	81.88	83.29
	+3	93.87	95.48	88.00	89.51	83.81	85.25
	+4	96.03	97.68	90.03	91.57	85.74	87.21
Lt Col	On appointment	98.20	99.88	92.06	93.64	87.68	89.18
	+1	100.36	102.08	94.09	95.70	89.61	91.14
	+2	102.52	104.28	96.11	97.76	91.54	93.11
	+3	104.68	106.48	98.14	99.82	93.46	95.07
	On appointment/ U 19 service	123.28	125.39	115.58	117.55	110.07	111.96
Col	2/19 in rank/ service	126.52	128.69	118.61	120.65	112.96	114.90
	4/21 in rank/ service	129.76	131.99	121.65	123.74	115.86	117.85
	6/23 in rank/ service	133.01	135.29	127.60	129.79	123.74	125.86
	8/25 in rank/ service	136.25	138.59	130.85	133.09	126.98	129.16
	On appointment	143.28	145.74	137.87	140.24	134.01	136.31
Brig	+2	147.05	149.58	141.65	144.08	137.78	140.15
	+4	150.83	153.42	145.42	147.92	141.56	143.99
	+6	154.60	157.26	151.90	154.51	149.97	152.55
	+8	158.38	161.10	155.67	158.35	153.74	156.39
		175.86	178.88	173.16	176.13	171.23	174.17

## OFFICERS – QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment – X-factor)					
		Full – 12%		Limited – 5%		Home – 0%	
		1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Lt/ Capt/ Maj	On appointment	83.86	85.29	78.62	79.96	74.88	76.15
	+1	85.16	86.65	79.84	81.23	76.04	77.37
	+2	86.42	87.93	81.02	82.43	77.16	78.51
	+3	87.69	89.21	82.21	83.63	78.29	79.65
	+4	88.95	90.49	83.39	84.83	79.42	80.79
	+5	90.22	91.77	84.58	86.03	80.55	81.94
	+6	91.48	93.05	85.76	87.23	81.68	83.08
	+8	92.75	94.33	86.95	88.43	82.81	84.22
	+10	94.14	95.74	88.26	89.76	84.05	85.48
	+12	95.54	97.18	89.57	91.11	85.30	86.77
	+14	96.98	98.64	90.92	92.48	86.59	88.07
Lt Col	On appointment	98.44	100.12	92.29	93.86	87.89	89.39
	+3	110.95	112.84	104.02	105.79	99.06	100.75
		112.51	114.43	105.48	107.28	100.46	102.17



## OFFICERS – ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment – X-factor)					
		Full – 12%		Limited – 5%		Home – 0%	
		1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Chaplains Class 4 (Capt), Class 3 (Maj)							
On appointment		68.91	70.09	64.60	65.71	61.53	62.58
	+2	73.98	75.25	69.36	70.55	66.05	67.19
	+4	79.05	80.41	74.11	75.38	70.58	71.79
	+6	84.12	85.57	78.86	80.22	75.11	76.40
	+8	89.19	90.72	83.62	85.05	79.63	81.00
	+10	94.26	95.88	88.37	89.89	84.16	85.61
	+12	99.33	101.03	93.12	94.72	88.69	90.21
	+14	104.40	106.19	97.87	99.55	93.21	94.81
	+16	109.47	111.34	102.63	104.38	97.74	99.41
	+18	114.54	116.50	107.38	109.22	102.27	104.02
	+20	119.61	121.66	112.13	114.06	106.79	108.63
+22		124.67	126.81	116.88	118.88	111.31	113.22
	+24	129.76	131.99	121.65	123.74	115.86	117.85
	+26	134.83	137.15	126.40	128.58	120.38	122.46

## VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment – X-factor)					
		Full – 12%		Limited – 5%		Home – 0%	
		1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98	1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Capt/ Maj	On appointment	68.91	70.09	64.60	65.71	61.53	62.58
	+1	73.80	75.06	69.19	70.37	65.89	67.02
	+3	78.68	80.03	73.76	75.03	70.25	71.46
	+5	83.57	85.00	78.35	79.69	74.62	75.89
	+7	88.45	89.97	82.92	84.35	78.97	80.33
	+9	93.34	94.94	88.07	89.51	83.88	85.25
	+11	98.20	99.88	92.06	93.64	87.68	89.18
	+13	103.25	105.03	96.80	98.47	92.19	93.78
	+15	108.36	110.23	101.59	103.34	96.75	98.42
	+17	113.48	115.43	106.39	108.22	101.32	103.06
	+19	118.59	120.63	111.18	113.09	105.88	107.71
Lt Col	On appointment*	123.71	125.83	115.98	117.97	110.46	112.35
	+2 *	128.05	130.25	120.05	122.11	114.33	116.29
	+4 *	132.15	134.42	123.89	126.02	117.99	120.02
Col	On appointment	136.25	138.59	127.73	129.93	121.65	123.74
	+2	143.28	145.74	134.42	136.63	127.93	130.13
		147.05	149.58	137.86	140.23	131.29	133.55

\*Captains and Majors who on 31/3/94 were paid at the former "after 23, 25, and 27 years' service" points will remain at these points on reserved rights.



# SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Full Commitment  
12% X-factor

Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	1	25.66	25.96	26.41
		1	28.74	29.04	29.49
		2	33.36	33.66	34.11
	3	3	38.49	38.79	39.24
		1	32.13	32.43	32.88
		2	36.79	37.09	37.54
	2	3	41.92	42.22	42.67
		1	34.94	35.24	35.69
		2	39.59	39.89	40.34
	1	3	44.71	45.01	45.46
LCpl	3	1	34.94	35.24	35.69
		2	39.59	39.89	40.34
		3	44.71	45.01	45.46
	2	1	37.36	37.66	38.11
		2	42.02	42.32	42.77
		3	47.58	47.88	48.33
	1	1	40.18	40.48	40.93
		2	44.86	45.16	45.61
		3	50.40	50.70	51.15
Cpl	2	1	42.98	43.28	43.73
		2	47.63	47.93	48.38
		3	53.18	53.48	53.93
	1	1	46.14	46.44	46.89
		2	50.77	51.07	51.52
		3	56.32	56.62	57.07
Sgt	4	4	50.74	51.04	51.49
		5	55.79	56.09	56.54
		6	61.30	61.60	62.05
	5	4	53.66	53.96	54.41
		5	58.69	58.99	59.44
		6	64.23	64.53	64.98
	6	7	70.88	71.18	71.63
		4	57.37	57.67	58.12
		5	62.42	62.72	63.17
	7	6	69.21	69.51	69.96
WO2	7	7	76.02	76.32	76.77
		4	61.18	61.48	61.93
		5	66.21	66.51	66.96
	6	6	73.11	73.41	73.86
		7	79.89	80.19	80.64

Effective from  
December 1, 1998

Pte	4	1	26.10	26.40	26.85
		1	29.37	29.67	30.12
		2	34.09	34.39	34.84
	3	3	39.33	39.63	40.08
		1	32.83	33.13	33.58
		2	37.59	37.89	38.34
	2	3	42.83	43.13	43.58
		1	35.70	36.00	36.45
		2	40.45	40.75	41.20
	1	3	45.68	45.98	46.43
LCpl	3	1	35.70	36.00	36.45
		2	40.45	40.75	41.20
		3	45.68	45.98	46.43
	2	1	38.00	38.30	38.75
		2	42.75	43.05	43.50
		3	48.40	48.70	49.15
	1	1	40.88	41.18	41.63
		2	45.63	45.93	46.38
		3	51.27	51.57	52.02
Cpl	2	1	43.72	44.02	44.47
		2	48.45	48.75	49.20
		3	54.10	54.40	54.85
	1	1	46.94	47.24	47.69
		2	51.65	51.95	52.40
		3	57.29	57.59	58.04
Sgt	4	4	51.62	51.92	52.37
		5	56.75	57.05	57.50
		6	62.35	62.65	63.10
	5	4	54.58	54.88	55.33
		5	59.70	60.00	60.45
		6	65.33	65.63	66.08
	6	7	72.10	72.40	72.85
		4	58.36	58.66	59.11
		5	63.50	63.80	64.25
	7	6	70.41	70.71	71.16
WO2	7	7	77.33	77.63	78.08
		4	62.23	62.53	62.98
		5	67.36	67.66	68.11
	6	6	74.37	74.67	75.12
		7	81.27	81.57	82.02

# SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Limited Commitment  
5% X-factor

Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	1	24.04	24.34	24.79
		1	26.92	27.22	27.67
		2	31.26	31.56	32.01
	3	3	36.07	36.37	36.82
		1	30.10	30.40	30.85
		2	34.47	34.77	35.22
	2	3	39.28	39.58	40.03
		1	32.74	33.04	33.49
		2	37.10	37.40	37.85
	1	3	41.90	42.20	42.65
LCpl	3	1	32.74	33.04	33.49
		2	37.10	37.40	37.85
		3	41.90	42.20	42.65
	2	1	35.01	35.31	35.76
		2	39.37	39.67	40.12
		3	44.59	44.89	45.34
	1	1	37.65	37.95	38.40
		2	42.04	42.34	42.79
		3	47.23	47.53	47.98
Cpl	2	1	40.27	40.57	41.02
		2	44.63	44.93	45.38
		3	49.84	50.14	50.59
	1	1	43.24	43.54	43.99
		2	47.58	47.88	48.33
		3	52.78	53.08	53.53
Sgt	4	4	47.55	47.85	48.30
		5	52.28	52.58	53.03
		6	57.45	57.75	58.20
	5	4	50.29	50.59	51.04
		5	55.00	55.30	55.75
		6	60.20	60.50	60.95
	6	7	66.43	66.73	67.18
		4	53.77	54.07	54.52
		5	58.50	58.80	59.25
	7	6	64.87	65.17	65.62
WO2	7	7	71.25	71.55	72.00
		4	57.34	57.64	58.09
		5	62.05	62.35	62.80
	6	6	68.52	68.82	69.27
		7	74.88	75.18	75.63

Effective from  
December 1, 1998

Pte	4	1	24.45	24.75	25.20
		1	27.52	27.82	28.27
		2	31.94	32.24	32.69
	3	3	36.85	37.15	37.60
		1	30.76	31.06	31.51
		2	35.22	35.52	35.97
	2	3	40.13	40.43	40.88
		1	33.45	33.75	34.20
		2	37.90	38.20	38.65
	1	3	42.81	43.11	43.56
LCpl	3	1	33.45	33.75	34.20
		2	37.90	38.20	38.65
		3	42.81	43.11	43.56
	2	1	35.61	35.91	36.36
		2	40.06	40.36	40.81
		3	45.36	45.66	46.11
	1	1	38.31	38.61	39.06
		2	42.76	43.06	43.51
		3	48.05	48.35	48.80
Cpl	2	1	40.97	41.27	41.72
		2	45.40	45.70	46.15
		3	50.70	51.00	51.45
	1	1	43.99	44.29	44.74
		2	48.40	48.70	49.15
		3	53.69	53.99	54.44
Sgt	4	4	48.38	48.68	49.13
		5	53.18	53.48	53.93
		6	58.43	58.73	59.18
	5	4	51.15	51.45	51.90
		5	55.95	56.25	56.70
		6	61.23	61.53	61.98
	6	7	67.58	67.88	68.33
		4	54.69	54.99	55.44
		5	59.51	59.81	60.26
	7	6	65.99	66.29	66.74
WO2	7	7	72.48	72.78	73.23
		4	58.32	58.62	59.07
		5	63.13	63.43	63.88
	6	6	69.70	70.00	70.45
		7	76.17	76.47	76.92

# SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Home Commitment  
0% X-factor

Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	Class	Band	Scale		
			A	B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	1	22.88	23.18	23.63
		1	25.63	25.93	26.38
		2	29.75	30.05	30.50
	3	3	34.33	34.63	35.08
		1	28.66	28.96	29.41
		2	32.82	33.12	33.57
	2	3	37.40	37.70	38.15
		1	31.16	31.46	31.91
		2	35.32	35.62	36.07
	3	39.89	40.19	40.64	
LCpl	3	1	31.16	31.46	31.91
		2	35.32	35.62	36.07
		3	39.89	40.19	40.64
	2	1	33.33	33.63	34.08
		2	37.49	37.79	38.24
		3	42.45	42.75	43.20
	1	1	35.84	36.14	36.59
		2	40.02	40.32	40.77
		3	44.97	45.27	45.72
	Cpl	2	1	38.34	38.64
2			42.49	42.79	43.24
3			47.45	47.75	48.20
1		1	41.16	41.46	41.91
		2	45.30	45.60	46.05
		3	50.25	50.55	51.00
		4	45.27	45.57	46.02
Sgt	5	49.78	50.08	50.53	
	6	54.70	55.00	55.45	
	4	47.88	48.18	48.63	
SSgt	5	52.37	52.67	53.12	
	6	57.32	57.62	58.07	
	7	63.25	63.55	64.00	
WO2	5	51.19	51.49	51.94	
	5	55.70	56.00	56.45	
	6	61.76	62.06	62.51	
WO1	7	67.84	68.14	68.59	
	4	54.59	54.89	55.34	
	5	59.08	59.38	59.83	
	6	65.24	65.54	65.99	
	7	71.30	71.60	72.05	



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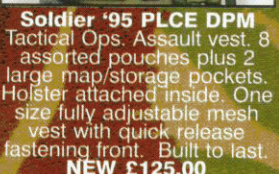
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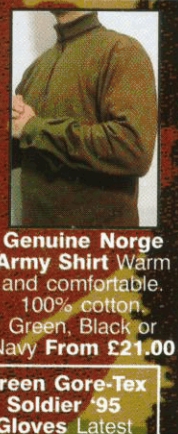
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# World of wheels

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EVEN at rest the car gives an impression of fluid motion with graceful and timeless lines reflecting the quality within. The style, presence and prestige always turns heads, yet the E class is a car where luxury is not blatantly flaunted but worn with grace and assurance, **writes Syd Taylor.**

There could never be any doubt that this is anything other than a Mercedes: it looks so refined and exudes quality without ostentation, yet it's a car which effortlessly commands attention.

The E class sits low and wide, yet its reassuring four-square stance doesn't emphasise bulk. Clearly Mercedes engineers have produced a timelessly elegant car that demonstrates the very essence of automotive excellence.

From the first walk round the car you notice the superb build standards - there are no compromises and the car exudes class and solidity. Underpinning it all is engineering of the highest calibre - but then the name tells you everything you need to know: it's a Mercedes.

The moment you step inside there's an immediate feeling of roominess and light aided by efficient use of space. You then start to appreciate the fine points of a design intended to provide an oasis of calm in a high-pressure world.

## VISUAL DELIGHT

The inside echoes the theme of the body-styling, with bold curves complemented by brilliant detailing of controls and displays. Seats, trimmed in optional leather, are coloured to harmonise perfectly with the tone of the dashboard and roof lining. Maple wood inlays to dash, doors and centre console complete an interior that is a visual delight.

Wherever you look in the E class Avant-garde, you cannot fail to be impressed by the close attention to detail in an extremely hospitable environment. A high-quality ambience combined with real functional efficiency are the striking qualities of the E class.

Premium materials, balanced colour design, fine workmanship, generous space, total harmony of form and function, all combine to give a unique sense of well-being which is sadly lacking in all but a few other premium saloons - even those costing much more. Furthermore, depreciation on Mercedes is slow, so your money is safe.

Contrary to popular misconception, Mercedes standard specification levels are generous and the Avant-garde features ABS with Brake Assist, Acceleration Skid Control (ASR), power steering, five-speed automatic transmission, cruise



Mercedes-Benz E280 Avant-garde: discreet, understated, and in a class apart from rivals

## Tech Spec

**ENGINE** 2.8-litre V6, 3 valves per cylinder. Fuel injection. 204 bhp at 5700 rpm, 199 lb ft at 3000-5000 rpm.

**TRANSMISSION** 5-speed automatic.

**SUSPENSION** Front, two wishbones, anti-dive control. Rear, multi-link independent, anti-squat and anti-lift control.

**BRAKES** Discs all round, ABS, Brake Assist.

**SIZE** (mm) Length 4795, width 1799, height 1439.

**WEIGHT** EU unladen weight 1540kg

**PERFORMANCE** Top speed 143 mph; 0-62 mph in 8.8sec.

**MPG** Urban 18.8, extra-urban 38.2.

**PRICE** £35,600 on the road.

control, driver and front passenger airbags, side airbags, air conditioning, remote central locking, alarm system, electric windows, electrically-operated and heated door mirrors and a top-quality stereo system with eight speakers. Externally, alloy wheels add to the appearance.

