

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

June 2001 £2

SOLDIER

CALLED TO ARMS

Bermuda's
reluctant
conscripts



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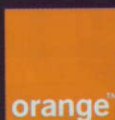
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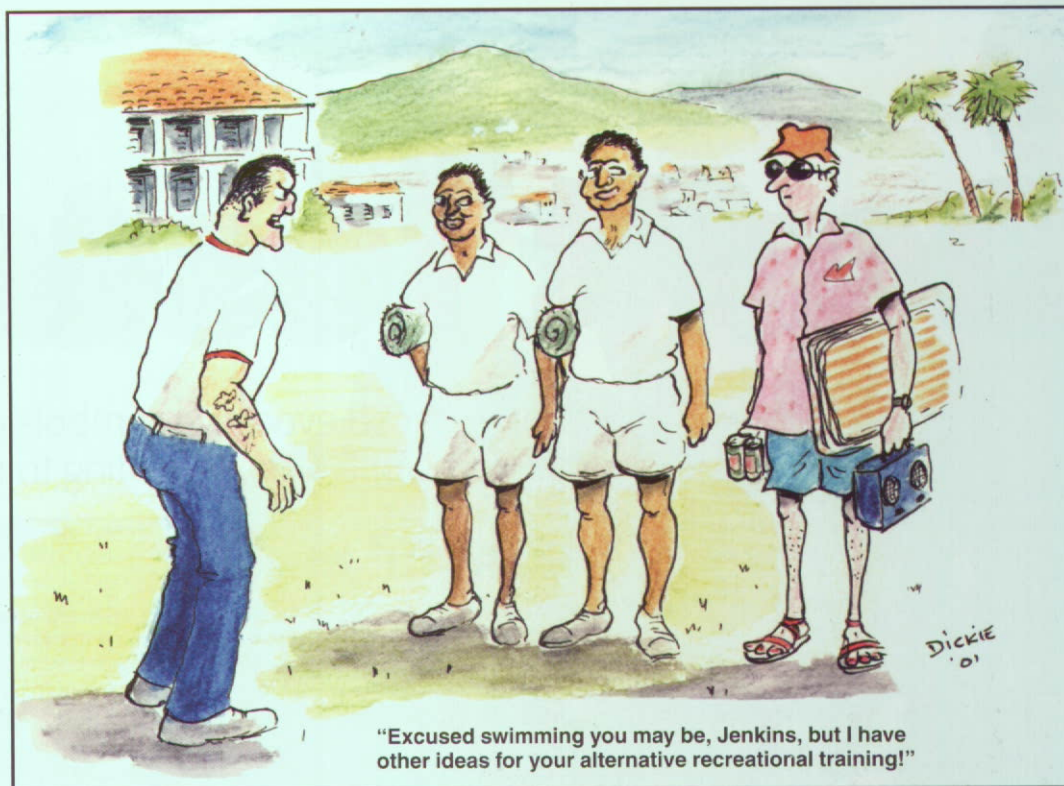


ARMY

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● Bermuda Regiment – Page 37

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



37-39 Cover story

Called to arms: As if to summon conscripts for national service, Sgt Reginald Hewey of the Bermuda Regiment Band sounds a bugle call against a turquoise sea backdrop. But how many will respond? (Other Bermuda Regiment stories on Pages 15, 29 and 63)

Picture: Mike Weston

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Are there too many medals available for today's soldier?

Don't lose the beat

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE military drummer has become an endangered species. While the situation is not yet a crisis, the warning signs are there.

Military parades would be the poorer for the loss of "the Drums".

But something is being done to reverse the decline before it is too late.

Drums, of course, are one of the oldest forms of military music. Every company of 100 infantrymen had a drum and fife by the early 1500s, while Cromwell's New Model Army marched to their beat and pressed them into service to pass signals.

Drummer boys, some of them of tender years, routinely accompanied troops on the march.

Until the early 1900s a drum and flute band, known as "the Drums", was on the strength of every Infantry battalion.

In recent years, however, the importance of drumming has waned as hard-pressed Infantry units have increasingly viewed it as a non-essential soaker-up of manpower urgently needed elsewhere.

"There is a view that the Army is too busy and too operationally committed to have drums platoons," said Lt Col Peter Hollins, Para, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, Infantry Training Centre at Helles Barracks, Catterick. The North Yorkshire garrison is home to the British Army's Drum Company, which teaches bugling and the flute in addition to drumming and which, not surprisingly, sees things a bit differently.

"Drumming has taken a knock in recent years, and because there is not a real career path for drummers, about half our drums platoons are under strength," he said.

Drums, those evocative symbols of military tradition, are under threat. Now the Corps of Drums is fighting to replenish its dwindling pool of musicians

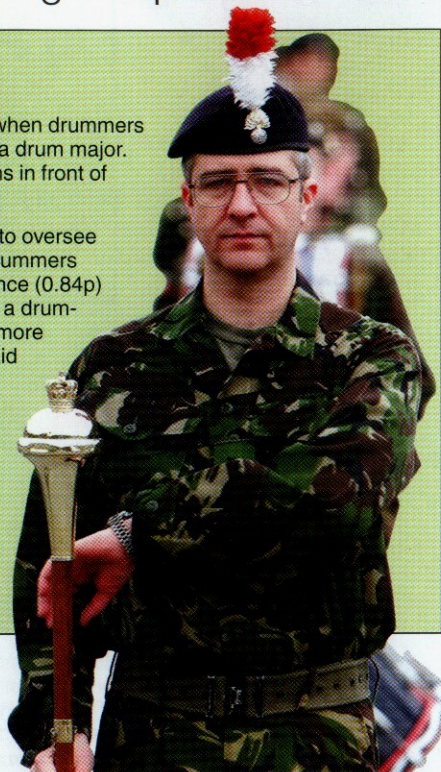
Bangin' on . . .

■ The Corps of Drums came into being in 1872 when drummers and fifers were detached from companies under a drum major. It was then that the practice of parading the drums in front of the regimental band as the showpiece began.

■ One of the main duties of the drum major was to oversee the flogging of soldiers with a cat-o'-nine-tails. Drummers would administer punishment and be paid tuppence (0.84p) for the job – by the person being flogged. In 1727 a drummer from the Lancashire Fusiliers who received more than 25,000 lashes over a 14-year period was said to be the most flogged man in the Army.

■ Parts of the drum have passed into ceremonial use. The ropes which can be seen swinging below the modern side drum were once used to carry it on one's back when not in use.

■ Whatever instrument they play within the Corps of Drums, all members are classified as "drummers". (The Royal Marines' Corps of Drums is, however, staffed by "buglers".)



Eyes front: Sgt John Hoskins takes the Drum Company through its paces

Although drums platoons would normally expect to have 22 soldiers to produce the distinctive sound of the drumstick beating out its staccato rhythm, many operate with as few as 16 and some with not even that many. Where they are established, drummers are invariably double-hatted. Traditionally they were used as machine-gunners or to man internal defence platoons.

"Most regiments no longer have a regimental band. All they have, musically, are the Drums," added Capt Keith Hatton, OC Drums Coy.

The current company was formed in 1995, its student base drawn from the Corps of Drums of the Foot Guards,

English and Welsh regiments of the line, bugle platoons of the Light Division and, more recently, the Royal Gurkha Rifles (the Scots and Irish have their own Pipes and Drums).

Beginners, all volunteers, join an 18-week course for instrumental tuition and parade drill.

"The Director of Infantry is very sup-

portive," said Lt Col Hollins. "In fact, most commanding officers are convinced that drums and bugle platoons are necessary for morale purposes. Yet they are reluctant to release soldiers to come on the courses."

As well as being useful as a colourful public relations asset, skilled drummers can help with recruiting events – drumming up trade, as it were – and by doing what they do best: entertaining. The school for Bagpipes and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh was having similar problems in attracting sufficient numbers, said Lt Col Hollins.

While there are no financial incentives for taking up the sticks, most instructors at Catterick are "dyed-in-the-wool" drummers and always will be, according to Lt Col Hollins. He acknowledges that they have to make some sacrifices because there is no mechanism for giving them a full career within the drumming world.

In an attempt to arrest the decline, moves are afoot to raise the profile of the Corps of Drums and to encourage commanders to support their drummers.

"What is really required is for the CO of each battalion to say: 'I'm going to take some pain here and release people for these courses'."

"Drums platoons are the soul of a regiment or battalion and we need to give them some emphasis to raise the profile of drumming to the level it deserves."

● Infantry soldiers who want to learn more should contact the Drums Advisory Team at ITC Catterick. Applications are made through the chain of command.

Eighteen weeks to become a drummer

SOLDIERS who pass through the Drums Company at Catterick can achieve civilian-recognised qualifications.

"We do a basic music-making module for a stand-alone qualification from the Scottish Qualifications Authority," said Bugle major CSgt Gary Goodwin RGJ.

"At present we have this only for flute and bugle, but we are working on the drumming qualification."

While soldiers from the Light Division concentrate exclusively on the bugle while with the company, drummers and flautists also have to learn to play it as a second instrument.

Traditionally, the British Army's flute and drum sections are known as "the Drums".

When students first arrive at Catterick, they are thrown into six weeks of basic class-three training. To continue to the next level they must pass an examination. Very few fail.

Flute players learn to read music from the outset, as do buglers, although to a lesser extent. Buglers have a special package as there are only seven notes to their instrument. Drummers don't get off



CSgt Gary Goodwin

lightly as there is even music for the side drum.

Instruments are provided by the school, although most buglers prefer to use their own mouthpieces and some side drummers buy their own higher-quality sticks.

The next examination – and with it the completion of the course – arrives after another 12 weeks.

Those who pass are qualified to play when they rejoin their battalions.

"Some leave as excellent musicians," said

CSgt Goodwin. There are always students good enough to play solos at the school's passing-out parade.

"There are 30 students on the present course and of those about five will leave here well above standard," he said.

For students who show real ability, a two-week class-one course is open to them at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham. Although not certified, it carries the Army qualification of class-one drummer, a necessary requirement if the individual harbours the ambition to return to Catterick as an instructor with the Drums Company.



On parade: Drum Company students learn how it is done on the parade ground

Corps of Drums Society

The Corps of Drums Society, founded in 1977, exists to promote and support the Corps of Drums within English and Welsh Infantry battalions. It has its own website at www.soft.net.uk/corpsdrums/

It has regular meetings at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and maintains links with drumming enthusiasts around the world, including groups in North America, the West Indies, Australia and Europe.

More information from the secretary, R S Davis, The Corps of Drums Society, 62 Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Hants GU13 ORU.

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Fanfare to independence

Buglers of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, left, commanded by Cpl David Archer, greet the President of Sierra Leone to a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the West African state's independence. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was treat-

ed to a fanfare from the 1 LI musicians as he entered the national stadium for a ceremony to mark the birthday. The soldiers are part of the team training Sierra Leone's armed forces. ● British-trained recce force takes war to rebels – Pages 30-31

Picture: Kevin Capon

US bomb gets the slow burn

New technique used on 1,000-pounder

ARMY bomb disposal experts were brought in to deal with an American MK83 1,000lb bomb unearthed by Royal Engineers constructing a culvert in Kosovo.

A detachment from 33 Engineer Regiment EOD, which had arrived in the Balkans 48 hours before to join 38 Engineer Regiment Group, found itself thrust into the thick of the action.

By the time Capt Craig Michael and Cpl Paddy Campbell reached the area where sappers serving with 61 Field Support Squadron RE were working on the site of a bridge destroyed during the Nato bombing campaign, the area had been cordoned off.

Heavy plant machinery was brought in so 61 Sqn could build earth walls to protect a nearby garage which had full underground storage tanks.

Capt Michael and Cpl Campbell used a ballistic disk – known as a Baldrick – to penetrate the bomb casing and ignite the explosive filling, so splitting the case. But with no indication that the burning was taking place, Capt Michael had to approach the bomb again to place an incendiary on top of the exposed explosive.

After a slow burn over the next two hours, the mission was declared an out-



Danger over: Capt Michael Craig with the bomb casing

right success. It was the first disposal of a modern bomb in the Balkans using a "low-order" technique.

The big bomb, dropped during the Kosovo conflict, had been dredged up in his "bucket" by a plant operator clearing the way for a culvert under the destroyed bridge.

In their rush to reopen the road, the local Albanian authorities had filled the gap once crossed by the bridge, effectively creating a dam. A small lake had filled in behind the barrier, threatening the road and creating the possibility of serious flood damage down-river.

Sandhurst sword for former sergeant

A FORMER sergeant in the Royal Military Police won the Sword of Honour when he passed out at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on April 12.

Junior Under Officer (now 2nd Lt) Christopher Martin, pictured right, received the prestigious prize, awarded to the cadet considered to be the best on the course, from inspecting officer Gen Sir Mike Jackson.

He is due to join C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry next month. The battalion is currently deployed in Sierra Leone, where it is running military training courses for Government forces (see Pages 30-31).

Currently in the fourth year of an Open University degree in law, 2nd Lt Martin (29) joined the Army as an air technician apprentice in the REME. He later transferred to the RMP, reaching the rank of sergeant. He joined Sandhurst from 177 (Support) Platoon, 6 RMP, which is responsible for close protection in Northern Ireland.

A keen all-round sportsman, 2nd Lt Martin played company-level rugby and football for RMAS.

The Queen's Medal, awarded to the cadet who achieves the highest score in military, practical and academic studies, went to Officer Cadet Rebecca Jacques, who is to join 202 Signal Squadron, part of 3 (UK) Division HQ and Signal Regiment, in Bulford. She is an Army novice judo champion.

Winner of the Overseas Sword was Michael Zinn, who is joining the South African Defence Force.



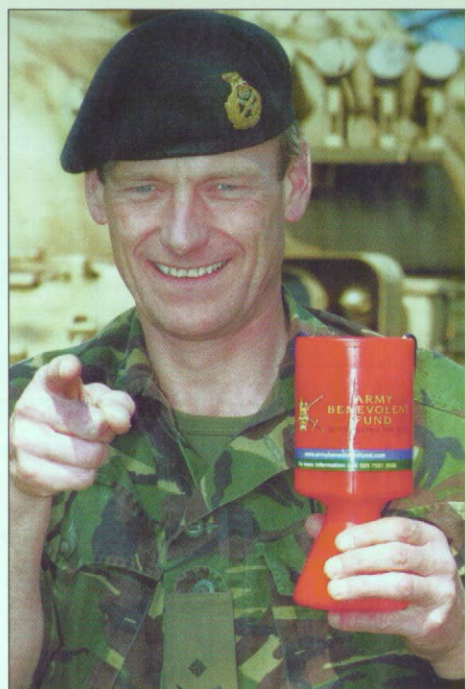
Less than quarter on ops

AS of March 1, 22 per cent of the Army was committed to operations. Full-time strength

of the Army was 100,199, while the number for the Territorial Army stood at 40,684. On April

17, 3,343 British troops were deployed in KFOR, the Kosovo stabilisation force.

Stand and deliver



Your charity needs YOU: Maj Gen Robin Brims, General Officer Commanding 1st (UK) Armoured Division, lends his support to a drive to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund among units based in Germany.

Picture: Sgt Giles Penfound

Homeward jog



Take a break: Soldiers from E Battery, 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery get their breath back after running 56 miles from the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Gloucester to their camp at Tidworth, Wilts. They had been based in Gloucestershire for a month on foot-and-mouth duties.

WO2 Chris Walkin organised the cross-county run to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Artillery Museum Project.



Cash in hand: Neil Robinson, centre, a 12-year-old star of local TV, was invited to Mahon Road Barracks, Portadown, by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, to hand over a cheque for charity. He is pictured with Lt Col Matt O'Hanlon, left, CO 3 R Irish, and Walter Kerr, co-founder of the Kidney Research Fund, for which soldiers and civilian staff based at the barracks raised £1,600. Neil appeared in the popular *Children's Hospital* TV series and was a guest at the Young Heroes' Awards in London.

Cyprus medics in yacht drama

THE mid-morning surgery at Cyprus's Episkopi medical centre took an unexpected turn when staff became involved in the dramatic rescue of a seriously ill tourist.

Routine treatment of coughs and sore throats was put on hold as a report came in that a German tourist on board a yacht in Episkopi Bay was very unwell. A Wessex helicopter from 84 Squadron AAC was making its way to the yacht, which was struggling to reach the shore in stormy seas.

Maj James Papworth, Maj Jonathan Cox and Cpl Mick George, all RAMC, and their civilian driver, Ioannou Neophytos, reached the rescue area in a few minutes, and could just make out the aircraft hovering above the waves. When

the conditions were found to be too rough to lift the sick woman into the helicopter it was decided to winch a doctor down to her.

As duty doctor, Maj Papworth was picked up by the Wessex and deposited on the deck of the wildly heaving yacht, where he found the woman to be in a coma. She had been ill for some time.

A vessel from Episkopi sailing club was taken alongside to allow Cpl George to get aboard with a rescue stretcher, and the woman was transferred from one boat to the other and rushed ashore.

In spite of their efforts during a difficult and dangerous rescue mission lasting two hours, the woman died six days later in the intensive care unit of Limassol General Hospital.

IN BRIEF

● **Brig Rod Brummitt**, late RTR, has taken over command of Bulford-based 43 (Wessex) Brigade, which is responsible for the administration of all military units in the South West of England.

● **RAF Thatcham** in Berkshire, the tri-Service home of the UK National Distribu-

tion Agency and the European Distribution and Accounting Agency, closed on May 4. The agencies have relocated to Corsham in Wiltshire.

● Maj Andy Reeds, right, has taken over responsibility for the Army's media interview train-



More training areas reopen

Foot-and-mouth restrictions begin to ease

WITH the corner turned in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease, the Ministry of Defence has begun re-opening military training areas, including the 38,000 hectares of Salisbury Plain.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said the lifting of restrictions would apply only to land outside areas designated by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) as infected.

As part of the national effort to prevent the spread of disease, all military training areas were closed on February 23. Only operationally-essential training continued so that no soldier was deployed to overseas theatres without proper preparation.

The Army is continuing to take precautions on training areas throughout the UK to prevent the spread of disease.

Following consultation with MAFF and the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs

Department, 40 low-risk but minor training ranges in the UK have been re-opened for routine training.

Meanwhile, elements of the Army are continuing to assist MAFF to dispose of culled animals. As this issue went to press the main concentration was on Cumbria, Devon and Wales.

Units involved included elements of 5 Regiment RA in Cumbria; Royal Military Police and 1 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery in Devon; 1 RHA in Gloucester; 22 Regiment RA in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Humberside; 39 Regiment RA in Northumberland; 101 Regiment RA (V) in Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Cleveland; 16 Regiment RA in Essex; 101 Logistic Brigade in London; and 13 Regiment RLC in Leicester. In Dumfries and Galloway, elements of the Edinburgh-based 1st Battalion, The Highlanders were lending support as the need arose.



Welly brigade: LCpl Ross Hambleton, front, and Pte Iliesa Ravouvou of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders prepare to enter a cull site near Lockerbie

Picture: Mark Owens

ing from Maj Ken Molyneux, who is retiring after 36 years in the Army. Units who wish to build up confidence in the art of appearing on TV or radio as part of their pre-deployment training to areas such as the Balkans can contact Maj Reeds at the Army School of Training Support at Upavon, Wilts (tel 01980 615481 or (mil) 94344 5481).

● Channel 4's archaeological programme, *Time Team*, visited the **Defence Intelligence and Security Centre** at Chicksands to investigate the site's medieval religious centre. The origins of the Priory, which houses the officers' mess, can be traced back to the Gilbertine order in 1150.

Night manoeuvres



Exposed: Capt Kelly Holloway, left, and Capt Rachel Leighton made their own rather fetching combat-style bras to wear in the Playtex Moonwalk 2001 midnight powerwalk marathon around the City of London. They joined thousands of others, including fellow Army captains **Caroline Hayes** and **Pip Moore**, in similar daring undress to raise money for breast cancer research and care.

Ground Force(s)?



Off you go: **Brig Chris Holtom**, Director of the Intelligence Corps, opens a "trim trail" hastily constructed at the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC) at Chicksands, Beds. The fitness trail was one of three large projects undertaken by Chicksands personnel at short notice after a week-long programme of adventurous training in Wales had to be abandoned in the wake of the foot-and-mouth crisis. Instead, they used the time to build the trail, lay a patio at an all-ranks barbecue site and refurbish a child-care centre.

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Sounds Irish: Musicians, right, from The Band and Pipes and Drums of The Royal Irish Regiment, the Northern Ireland Territorial Band and the Lowland Band took part in the Army Benevolent Fund's annual fundraising concert in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, last month. Entitled "Millennium Milestones", the event celebrated music, song, dance and youth of the century.



Bermuda looks to international role

AS part of an expansion of its roles, The Bermuda Regiment has played a key part in a United Nations effort to establish a disaster rapid-response team for the Caribbean region, **writes Chris Horrocks.**

A two-week course in the British mid-Atlantic territory, run by the UN and sponsored by the UK Department for International Development, culminated in a field assessment exercise supported by the largely part-time regiment.

Not all the 27 Caribbean region course participants were from British dependent territories. Others were from Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Bermuda Regiment adjutant Capt William White, a former conscript, was one of the first to be selected by the Bermuda Government for the programme after a review of the regiment's roles led by a British Army team last year.

"The review proposed that the regiment get more involved in assistance to the international community," he said. "In the past, Bermuda has helped hurricane-damaged islands to our south in the Caribbean, such as the British Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

"Arising out of this we hope to deploy as

part of the UN to serve on assessment and co-ordination missions to natural disasters or other emergencies.

"As an extension to this, further on down the line we may well be deployed, either to UN operations on attachment, or through the UK Armed Forces to their commitments in, say, Kosovo or Sierra Leone."



Capt William White: Help on the international front

Arjun Katoch, Geneva-based chief of a UN field co-ordination support unit, told *Soldier*: "We have 33 member states which can supply managers at short notice in an emergency. We can deploy anywhere in the world within 24 hours.

"Since 1993 we have taken part in 80 missions – that's almost one a month. This year alone we have assisted with the earthquakes in India and El Salvador as well as helped the people of Mongolia during their harsh winter."

Also helping to run the Bermuda exercise was former RLC officer Ian Howard-Williams, now a senior humanitarian specialist with the UN, who as a military observer was among those taken hostage by the West Side Boys in Sierra Leone in August, 1999 and later freed unharmed.

● **Called to arms – Page 37**

Stakeholder pension scheme open to Services

SOME Service personnel are eligible to buy into Stakeholder pensions, which came into effect in the UK on April 1.

The flexible, low-cost scheme is designed to build up an investment which will eventually be used to buy a pension. Contributions can be any amount up to a limit of £3,600 a year.

Members of the Armed Forces whose employment is either not covered by an existing pension arrangement (for example, part-time elements of the Royal Irish Regiment's Home Service battalions), or is a member of an existing pension arrangement (such as the Armed Forces Pension Scheme) and has annual earnings below £30,000, are eligible to contribute to a Stakeholder pension scheme.

The MoD is in the process of designating a commercial provider who can offer a Stakeholder scheme for all eligible members of the Armed Forces. The MoD, however, can only make deductions from Service pay for Service personnel, not on behalf of a spouse or other family member. It is intended that the scheme will be in place so that contributions can be made from October 8.

Guides to the scheme can be obtained by calling the Pensions InfoLine on 0845 7313233 (calls charged at local rates), or writing to the Department of Social Security at DSS Pensions, Freepost BS5555/1, Bristol, BS99 1BL. Guides can also be ordered online at www.dss.gov.uk

● The annual Hebridean Challenge, involving biking, running and kayaking the length of the Outer Hebrides, has been rescheduled to start on August 27. It had been postponed because of foot-and-mouth. Details on 01851 870716 or steffisar@aol.com

Welsh troops find missing man

NEARLY 160 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales were involved in the search for a soldier who went missing during an adventurous training expedition on Mount Kenya. The soldier, from

49 EOD Sqn, was found safe and well in mountainous jungle four days after he went missing. The Paderborn-based 1 RRW troops were in Kenya to take part in Monoprix, a six-week training exercise.

Farm friends

SAPPERS of 26 Armd Engr Sqn, a part of Hohne-based 32 Engr Regt, have made life easier for farmers at Sotira, to the north of Episkopi, by building a bridge to connect two sides of a valley.

Iron rations on menu

GRANTHAM-based chefs SSgts Bill Barrie and Dominic Rogerson demonstrated their culinary skills on BBC Radio 4's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* programme. They created a meal that might have been eaten by the Duke of Wellington on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.

Cavalry parade

MAJ Gen Viscount Monckton of Brenchley deputised for the Queen Mother to take the salute at the 77th annual parade and service of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park.

Home advantage



Picture: Chris Fletcher

On that note: **Musn Rachael Bookless**, a trombonist with the Band of The Parachute Regiment, played her part as the musicians struck up for the first time at their new home in Colchester. The band has been based at Aldershot since 1947.

Lancer's sad return



Sad return: The coffin of Tpr Adam Slater, of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, is carried off an RAF C-130 Hercules at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. Tpr Slater was killed in April when the Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicle he was travelling in detonated a landmine while on patrol near Krivenik on Kosovo's border. Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble



Powerful presence: AS90s deployed on gun positions around the Glamoc ranges.

AS90 flexes its muscles

GLAMOC ranges in Bosnia reverberated to the thunder of AS90 guns as the UK Artillery Battery took a break from daily patrolling to demonstrate their awesome firepower for the British-led Multi-National Division South-West (MND(SW)).

C Battery RHA took six AS90s, four Warriors, six 432 vehicles and a CRARV armoured repair vehicle from Sanski Most to Glamoc for an exercise involving all elements of the division.

Aim of the event was to show local commanders, of whom about 50 attended, just how potent a force SFOR can deploy in the area.

After one gun had been adjusted on to a target by a Warrior-mounted forward observation officer, the whole battery opened up with three high-explosive rounds from each gun at a distance of about 9km. After British and Canadian mortars had engaged their targets, Sgt Wayne Carden demonstrated the flexibility of AS90 by rapidly engaging a target on a hillside using direct fire.

C Battery was due to live-fire once more before returning to base in Germany at the beginning of this month.



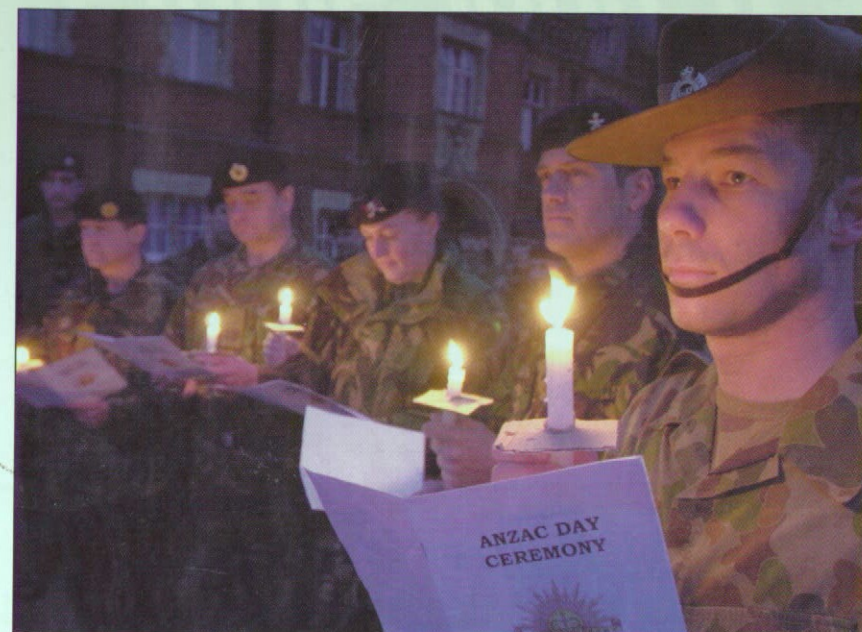
Lethal shape: Gnr Adam Fysal prepares to load a 155mm high-explosive shell

IN BRIEF

● Drummers from Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment sailed to Spain last month to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon's army at Albuhera 190 years ago. Sixteen members of the regiment's Corps of Drums under Drum Major Sgt Chris Skaife took part in the ceremony

while 150 members of the PWRR and their families completed a battlefield tour.

● Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the Chief of the Defence Staff, visited the headquarters of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) for briefings on the integration of new Nato nations into the



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Dawn patrol: Sgt Maj Peter Green, right, of the Australian Army was one of 150 soldiers who gathered at Minley Manor in Surrey for a dawn candlelit service to commemorate ANZAC Day. The event was timed to the hour when, 86 years ago, men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps stormed the beaches at Gallipoli, sustaining horrendous casualties as they attacked near-impregnable Turkish defences.

Warrant officers' school will be in class of its own

SHRIVENHAM will be home to the new Joint Services Warrant Officers' School slated to open in 2003. It is one of a number of breakthrough proposals to come out of the Defence Training Review, briefly reported last month.

The school will provide Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marine WO1s with up to two weeks' joint training. Up to 15 courses will be held a year, each for 60 students.

Staffed by instructors from all three Services, the elite establishment will deliver top-quality training and will form part of the new Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. Places will be open to the Territorial Army and warrant officers from overseas.

The proposal is part of the far-reaching Defence Training Review, which sets out the way forward for training military and civilian personnel.

Among key proposals are plans for most specialist training to be delivered

in tri-Service schools; an academy for postgraduate defence education; a defence sixth-form college; an undergraduate bursary scheme; and the expansion of e-learning.

The WO's school reflects recognition by defence chiefs that warrant officer training is fundamental to the ethos and combat effectiveness of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. But they also see advantages in combining aspects of their training because of the increasing number of joint and multi-national operations.

Gun-ho dinner night

STAFF at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Gunnery School at Lulworth in Dorset are to hold a charity women-only dinner night, featuring a "Mr Gunnery 2001" competition. Cash raised from the event on June 2 will be given to a local school.

Soldier dies in diving accident

CPL James Harris, a Territorial Army REME armourer serving with 105 Regiment RA (V) in Edinburgh, was one of two divers killed in an accident in the Firth of Forth off the coast of Dunbar on May 13.

Cpl Harris, 36, an accomplished diver, tried to save his diving partner who had got into trouble while exploring a wreck. It is thought Cpl Harris got caught in the wreckage and ran out of air. He had just returned from an adventure training diving expedition to Belize with members of his regiment (see Page 24).

His commanding officer, Lt Col Nick Lipscombe, said: "This is a terrible tragedy. Cpl Harris was a selfless individual and this was evident every day during the trip to Belize. He will be sorely missed in the regiment, not just for his skill as a soldier but his skills as a human being."



Cpl Harris

Antarctica is year's coolest destination

IN just over two months time the Army sets sail on one of its most challenging expeditions. The British Army Antarctic Expedition will leave Portsmouth in late August to sail the 72-ft ketch *John Laing* to the Danco coast on the Antarctic Peninsula.

For two months the team will undertake geographical, scientific and historical exploration by yacht, small boat and ski before returning home next May.

Crews, drawn from regiments and corps, include two women, Maj Fiona Grundy, AGC, and OCdt Sarah Piesse. Joint leaders of the expedition are Lt Col Andy Bristow, Maj James Harris and Maj Richard Pattison.

The Danco area is largely unexplored and this will be only the second expedition inland on to the peninsular plateau. Maps of the area are inaccurate and virtually all the mountains are unclimbed. Mountaineers in the military party will use skis and sledges to get around while the yacht is used as a floating base camp.

The Prince of Wales and Gen Sir Rupert Smith, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, lent their support at the official launch of the expedition at the Royal Navy College, Greenwich.

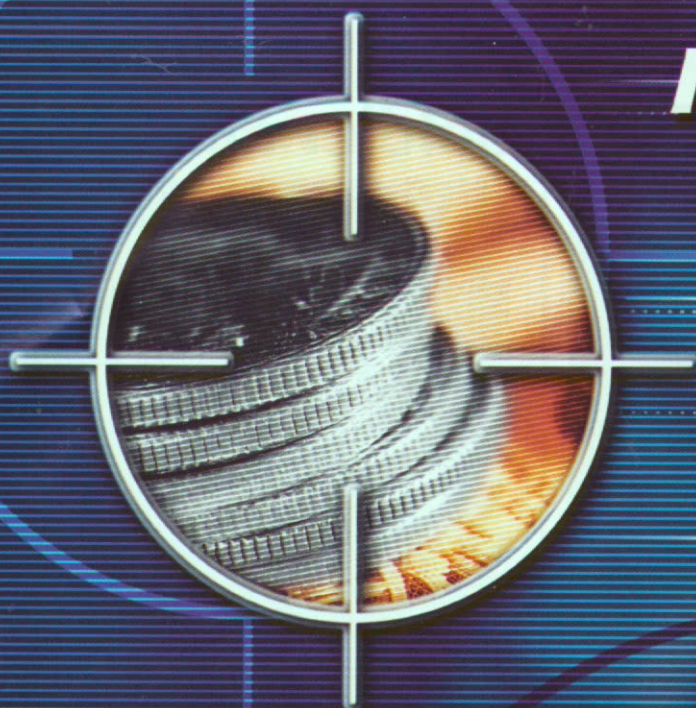
corps. He was welcomed by Lt Gen Sir Christopher Drewry, commander of ARRC.

● Members of HQ Squadron, 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment helped raise £2,200 for charity when they entered a team of Sharpshooters in the Mayor of Bexleyheath's charity bowling competition. Pic-



tured, left, are LCpl Christina Bienek, LCpl Martin Gross, Pte Nicholas Hanlon, LCpl Anthony Williams and Pte Robert Brasier.

● A seven-man Territorial Army team from 70 (EY) Signal Squadron at Chelmsford completed the Swiss International two-day Berne marches in a time of just over 13 hours.



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Field of conflict: Thirty members of Aldershot-based Headquarters 12 Mechanized Brigade toured American Civil War battlefields, including Manassas, Fredricksburg, Antietam and Gettysburg.

The party was drawn from HQ and 12 Mech Bde Signal Squadron (228), the KRH, 1

Gren Gds, 1 WG, 1 Staffords and 160 Provost Coy RMP. Also along for the trip were representatives from 1 R Anglian. The Grenadier Guards moved from Pirbright to public duties at Windsor last month and have been replaced in the brigade by the Royal Anglians.

Picture: Maj Lucy Giles

Armoured Jocks set for Balkans

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch have completed their eight-month conversion from light-roled infantry to armoured infantry.

Since moving from Fort George in Scotland to Fallingbommel in Germany last August, the Jocks have been learning the skills required to fight with the Warrior armoured vehicle.

Cadres have covered areas including driving, gunnery, signalling and mechanics. The training culminated in a two-week live-firing gunnery camp using Warrior's 30mm Rarden cannon and 7.62mm chain gun. In a final proving exercise, the battalion was supported by other elements of the 7th Armoured Brigade, including Challenger tanks from the Royal



Armoured Scots: A Black Watch Warrior on exercise at Sennelager ranges in Germany

Scots Dragoon Guards, the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers. The Jocks' focus has now switched to Kosovo, where the battalion is due to deploy in July.

FOLLOWING several months of French lessons, 47 soldiers from HQ 2 (South East) Brigade based at Shorncliffe spent two weeks exercising in the Champagne region.