From the driver's seat the E class's operating essentials are spread before you with switches easily reachable and instruments instantly readable. Secondary controls are robust to the feel, but light and easy in action, while the dashboard display is logical and uncluttered. The expert layout of the cockpit adds a vital dimension to the driving experience and the wide range of seat adjustment allows you to select an ideal driving position. The shift lever falls naturally to hand and the simple logic of the controls minimises distraction from the road.

The new, super-efficient lightweight 2.8 litre engine is as fine a V6 as there is.

Mercedes have done a masterly job in producing an engine that gives a unique combination of power and refinement. Acceleration is instantaneous and unflustered thanks to the smoothness of the five-speed automatic transmission, with changes which are difficult to detect. At idle you think the engine has stalled as it purrs away quietly in front of you, and at high revs it's still beautifully smooth with no hint of any strain or exertion - and hardly any noise.

On the move there's a wonderful serenity - road noise is extraordinarily low and the bumps of badly surfaced roads seem hardly to affect the car at all.

Steering is ideally weighted with plenty of feel and it is responsive enough to allow you to drive with real venom should the fancy take you. When pushed hard the handling is fail-safe and the sensation of control and balance reflects the excellence of the chassis design. As well as ABS, the car has Brake Assist - another world first from Mercedes. This significant safety feature dramatically reduces stopping distances in critical situations by providing extra servo boost when a computer determines that emergency braking is needed. Together with ABS it's a life-saver.

Performance, refinement and cruising comfort are all available in the E class. When decorum is required, the purring engine and smooth gearbox are happy to oblige and when athleticism comes to the fore, the E280 performs with unbridled enthusiasm.

Putting this capability into such a discreet and understated vehicle is a masterstroke, making the E280 a luxury car in a class apart from its rivals.



## How Jim Davidson banished the blues

WHEN Jim Davidson (pictured) commented recently on his TV programme *Big Break* that he had not made a "blue" remark all day it reminded me of an incident some years back involving the comedian.

I was manning a vehicle checkpoint in Northern Ireland and the long-awaited touring troop show of which he was the star came as a welcome relief from the two-on-and-four-off routine.

On the day the audience included not just men of my unit in Achnacloy but Service personnel from the whole of South Armagh, including some children.

As the excellent support acts finished, Jim walked on stage, took one look at the children (and possibly the WRAC RMP

in the front row) and said: "Well, that's cut my act in half!"

Nevertheless he went on to entertain us all thoroughly – and is still doing so on television. Well done, Jim, keep up the good work. I know all Service personnel who have seen you appreciate all you have done.

I am pleased that peace at last seems to be coming to Northern Ireland and hope the arduous task of policing the province will be reduced to a minimum as soon as possible. The people of Northern Ireland deserve it. – **Ron Johnston**

(ex-Royal Scots Dragoon Guards), Wirral.

● Jim Davidson talks to *Soldier* in next month's "My Army" interview. Don't miss it!

### Prize letter



## Honeymoon camp is 'manna from heaven'

I FEEL sure that your readers will have welcomed the imaginative initiative to open up Knook Camp on the edge of Salisbury Plain Army Field Training Centre as honeymoon accommodation (*Soldier*, April).

We have already had a number of serious enquiries about dates. This is being seen as "manna from heaven", a possible way out of funding difficulties with Knook Camp, at present under threat of closure.

That such an historic and much-loved training camp could be saved as a result of Lt Col Rolf Pailo's proposal is nothing short of miraculous. Good for him, what!

Potential honeymooners will wish to know that we have recently refurbished the officers' mess and other key areas of accommodation, while plans are in hand for the swimming pool, assault course and multi-gym. Regrettably, ideas for a polo

field are a bit ambitious. Currently, no level playing field can be found and the idea has had to be stabled – well, at least for the time being.

The big question now is how to save Rolleston Camp with a similar imaginative idea? – **Lt Col Michael Jelf PWRR, HQ Salisbury Plain Army Field Training Centre, Westdown Camp, Tilshead.**

AS AN old soldier of the early 50s, may I be the first to book "Nooky Camp" for my daughter's wedding, which takes place on April 1 next year.

I am sure Lt Col Rolf Pailo (PWRR!) would supply a Centurion tank for her. Please ask him if I can pay with some old "BAFs" I have saved. – **Frank Druce** (former Cpl, 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars), Tilshead.

**HOT under the collar?** Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question? Or do you just want to share a good story with thousands of other readers around the world?

As ever, *Soldier* welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from *Soldier's* new gift collection (see Page 56) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● 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.

## We dug defences on Kuwait-Iraq border

DAVID Prichard claimed (April) that there were no defences on the Kuwait-Iraq border in 1961.

I have photographs to prove that on relieving 42 and 45 Royal Marines on July 7, 1 Kings immediately started to dig defensive positions, while 34 Indep Fd Sqn RE erected barbed-wire.

Intense heat meant that the work took three weeks. During this time RAF Hunter jets of 208 Sqn gave air support and 3rd Carabiniers patrolled the ground in Centurions.

After serving three-and-a-half months on the border 1 Kings were relieved by Jordanian troops of the Arab League.

Although we were on active service, no medals were awarded. – **N S Pickles** (ex-1 Kings), St Helens, Merseyside.

## Forgotten anniversary?

FIFTY years ago this month (May) the British Army pulled out of Palestine. I wonder whether this anniversary will be marked nationally.

In those 50 years I have never heard of respects being paid by a politician or indeed of a wreath being laid at the cemetery where 338 Servicemen are buried. If ever there was a forgotten army, this was it. – **F H Jennings** (ex-Royal Lincolnshire Regt), Birmingham.

### RSM MC

IN STATING that 781 warrant officers won the Military Cross in 1914-18, your correspondent Allan Stanistreet (April) is, I am afraid, wrong.

I would refer him to *Recipients of Bars to the MC 1916-1920* (to which is added MCs to WOs 1915-1919) by J V Webb (1988).

In this publication all WO MC winners are listed by name as well as by unit. The total is



1,102, including, as stated, five WOs with a first bar. These are CSMT Bond (R L Fus), bar as 2nd Lt 16/KRRC; CSM P Coulter (15 Chesh R), bar March 8, 1919; Sgt Maj H Grant (Scots Rif), bar September 26, 1917; Sgt Maj F Hatt

(R L Dub Fus), bar September 16, 1918; CSM T Sordy (DLI), bar September 16, 1918).

RSM T Bluck (1 RI W Fus) won a first bar as a 2nd Lt on August 16, 1917 and a second

bar as a lieutenant on December 2, 1918.

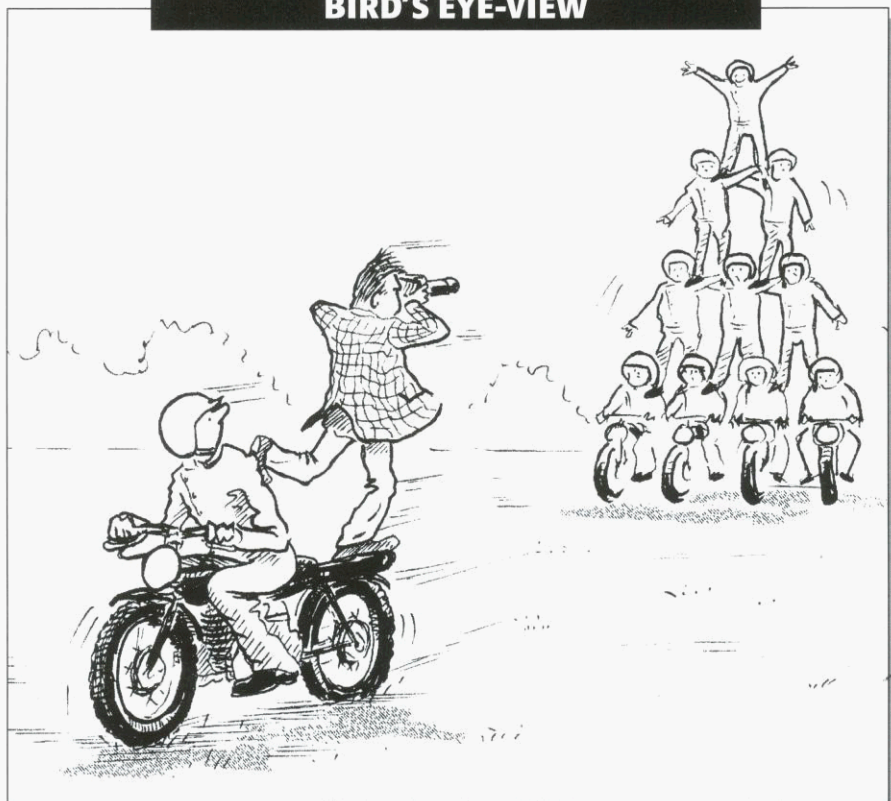
Incidentally, this group of medals, comprising MC plus two bars; QSA (five bars); 1914 trio; French MM; plus one other unidentified foreign award, was sold for £3,250 in 1994.

I repeat my offer to provide a full listing of names to anyone who is interested. – **John Woodhouse**, 91 Gathurst Road, Orrell, Wigan, Lancs, WN5 8QJ.

● We welcome both questions and answers for publication in this feature.



## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Who Dares? – see Pages 32-33

# US soldier seeks City Volunteers' details

I ENJOYED Graham Bound's interview with Tom Baker (Feb). *Dr Who* ran on public TV in the United States for years and I liked the humour Mr Baker brought to the role.

Given that he credits his military service as a hospital orderly, and the encouragement of the medical officers who supervised him, for steering him towards acting as a career, he no doubt appreciated playing The Doctor, especially in the early "UNIT" episodes.

So far as I can recall, though, he reserved his "bedside manner" in the series for such folk as Cybermen.

Concerning your occasional series of regimental histories, I submit that an interesting article could be done about the City of London Imperial Volunteers, about whom I have read in a history of the Boer War.

Unusually, if I understood it correctly, this regiment was formed and equipped through private funding to fight in South Africa.

Furthermore, the soldiers who volunteered for service with this regiment came from a higher social caste than was common in the Regular Army of that era.

It would be interesting to know a little

more about them and if they still exist in some form.

*Soldier* is a great magazine. The change to monthly format allows coverage in depth of more features. Even though it takes a little longer for me to get it over here, I look forward to reading it every month. – **SSG Stephen R Sandberg US Army, Company C, 961st Engineer Bn (Combat) (Heavy), Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

**Soldiers air their views in Vox Pop – Page 70**

● Your comments about the new *Soldier* are much appreciated, SSG Sandberg. To answer your query, volunteers of the greater London area were allowed to take part in the Second Boer War of 1899-1902 by providing service companies for Regular regiments or by joining the City Imperial Volunteers (CIV). The latter, hand-picked and mainly young and single, were raised by the Lord Mayor of London in response to the military disasters of Black Week in December, 1899.

Funds came from the Court of Common Council, clothing and equipment from the Lord Mayor's public appeals, and weapons, ammunition and other support from the War Office. Totalling 1,500 or so men, the City Volunteers left for South Africa in January 1900 and returned in October of the same year, having sustained 61 killed and a similar number wounded. As far as we are aware, the CIV did not survive beyond that war.

PS . . .

## Adopt a Gurkha

YOUR excellent articles on the incomparable Gurkhas prompt me to remind you of the "Adopt a Gurkha" scheme. Bedford branch of the Far East Veterans' Association has, through the Gurkha Welfare Trust, adopted a former NCO who left the Army before the current pay and pension scales were implemented.

From the proceeds of a monthly raffle we donate £10 a month to his income – not much by our standards but a welcome help in the straitened circumstances in which he and his family live. – Mrs M D Evans, Luton, Beds.

● The scheme was outlined in our November issue, but this is a timely reminder. The Trust can be contacted on 0171 707 1925.

## Down on the farm . . .

H D Pickles wondered (Feb) how many ex-Home Guards are about. I belonged to a 22-man squad with headquarters in a farm's barn.

We drilled in a field at weekends and were equipped with two rifles, six brooms and two mops handed round on a rota basis. It was a bit scary, especially along the two-mile bank of the canal. I served with the Royal Engineers, 1939-46. – L R Swindale, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

## . . . and in the Scrubs!

MY brother (15) and I (17) were members of the Foreign Office Unit Home Guard. We were drilled on Horse Guards Parade and battle exercises took place in St James's Park. Rifles and Lewis machine-guns were fired on a range inside Wormwood Scrubs.

The officers were mainly diplomats, the sergeants often government messengers sporting First World War medals.

I joined the East Surreys in June 1944 but my brother soldiered on to HG stand down in December 1944 and remembers our Hon CO, Mr Anthony Eden, attending the stand down dinner. – D James, Sutton, Surrey.

## Observation backfired

AS WE sat cleaning our Gimpys a few weeks ago one of our recruits mentioned reading in his girlfriend's magazine an article on how to shoot a machine-gun (very 90s). He added that if you followed the instructions, someone would get killed.

He meant, of course, that it would endanger the user, not the target, but his comment had us all laughing – and he's still getting stick about it. – Pte C L Brown (HQ Coy Machine Gun Platoon, 7 Bn Royal Anglian), Leicester.

## For the record

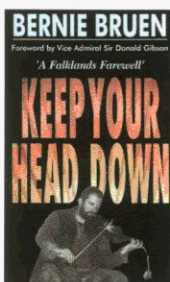
Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, holds the CBE, not the DSO as stated in feature on Rowallan Company (April). The error is regretted.



# Reviews

## When the Falklands fiddling had to stop

POET, songwriter and fiddler Bernie Bruen has another string to his bow – as a Navy mine

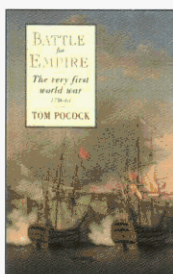


clearance diving officer in the Falklands in 1982 he won the Distinguished Service Cross for leading the removal of a 1,000lb unexploded bomb from RFA *Sir Galahad*. In

**Keep Your Head Down** (Book Guild, Lewes, hardback, £15) Bernie has written a lucid and often entertaining chronicle of those days. And inevitably, British soldiers crop up from time to time. Highly recommended.

## 'Forgotten' war that launched an Empire

AT 19, Tom Pocock was the youngest correspondent to cover the 1939-45 war. Taking a fresh look at the "forgotten" Seven

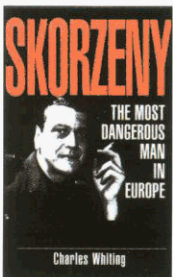


Years' War (1756-63) in **Battle for Empire** (Michael O'Mara Books, hardback, £20) he contends this was really the first "modern", global conflict, its far-flung cam-

paigns (India, North America and the Philippines are examples) laying the foundations for almost two centuries of British dominance. The book is dedicated to the British forces who presided over the end of that empire "with courage, humanity and style".

## Would-be assassin slept with Eva Peron

OF ALL commando stories, few are as colourful as that of Hitler's undercover hatchet man, Otto



Skorzeny. Eisenhower called him "the most dangerous man in Europe" – hardly surprising, since Skorzeny was keen to assassinate him (plus Churchill, Stalin and Tito). He failed in these

aims, of course, but he had his successes, including the rescue of Mussolini from a mountain prison and the bedding of Eva Peron. The intriguing stories are told in Charles Whiting's **Skorzeny** (Pen & Sword, hardback, £12.95), first published in 1973 and now updated.

# What a riot... the night Aldershot got smashed

IN JULY 1945 a band of Canadian soldiers ran riot through Aldershot, smashing up shops and pubs.

For a couple of nights, says local author Mark Maclay, they broke every plate-glass window in town except those belonging to a few businesses which, in their view, had not overcharged them.

With the war in Europe over, the Canadians, who had grievances over pay and food, were desperate to go home and the troublemaking minority left the town centre in a shambles.

*Aldershot's Canadians in Love and War 1939-45* tells their stories against the general background of the town's military and civilian life. Despite some repetitiveness it will interest thousands of Servicemen and women who have passed through.

Not everyone may agree, but Aldershot is one of those places that grows on you and in some ways this book

**Aldershot's Canadians in Love and War 1939-45** by Mark Maclay. Available at £9.95 plus £1.50 p&p (UK price) from Appin Publications, PO Box 46, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7XJ. (From Canada: £23.50 plus £16 in dollars).



Picture: Aldershot Military Museum  
Soldiers clear up broken glass after the Aldershot riots of 1945

resembles a local travel guide, recalling the names of the town's five cinemas as well as some of the pubs and shops.

During the war years life in the garrison town, with thousands of soldiers in transit, appears to have been relatively normal, as the book's photographs show.