Exercise Guibert, based on Sissonne near Reims, was run by the French Army's 43rd Infantry Regiment from Lille to practise high-intensity conflict. They were joined by elements of the German Army.

GEN Sir Mike Jackson officially opened the new Sir John Moore Barracks at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, last month. The barracks, rebuilt at a cost of £20 million, are now home to 800 2 RGR soldiers.

WARRANT officers and sergeants serving with Support Battalion, HQ ACE Rapid Reaction Corps at Rheindahlen had a flutter... and raised £400 for the Army Benevolent Fund. Their race night in the Reaction Forces WOs' and Sgts' Mess was the idea of WO1 (RSM) Tony O'Rourke.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● The Household Cavalry may have to be moved from ceremonial duties to fill gaps in armoured units. Cavalrymen of the Mounted Regiment, who are trained in armoured reconnaissance, are expected to be put on standby if planned overseas commitments reach breaking point. — *The Times*

● The second of two women hoping to become the first female commandos has dropped out of the gruelling Royal Marines training course at Lympstone. LCpl Joanna Perry was forced out by a leg injury following Capt Claire Phillips's decision to quit after two weeks. Eighteen men have dropped out so far. — *Daily Telegraph*

● Railtrack has appealed to the Army for skilled recruits to help it tackle acute shortages of engineers and signalling staff on key projects throughout its 11,000-mile network. It is looking for people leaving the Service. — *Guardian*

● Newly-weds Neil and Helen McCreadie, from Gillingham, Kent, have become the first married couple to join the Army together. — *Sun*

● The Army was accused of being the source of the foot-and-mouth epidemic after it emerged that the pig farm where the disease is thought to have started takes untreated waste food from the MoD. — *Sunday Times*

● A dozen Servicewomen a year are having their breasts enlarged courtesy of the defence budget. — *The Times*

● Percy Goring, 106, from Shoreditch, East London, is Britain's last surviving veteran of the Gallipoli landings of 1915. — *Sun*

● A Victoria Cross awarded to a First World War soldier who changed his name to avoid the attention his bravery attracted was sold for £101,200 at Sotheby's. Cpl Samuel Meekosha was 22 when, in November 1915 he took charge of his trench after his senior NCOs were killed and rescued colleagues under heavy fire. He was serving with a West Yorkshire Regiment platoon. — *The Times*

● The Army brought joy to a Sierra Leone tribal chief by replacing Second World War medals stolen when rebels looted his home. — *The Times*

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Lots to offer: It's all fresh... and cooked before your eyes



All mod cons: The new-look interior of the junior ranks' mess at McMullen Barracks

No messing about

Junior soldiers' dining facilities are due for a revolution. Marchwood is setting the pace

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

ASK any soldier for his top ten priorities and the chances are a plate of good food and a comfy bed would be right up there.

Lt Col David Frankland, commanding officer of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC at McMullen Barracks, Marchwood near Southampton, is excited about the fact that his junior soldiers enjoy some of the best catering facilities in the Army.

He is to admit that the site has poor quality single living accommodation for his young soldiers (a major refurbishment programme is on the books for next year) and was eager for something to improve their lot.

He talked to Granada Services about the junior soldiers' dining facilities and found the company was keen to show what it could offer to the MoD. In October, Granada (now Eurest Defence Support Services) installed a 240-seat restaurant at the barracks.

Dubbed "McMullen's", the £350,000 facility has proved an outstanding success

with soldiers and chefs. "We worked together to provide a high standard of food and a level of service the soldiers require," said Lt Col Frankland.

McMullen's, which looks like a high-street "eatery", has attracted interest from all quarters, including the Pay As You Dine (PAYD) project team.

Marchwood's plans don't stop at the kitchen door. Talks about the junior ranks club, described by Lt Col Frankland as "old and decrepit and out of date", are already underway.

Eurest site manager Steve Easton is delighted with the progress. "The soldiers know we are here to provide a service at a realistic rate."

McMullen's was constructed from a modular system (modules are installed to meet the needs of a site in terms of numbers and type of customer). The Marchwood job took just ten weeks from ripping out of the old facility to opening the new.

A feature is that the open cooking area allows soldiers to see food being prepared.

WO2 Clive Llewellyn, who heads 17 military and two civilian chefs, said the system has meant a change of attitude for his staff. "Breakfast is cooked in front of house and lunchtime dishes such as omelettes, pizzas and baguettes with hot

and cold fillings are made to order while our customers look on," he said. "They can see chickens cooking in the rotisserie."

"The benefit for chefs include a new hot air extractor system. The old kitchen didn't have one at all."

There is even a special wok cooker used for the unit's popular Chinese, Indian and Caribbean theme nights. Many of the military port's civilian staff now eat in the restaurant, where a three course lunch costs £1.80.

"Customers have a huge choice," said WO2 Llewellyn, "We cater for about 200 meals a session and the chefs have adapted to

the different style. Their morale has improved no end."

"It's a very good facility," said Cfn Rick Briddon REME. Pte Graham Robinson RLC echoed his opinion.

"If you look at the Army as a whole and ask how many people have all three meals Monday to Friday, I'd guess the answer is about 15 per cent," said Lt Col Frankland. "We're up to 50 to 60 per cent. There's a massive uptake in use of the dining area."

"Eurest have put the investment into this facility for it to be seen as a flagship and a potential trial site for PAYD."

Marchwood is also looking into building a shop to sell toiletries, newspapers and magazines, something the site does not have. The future is looking bright.



Master chef:
WO2 Clive
Llewellyn

**McMullen's
has attracted
the interest of
the PAYD
project team**



Z is the shape of things to come

Last month *Soldier* revealed that all new-build single-living accommodation would be 'Type Z'. We take a look at a camp where it already exists

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TPR Martin Neal of The Light Dragoons describes his barrack block as "the best".

So what's so good about it?

Based at Swanton Morley in Norfolk, Tpr Neal is one of nearly 250 soldiers living in Type Z single-living accommodation (SLA), the Army's preferred option for the future.

Having experienced the full range of good, bad and indifferent barracks, he is full of praise for his present quarters which give each soldier their own room, with private toilet and shower facilities.

Lt Col Simon Levey, who led the Light Dragoons back to the UK last summer after 13 years at Hohn in Germany, is equally enthusiastic about the single-soldier accommodation his regiment inherited from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers. It will be home to his soldiers for the next eight years.

"Hohn is a garrison camp, whereas Swanton Morley, formerly an RAF establishment, is an isolated detachment," said Lt Col Levey. "To make up for that the SLA here is the best I have seen. The sergeants' mess accommodation is grotty, and the officers' mess accommodation isn't very good either. But the soldiers have fantastic rooms."

Swanton Morley's Type Z quarters were built in 1998 in blocks of 48 rooms,



"It's that red-headed corporal in number 14 washing her smalls again"

with a utility room and an additional bathroom shared by eight soldiers.

Rooms are inspected regularly for tidiness and, more importantly, hygiene and with a waiting list of those wanting to move in, residents know if they fall foul of the inspection, they could be turfed out. There is a strong incentive to keep rooms in good order.

A soldier may do his own room up (for example, putting up extra shelving), but has to ensure it is returned to its original condition when he leaves. The same rule applies to married quarters.

Although soldiers at Swanton Morley have cable TV points, not all future Type Z will be configured this way.

Lt Col Levey says there is a down side to the accommodation. "In Germany we had four men to a room and that gave us cohesion. It was good for team spirit and team building."

"Type Z is great, but each block needs a common room where soldiers can all live, eat, chat, watch TV and yet still have the freedom to go to their own bedrooms to sleep. This would give them their privacy yet still allow for team building. The Army is all about teamwork."

He was also concerned that should one of the soldiers have psychological or other personal problems, it would be more difficult for his mates to spot and to offer help if he were locked away in his room.

"We are trying to overcome teamwork



En suite: Private toilet and shower facilities like these, above, will become standard for every soldier



At home: Tpr Martin Neal, surrounded by his own possessions, above, relaxes in his room at Swanton Morley. It is hoped that this style of accommodation, also shown left, will be the SLA of the future

Have a good soak: A shared bathroom is available, right, if a shower isn't enough

and isolation problems by other means," he said. "We are placing more emphasis on the troop leaders getting about and making sure they get their squadrons together regularly – perhaps going to the pub or bowling or some other social activity. We have to contrive these situations."

Despite the obvious improvements that Type Z has brought, one soldier we spoke to had reservations about the standards of materials and maintenance.

"All properties have problems from time to time but if they are well maintained, as our accommodation was in Germany, there shouldn't be a difficulty."

"We have problems here with the win-

Swanton Morley is an isolated detachment. To make up for that the single living accommodation here is the best I've seen ... the soldiers have fantastic rooms

– Lt Col Simon Levey



What soldiers think of it

Tpr Adam Knox

"This is better than before. In Hohn we had two-man rooms with showers and toilets between each six rooms."

"The rooms here have TV points and each has the facility for Sky TV, provided the soldier has a decoder."



Tpr Glen Knowles

"This accommodation is better than we had in Germany. There is a utility room so we can do our washing and cleaning and our individual rooms have showers. A bathroom is available too."



"We have the Naafi nearby but we could do with a common room in each block so we can socialise."

Tpr Martin Neal

"This is the best accommodation I have ever had and I've been in the Army for a number of years. The only drawback is that it is difficult to mingle and socialise."

"But it's great that you can shut the door at night and know it is your room."



Brig Tom Foulkes on:

Communal space "The point is fully understood and is already being developed in our design concept work, which is looking at four or five single rooms arranged around a communal area with a fridge, microwave, TV, internet and storage facilities."

"In practice, however, soldiers' opinions differ as to what form common-rooms should take. We shall be trying out a range of options and seeing what works best."

Tile and window problems

"I am confident that the design and quality issues are now being addressed and will be subject to monitoring and evaluation."



Brig Tom Foulkes

Black floors "Black floors have been tried before but rejected by soldiers as too depressing."

Contracts "Contracts are not awarded solely on cost; quality, innovation and the contractors' track-record are equally important factors in the overall value-for-money decision and will be given greater weight in future."

teething problems, Type Z SLA is a huge step forward. It is designed to give soldiers privacy, security and the quality they deserve.

"Swanton Morley is the first time we've actually built any Type Z SLA and so the design there is a prototype. The Light Dragoons are trail-blazers in the Army's SLA modernisation programme."

"Although we thought long and hard and consulted widely during the design stage, we knew we wouldn't get all the practical details right first time. We shall be using all this very constructive feedback from Swanton Morley – as well as specially-commissioned opinion surveys – to improve the layout of Type Z builds."

dows that don't shut properly, tiling coming off in the bathrooms and door hinges that bend too easily. It can take weeks for a maintenance engineer to sort it out.

"In Germany, maintenance was efficient and immediate."

"I would ask the people commissioning the new buildings to ask soldiers what they want. As a suggestion, the floors could be black, not grey. It wouldn't show the scuffmarks."

One soldier said the quality of building suggested the contract had gone to the lowest bidder.

Brig Tom Foulkes, Director of the Army Estate Organisation, said: "Despite

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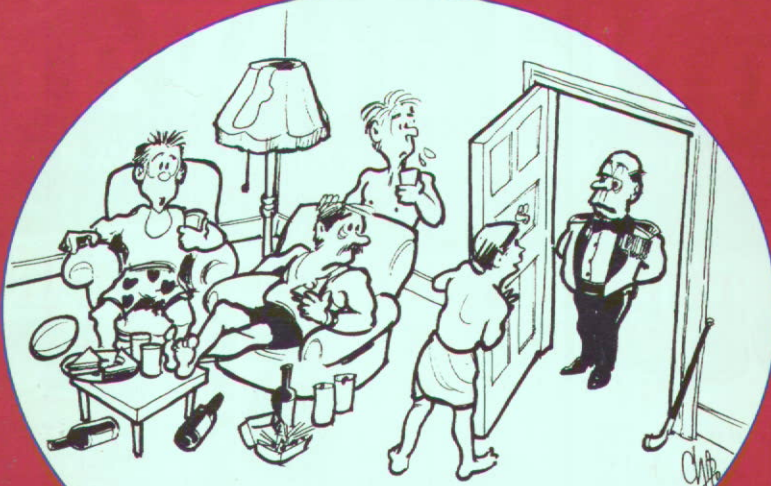
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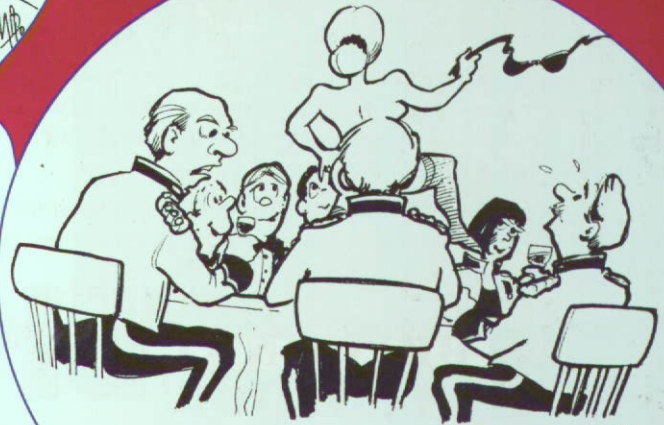
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"Dinner, General? . . . I'm afraid we weren't expecting you till tomorrow!"



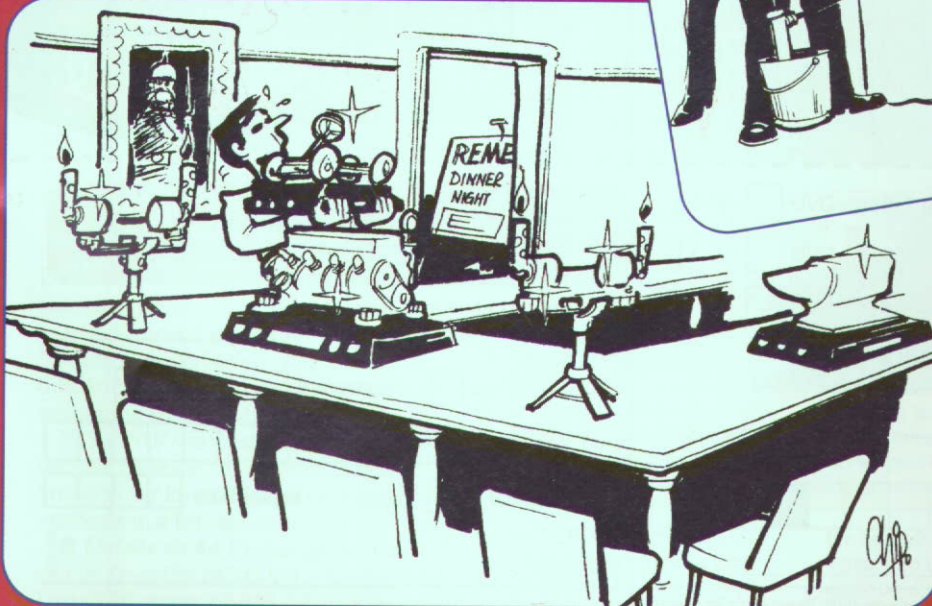
"Ask the PMC to remind 2nd Lt Jamson that it's considered ostentatious enough merely to stand during the playing of one's regimental march!"



"Well of course I forgive you, dear . . . probably because you actually live at No 14!"



"Hands up all who want soup!"



What a fine mess!
(aaah . . . those were the nights)

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Want to be an au pair? Here's your chance

THERE'S more to being an au pair than looking after babies and doing the washing up. Just ask WO2 (CSM) Mark Bairstow of 70 Aircraft Workshop REME based at Middle Wallop in Hampshire.

He spent two weeks as an "au pair" in Finland.

To be frank, it wasn't quite the same thing, because your average youngster who signs up for domestic chores so he or she can see the world doesn't get to ride snowmobiles and shoot rifles.

CSM Bairstow, pictured below in action, was taking part in the Exchange

Au Pair scheme (EAP), a voluntary programme between the British Army and units from 24 nations.

Easy rider ... at 70kmh

It aims to develop language and inter-operability skills at unit level.

CSM Bairstow, who was attached to the Finnish Air Force (FAF), said the scheme provides short attachments for

Regular officers, WOs and senior NCOs in the UK and Germany. There are occasional exchange opportunities for TA personnel.

CSM

Bairstow was based at the Aircraft and Weapons Systems Technical School at Jamsa in south-west Finland and at the FAF's academy for pilots at Koutava.

It wasn't all hard work, however.

"I was introduced to the Finnish Defence System, conscript military and technical training opportunities, as well as some cultural activities," he said. "These included ice-fishing, snowmobile driving and the heart-stopping ice-swimming straight after a sauna."

"The FAF were excellent hosts and the visit gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of operating methods in a foreign country."

● Details about Exchange Au Pair can be found in AGAI Vol 1 Chapter 12, Issue 130, paras 12.021-12.033, or from the Warminster Training Centre.

Diesel-power: DERA unveils its new bike

Picture: Steve Dock

Diesel bike is a world first



AN engine pioneered at the Royal Military School of Science, Shrivenham, has been used to power the world's first sophisticated, specially-designed diesel motorbike.

It, and a truck equipped with infra-red night-vision aids developed for fighter aircraft, were unveiled by the Defence Procurement Agency at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency's test site at Chertsey, Surrey, writes John Elliott.

Ten years of development went into a pre-production bike, reflecting the need for a single source of fuel on the battlefield. The prototype diesel engine is claimed to give better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

At the moment it is the only contender for a new general-purpose despatch bike for all three Services. An air-portable version for the Joint Rapid Reaction Force is also planned, as is a variant for the Royal Military Police.

The night-vision equipped truck is the product of military research into vehicles in combat situations where the use of light could reveal a position to the enemy.

Big impact: The Army has bought 13 compactors to repair bomb-damaged airfield runways. The hydraulic hammer, pictured above, is mounted to an armoured, heavy wheeled tractor new to the Army and greatly reduces repair times. It was developed by Ipswich-based BSP International Foundations in conjunction with the MoD. The compactors are being used by 39 Engineer Regiment and two specialised Territorial Army regiments.

Firing the Sako M92

Bairstow was based at the Aircraft and Weapons Systems Technical School at Jamsa in south-west Finland and at the FAF's academy for pilots at Koutava.

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In the field: The first Supacat Mk 3 all-terrain mobile platform (ATMP), right, has been delivered to 16 Air Assault Brigade at Colchester.

Built by Alvis in Telford, it is capable of moving equipment and weapons across the



Picture: Mike Gormley

harshest battlefield. The new-version Supacat, developed from tried-and-trusted earlier

models, comes complete with an innovative self-loading trailer. It can be parachuted into combat.

AFTER intensive trials, a revolutionary plastic tank developed by DERA and Vickers Defence Systems appears to have a future on

the battlefield. The Advanced Composite Armoured Vehicle Platform (ACAVP) demonstrator – featured in *Soldier* (March

2000) – negotiated the standard tests used to assess conventional armoured vehicles. More composite AFV demonstrators are planned.

Pictures worth a million words

Leading photographer taps into animal world thriving on military training areas

WHEN a renowned wildlife photographer expresses an interest in visiting MoD sites to view the flora and fauna, the resulting shots are guaranteed to be spectacular, writes Ray Routledge.

But even Heather Angel's magical talent couldn't encourage shy grey seals to pose during a visit to the Ballykinler Training Camp in Northern Ireland.

Although the seals proved elusive, her enthusiasm for working on MoD training areas, where wildlife is undisturbed for much of the time, is undiminished.

Sanctuary, the MoD's environmental magazine, is to use one of her pictures on its front cover.

Heather has taken remarkable photographs at Donna Nook, an RAF bombing range in Lincolnshire and is interested in visiting the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) to see what Alberta's rolling prairies have to offer. While on a trip to the Falklands, she snapped penguins and seals, and found time to give some entertaining talks at Mount Pleasant.

Heather discovered the world of photography almost by accident after gaining

a degree in marine ecology at Bristol University. "I was going on an expedition to Norway and asked my father for a camera to document what we were going to find," she recalled. "He gave me an old Exakta."

But her natural talent showed through and her days as a novice are far behind her. Today she



Professor: Heather Angel

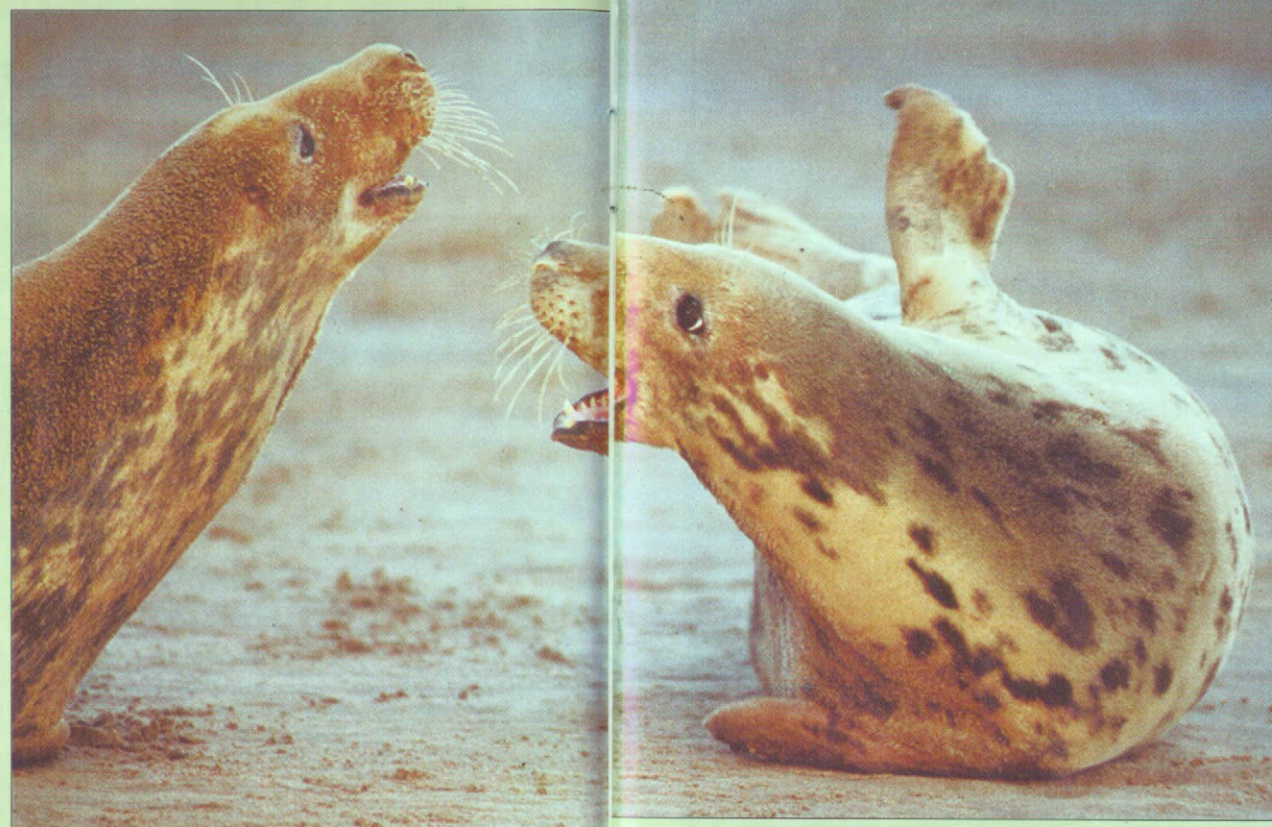
lectures on photography at Nottingham University, where she was the first UK wildlife photographer to be given a professor's chair. She is a former president of the Royal Photographic Society and published her first book describing the art

and technique of nature photography in 1972.

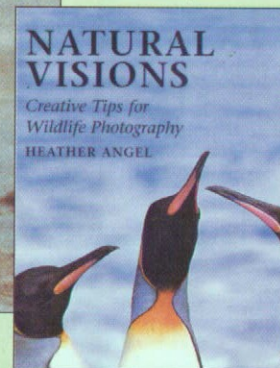
Her 47th and latest book, *Natural Visions* (Collins & Brown £17.99), is supported by an exhibition at the Gosport Gallery, Hampshire from June 8 to July 21. There are plans for it to go to the Bradford Design Exchange from

September 4 to the end of October. Heather has appeared many times on TV to give advice on photographing plants and animals and writes regular columns for photographic magazines.

Taking good pictures of wildlife is not



Jackass penguin, above; reluctant seals, main picture; book No 74, below



easy, she says, and she rarely relies on automatic light readings when using her Nikon and Hasselblad cameras.

"It requires thought, although sometimes there has to be spontaneity with a moving creature. You have to have the

courage of your convictions when taking photographs."

It's a technique that regularly produces stunning images for Heather... even of shy Ballykinler seals.

This is not Dreghorn



COMMANDING officer Col Nick Lipscombe, left, pauses for an underwater snapshot during an adventurous training expedition to Belize by members of Edinburgh-based 105th Regiment, RA (Volunteers).

Many of his Territorial Army soldiers, from Scotland and Northern Ireland, had never dived before and took their first instruction in the pool at Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh.

In Belize they were based on St George's Caye, home of the British Forces Adventure Training Centre. By the end of the trip eight members of the party had qualified as BSAC club divers, with four going on to sports diver category.

Left hand down a bit



a project called Bikes for Bosnia. An appeal produced more than 100 old bicycles from the military community in Germany. Poor driving standards, difficult conditions and badly-maintained vehicles have made the Balkans one of Europe's accident blackspots.

SSGT Andy Elkin, left, instructs nine-year-old Goran Maric in the finer points of signalling while riding his bike.

Andy's unit, the UK Combat Support Service Support Battalion in Kosovo, has been heavily involved in developing road safety awareness among local youngsters through

Hook, line and Swaziland

YOU should have seen the one that got away. WO1 Tim Crawshaw poses with a 22lb queenfish he hooked off the coast of Mozambique during an unexpected and unforgettable posting to Swaziland.

Tim, serving with 1 Signal Brigade at Rheindahlen, was asked to go to the African kingdom, where the Harare-based British Military Advisory and Training Team needed a senior NCO caterer to feed 40 students from all over Africa attending a three-month junior officers' command and staff course.

After taking over a kitchen in which nothing worked, he organised local supplies in Manzini, Swaziland's second city, acquired three cooks and cleaners and gave them a crash course in the finer points of British military catering.

The queenfish was caught during a weekend of marlin fishing off the coast of neighbouring Mozambique. Other highlights of the trip included a visit to Rorke's Drift and the Kruger National Park.



Manage your money



IN our first column on overcoming and avoiding debt, David Mapes, Assistant Director of the charity Credit Action, examines the worrying case of Cpl X.

Why Cpl X is sinking fast

CPL X owes £16,565 to eight creditors. Three credit cards total £6,500, two bank loans total £8,500, one store card has a balance of £565. He owes his dad £500 and has a £500 overdraft.

He is thinking about applying for a further bank loan to consolidate the balances on his cards and to repay his dad. He has consolidated credit card balances once before by taking out a loan. Money is tight each month as there is a growing level of repayments to creditors. Cpl X wonders if this situation will ever end.

What are the issues facing him? What can he do to get back in control?

Like many of us, Cpl X is living off "plastic". It's so easy and we're having fun. After all, we're entitled... we earn the money. The trouble is, debt seems to creep up.

It seems to grow each month. We get more than one credit card and juggle the spending. The juggling gets difficult and we take up a loan to consolidate the balances into one monthly payment. Only we don't look at the balance between what we earn and what we spend and so we start using the plastic again. We end up having to pay off the credit cards and the loan.

Then we start feeling resentful - seeing all of our pay going to credit cards and loans. (Why did "they" make it so easy for me to get into this state?) We may feel anxious, even depressed. (They'll think I'm a fool because I can't handle money. What if the CO finds out?)

A lot of feelings and fears. What can Cpl X do? Where can he get help?

In fact, there's a lot of free help around. If you are struggling and want to talk to someone in confidence, call the Credit Action helpline on 0800 591084.

They'll listen and help you work out what to do. They will send you a booklet and support you as you make decisions about your financial future. Credit Action, a charity promoting self-help in personal money matters, is working with the Army to provide a service to soldiers and their families.

Over the next few months we'll be looking at budgeting, saving, choosing a good credit deal and what to do if you're struggling with debt. We'll be demystifying what creditors can and cannot do if you can't afford to pay. We'll look at how to negotiate with creditors.

In the meantime, if you need to talk, call the helpline now on 0800 591084.

David Mapes will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. They will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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It's a cover-up: Sgt Garry Slater of Colchester Troop, 621 EOD Squadron RLC turns out in full protective equipment during the troop's media day at Goojerat Barracks, Colchester



Taking the lid off EOD



Me and my Wheelbarrow: SSgt Simon Rolls with a Mk8 remote-controlled vehicle used by 621 EOD Sqn personnel when approaching devices

BOMB disposal experts based at Colchester opened their doors so local newspapers and radio stations could take a look at the work they do... and the equipment they do it with.

Colchester Troop, 621 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron RLC, also

showed off its "museum" of grenades and mortars recovered in East Anglia over the past 30 years.

Special guest was David Hatton, first troop commander when the unit moved to Essex in 1968. He reckons the job is now a lot more technical than in his day.



Another in our occasional series

THE Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team has widened its scope to cover the Territorial Army. It has been reinforced by Lt Col Robert Sutcliffe, right, who previously commanded the Royal Yeomanry. Following a pilot TA tour of units, here are more answers to some of the most frequently-asked questions.



TAX Why are we taxed at 25 per cent on TA pay as if the TA were a second job?

ANSWER You aren't taxed at 25 per cent. TA regulations lay down that all TA soldiers should be taxed at the basic rate. This is because the Army does not have access to your tax code. The basic rate is currently 22 per cent tax: it was once 25 per cent, but that was some time ago.

If you are on very low earnings in your civilian employment (below £4,400 in most cases) you may be able to reclaim some of the tax deducted by the Army. If you feel this might be the case, contact your local tax office and get a tax return.

You will find their telephone number in the phone book under Inland Revenue. If you need assistance in filling in the form, your RAO will give you a bit of help.

Those on higher earnings in their civilian jobs might be into the 40 per cent tax bracket: they may owe more tax on their TA pay. Being honest chaps we are sure they all declare it to the Inland Revenue.

PENSIONS Why don't we get a pension? Other part-time employees get one and so does the US Army reserve, so what about us?

ANSWER Rightly or wrongly, members of the TA are classified as casual workers, not part-time employees. They therefore fall outside the legislation contained in the Government's Part-Time Workers' Directive brought out in July 2000.

There is no legal requirement for an employer to provide a pension, but full-time and part-time workers must be treated in the same way.

This subject is under constant review and the Pensions Department of the MoD is examining the possibility of setting up a stakeholder pension scheme which TA members could join. In this case the pension would be made up entirely of your contributions.



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So proud of his false smiles

When it comes to unusual jobs, Sgt Glen Ward's must top the list

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

EYES gaze back coldly from the line of shelves in the maxillofacial laboratory. Alongside them are ears, noses and even cheeks.

While most of us would find it an unsettling, macabre sight, the body parts represent for one soldier huge job satisfaction.

For starters they are not real, but prosthetics made by dental technician Sgt Glen Ward RADC. A soldier for eight years, he is one of three based at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford.

With Army sponsorship, Sgt Ward graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University last year with a degree in dental technology.

"It's quite normal for Army medical staff to work in the NHS," he explained. "Although we are out here on a bit of a limb [pun not intended], it is the best of both worlds."

"I am getting the knowledge and training that I want and the NHS is getting an extra pair of hands. It works well."

"Every prosthesis makes a difference to an individual somewhere. Patients can be distressed by their condition and it is nice to be able to produce something which, although it won't replace what was there before, allows them to feel a little more whole. It can change their persona."

He works closely with a surgeon, Lt Col Nigel Clark RADC.

Sgt Ward constructs models to enable him and Lt Col Clark to work out the surgical techniques required for an individual before the patient goes to the operating theatre.

"It is invaluable to have the technician in the operating theatre to put in his ten



Ear ear: Sgt Glen Ward gets to work in the laboratory

pennyworth," said Lt Col Clark. "Prosthesis are often multi-parted. Some can carry dentures combined with false cheekbones and skin, and there are devices that will carry bone-anchored hearing aids, for example."

One of the more unusual methods of attaching an artificial ear or cheek is by using magnets. These are made from titanium, a substance that the body does not reject.

Many of their patients are from the Services. They may require facial surgery as a result of injury from road traffic, horse or helicopter accidents, or from gunshot or shrapnel wounds.

The third soldier on site is SSgt Andy Newbon, who manages the front office.

"We are a small team but we have rewarding jobs," said Sgt Ward. "It's because we can make a positive difference to people's lives."

One of the more unusual methods of attaching an artificial ear is by using magnets

Now he's the story

In the latest of our series on what TA soldiers do when not in uniform, we look at a part-time regiment with a difference

WHAT sets The Bermuda Regiment apart above all else from Territorial Army units in the UK is that the bulk of its private soldiers are conscripts doing their National Service, writes Chris Horrocks.

After a review last year the unit is due to play an even bigger community role in helping its recruits complete their education as well as training them in vocational and general life skills.

It is inevitable that Bermuda's two major industries, tourism and financial services, are well represented among the unit's part-timers. But in a community which boasts the highest per capita income in the world (a police recruit starts on £34,000), conscripts and volunteers hold a wide range of "day jobs".

As a reporter for Bermuda's daily newspaper, *The Royal Gazette*, Pte Jarion Richardson, a Support Company medic on National Service, can find himself reporting on the activities of the unit in which he serves.

And because both occupations make unsocial demands on his time he admits that "mixing journalism and conscription can prove difficult because of my commitment to both".

It is a similar story for CSgt Gary White. Competing for his time with the regiment's 17-strong medical section is the 1,000 sq ft one-stop supermarket, houseware store and pharmacy he owns near the regiment's Warwick Camp base.

Training Company 2iC Capt Nick Mansell has a day job many only dream of – he is superintendent at Port Royal, one of ten glorious golf courses squeezed into Bermuda's 21 sq miles.

Last year, with Pte Robert Spurling, he competed in the World Team Amateur Golf Championships in Berlin, won by the US.

The list goes on. To take a few examples, Sgt Reginald Hewey, featured on the front cover, is a sales representative for Nestlé in Bermuda; armoury Sgt Maj Chauncey Durham is the night manager of a hotel; and MT Section Sgt Major Graham Benjamin owns a driving school.

Oh, and as a cheeky footnote, the regiment's Commander-in-Chief, Thorold Masefield, also has an interesting day job. He just happens to be the Governor of Bermuda.

● See Called to Arms, Pages 37-39



Pte Richardson



CSgt White



Capt Mansell

Taking the fight to the rebels

Light Infantry troops are helping to create a recce unit which will push Sierra Leone's Army behind rebel-held lines

Report: Capt Liam Webber
Pictures: Kevin Capon

DEEP in Sierra Leone's Forest Reserve mountain range a transformation is taking place that could shape the future of the troubled West African Republic.

Hand-picked soldiers from the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) are being schooled by British troops in covert operations that could hasten the end for the RUF rebel forces. The elite band goes under the title of the Force Recce Unit (FRU).