But for many there was little to do to beat boredom except go to the pictures and on the booze. The bill for the damage to the town and

shops amounted to £15,000, or £1.5m in today's money. The Canadian government picked up the tab and the ringleaders picked up jail sentences of up to seven years (presumably, one hopes, not in the famous Glasshouse).

Earlier in the war, Canadians had spent long periods preparing for the ill-fated Dieppe raid of August 19, 1942 and due regard and respect is paid in this book to the bravery of the men who took part. Of the 7,000 in-

volved, most served under the Maple Leaf. They had little or no chance of success and hundreds were killed, wounded, or captured.

This collection of very readable wartime memories was gleaned from newspapers, museums, veterans' associations, local historians and individuals and the author's acknowledgements for help received in his research runs to more than five pages. – JM

## In brief

**The Soldiers' Tale: Bearing Witness to Modern War** by Samuel Hynes DFC. Former US Marine pilot draws on autobiography, history and literature to tell the fighting man's story in an original and stimulating way. Pimlico, paperback, £10.

Two additions to the Leo Cooper "Battleground Europe" paperback series, both relating to the Somme: **Gommecourt**, by Nigel Cave, and **Pozières**, by Graham Keech, both at £9.95.

**Luftwaffe: The Illustrated History of the German Air Force in WWII**. Dr John Pimlott, head of the Department of War Studies at Sandhurst, died last Octo-

ber soon after completing the text accompanying this remarkable collection of photographs, many of which came to light in a recently-discovered archive in Eastern Europe. Aurum Press, hardback, £19.95.

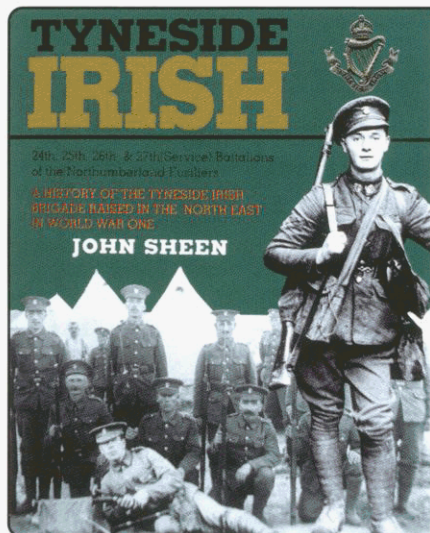
**Uniforms of the Royal Marines – From 1664 to the Present Day**. Charles C Stadden's 32 paintings are accompanied by text from George and Christopher Newark. This large-format hardback is available at £25 plus £3 p&p per copy (UK) from the Pompadour Gallery, PO Box 11, Romford, Essex, RM7 7HY.

**A Little Bit Off The Top** by Barbara Jill Poloniecka. Biography

of industrialist, soldier and politician Samuel Hammersley, who fought with the East Lancashire Regiment at Gallipoli, joined the Tank Corps at its inception and campaigned in Parliament in the Second World War for extra resources for tanks. Book Guild, hardback, £15.

**Head-dress Badges of the British Army Volume Two (1920-1998)** edited by A L Kipling and H L King. Third edition, updated to March 1998, of the copiously-illustrated collectors' and researchers' bible. Published by H L and P King, 3 Saxon Croft, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7QB (01252 716303) at £45 plus £2.50 part postage.





## From Irish famine to World War trenches

DESCENDANTS of Irish immigrants who had fled the 1847 famine formed, with English recruits, the Tyneside Irish Brigade – four battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers – in 1914-15.

Every one of them is named, their gallantry awards listed and their stories told in glorious and harrowing detail in John Sheen's *Tyneside Irish* (Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, large-format paperback, £17.95).

Running to 264 prodigiously-illustrated pages, it is the latest in the acclaimed series about Kitchen-er's locally-raised volunteers, joining books covering the battalions from Accrington, Liverpool, Salford, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Barnsley, Leeds and the Tyneside Scottish.

# Hong Kong sniper was sitting target

"ON DECEMBER 12 I heard that my best friend, Sgt John Long, better known as Paddy-Joe, had been killed near Mount Cameron. In the hope that the information could be wrong, I searched the area and found a boot.

"As standard practice, our regiment marked the inside top of each boot with our regimental number. The number on the boot was H 6005 – Paddy-Joe had been blown to bits by an artillery shell fired from the mainland."

This is one of the tragic incidents recounted by Léo Paul Bérard, formerly a sergeant with the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who fought in the Battle for Hong Kong in 1941.

Early in the book the author recalls an incident which underlined for him the arrogance of certain members of the British Army. A British major charged some Canadians for not saluting him across the street. As a result, men spent three weeks learning how to salute instead of preparing for war.

"Protocol, it seems, took precedence over almost everything we did, even when it became a certainty that the colony would be invaded. Such was the arrogance of Empire that because of its size and supreme self-confidence,

**17 Days Until Christmas** by Léo Paul Bérard. Available at £15 (inc p&p) from the author at 141 Corrington Street, Barrie, Ontario, Canada L4M 1RQ.

nothing could go wrong." However, things had already gone wrong for the Grenadiers. The freighter carrying their equipment – including desperately-needed vehicles, mortar shells, ammo and spare five-cartridge clips for their .303 Lee Enfield rifles – had been re-directed to the Philippines.

To add to their problems the Japanese were attempting to undermine morale by dropping leaflets, two of which the author recalls vividly.

### NO PRISONERS

"One was about what our wives and girlfriends were doing. It showed girls enjoying themselves with boys in parlours and girls with their skirts above their knees.

"The other showed a soldier tied to the muzzle of a Howitzer, which was being fired, blowing the soldier to bits. These leaflets also insinuated that the Japanese didn't take prisoners."

Perhaps the most unusual story in this book concerns a Japanese sniper.

"Suddenly I heard a voice

calling 'Sarge, see that large stone over there – you remember you said to us to study our general front? Well, that stone wasn't there yesterday."

"Then take a shot at it,' I ordered. He did and nothing happened. 'Take another shot at it,' I said.

"Then the stone started moving; it rolled down the hill and then what looked like a leg jutted out.

"Upon investigating, we found it was a Japanese sniper, but a different type of sniper. This one carried a bag of grenades instead of a rifle and would sleep or observe all day underneath a ground sheet, sitting on his heels, making himself look like a stone.

"He was dead. When I reported it to the major, he wasn't pleased. 'You'll have us all tortured.'"

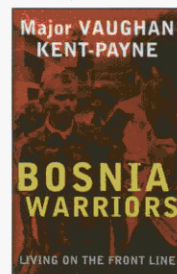
The colony surrendered, Léo Bérard became a prisoner-of-war (some of his fellows were British REME) and from October 1943 to April 1944, the Japanese made him keep a personal diary.

Although much of what he wrote was meant to please the Japanese, he is able to convey a sense of the day-to-day activities and tribulations of camp life.

He was finally released in August, 1945. – AG

## Bosnia, 1993: the soldiers' story

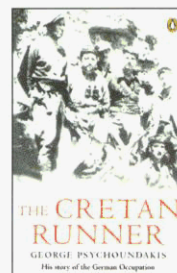
READERS seeking an insight into the nitty-gritty of soldiers' day-to-day life in the early months of UN operations in Bosnia – dealing with spiky warlords under the noses of the world's media – need look no further than the engrossing and detailed eye-witness account by a British officer, Maj Kent Vaughan-Payne. Then PWO, now QLR, he has pulled together the records of his and others' experiences to produce **Bosnia Warriors: Living on the Front Line** (Robert Hale, hardback, £25).



## Crete and the book that never was...

PATRICK Leigh Fermor, DSO, OBE, Irish Guards and Intelligence Corps, has brilliantly chronicled

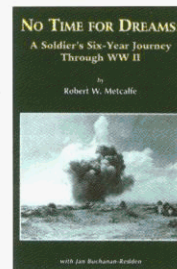
other experiences in his remarkable life but has never written at length of his extraordinary Second World War role in the guerrilla resistance to the German occupation of Crete. His 1950s introduction to and translation of the personal story of the heroic messenger George Psychoundakis is perhaps the next best thing. **The Cretan Runner** (£5.99), truly a *pièce de résistance*, is now back in print as a Penguin paperback.



## To war with The Green Howards

BOB Metcalfe, now a Canadian citizen, served in Europe, North Africa, Sicily and Italy with two battalions of The Green Howards. His classic war story is told in **No Time for Dreams** (General Store Publishing House, Ontario, paperback) with the help of Jan Buchanan-Redden.

For advice on how to obtain the book, and the cost, contact Martin Derry, Midland Counties Publications, Unit 3, Maizefield, Hincley Fields, Leics, LE10 1YF (tel: 01455 233747).





# Bulletin Board

## REUNIONS

**Netley veterans:** Reunion planned at Netley on May 14 to mark the centenary of the RAMC and Queen Victoria's visit there exactly 100 years ago. Details from Reunion Office, Royal British Legion, Netley, 100 Station Road, Netley Abbey, Southampton (01703 452996).

**RGBW:** Reunions planned at Cheltenham and Gloucester, March 21-22; Devizes, June 6-7; Salisbury, July 4-5; Reading, July 25-26. Details: RHQ, Custom House, Gloucester GL1 2HE.

**APTC Association NE (York) Branch:** AGM on April 24 and annual dinner on May 15. Details: Capt (Retd) Rocky Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01226 207046).

**Middlesex Regiment (DCO):** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London on May 9. Details: Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (0181 949 7605).

**Italy Star Association:** Annual lunch and parade in North Shields on May 10. Details on 01425 614884.

**Herts and Beds Yeomanry:** Annual reunion of 86, 105, 135, 145 and 191 Fd Regts, 52 Hy Regt, 79 HAA Regt and post-war successors on May 30 at TA Centre, Camp Road, St Albans. Details: Ron Currell, 28 St Margaret's Close, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

**Polar Bear Memorial:** The new memorial to all who served with the 49th West Riding Division will be unveiled on June 7 in the National Memorial Arboretum at Croxall, Staffs, followed by reunions and visits on following two days.

**Armourers' Association:** Armourers and Artificers Weapon, RAOC and REME annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London on June 20. Details: Chris Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Worcester WR3 7QP (tel 01905 755334).

**Joint Services Hong Kong** reunion at Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London on July 4. Dependants also welcome. Details: Bob Downie or Mandy Niblett, 9 Field's Oak, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7PP (tel 01258 450338).

## Scope for a barbie

ATR Bassingbourn has signed up to hold a barbecue for the cerebral palsy charity, Scope, during the week of June 1-7. And Scope is appealing to other Army units to join in the fun and hold their own barbecues for the charity during its first national fund-raising week.

Money raised would go towards supporting Scope's work in the local area. To find out how you can help, ring 0500 575222.

ry Services Club, Marble Arch, London on July 4. Dependants also welcome. Details: Bob Downie or Mandy Niblett, 9 Field's Oak, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7PP (tel 01258 450338).

**25 Regiment RA (1947-84):** Nineth reunion takes place on July 5 at Sgts' Mess, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Families welcome. Details: Len Haddow, 4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SF (01634 388156).

**Operation Husky 1943 (invasion of Sicily):** 8th Army Veterans Association is organising a reunion trip to Sicily from July 7-14 to mark the 55th anniversary of the landings. Details from Victor Reinart, 1 Amadeus House, Somerset Road, East Preston, W Sussex BN16 1BB (please enclose sae).

## Barrie's boys are a cut above the rest

When hairdresser Barrie Phillipe (left) heard that loyal customer SSgt John Wood of Aldershot's 23 (Parachute) Field Ambulance was raising money for a Kenyan charity, he offered to donate a day's takings if John's lads helped out in his North Town salon. "No problem," said SSgt Wood, "my lads are a cut above the rest." Ably assisted by (from left) SSgt

**Coldstream Guards:** Past and present reunion at Windsor, July 11. Send stamped addressed envelope to Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, London N14 6DS for details.

**King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery:** All ranks reunion at Kent County Showground, Deitling, nr Maidstone on July 15. Details from Troop Captain on 0171 414 4607.

**497, 976 and 981 Squads Royal Marines (1947):** Fifth annual reunion planned for August at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth. Details: Peter Wye, "Pet-a-Pat", 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 434784).

**Combined Services Association:** Drum head service, St Peter's Church, Leighton, nr Crewe, on Aug 9. Also annual reunion at Crosville Club, Crewe, including parade of colours and standards. Contact J Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel 01270 257092).

**RE Darland Boys Association 1939-41:** 18th reunion on Sept 11-13 in Chatham. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton LU2 0RB.

**11 Field Squadron:** Reunion on Oct 30-31 to celebrate 50th anniversary of squadron, particularly those at initial formation who served in Hong Kong, Austria and Malaya. Contact John Adams, 19 Masefield Crescent, Cowplain, Hants PO8 8JT as soon as possible.

Wood, Cpl Sean Todd and Pte Chris Teates, Barrie did a roaring trade and, with the help of donations, raised £1,000. He had his own head shaved by Cllr John Hiscock, Mayor of Rushmoor (pictured in the hot-seat) . . . a deed which raised £180. Other customers on the day included the CO and RSM of 23 PFA. NB: the image was photographed from Barrie's salon mirror.

## SEARCHLINE

The history of **The Princess Mary's Hospital**, RAF Akrotiri, is being researched. Anyone who has any information or photographs, recollections – humorous or sad – of their time there is asked to contact Flt Sgt G H Cuthbert, Ward Six, TPMH, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57.

Mrs Kelly Stride seeks news of **Wayne Beckett**, believed to be serving in Catterick area. Please call 01373 466039.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier:** K Skempton – To be DACOS G1/G4 HQ ARRC, Apr 13.

**Colonels:** N Q W Beer – To (W)ACDS(OR) Land Systems, Mar 6; J Blake – To RFC4 (NELC) DRFC, Mar 5; C A Den-McKay – To APC HQ and Central Services, Mar 2; P B Williams – To be Commandant RSA, Apr 13; C J Nicholls – To DDOR(IS), Apr 14; S C Hearn – To be Vice-President RCB, Apr 14.

**Lt Col:** D C Bradley RLC – To HQ UKSC(G), Aug 17; M Cuthbert-Brown AGC – To HQ AG, MAR 3; J P de Vos LI – To HQ

Steve Gilsenan seeks, on behalf of German friends, news of **Anthony (Tony) Millham** who served in Soltau in 1963 and frequented a gasthaus (pub) called Rickmanns. Replies to Guard Room, Rochdale Barracks, BFPO 39.

Former colleagues of **Pte Cassey Hall** WRAC, who served at HQ Libya and Tipolitania Area in Prinn Barracks, Tripoli from 1960 to 1963 are asked to contact her via her son

ARRC, Aug 3; A H S Drake DWR – To HQ 2 Div, Dec 14; M J D Forster RA – To DRA, Mar 30; J C Gallagher, Para – To PJHQ(UK), Aug 24; P J Grogan, R Signals – To Army Mail, Aug 3; N A Hutton, Para – To DGLS, Apr 3; T H Inshaw, R Signals – To PMSP, Aug 20; E Lloyd-Jukes RLC – To ACDS(L), Sept 14; N Moore REME – To HQ QMG, June 22; J W Morgan RLC – To DMSD(A), Aug 31; T J Wakefield RE – To DGD&D, Mar 30.

### Retirements

**Colonel:** T J Murray, late RLC, Apr 17.

Simon Watson, 141, Lowbiggin, Newbiggin Hall Estate, Westerhope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE5 4PY.

Anyone who served with the late LBdr **Ivor Allchurch**, Welsh international footballer, and recalls which units he played for is asked to contact Prof David Farmer, who is preparing a biography. Ivor Allchurch served in 64 Trg Regt RA at Oswestry during his National Service (1948-50) and played for Western Command. Replies to 3 Rhyd yr Helyg, Derwen Fawr, Swansea SA2 8DH (01792 204531).

Former members of **BHQ Troop, 32 (Minden) Battery RA** who served in Germany in the mid-1950s are planning a trip to Osnabruck in May. Details from David Ludlam, 23 Carterknowle Avenue, Sheffield S11 9FT (0114 2585947).

Anyone who knew **Sgt Michael Thomas Lusik**, 45 Battery RA and 52 (Nigeria) Fd Bty (1972-93) is asked to contact Mrs Patricia Weiss, Haupt Lazt Placz 9, 4053, Haid, Ansfelden, Austria.



# Gordon Turner brings back sound of music

A MILITARY music column returns to the pages of *Soldier* next month for the first time since the death last year of Rodney Bashford.

Like Rodney, the man who takes over has a life-long association with British Army bands and military musicianship.