Soldiers joining the company-sized unit are identified during continuation training at Newton battle camp, and a quiet offer is made for them to join the FRU. So far no one has turned it down and no one has asked to leave the unit.

The FRU is configured along infantry company lines, with an HQ and three platoons, but the comparisons with regular SLA companies are tenuous. The unit is being trained as the eyes and ears of the SLA... but with a bite.

A potent mix of British-style covert recce and former-Soviet recce-by-force techniques are being adopted, giving the FRU the dual capability of "recce pull" and "recce push".

The force answers to the Sierra Leone Army chiefs and has already accepted tasks that have taken it all over the country and often deep into the heart of RUF-held territory.

A training framework has been developed by soldiers of the Royal Gurkha Rifles and The Light Infantry's recce platoons. Drawing on experience of operations worldwide, the British troops have been training the FRU's own instructors as well as running an intensive programme for the unit itself. Progress has been rapid as the FRU soldiers are keen to learn and quick on the uptake.

"Their motivation is impressive," said



Capt Martin Ormond LI, the British commander at the FRU headquarters. "They show real dedication in picking up the skills they need to operate as a long-range recce unit."

While SLA soldiers have to make do with basic kit, the FRU has access to the most advanced equipment available in theatre. Their individual weapon is the folding stock variant of the AK47 assault rifle. The compactness of the weapon makes it highly suitable for air-mobile or vehicle-borne operations, both of which fall within the remit of the FRU.

For communications the FRU is using the British-made Clansman system. CSgt Sean Baillie LI explained: "This kit is identical to our own, so in terms of comms, they're on a par with us."

The soldiers are being schooled in the art of sniping and will be deploying teams armed with the re-bored 7.62mm variant of the Lee Enfield rifle. "It's an old

weapon," said Pte Victor Commander of the FRU, "but it is very accurate and with the re-bore it has real killing power."

"A good sniper can decimate a unit," agreed CSgt Baillie. "By selectively destroying the command and communication structure a sniper can paralyse a unit and effectively stop it fighting."

"Used against ill-disciplined soldiers like the RUF, snipers quickly wear down morale. When you've watched your 'head-shed' taken down by an apparently invisible enemy from long range, you'd think twice about hanging around."

FRU snipers have spent long hours practising stalking and camouflage techniques. "In barren scrub like this, camouflage becomes critical," said Cpl Bruce Johnston LI. "There is very little natural cover so the soldier needs to be able to conceal himself using whatever he can find on the ground."

Light Infantry instructors have con-



ducted sniper-stalk ranges with the FRU. The aim is for the students to get as close as they can to their instructors without being seen. "I suppose it's hide-and-seek for grown-ups," grinned Cpl Johnston, "but it's a game you wouldn't want to lose."

Trained and equipped to spend long



periods in covert "stay-behind" observation posts, the FRU has the ability to co-ordinate air strikes from the Sierra Leone Air Force, whose principal attack aircraft is the Russian-built Hind gun-ship. Equipped with twin 30mm nose-mounted cannon and the four-barrel 12.7mm Yak B machine-gun, the helicopter has formidable firepower. It earned its fearsome reputation against the Mujahedin in Afghanistan and is now stalking RUF rebels up to the borders of Sierra Leone.

"Forward air controlling was one of the key aspects of Desert Storm in the Gulf," said Capt Ormond. "It is an advanced skill but once the FRU have mastered it they will be able to use it to deadly effect."

The FRU also has ambitions to become proficient in night-fighting. "We train them to operate primarily at night," confirmed Sgt Prem Prakesh Nembang of the Royal Gurkha Rifles.

"While parts of Sierra Leone are covered by jungle, there is definitely scope for the recce unit to patrol under cover of darkness. It will bring a new dimension to the war."

The FRU has already undertaken a series of night exercises, ambushes, close target recce and fighting patrols.

It is clear that as the training progresses FRU soldiers are gaining in competence and confidence. They are keen to test their newly-acquired skills in action.

Clockwise from far left - Cpl Sean Lennon instructs soldiers from the Force Reconnaissance Unit in patrolling skills; walking the walk - a PT session underway; observation skills are the subject of Cpl Sean Burge's lecture in an outdoor classroom; Cpl Burge works with a specially-chosen local soldier on the finer points of recce technique in the field

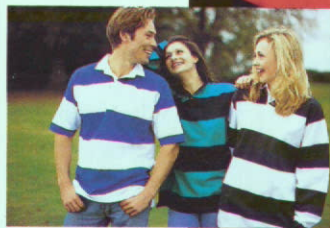
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Who wants to be a legionnaire?

For some of today's recruits, Army life can come as a bit of a culture shock. Soldiers 2,000 years ago faced similar problems

Report: Ray Routledge
Main picture: Mike Weston

WHEN the BBC rang an Army officer to ask about recruit fitness levels, little did he know he would become a TV star.

And what he also didn't know was that the recruits were not for today's Army, but destined to become Roman legionnaires.

Capt Andrew Rance, permanent staff officer with Cardiff-based 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron, part of Redditch-based 37 Signal Regiment, is a former member of the Army Physical Training Corps and the BBC wanted to establish the differences in training between Roman days and now.

He eventually found himself cast in a documentary as "Optio", 2iC of a small unit.

Most soldiers recall how they felt on their first day . . . nervous, perhaps intimidated, maybe a little frightened. But first-day nerves are nothing new, as the programme reveals.

Produced by Deborah Perkin and scheduled for broadcast on June 8 as part of the *Timewatch* series, *Roman Soldiers To Be* is a historical experiment in which nine men trained for a week to become soldiers from an empire which existed 2,000 years ago.

Their civilian clothes were removed, as were spectacles, watches – anything from the 21st century – to be replaced with body armour and garments woven from coarse cloth.

They were given money pouches, cloaks, and a stick with a sponge on the end – for sanitary purposes (don't ask).

"The human being hasn't changed, just the equipment," said Capt Rance.

The project followed guidelines laid down by Vegetius, a Roman writer, and was carried out under the eyes of Kate Gilliver, a specialist in Roman warfare and military training from Cardiff University.

Hundreds of volunteers were pared

down to just nine, aged 21 to 45, and included a carpenter, an information technology manager and a waiter.

"They knew nothing about what was to happen," said Capt Rance.

In the storyline the volunteers were based at a camp for recruits set up to support a major unit 15 miles away and would have to survive a week of Welsh winter under canvas.

Their first job was to set up the camp after completing a wet and freezing march through the mountains north of Abergavenny. On the agenda were Roman



Route march: TV's volunteer Roman squaddies tackle the Welsh mountains in the cold and wet

Roman: Capt Andrew Rance, right, aka "Optio"

skill-at-arms training with javelins and swords, ditch-digging, building ramparts and battering rams.

They then moved on to the tactics of pitched battles, siege warfare, shield formations and, of course, drill. It rained for five of the seven days.

"We had a 'Roman' quartermaster and food was cooked in the Roman way under the supervision of food historian Sally Grainger," said Capt Rance.

At the end of the week, the recruits had

to close down the camp, march six miles in armour and packs, and set up a new camp, digging and building all over again.

"It was a hard week and there was a remarkable change in them," said Capt Rance. "One even said he wanted to join the real Army."

"In many ways, life for soldiers hasn't changed much in 2,000 years."

"Nobody knew what it was going to be like. It was a fantastic experiment to be involved in."



Picture courtesy of the BBC

Master of the wind-up

Inventor, stunt man, circus performer, élite swimmer – Trevor Baylis has lived life to the full. And he even found the time for two years' service in the Army

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

HOW many of us can say we've had an idea that influenced a continent?

One former National Serviceman can. His brainwave has made him a household name, in Africa at least.

Trevor Baylis, a former Army physical training instructor, invented the clockwork radio which has helped inform and educate some of Africa's poorest people.

Yet for someone who has impacted on so many lives, he comes as something of a surprise. If you ever want to meet an amiable, laid-back, humorous, mischievous soul, he is your man.

From the home he designed and built (he refers to it in his book* as a place of "shambolic untidiness") on the banks of the Thames at Twickenham, he talked about his life and his Army career. If the twinkle in his eye is anything to go by, he clearly had some colourful tales to tell.

"I failed my 11-plus so went to a secondary modern school, which in those days meant you were on the voyage of the damned," he recalled.

"At 15 I was in the B stream, but I had two saving graces: I liked metalwork – my father had taught me to use a lathe when I was youngster – and I was swimming backstroke for Great Britain.

"The benefit of that was that the headmaster started to treat me as his blue-eyed boy."

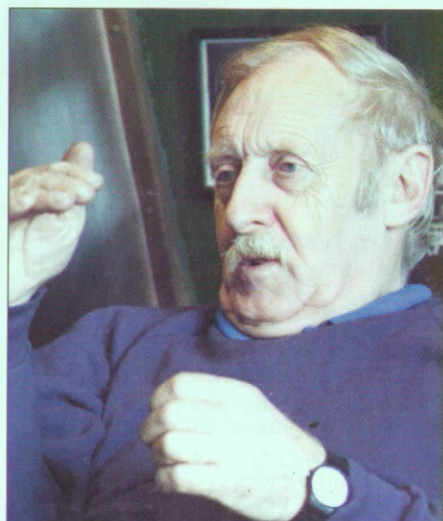
After narrowly failing to be awarded a place in Britain's 1956 Melbourne Olympic team, Trevor went to work in a soil mechanics laboratory while studying mechanical and structural engineering at a technical college.

Then came National Service.

"I was one of the last to go. It was November 5, 1959. I went for my physical in Southall and was lined up naked with about 30 other mother's sons.

"This bloke who looked as if he worked behind the bacon counter at Sainsbury's came up to me with a spatula in his hand. While examining one part of my body he talked about another. It was bizarre. He lifted my testicles and asked me to cough, stuck the spatula up my backside and asked if I suffered from headaches.

"Then he examined my mouth and asked me: 'Do you suffer from piles?' I



Clockwork man: Trevor Baylis, inventor of the wind-up radio, recalls his Army days

'The key to success is to risk thinking unconventional thoughts. Convention is the enemy of progress. As long as you've got more perception than the average wrapped loaf, you could invent something.'

replied: 'Can you see them from there, Sir?' He passed me A1." After basic training with the Royal Sussex Regiment in Chichester, he was assigned to the Intelligence Corps.

"They thought my politics were somewhere left of Karl Marx, so they made me an assistant PTI instead and packed me off to Shorncliffe and then Queen's Barracks at Aldershot," he recalled.

He later rejoined the Royal Sussex Regiment, by now based at Palace Barracks in Northern Ireland, where he completed the rest of his service. He describes it as "one long Outward Bound course".

"I had a super time and did a lot of caving with 2nd Lt Tom Enfield, now the 8th Earl of Strafford, and a mate, Paddy Lock.

"We would go off down to Fermanagh where they had the most amazing caves. We did the underground survey of the Marble Arch System there. I loved it."

As well as looking after adventurous training he also helped in the workshops.

"I worked for Lt Col Pip Newton [the late Col Newton went on to become secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, a leading light in the campaign for a Suez Medal, and a book reviewer for *Soldier*], a wonderful man.

"But I must say I conned him. We were opening a hobby shop which was poorly equipped. Hidden among hundreds of nails and washers, there were orders for lathes, circular saws and big and expensive bits of kit. Col Pip signed it off, oblivious of the expense.

"It resulted in six lorry-loads of equipment turning up."

One visitor to the unit was John Profumo, the War Minister at the time.

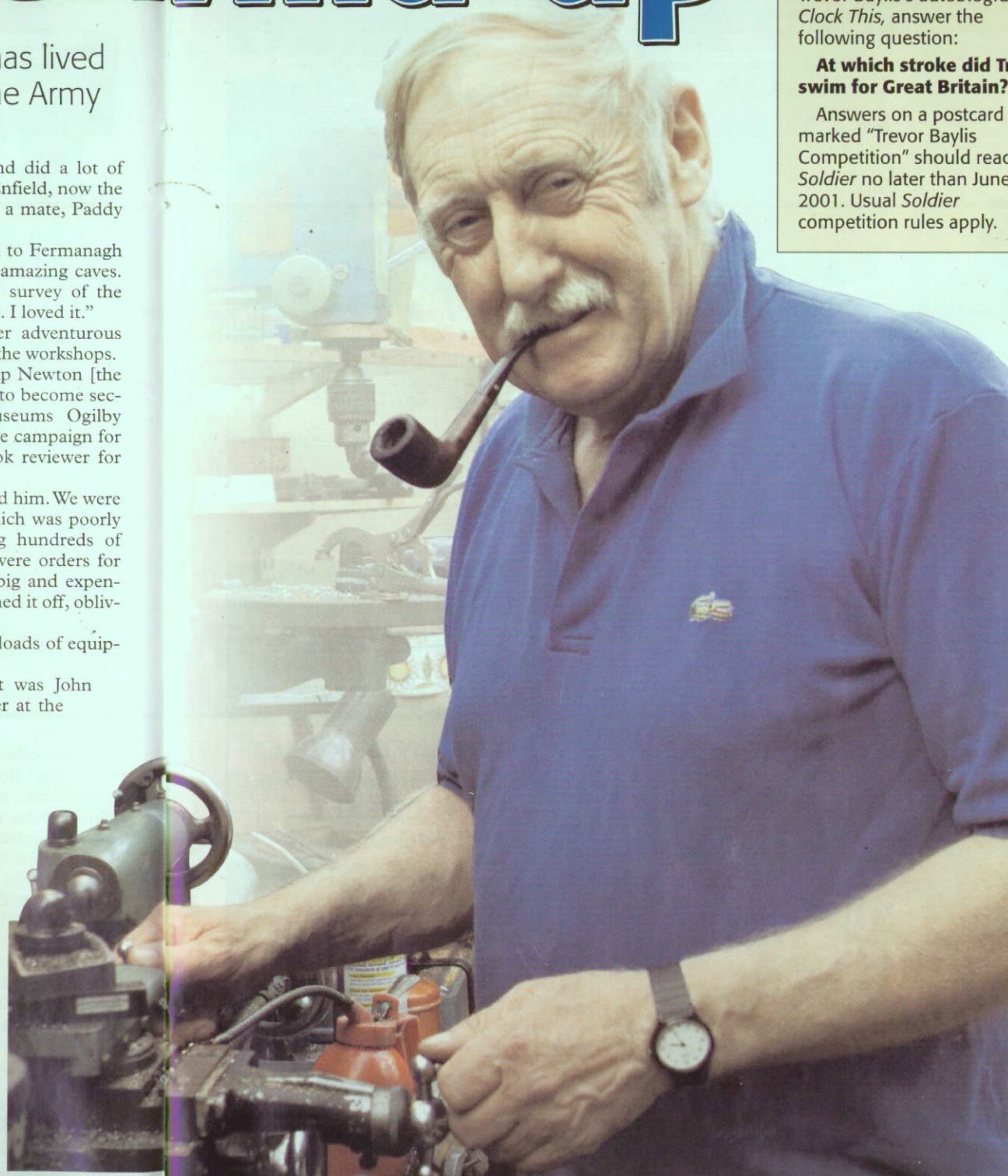
"We had built a couple of go-karts in the hobby shop and the CO wanted a display on the square, much to the RSM's disgust.

"I pulled up and invited Mr Profumo to drive the kart, which meant the CO had to have a go, too.

"Forgive me, but I have forgotten who is running this regiment", said Col Pip the following day."

When he left the Army, Trevor worked as a swimming-pool technical salesman, demonstrating the goods at the Ideal Home Exhibition and at shows in Birmingham. The daredevil in him lured him to become a stunt man and later an escape artist with the Berlin Circus, before starting his own swimming-pool business.

In the 1980s he started designing and



Workshop man: Trevor among the machinery at Twickenham where his dreams became reality and brought hope to millions

making aids for the disabled, such as one-handed jar openers.

Then in 1991 he watched a TV programme that was to change his life.

"I saw the image of a youngster covered in flies and dying of AIDS while his par-

ents were being thrown into open graves," he said.

The voice-over said such destitution could be ended by the power of information and education.

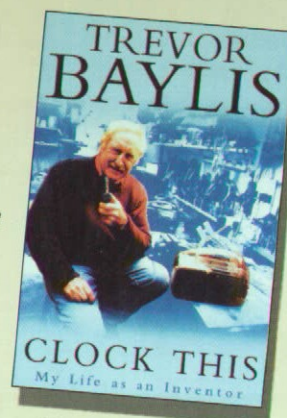
"But in the bush, where batteries cost a

Win the book

To give yourself a chance of winning a signed copy of Trevor Baylis's autobiography *Clock This*, answer the following question:

At which stroke did Trevor swim for Great Britain?

Answers on a postcard marked "Trevor Baylis Competition" should reach *Soldier* no later than June 29, 2001. Usual *Soldier* competition rules apply.



month's wages, how could they listen to the radio to give them the information they needed?

"I had the idea of the clockwork radio. I went to my workshop and started on the design with a dynamo and messing around with springs."

It worked and Trevor took his revolutionary radio to every British company he could think of, as well as the Design Council. They turned him down flat.

"They all thought I was some kind of a fruit-cake. Then I was offered a chance to go on *Tomorrow's World* and the idea took off."

Backers came in – and now disabled people in Cape Town make 3½ million clockwork radios and torches a year. The sets, many of which are also solar-powered, can be found all over Africa.

Just 25 seconds of gentle winding gives an hour of play time, introducing to countless impoverished and isolated communities a whole world of entertainment, news and life-changing information.

Not surprisingly, the awards have flooded in. Trevor is an honorary doctor many times over, he has toured the world's lecture circuit, been named Pipe Smoker of the Year (and Oldie of the Year), had a regular slot on Channel 4's *Big Breakfast* show and been the subject of *This Is Your Life*.

Trevor recalls his Army days with a smile.

"My time was well spent," he said. "I can recount those stories from 40 years ago so vividly because they were so enjoyable."

**Clock This* by Trevor Baylis is published by Headline in paperback, price £12.99.

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- TRAINING TOPS/TROUSERS

Called to arms

Conscription in a British regiment? It's not as far-fetched as it sounds

Report: Chris Horrocks
Pictures: Mike Weston

IMAGINE *The Sun* asking its readers whether the British Army should be scrapped.

In a poll conducted earlier this year, the *Bermuda Sun* bluntly asked its public: *Should The Bermuda Regiment be abolished?*

Knowing how much the regiment has contributed to this British territory in its ceremonial, internal security and disaster relief roles, commanding officer Lt Col David Gibbons was pleased when he learnt that 86.5 per cent of those polled had answered "No".

But he was not altogether surprised by a secondary statistic which showed that those shouting loudest for abolition were the 18-25s.

Their lack of enthusiasm can probably be explained in one word: CONSCRIPTION.

The Bermuda Regiment is the only "British" military unit which still has national service. In a Premium Bond-style procedure with a difference – some are unhappy when their numbers come up – it finds most of its annual intake by electronic random selection of 18-plus males. (Women, exempt from the call-up, can volunteer – currently 18 are serving.)

The colony's Governor, representing the Queen, is Commander-in-Chief of the regiment and Princess Margaret is its Colonel-in-Chief. Conscripts apart, the unit's structure and training are broadly based on a TA infantry battalion.

Bermuda's 63,000 residents, who enjoy one of the most pleasant climates in the world – both weather-wise and economically – are friendly, courteous people, proud to tell you that "everyone knows everyone else". Most young people, in or out of uniform, would probably prefer to greet you with a high-five than a military salute.

Some reserve conscripts are able to postpone their three-year draft for valid reasons, such as their further education. Others express a reluc-

● Turn to Page 38



No surprise:
Lt Col David
Gibbons, CO



Sights and sounds:
With the parade-ground words of Sgt Gavaska Lodge (inset) ringing in his ears, Cpl Collingwood Bean darts for cover in a Bermuda Regiment field training exercise. Pte Wayne Hill (left) lies low and keeps his eyes skinned

Called to arms

● From Page 37

tance to serve by becoming "absentees" – fugitives from the system – who somehow manage to hide away in the 21 enchanting square miles of this coral archipelago.

Another Bermuda newspaper, the *Royal Gazette*, told last autumn of "1,000 missing recruits". At the time of the *Sun* poll in February, Defence chief Larry Burchall said that of 377 selected last year, 92 had been summonsed for failing to make contact with the authorities.

During a major exercise a visiting *Soldier* team saw how the unit dealt with absentees "pulled in" by regimental police. Punitive measures involved haircuts, handcuffs, a leg-brace and orange shirts bearing an uncompromising slogan: PRISONER.

For every defaulter, however, there are many converts to military life. Some reluctant recruits find they enjoy it so much that they go on to join the full-time staff of 26. These officers, warrant officers and SNCOs are all volunteers who have stayed on beyond their three years.

When Sgt Rupert Lambert, 27, received his pink registration slip he signed it by mistake. But he was a model recruit, joined the NCO cadre and is now full-time.

"As a civilian I used to argue with my family about the benefits of having an army," he said. "But the regiment brings major advantages to Bermuda... ceremonial parades, disaster relief like Hurricane Emily in 1987, internal security... what would they do without us?"

PSI colleague Sgt Gavin Rayner agreed. "The regiment has changed many men's lives in a positive direction. Conscripts go back to the community all the better for their experience.

"Like any army in the world you make permanent friends. Here, people from all walks of life – rich, poor, black, white, it doesn't matter – come in and stay mates for the rest of their lives."

Maj Rupert Lucas, currently on secondment from The Royal Anglian Regiment with WO2 Philip Tilley through a long-standing affiliation to the Bermuda unit, said: "Many young men come to the recruit camp with a degree of trepidation. Once they get here, that all changes.

"It's the one place in Bermuda where people of all colours and all backgrounds



The future is orange: Sgt Craig Brown addresses an absentee "pulled in" by the regimental police

can come together with no class system, no weight being given to any particular shade or colour. Everyone is treated exactly the same."

Lt Col Gibbons said that despite the welcome opinion-poll endorsement, he acknowledged some young recruits were initially negative about Army service.

"But when you consider the thousands of individuals who have come through the regiment who would be represented in polls such as that, it is a clear indication that there is strong public support for the institution and for the values that we bring to the table for Bermudians."

However, changes recommended by a British Army-led review last year may make regimental life more appealing to the young. Proposals included offering more instruction in transferable vocational skills, shifting the focus away from military training towards those of a crisis response unit geared to dealing with natural and man-made disasters – and cutting national service to two years.

Towers of strength: With part of Bermuda's historic fortifications in the background, Maj Rupert Lucas, R Anglian, left, reports back to HQ at the end of the exercise. With him are Capt William White, Bermuda Regiment adjutant, centre, and WO2 Philip Tilley, also on secondment from the Royal Anglians. The Martello Tower was built by Maj Thomas Blanshard of the British Army in 1823 to defend a vital shipping channel



Coasting home: Boat Section crew CSgt Jeff Patterson, Sgt Neville Jones and Sgt Gavin Rayner return to calmer waters after an exercise mission

Rapid raiders rule waves

Boat troop looks forward to enhanced role patrolling seas around Bermuda



WHEN the Bermuda Regiment exercised this spring its 21-vehicle olive-green fleet was beefed-up by colourful single-deckers from the tourist islands' public transport system.

As soldiers disregarded the sign asking them to have the exact fare ready, one wag remarked: "We must be the only army in the world that goes to war in pink buses."

But let there be no mistake: the regiment means business. For example, it has the capability to take to the sea at high speed – as its skilful boat troop proved when the *Soldier* team joined a coastal mission.

Equipped with a 24ft rigid-hull inflatable, two 19ft rigid raiders and two 17ft Dorys, the troop's place in this maritime community has become ever more crucial since the British and American military bases closed in the mid-1990s.

The review of the regiment conducted last year under Brig Simon Young of the



Coming up fast on the rails: Bermuda Regiment soldiers launch an exercise assault on an enemy position

UK Ministry of Defence, assisted by Maj Tim House, D and D, proposed an expansion of the troop.

Some Bermudians would like to see its responsibility of assisting the civil authorities enhanced to a full-time search-and-

A force to be reckoned with

SIX times since it was formed from two earlier units, The Bermuda Regiment has been "embodied", or mobilised, by the Governor to help keep law and order or to deal with the effects of hurricanes.

In 1965, its first year, it was called out at the time of a violent labour dispute.

In 1968 and 1977 it supported the police during civil disturbances. In each case troops from Britain were flown in to help restore order, but not in 1981 when the regiment helped deal with further civil unrest, nor indeed since.

In the past 15 years the regiment has earned huge respect for its relief work in the aftermath of hurricanes, particularly when Emily and Gert hit Bermuda in 1987 and 1999, but also when its soldiers helped Montserrat the previous year, Jamaica in 1988 and the British Virgin Islands in 1989.



Governor Thorold Masefield, who as Commander-in-Chief has the power to call out the regiment in an emergency

rescue and coastguard role. On the other hand, since the review the total regimental establishment has been cut, as recommended, by 100, achieved by reducing the rifle companies from two to one.

The armoury contains just two SA80s. Its main weapons are American Ruger Mini-14 rifles and Israeli Uzi sub-machine guns.

It also has Beretta pistols, Federal Riot Guns and two proudly maintained 25-pounder artillery pieces used to fire salutes on ceremonial occasions such as the Queen's Birthday Parade.

Military training includes an annual camp with the US Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina or the Jamaica Defence Force around Port Antonio, with Canada a third option. Officers and NCOs also attend Regular Army courses in the UK and are hoping to make a future contribution to international peace-keeping operations.

The regiment prepares young Bermudians for national service by running a school cadet programme for 12-to-16s.

● See also Diary, Page 63

Welcome to the Rocket Isles

Isolated Hebridean cluster is rapidly turning into more than just a firing range for missiles

LATER this summer a £20 million upgrade to one of Britain's more remote defence outstations should be completed. It will allow the missile range spread over the Hebrides, 50 miles off the West Coast of Scotland, to move with the times.

No longer simply a military firing range, the establishment is becoming a test and evaluation site on which weapon systems can be assessed by sophisticated instruments.

An aspiration for the range, which is run by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), is to take on more air-to-air work. Part of the upgrade is to make the range ready for Eurofighter.

Prime user of the inner range is the MoD in the form of Army and Royal Air Force batteries firing Rapier missiles. A large stock of Rapiers (worth more than £40 million) is held there to ensure visiting gunners get their missiles in the best possible condition.

DERA Range Hebrides, once manned by 350 military personnel, is now home to a workforce of 280, only a handful of whom are from the Services. Its remote and challenging location means it is relatively free of overflying aircraft and passing ships.

Spread across four islands (North and South Uist, Benbecula and St Kilda), the range extends 250km to the west. It is 140km at its widest point.

A visit by *Soldier* coincided with a Rapier firing period by gunners on the gunnery careers course. Inclement weather curtailed their opportunities, but they managed to send six missiles down the range before the conditions closed in again.

Here's a simple guide to the islands:

North Uist is home to one of the tracking radar systems, which allows controllers to "see" outside the range boundary and detect aircraft in danger of intruding into the danger area.

Benbecula is the domestic heart of the operation. Range HQ, accommodation (for up to 560 people), medical and transport facilities are based there. C-130 Hercules land there.

South Uist houses the range head – from where missiles are launched – and the control building from where range activity is controlled.

St Kilda provides the instrumentation and telemetry platform. But, because the sea surveillance radar on St Kilda cannot "look" over the curvature of the earth, Nimrod aircraft are used to ensure ships are outside the boundaries. St Kilda is one of five world heritage sites.

The Uists are home to one of the largest



Safety first: WO2 (MG) Lester Pearson, in the range control building, is deputy range controller. He – or the controller – has to give the green light for every firing. He can terminate a launch or even destroy a missile in flight

breeding populations of dunlin, a wader under threat from hedgehogs released on the island in 1974. With no predators to speak of (or roads) the spiky intruders multiplied rapidly and now threaten the eggs – and existence – of the ground-nesting dunlin. Hungry 'hogs also snack on redshank and lapwing eggs.

Trials to save the dunlin include fencing off the nesting sites and shipping the invaders back to the mainland, where indigenous populations have been decimated by winter floods. So important is the issue that the Western Isles have invested £2 million in hedgehog repatriation.

Whoosh: A Rapier sets off down the range



In you go: SSgt Daz Hall loads a drill missile, above

Altogether now: Sgt Jason Hart, SSgt Mark Cottrill and SSgt Steve McCusker, left, carry out confidence checks on the radar tracker system

Background picture: The control building at DERA Range Hebrides

Who's who on the islands

MAJ Graham Chubb RLC is the explosives safety manager. An ammunition technical officer (ATO) by trade, he is responsible to the range manager for all aspects of explosives safety on the islands.

He looks after the receipt and storage of MoD missiles, monitors them and prepares pyrotechnics for missiles to be fired at. Maj Chubb also has to clear the beaches of missile debris (his other hat is that of conservation officer).

Another role he performs is that of EOD officer for the Western Isles – including Lewis and Harris if he can get there quicker than someone from the mainland.

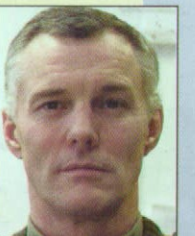


Maj Graham Chubb

MAJ Keith Swinton RA provides a link between the Benbecula range and its customers. Described as the programmes manager, he assesses what clients (uniformed or otherwise) want, books space on the range and checks that the requirements can be met.

He describes the job as a "significant departure" from serving in a unit or Service environment. "Because of the location, it puts a lot of people off, but the jobs that the military do here are extremely important."

"There are so many different things going on, so it's not just another range. We are getting into an area involving all sorts of air-launch weapon systems and some ground-based systems. The Royal Navy is showing an interest in the range and it is a fascinating area to be in." Maj Swinton also points out that Benbecula is the only place units can fire Rapier in a safe and assessed facility.



Maj Keith Swinton

DURING the launch and flight of a Rapier down the range **WO2 (ACQMS) Kevin Nixon** extracts signals in the safety assessment facility to confirm the missile's behaviour. This is reproduced in the form of an electronic trace, which tells him if there have been any anomalies during the flight.

"You must have the courage of your convictions," he said, "especially when you are telling someone that their equipment is at fault."

When time permits, WO2 Nixon goes fishing, plays golf, bikes round the island or keeps up his personal fitness.

Frankie goes to Twickenham

Sapper turns on the style but Royal Navy sink Army's troops

IT'S very hard being invited to dine at the high table of Twickenham, only to be force-fed an ample sufficiency of naval humble pie, writes **Roger Thompson**.

The truth is that at this year's Willis Trophy match the Royal Navy, the thinking man's permanent underdogs, played some exceptional rugby to defeat the Army 31-20.

From the first whistle it was clear that the Navy were hungry. Their massive pack was leaner and fitter than at any time in the last five years and their big guns started in the usual robust manner.

Initially an unflustered Army side tackled hard and played the game expansively. Indeed, Cpl Frankie Green (RE) brought the 35,000 crowd to its feet with a searing 80-metre dash that left even England international Musn Spencer Brown (Bristol Careers) flat-footed.

Only a desperate tackle prevented a dra-

matic opening score but it was sufficiently mouth-watering to move the better photographers down to the Navy line.

Having gained a strong start line, the Army launched further attacks outside, with new cap Cpl Andy Evans (RLC) providing a decoy for Capt Howard Graham (AGC) to muscle past would-be tacklers and go in under the posts.

Shortly after, Green again mesmerised the defence and this time sprinted home unscathed. It was exhilarating Army rugby and even now it is hard to comprehend how the same team could, in the same period, fluff its lines so badly in defence.

The Navy were allowed, even guided towards, 17 gratuitous points. Nevertheless, five minutes from time, with the Army trailing 20-26, an eminent member of the Army Rugby Union could be heard offering odds on an Army victory.

Oblivious to such taunts the Navy stuck to the task and Brown finished a fine move by sprinting over on the left.

That sealed victory and, in truth, any other result would have been a travesty. Too many good Army players were off the

boil, too many simple mistakes led to a naval advantage and no one had the foresight to change a failing game plan.

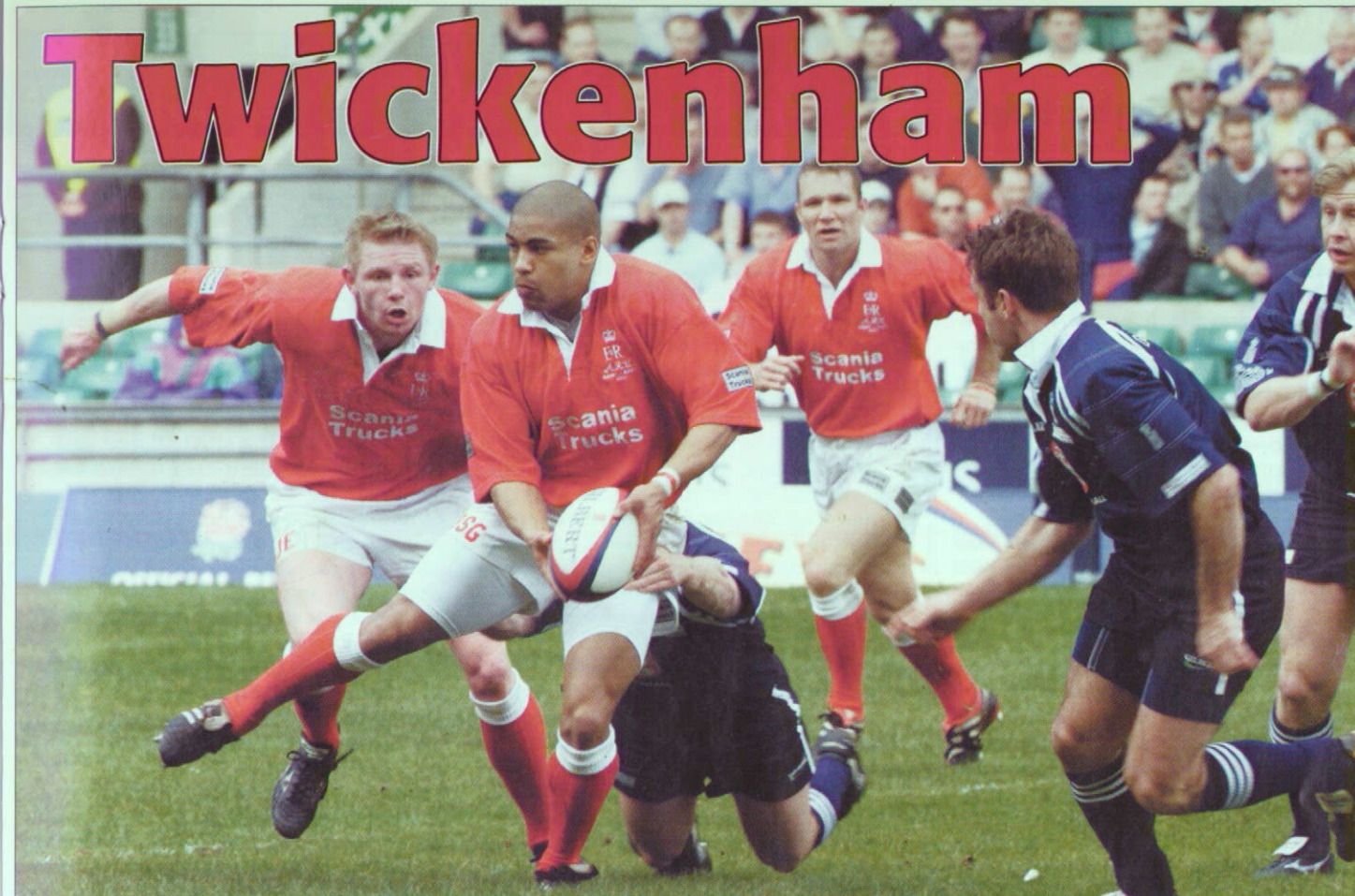
Consequently, the Navy climbed the steps to lift the Willis Trophy and with it the Inter-Services championship for the first time in five years.