Gordon Turner was born in Willenhall, Staffordshire in 1932 and at the aged of ten learned to play the cornet in his local Salvation Army band. He joined the Corps of Royal Engineers as a junior musician at the age of 16 and, nine years later, was promoted WO1. His first appointment was as bandmaster to the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.

From the cavalry he moved to the Rifle Depot at Winchester as bandmaster HQ Light Division. Later he was appointed director of music of the Prince of Wales's Division, the Royal Tank Regiment's

Cambray Band and the Royal Signals. A year after his retirement, as a major, in 1987, Gordon became Professor of Orchestration and Band Arranging at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, a position he held until last year.

He edits *Fanfare*, the magazine of the RMSM, and *Band International*, the journal of the International Military Music Society. Since 1984 he has been the producer of the official recording of the Trooping the Colour.

Gordon has written, with his youngest son, Alwyn, an acclaimed three-volume *History of Military Bands* (the final part of which was reviewed in the last month's *Soldier*) and *The Trumpets Will Sound*, the story of Kneller Hall.

Look out in the June edition for his first column on the latest releases.



Gordon Turner



Picture: Chris Fletcher

## Hearts, minds and brooches

"ALL the nice girls love a soldier" might be an appropriate misquotation of the old music hall song if a new booklet on badges and brooches is anything to go by.

The "sweethearts" in this instance are adaptations of insignia given by soldiers to a wife or girlfriend as tokens of love.

*Military Sweethearts* by Pamela M Caunt is a 48-page guide for collectors, available from the author at Arbras, 292 Westbourne Grove, London W11 2PS (price £6.95 plus £1.50 p and p).

Military jewellery, which has been around a long time, became universally popular at the turn of the century. Birm-

ingham was the hub of an industry turning out sweetheart badges geared to specific markets: from humble base metal bar brooches for the wives of impecunious soldiers to costly diamond-studded platinum for the ladies of better-off officers.

The many plates of photographs are described by date, place of manufacture where possible, and approximate value. Most sell to collectors for prices ranging from £10 to £50... so the "sweetheart" to have is a modern gold, diamond and enamel winged dagger from Carringtons. Priced at £2,500, it signifies a close involvement with the Special Air Service.

## Questions of rank

In the final part of this popular special series, Hugh Howton looks at a short-lived rank... and one that never existed

## The odd ones out

**WO3:** THE RANK of warrant officer class three existed for about ten years.

In October 1938 the War Office announced that 1,000 NCOs were to be promoted to this new rank. These were to be men of special character and ability who would command platoons and equivalent sub-units hitherto under subalterns.

By 1940, however, it was decided not to make any further promotions. By 1947 very few WO3s remained in the Army.

**King's Corporal:** There is a persistent story about a mythical rank of "King's Corporal". It probably originated in the early 19th century, when outstanding soldiers were recommended for promotion in the field. They were sometimes given the honorary rank of corporal within their own regiment, but this was not officially recognised.

There has never been such a rank as king's corporal.

## And finally... a miss-understanding

The significance of insignia is not always clear to rank outsiders. This is illustrated by the story of a staff sergeant and an elderly spinster.

The old dear approached the staff sergeant and asked him what those things on his arm stood for.

"Well, love," said the staff sergeant, tongue in cheek. "That crown means I'm married and those three stripes mean I've got three kids."

Satisfied with this explanation, the old lady walked a couple of hundred yards further along the road when she encountered a sergeant.

She slapped him round the face. - **Hugh Howton**







Husband-and-wife team Capt Kevin Tuhey RLC and Maj Rosemary Tuhey, R Signals, celebrate the receipt of second bars each to their Territorial Efficiency decorations. The Somerset-based TA officers have just notched up a total of 54 years' service between them.

Rosemary, a MoD civil servant, holds a TA staff appointment at HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade, having previously commanded 43 Signal Squadron at Bridgwater, while Kevin serves with 160 Transport Regiment RLC, based at Grantham.

## Singing their praises

PROFESSIONAL musician Christopher R Turner was so impressed with British soldiers he met on exercise in Norway earlier this year that he wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence so tell him so.

While fulfilling an engagement in a hotel in Norway, Mr Turner came into contact with large numbers of troops taking a break from winter training.

"I must admit," he wrote, "that I felt somewhat apprehensive, this being my first experience of entertaining a large number of Service personnel.

"I write to inform you that I had a most enjoyable engagement in Norway, largely due to the support given to me by the visiting British troops. Their conduct was exemplary, they were a credit to their Service and to the United Kingdom. I was so proud of them I felt that I had to draw your attention to this most enlightening experience."

Time for the audience to take a bow?

● A garden in memory of Walter Tull, one of Britain's first black professional footballers, is to be opened in Northampton. Tull fought on the Somme, was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment, and was killed in March 1918 leading his men in the second Battle of the Somme.

# Kenneally VC stands in for Queen Mother

THE Irish Guards' only surviving holder of the Victoria Cross, John Kenneally, marked his 77th birthday with the unique privilege of handing out the Queen Mother's traditional St Patrick's Day gift of shamrock to past and present members of the regiment at Wellington Barracks, London.

John Kenneally was a 22-year-old lance corporal when he won his VC in Tunisia in 1943. During a critical moment in the assault on Tunis he twice scattered large groups of enemy soldiers by charging at them single-handed with a bren gun.

Although wounded during his second attack, he refused to leave the position.

Later he transferred to the Guards Parachute Battalion and served in Palestine in the last days of the British Mandate. He left the Army with the rank of sergeant in 1947 and worked in the motor trade in Dudley before retiring to Lower Rochford, Tenbury Wells.

Standing in for the Queen Mother, who was recovering from her hip-replacement operation, Mr Kenneally presented baskets of shamrock, flown from Ireland, to representatives of the Irish Guards Association and trainee guardsmen from the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright and



Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot, Gren Gds

John Kenneally VC

the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick.

The 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, based in Münster, held a St Patrick's Day shamrock ceremony in the presence of the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

## Blackpool reunion promises lively debate

AN AGENDA with a real head of steam is building up for what is being billed as the first national reunion and congress of former Servicemen and women.

The National Ex-Services Association has organised a five-day get-together at Blackpool over the period June 5-9, and organiser Arthur Lane promises discussion on a series of topics close to the hearts of former soldiers, sailors and airmen.

They include a petition for a Service representative within Government and representation within local government; and outstanding claims for compensation,

ranging from Far East PoWs to nuclear test victims and people suffering from Gulf War-related illnesses.

Also on the agenda will be concerns about Servicemen serving terms of imprisonment for doing what was seen to be their duty and a range of individual issues, such as inconsistencies by local councils when assessing war pensions against claims for subsistence allowance.

## DATES

### MAY

1: Combined memorial service and 25th anniversary of the formation of Army Dog Unit, Northern Ireland (01504 721335).

10: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, 1100 hours at Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park (0171 414 5233).

23,24,25: Solent Military Vehicle Preservation Club show, Inhams Lane, Denmead, nr Waterlooville, Hants.

### JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200, and 62-gun royal salute by

HAC, Tower of London, 1300, to mark anniversary of the Coronation.

3-4: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130. Tickets on 0171 414 2271.

9-11: Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Royal Artillery, Horse Guards Parade. Details: 0181 781 3168. See story opposite.

13-14: Middle Wallop International Air Show (tickets on 01264 782312).

13: Queen's Birthday Parade (Queen's Colour of 1 WG to be trooped); Colonel's Review, June 6; Major General's Review, May 30.

28: Colchester Garrison Country Day at Fingringhoe, 1000 to 1700, with many attractions (details on 01264 782312).

### JULY

19: Aldershot Military Museum "Music and Muskets" day, from 1330 (details on 01252 314598).

21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244 0244.

### NOVEMBER

20-21: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury.



## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1948

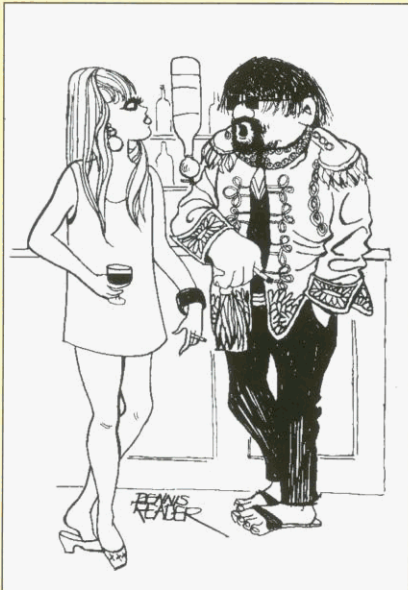
### HOARD ON THE HILL

The Army's biggest ammunition dump lies under an innocent-looking hillside in Wiltshire. The only disquieting factor in this peaceful rural scene is the presence, a hundred feet below the hill's surface, of enough explosive to make an atom bomb look silly. It belongs to the underground Tunnel Sub-Depot, part of the RAOC Central Ammunition Depot, Corsham, the largest ammunition centre in the United Kingdom.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1973

### OUT OF UNIFORM



"Honest . . . you have my word as an officer and a gentleman."



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

**Snappy tapper:** Half a century after tapping out his last Morse code message while serving in Palestine, veteran signaller Ted Durose proved he was still as sharp as ever. He was a guest at a 46 Signal Squadron open day in Derby and, when challenged to a Morse test, showed such impressive speed he was made an honorary member of the mess. Pictured with Ted are (from left) squadron soldiers Jo Hartwell, Fiona Harrison, Sabia Begum and Penny Burns.

## Brothers in arms

NINETEEN-year-old Spr Cameron Mowbray was following in familiar footsteps when won the trophy for best recruit in his troop at ATR Basingbourn. There to see him being presented with an engraved pewter tankard at his passing-out parade was brother Christian, also a sapper in the Royal Engineers, who was himself best recruit at Basingbourn in 1996.

# Firepower and music on Horse Guards

AN unforgettable evening is in store for those who get to the Royal Artillery Sunset Ceremony on Horse Guards Parade on June 8, 9, 10 and 11. Billed as "Firepower and Music", the ceremony was last performed on Horse Guards in 1986. It will involve the Massed Bands and Pipes and Drums of the Royal Artillery and the trumpeters of the Royal Horse Artillery.

More than 300 musicians from the RA Band, the Honourable Artillery Company, Lancashire Artillery Volunteers, the South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry, and pipers and drummers from 19th, 40th, 101st (The Tyneside Scottish), 103rd (Liverpool Irish), 104th, 105th Regiments RA, The London Regiment

(The London Scottish), 62nd US Army Band and the Red

Hackle Pipe Band from Colchester will take part. There will also be a first appearance on Horse Guards by the 80-strong Musique Principale de l'Armée de Terre, the band of the French Army.

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery will perform its famous musical drive and fire its guns during the finale, while the pikemen and musketeers of the HAC will be on parade with a static display of modern guns and equipment.

Tickets are available from Maj Gareth Blyth, RA Sunset Ceremony Project Office, Artillery House, Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BH (0181 781 3168).

## Finally . . .

A MEMORIAL of Cornish granite is to be dedicated on May 7 to the memory of the 27,000 men killed in Burma during the Second World War and who have no known grave. It will be unveiled by Viscount Slim, President of the Burma Star Association and son of Fd Marshal Lord Slim of Burma, on a site above Portscatho harbour in Cornwall. The tribute is the idea of Burma veteran James Allan, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who served on secondment with the Green Howards in the Arakan and lost several colleagues who have no known grave.

**Capt Pat Newman and LCpl Fred Wall MM**, both of whom served with the old South Wales Borderers before it became the Royal Regiment of Wales, celebrated their centenaries during March. Fred, of Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, was involved in the attack on Passchendaele Ridge in 1917, and was one of only 200 men of the 850-strong 1st Battalion to survive. Pat Newman, who lives in a residential home at Henfield, West Sussex, also survived action in the First World War.

The Duke of Kent and Defence Secretary George Robertson will take the salute at the floodlit Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, on June 3 and 4. Tickets, priced at £10, £8 and £5 are available on 0171 414 2271.

First World War veterans are to be awarded France's Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Anyone seeking information about eligibility should write to Georges Le Poittevin, Association of the Free French, 14 Baxter Close, Hillingdon, Uxbridge UB10 0DE.

Forces Sweetheart **Dame Vera Lynn** was presented with a special plate when she visited the Royal British Legion Village at Aylesford in Kent at the end of March. Designed by Brian Sanders and produced on fine bone china by Royal Doulton, the plate is the first in a series entitled "Sincerely yours, Vera Lynn", which will be sold as a collector's item, with a contribution going towards the work of RBL Industries.

And now for something a little different. A display of soldiers' embroidery and needlework dating back to the Zulu Wars opens on April 6 at the Museum of The Staffordshire Regiment at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. You can see it every weekday until June 5. Admission is free.

Lt Col Paul Lodge RE, CO of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) will represent the Royal Engineers at mess dinner organised by the City of New Westminster Police on Canada's west coast. New Westminster, the original capital of British Columbia, was founded in the 1850s primarily by a detachment of sappers.

Closer to home, senior members of the R Mon RE(M) crossed four countries during a battlefield tour encompassing Verdun and the Battle of the Bulge.



# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

## Small arms and the corps

It is difficult to imagine anything more important than range work for an infantry soldier. But what about the support corps? How important is training to them? Do they spend enough time on the ranges, and what do they think of the weapons they are issued with? We went along to Ash Ranges near Aldershot and put these questions to ten soldiers representing various corps.

### Cpl James, R Signals

It's not really important in my day-to-day job but for competitive reasons it's vital. The SA80 is a reasonable weapon. When I first joined up we used the SLR which I found to be more accurate. But the SA80 is a lighter weapon and it's much easier to handle than the SLR.



### Sig Penny Edwards, R Signals

Training is very important. Every year we have to do tests to prove that we're good enough to handle weapons. It's fun and I enjoy it. I wouldn't be here if I didn't. I haven't got much experience, but I like the SA80.



### Cpl Paul Ginbey, REME

To me small-arms training is more of a sport. I definitely enjoy it and I try to get in as much as I can. But opportunities to shoot are few and far between now. The SA80 is OK. I



preferred the days of the SLR. When you fired an SLR your shoulder knew the round had gone off down the range.

### LCpl Gary Kirkpatrick, REME

It's important for everyone throughout the Army but there isn't a lot of focus on it. We're tradesmen but we're soldiers as well so we should concentrate more on the basic soldiering skills. I trained on SLR, SMG, GPMG and pistol.



### LCpl Bharat Shrestha, QG Signals

I think it's very important for us because being soldiers we should be able to shoot well. Ghurkas are very good at shooting. The SA80 with the optic sight is excellent but with the iron sight the range is less. Being a corps unit we



have iron sights.

### Sgt Craig Reid, RMP

As a military policeman we would be almost at the front line in wartime. We don't seem to get enough training for the modern battlefield. While most units train for war, we have a job Monday to

Friday. We can only train when time permits. I would like to get my guys out on the ranges a lot more than we do. I've used several weapons because of our close protection side of life. But the SA80 is an ideal compact weapon. With an optical sight it is scarily accurate.



### Cpl Andrew Greenfield, RMP

Our personal weapon is usually the pistol. In Germany we carry it and when we are working in the police station the desk NCO and the orderly sergeant are armed at all times. The SA80 is very good but we don't get enough practise firing it because we have another role. I would like to see more pistol work.



### WO2 Paul Quilliam, RE

I think it is very important because you can be called upon to use your weapon at any time, and your life might depend on your rifle. After all, if we don't need to build bridges, we are down as infantry. You can train too much; little and often is the way I work. The SA80 is an excellent weapon. The reliability is now first

class. I very rarely have stoppages and I haven't had a broken firing pin now for two years. And it's accurate enough for what we need. I am a collector of .303 rifles so I also like the old No 4 and the SMLE.



### Lt Rob Baxter, AAC

I think it's particularly important. Whatever cap badge someone has, he's a soldier first, and the main skill in that is carrying weapons and being able to use them effectively. I'm currently based in Northern Ireland and we actually do quite a lot of weapons-training.



### Sgt Carol Owtrim, REME

As a skill-at-arms instructor I think it is very important, because within the REME and some of the other corps you may end up in the front line at some stage. I have always been with the training regiments, and I feel that they could do with a lot more practice.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

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## COMING SOON

- My Army: an interview with Forces' favourite funnyman Jim Davidson
- Deadline: anywhere, anytime. The workings of the Army's Media Operations Group
- Hang gliding at the Joint Services centre at Cwrt-y-gollen in Wales
- Chip off the block: our cartoonist takes an irreverent look at the Army Air Corps
- Plus a new column for military music lovers.



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