One poor game does not make a bad team but it was clear that the Army's approach was far too casual. Where were Scotland's Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWRR), England's 2nd Lt Josh Lewsey (RA), Gnr Andy Dawling (7 (Para) RHA) and Rfn Kite Bavadra (RS)? There is a story to each but they should have been at Twickenham.

The Navy produced the best team they could and, on the day, the better team won. Maybe now is not a time for myopic recrimination, but the Army has a year to make good. It is time to backload, regroup and, in the best traditions of the British Army, rise gloriously from the ashes of its own making.

◆ Prior to the big match, England Students U21s beat the Combined Services U21s 36-28.

◆ The Army veterans beat the Navy veterans 36-10 at Kneller Hall.



Run of the green: Army winger Cpl Frankie Green (RE) in action during the Army-Navy match for the Willis Trophy at Twickenham

Picture: Graeme Main

Gunners repeat at Larkhill

STRONG favourites 7 (Para) RHA overcame 1 RRW by 18-12 to win the Thames Water-sponsored major units Challenge Cup final at Larkhill.

The teams' contrasting styles produced a fiercely-contested and bruising encounter which either side could have gone on to win.

The game, played in front of a large crowd, began well for the gunners, who took advantage of a nervous Welsh start by kicking two penalties in quick succession.

But gallantly led by LCpl Kevin Maddox and LCpl Dean Cunvin, the Welsh fought back. They not only stemmed the onslaught but cheekily started a series of counter-attacks with long sniping runs down each flank.

Suddenly it was the gunners who had to tackle back resolutely in numbers, with Welsh No 8 Pte Denny Delaitama producing thrust after thrust from set pieces.

With former Army fly-half, coach and now RSM Steve Commander

offering decibels of advice from the touchline, the hard core of Army players in the gunners' pack established an advantage sufficient for Bdr Ian Thompson to score an early try.

Thereafter the good ball which was won was far too frequently wasted. Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones – the one thoroughbred on show – disappointed and was more of a decoy than a threat, while Fijian Gnr Seff Tagavagatini, pictured left, made a number of flank-turning runs down the left wing, once to score.

In the middle phases of the match with all to play for, it was the flamboyant Welsh who lifted the crowd. Both Maddox and Cunvin were rewarded with excellent tries – Maddox converting his own score. Coming off the back of a tour in Bosnia, a German winter and fewer first-class rugby opportunities, this was a fine Welsh team performance and most present appreciated their brand of vigorous, spontaneous rugby. However, in the

end experience told and despite not firing on all cylinders, the gunners still had just enough forward power for fly-half Gnr Derek Jang to score the winner.

Disappointed after coming so close in their first final for 16 years, RRW's team captain, W02 Dean Freeman, said: "Many outsiders expected the RHA to give us a stuffing here and, in the end, we should have beaten them."

"However, we have a young side and there is a real feeling within the squad that we will go one better next year."

◆ In the minor units final, 29 Regiment RLC retained the Challenge Cup by beating 42 Survey Group 22-7.

Despite being a man down for half the match, the movers and shakers from South Cerney were too strong for a sapper side which failed to ignite.

Even a farewell appearance from Maj Julian Brammer, Barbarian by club and inclination, failed to stem the loggies' hard-hitting team performance.

IN OFF THE POST ...

Not quite the ticket

LIKE many others, I made the annual pilgrimage to the Army-Navy rugby fixture at Twickenham. In recent years, supporters have had to put up with the changes to bar arrangements – in particular the uncertainty of location of dedicated corps facilities. This year the arrangements reached farcical levels.

The lack of information and total disregard for supporters with the imposition of restricted entry to "ticket holders" ruined the important social aspect of the fixture.

The Army-Navy match is almost an aside to what has become the social event of the year for serving and former members of the Services – remove this and the fixture will fall into decline as a spectator event.

Many individuals who travelled great distances at significant expense were angered and disappointed at the organisers who essentially sold tickets under false pretences.

It may be argued that the ticket is to watch a rugby match. However, the fixture is more than that and, hopefully, will remain so.

From the variety of glossy flyers and other adverts, it would appear that the match is a lucrative fixture, but remember

who provides the income and sustains the event. – **Terry Anderson, Ashford House.**

▲ Mr Anderson makes, among other things, a fair point. In recent years Twickenham has been restructured internally while the Army contingent of supporters has risen from 1,200 to over 10,000. Also non-licensed trading in alcohol in the car park tents has been stopped by the local borough council. Hence all the changes. The bars which were all assigned for Army use, and have a maximum capacity for health and safety reasons, were full.

Some corps did use the suggested "one-out, one-in" formula (or hot-bedding) but there was still a large number of disappointed supporters.

More sophisticated schemes are unlikely to work any better and we must somehow attempt to increase the overall capacity for the social side of the match. The problem will be placed squarely before the 2002 match committee in the near future. – **Roger Thompson, secretary, Army Rugby Union.**



Picture: Steve Dock

SHORTS

Shooters bang on target

HOT shot Cpl Robert Doak (R Irish) won the air pistol competition at the Army target pistol championships with a record score of 575.

Doak, who beat the record he set last year by seven points, fired ten consecutive maximum-score shots on route to the silverware.

But Doak was denied the title of Army target pistol champion by the current Army service pistol champion, CSgt Nigel Hodgson (QLR).

Hodgson picked up the overall title after winning the centre-fire championship with a score of 519 and finishing both competitions with an aggregate score of 1,064 – 15 points ahead of Doak.

LCpl Willy Kennedy (R Irish) finished third with an aggregate score of 1,045.

All hands on deck

MORE than 35 sailing instructors from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force took part in a course for top British instructors at the Army Sailing School in Netley, Hampshire. The annual course is only open to the crème de la crème of sailing instructors and those recommended for further advancement by top coaches within the Royal Yachting Association.

As well as proving their own sailing abilities, candidates on the week-long course had to demonstrate their organisational and administrative skills, and show that they could offer constructive criticism and support to their students and fellow instructors.

Cpl Paul Pain (RLC) said: "I was pleased to get on this course – it has been my ambition for a long time."

Playing fore charity

FOUR members of the Training Development Team (RA) will attempt to complete four rounds of golf, at four different locations around Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, on June 28.

The sponsored golf challenge is in aid of Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood (CLIC).

Anyone wishing to make a donation can send cheques made payable to Central Bank HQRA to WO2 M J Harvey, TDTRA, HQ DRA, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 8QT.

King of the court

MOST coaches would be content with winning a league and cup double but not WO2 Nick Johnson (APTC), writes Andy Simms.

Despite guiding the Army basketball team – nicknamed the Warriors – to both Inter-Services glory and the Wessex League championship this season, the Army Basketball Association's head coach insists that his players have more to offer.

"We have not reached our full potential by any means – we are still under-achieving," he told *Soldier*.

Whether over-critical or just ambitious, Johnson's coaching prowess has earned him many plaudits – not least from the England set-up.

After three seasons of pacing the sidelines for the Army, the straight-talking physical training instructor has been invited to assist Thames Valley Tigers' boss Paul James in training the England under-21 squad this summer.

Although the chance to work with some of England's most promising players will provide a welcome

addition to his sporting CV, Johnson is adamant that his appetite for the Army job remains as fervent as ever.

A victim of his own success, expectations of winning more silverware next season are high – with a successful defence of the Inter-Services championships top of the wish list.

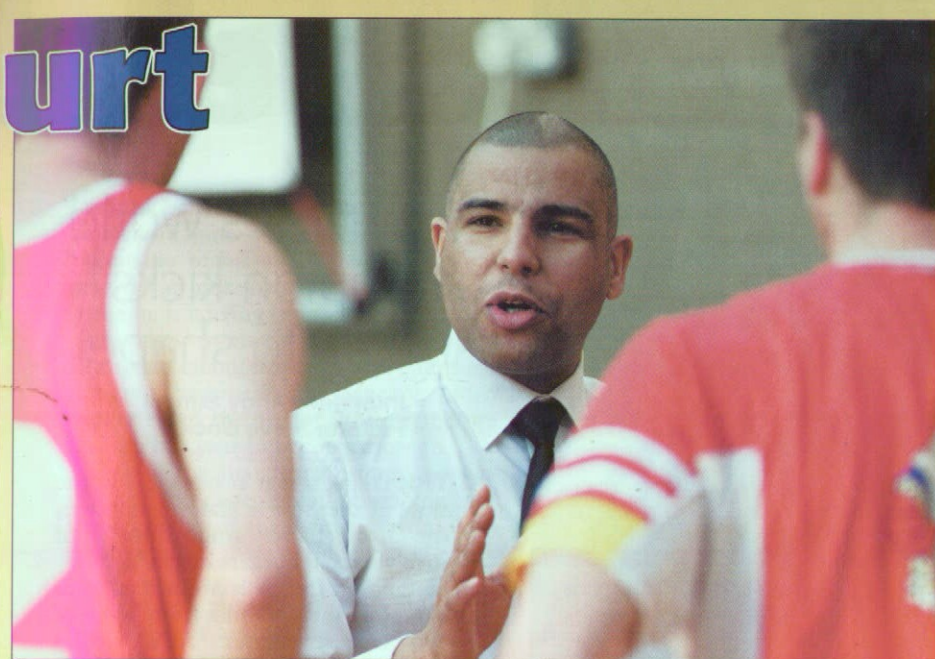
"Beating the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy is so important because whatever we do in other competitions our season is judged on these two games," he said.

"If you lose them the season is deemed a failure, win them and everything is fine."

But Johnson concedes that the pressure of getting things right on the court is far outweighed by the job of getting the best team on to it.

"The main frustration of this job is getting players off work," he explained.

"I've got the talent there to achieve a lot more but the problem is having team members who are consistently available to play. Selec-



Team talk: Army coach WO2 Nick Johnson (APTC) briefs his Warriors Picture: Graeme Main

tion problems mean that playing in a professional league is an unattainable dream.

"It's an impossibility but that is where I would like us to be because unless you are performing on a national level you just don't get recognised. Inter-Service competi-

tions do not mean a lot to the civilian world.

"If we were given a similar set-up to the Army boxing squad, where players were able to train from September through to May, then these guys would be capable of playing up there in the first division."



Air raid: Goalkeeper Sgt Jo Walton (3 Div HQ) thwarts an RAF Innsworth attack Picture: Steve Dock

Undisputed champions

REIGNING Army hockey champions 42 Survey Group RE and 3 Div HQ took on the best of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at the Inter-Services inter-unit tournament in Aldershot.

As last year's winners, 42 Survey Group wasted no time in re-staking their claim for the silverware – scoring ten unanswered goals against an under-strength RAF Wyton side.

The sappers cemented their standing as Inter-Service champions by beating a well-drilled HMS Drake side 1-0.

In the women's event 3 Div HQ also began the tournament in devastating form, thumping RN Air Station Culdrose 9-1.

Unfortunately, dreams of an Army double evaporated when the women conceded two very soft goals against RAF Innsworth and were eventually beaten 3-2.

Infantry's hot-shots

CUP victories do not come much more dramatic than the Infantry hockey team's route to the inter-corps championship trophy at Aldershot.

Having finished top of their qualifying group without losing a single match the Infantry entered the knock-out stage of the competition as firm favourites.

But standing in their way of a place in the final was a semi-final clash with AMS, who boasted two full internationals in Capt Ivan Stein (Ireland) and Olympian Capt Guy Fordham (Great Britain/England).

With the Infantry fielding Ireland's Lt Jon Evernett (LI) and Scotland's Lt Richard Forsyth (LI), the semi-final was suitably hard-fought and produced a flurry of yellow cards.

But it was the Infantry team – featuring several Army and Combined Services players – that proved the more resourceful and they fully deserved to win the clash of the titans 4-1.

The final against REME was a suitably tense encounter, with the score remaining tied at one apiece at the end of normal and extra time.

It soon became clear that the REME

side had not accounted for this eventuality. In the tradition of the England football team, the engineers only managed to convert their first penalty with Rfn Dan Osborne (RGR) the hero between the Infantry goalposts.

The Infantry were not so forgiving in front of goal and scored their first three penalties to win the shoot-out 3-1.

◆ In the semi-finals of the women's competition the defending champions, R Signals, beat an up-and-coming AMS team 5-2 and REME defeated AGC 3-2. In the final the Signals, under the watchful eye of SSgt Bru Baker and the captaincy of Cpl Tracey Hoffman, retained the trophy courtesy of a 3-0 scoreline.

◆ The veterans' competition was won by the AGC with the RLC, R Signals and RE finishing in second, third and fourth respectively.

◆ WO1 Ian Jennings (APTC) was presented with the Charlie Wood Memorial Silver Salver for services to Army hockey. Jennings, who leaves the Army this year, has been chosen to coach the England women's squad.

SHORTS

Strides ahead of the rest

THE Flora London Marathon played host to this year's Inter-Services team and individual marathon championships.

SSgt Kenny Butler (HQNI) and LCpl Paula Wales (REME) won the individual titles – finishing in 41st and 1,816th respectively from the overall field of 35,000. The Army won the overall team race.

Islanders maroon Army

SUPPORTERS at Aldershot's Military Stadium had little to cheer about as the Army football team were beaten 3-1 by a full Guernsey squad.

The Army's lone goal was scored by LCpl James Locke, who fired into the far corner of the net from the angle of the penalty area late in the game.

◆ The Combined Services held the Belgian Armed Forces to a goalless draw at the Aimita Stadium – the home of Farnborough Town FC. Cpl Joe Collins (R Signals), pictured right, produced an outstanding performance in the heart of the British defence.

Frosty the showman

LCPL Dean Frost and Pte Spence Evans both returned home from the inaugural Four Nations Boxing Championships at St George's Hall in Liverpool with medals.

Representing England, Frost failed in his bid to become the British middleweight champion and had to settle for silver after losing the final on a points decision to Ireland's Kenneth Egan.

Welsh international Evans picked up the fourth-placed medal in the featherweight competition.

Army boxing coach SSgt Neil McCallum said: "Evans and Frost are in their first season as seniors and both have very bright international futures."

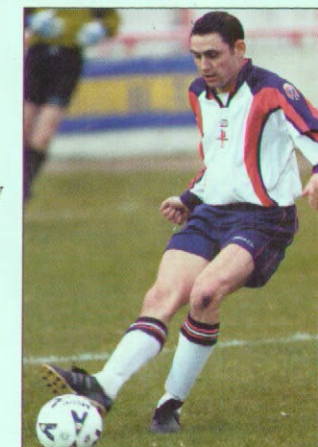
Referee lifts trophy

THERE is no need for Cpl Brian Foster (AGC) to see an optician this summer.

The referees' appointments secretary for the 5 Div area has been awarded the Dobson Trophy for services to football refereeing.

The trophy was donated by Maj Alan Dobson when he retired from the post of Army FA secretary in 1998.

Foster is a class-one referee and has been invited to officiate in the Ryman Football League next season.



Always ready to rumble

Nine-times world champion kicks Army into shape

Interview: Andy Simms
Picture: Steve Dock

AFTER taking a seat at our table in the window of the Sports Café in London, Wayne Otto pensively studied the list of creatively named burgers on the menu.

Hanging on the walls around us were autographed memorabilia from some of sport's biggest names. Ali's boxing gloves and Pele's shirt received continual glances from diners but oddly nobody gave Wayne a second look, allowing one of Britain's most successful athletes to order lunch in virtual anonymity.

Alerted by my notebook and dictaphone, an excited father and son on the table opposite stared at us inquisitively but a whispered "I think he's a footballer" confirmed that not even they had recognised the nine-times world karate champion.

"My brother, Ricky, is more famous than I am and he was only a Division One footballer," Wayne explained.

"You would be hard-pushed to find any other athlete in this country, or the world, who has won nine world titles. Unfortunately, karate is not an Olympic sport and we simply do not get the recognition we perhaps deserve.

"If I had an Olympic title then maybe

I would be on my way to becoming a household name or a millionaire."

Outside of his sport the 35-year-old may be an unknown but on the karate scene he is a living legend.

Having won nine world titles, as many European championships and countless national honours, the Hackney-born fighter ruled the art for 20 years before retiring last year to become a coach.

One of the first to call upon the services of the experienced champion was the secretary of the Army Martial Arts Association, Maj Robert Howells (AGC).

"I got a phone call out of the blue from Maj Howells asking me whether I was interested in training the Army karate team ahead of the Inter-Services championships last year and I have to admit that I thought it was some kind of elaborate wind-up."

"After all, what could I teach soldiers? They're already trained to kill," he joked.

"But I went along and trained with the guys and was impressed with what I saw. And I suppose I must have taught them something because they went to the championships and kicked some proverbial arse."

Hardly a surprising outcome when you consider that the six-footer is being groomed as the successor to current England team coach Dickie Donovan.

"Coaching was the natural progression for me and I am currently the assistant coach of the England karate team," he said.

"Dickie is not a bad person to learn from - he is the most successful coach in the world having trained more than 120 world champions.

"Some people see me as the greatest karate athlete Britain has ever had and some even say that I am the best in the world. So as a coach I hope I can pass on some of that knowledge and produce as many world champions as Dickie Donovan.

"Producing world champions will not only solidify my standing as a great competitor but will also prove that I am a great coach.

"Whatever I have done in life I have always wanted to be the best that I can be and that is what I will strive to achieve in coaching both with England and the Army."

Wayne's road to the job of national coach began in 1981 when he was just 14 years old. "I found karate by association," he told me. "A rival of mine came into school one day with a massive karate trophy and I knew that if he could get one I certainly could.

"And so I just did what I had to do to win a trophy. He took me along to his karate club and proceeded to beat the hell out of me for about nine months until I learned how to block and punch."

The rest, as they say, is history, but during his 20-year career Wayne has collected more than just the trophies he harboured as a boy.

Placing his bear-like hands on the table, Wayne catalogued the injuries he has sustained participating in one of sports toughest disciplines.

Permanent mementoes include a mallet finger and broken thumb - re-set at an awkward angle by doctors.

But among the injuries long-since healed are a dislocated sternum inflicted by a punch to the chest and temporary blindness in the right eye caused by a kick to the head.

"Over the course of 20 years I think I have got away lightly," he said. "The chance of being hurt when you compete is just something that you accept.

"Karate is a combat sport, it is physical, and these things do happen. I have known people who have died from blood clots caused by kicks to the head but incidents like that are few and far between."

Put at ease by his amiable personality and, hoping that the boxing skills from my university days could at the very least slow his onslaught if he took offence, I risked asking my final question.

Prancing around in a white pair of pajamas, imitating Mr Miyagi from the Karate Kid films is all well and good, but surely karate can't be relied on to fend off real-life bad guys - can it?

"How effective karate can be off the mats depends on the individual and the circumstances. Just because you're a black belt in karate does not make you invincible.

"As to how effective it can be on the street, all I am going to say is that I have had a few fights in my time and trust me ... it is effective."

Some people see me as the greatest karate athlete Britain has ever had - and some even say that I am the best in the world

Wizards of ring craft

BOASTING four finalists and three eventual winners, 7 R Irish took the team trophy at the Army Novice Individual Boxing Championships.

Team runners up were 35 Engr Regt who left Aldershot's Maida gymnasium with two Army champions.

In the fight of the night, Spr Scott Robson (35 Engr Regt) beat Pte Danny Webb (2 Para) on points to collect his second successive featherweight title.

Other winners were: *bantamweight* - Pte Kenny

Johnston (7 R Irish); *lightweight* - LCpl Marty Brown (7 R Irish); *light welterweight* - Pte Steve Gorman (7 R Irish); *welterweight* - Gdsm Colin Colucci (1 IG); *light middleweight* - LCpl Duncan Bateson (35 Engr Regt); *middleweight* - Pte Paddy Neill (RLC); *light heavyweight* - Gdsm Justin Jones (1 WG); *cruiserweight* - Tpr Billy Thurston (1 QDR); *heavyweight* - Cpl Rob Cable (3 RSME Regt); *super heavyweight* - LCpl Gareth Edwards (1 RRW).



Counter attack: Welterweight champion Gdsm Colin Colucci (1 IG), left, ducks a shot from Gdsm Steve Ord (Coldm Gds)

SHORTS

Golden opportunity

WELSH judo champion Pte Chris Andrews (1 RRW) has been presented with a £750 scholarship by the Army Sport Lottery.

The Paderborn-based soldier is hotly tipped to win a gold medal for Wales at next year's Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

WO1 Martin Jones, RSM of 1 RRW, said: "We have several soldiers in the battalion who represent Wales in a number of different sports.

"In addition to the facilities and opportunities the regiment can offer we hope this money will help Chris to achieve his Commonwealth Games gold."

Commemorative tour

SOLDIERS from 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE completed a memorial rugby tour of the UK in remembrance of LCpl Rob Porte, who was killed while serving in Cyprus in September 1999.

The two-match tour featured matches against LCpl Porte's former unit, 36 Engineer Regiment, and Skewen RFC - his home club in Wales.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to June...

ADVENTURE SPORT: 1-3 - Three Peaks Challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon).

CANOEING: 30-Jul 1 - Army sprint and marathon championships (River Mon, Monmouth).

CRICKET: 2 - RMA Sandhurst v Army U25 (Sandhurst); 3 - Earl of Arundel's XI v Combined Services (Arundel); 4 - MCC Young Cricketers v Army (Vine Lane); 5 - Club Cricket Conference (High Wycombe); 8 - Army v Stock Exchange (Aldershot); 11 - Oxford University XI v Army U25 (The Parks); 13-15 - Cambridge University v Combined Services (Cambridge); 18 - Sussex 2nd XI v Army (Worthing CC); 20-22 - Oxford University v Combined Services (The Parks); 25 - Army U25 v Stragglers of Asia (Aldershot); 26 - British Police v Army (Imber Court); 29 - Army U25 v Royal Signals CC (Aldershot).

HOCKEY: 9-10 - Combined-Services tournament (Portsmouth).

PARAGLIDING: 22-29 - Inter-Services championship (Crickhowell).

SWIMMING: 25 - Army and Inter-Services long distance swimming championships (Lake Bala, Wales); 26 - Army individual championships (Aldershot); 27 - Inter-unit single event relay competition (Aldershot).

TUG OF WAR: 13 - Land Command (UK) championships (Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe); 30 - Army championships (Gibraltar Barracks, Camberley).

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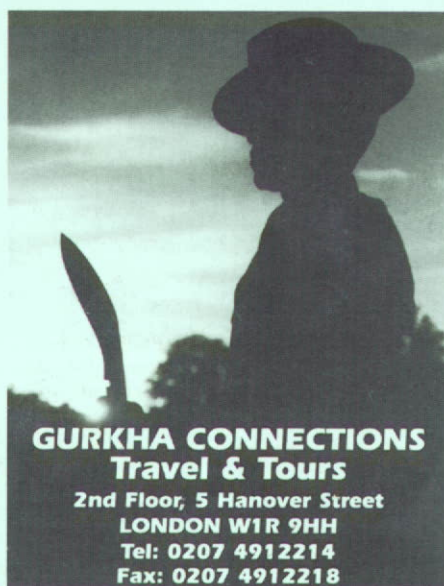
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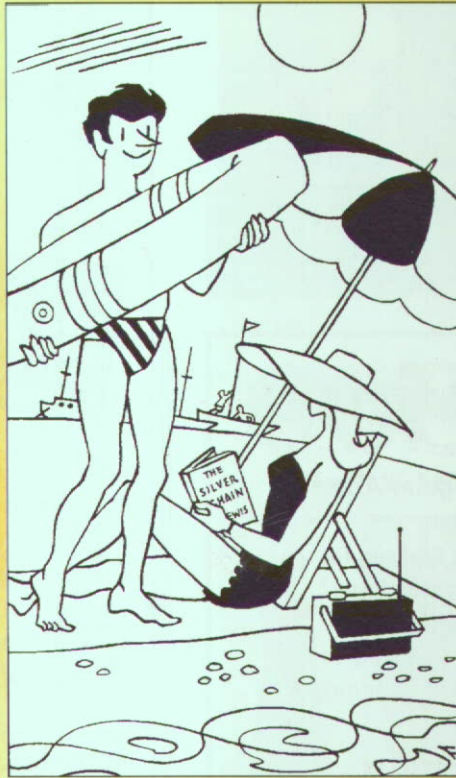


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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 715, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by June 29.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

April competition (No 713): First correct entry drawn was from WO2(QMSI) D Whyles RE, of D&M School, Armour Centre, Bovington, who wins £100. Runners-up Sgt A Wicks AGC (MPGS), of DLO Didcot, and Lt Alan J Pearce, Cadet Centre, Chard, Somerset, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: small gull; bridge superstructure; hook on crane; guardrail under ship's boats; figures on deck; sails on dinghies 210 and 394; third dinghy's pennant; arm of figure in 394; water effect, bottom of picture.



Freeze frame

"Little Piddletown Police? Private Snodgrass here. I think I've found Lord Lucan."

Write your own funny caption for the photo, right, published in *Soldier* in Dec 1951. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver collection bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply. Entries to reach us by June 29.

Winner of the April competition (right) was Julie Boyd of Old Windsor with "What's this, Private? I indented for 20 bed rolls, not 20 bread rolls". Of the many entries, we also liked "Even the officers' mess loofah collection fell victim to the latest round of cost cuts" from WO2 John Mills, AG Centre, Worthy Down, and "Unfit for human consumption, eh? Take it to the sergeants' mess" from Len Oliver, of Colchester.





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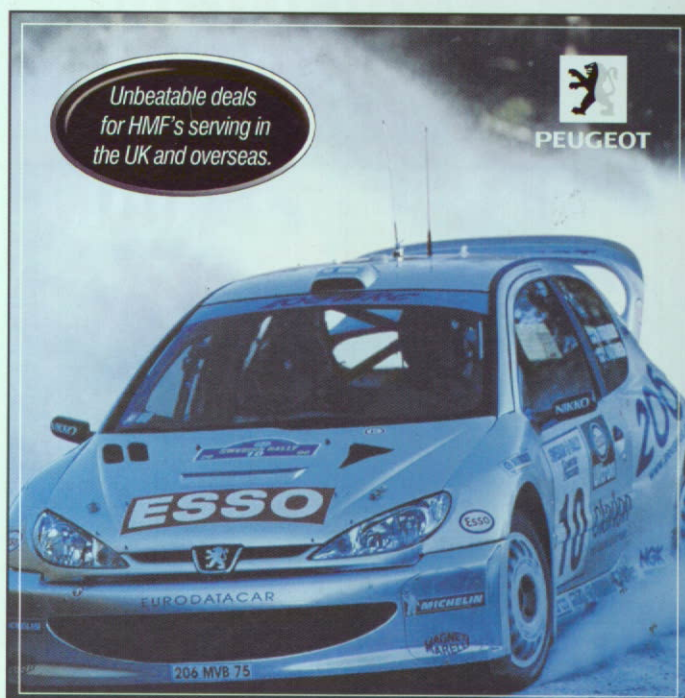
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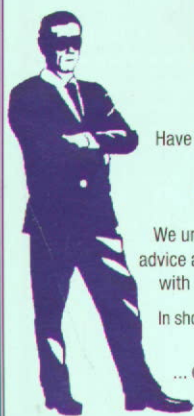
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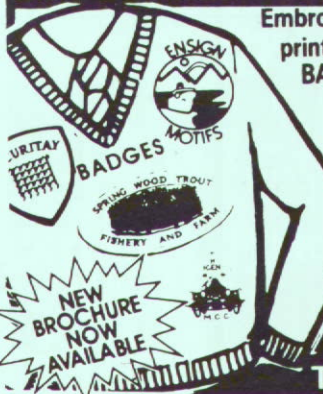
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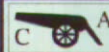
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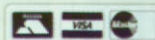
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PEN PALS

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Andrea, 35-year-old, 5'6", green eyes and brown hair. Enjoys cinema, socialising, swimming, holidays and having fun. Professional nurse looking for any honest men out there for correspondence. P887

Lesley, 49-year-old, 5'3" slim build, brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys 50s/60s music, dancing, eating in/out, cinema, dinner parties and walking her dog. Divorced with two sons and has a good sense of humour. Seeking pen pals, 40-49. P888

Linda, early 40's, 5'4", blonde hair and green eyes. Loves travel, sunshine and the beach. Enjoys dining out, theatre, walking her dog and football. Seeking pen pals 38-60. P889

Susan, 42-year-old, 5'4", light brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys travelling, crafts, reading, gardening, writing and receiving letters. Seeking genuine pen pals 30+. P890

Chris, 55-year-old, 5'3", blonde with blue eyes. Interests include computers, crosswords, jigsaws, competitions, music and videos. Seeking non-smoker or drinker of any nationality 25-55. P891

Kim, 38-year-old, 5'4", brunette, slim with blue eyes. Enjoys reading, walking, meals out and in, pubs and watching videos. Seeking pen pals who are honest and enjoy a laugh 35-42. P892

Liz, 26-year-old, 5'6", blue eyes, long hair, slim and attractive. Enjoys swimming, cooking, karaoke singing, dancing, shopping, socialising and laughing. Seeking athletic down-to-earth pen pals, please enclose photograph, 24-32. P893

Ann, 40+, 5'2", blonde hair, blue eyes, size ten. Enjoys socialising, nights out, music and eating out. Looking for fun and friendship, North East area pen pals anywhere 38-50. P894

Rosie, 31-year-old, 5'8", nurse with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys cinema, music, rugby and football. All letters will be answered. Seeking pen pals 25-35. P895

Sharon, 28-year-old, 5'8", long dark naturally curly hair, GSOH. Enjoys having a laugh and living life to the full. Interests include gym, swimming, pubs, clubs, music, cinema and travelling. Seeking pen pals 24-33 GSOH. P896

Carol, 33-year-old, with lots of hobbies including football. Seeks pen pals serving at home or abroad. Age and race not important, but must be genuine and have GSOH. P897

Sylvia, 19-year-old, 5'1", slim blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys writing letters, cinema, swimming, socialising and having fun. Seeking genuine pen pals. P898

Jen, 39-year-old, Scottish teacher, divorced with two children. Enjoys theatre, music, walking and visiting interesting places. If you are friendly, honest and genuine please write. P899

Laura, 26-year-old, 5'6", blue eyes and brown hair. Enjoys swimming, cycling, reading, socialising, cinema, music (all kinds) and animals. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P900

Marie, 23-year-old, 5'5", blonde hairdresser and beautician, green eyes with a slim-med build. Interests include kickboxing, scuba diving, pubs and dancing. Seeking pen pals, 20-35. P901

Jane, attractive single 35-year-old, looks about 27 and feels about 21. 5'5", blonde with blue eyes. Good sense of humour and outgoing. Enjoys eating out, pubbing, clubbing and the cinema. Interests include travelling, skiing, rollerblading and tennis. Seeking pen pals. P902

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PEN PALS

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NOTICES

CHY-1161C Charity Commission

CHARITY: Certain Charities Administered in Connection with the Scots Guards Reg. No. 249900.

REFERENCE: 249900/190614

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at RHQ Scots Guards, Wellington Barracks, London, SW1E 6HQ or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today. P930

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7 APRIL 2001
11-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,272.73 each): Tpr GB Blacklock, KRH, Tidworth; Pte CEH Briggs, RDMC, Gosport; Pte AD Fedrick, 1 RGBW, Ballykinler; LSgt KM Hopkins, HQ Household Div, London; Cpl AB Jones, QRH, Sennelager; LBdr VS Kirkpatrick, 3 RHA, Hohn; Pte S Lawrinson, 1 Kings, Catterick; Cpl SC Mayers, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; Sgt SM McGrady, 25 Trg Sp Regt RLC, Deepcut; WO2 GN Summersgill, Defence School of Tpt, Leconfield; Cpl DT White, RDG, Münster. P931

14 APRIL 2001
7-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £2,000 each): LCpl GJ Baker, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück; Sgt IE Curzon, NI CSS Regt, Belfast; Lt RC Lawrence, 2 RRF, North Luffenham; WO2 P McCarthy, RMA, Sandhurst; LCpl ML Mills, 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot; Maj LJ Plumb, 14 Signal Regt (EW), Haverfordwest; Cpl DD Smyth, 4 R Irish, Omagh. Note: Only 7 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies. P932

21 APRIL 2001
6-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £2,333.33 each): Cpl KTT Chambers, ATR Winchester; Sgt TJ Ellis, 1 Para, Dover; Pte P Hinch, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Capt AJ Rogers, HQ DEME (A), Arborfield; LCpl DR Walton, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London; Sgt NP Wright, RAC Centre, Bovington. Note: Only 6 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies. P933

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CHY-1161D Charity Commission

CHARITY: The Cambridge Fund for Old and Disabled Soldiers / William Woodman Charity for Soldiers.

REFERENCE:

245807/191679/CD(T)

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Enford Parish Church Notice Board, Enford, Nr Pewsey, Wilts or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Woodfield House Tangier Taunton Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. P934

Chy-1161D Charity Commission

CHARITY: The Devonshire & Dorset Regimental Homes Charity The Devonshire & Dorset Regimental Homes Charity

REFERENCE:

1054959/207295/CD(T)

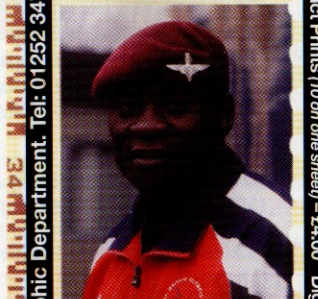
The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at RHQ, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, EX2 6AE or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Woodfield House Tangier Taunton Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. P935

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APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: M J Wharmby, to be Comd HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Apr 5; I D S Campbell, to be Comd HQ ITG, Apr 9; P A Wall OBE, to be CJFO Apr 12; B W B White-Spunner to be Bde Comd 16 Air Assault Bde, Apr 12; N R Parker, to be Bde Comd Op Silkman Sierra Leone, Apr 24.

S G Hughes, to be Comd BMATT SA, May 4; R J Morris, to be Comd 145 (Home Counties) Bde, May 1; C T Rogers, to be Exercise Author Ex Arrcade Fusion HQ ARRC, May 6; R H T Aitken, to be Comd 160 (Wessex Bde), May 4.

Colonels: D B Doherty, to be Dir Ammunition Div Def Munitions Kineton, Apr 9; J R Barnes to be DA Nairobi, Apr 20; W E Nowosielski-Slepown to be DA Belgrade, Apr 20; N J Caplin to be Comdt SAAVN, Apr 17; M W L Theobald to be Chief Ex Trg Branch Ops Div JHQ SE, Apr 17; P S W F Falkner, to be Col MS MoD, Apr 25; D A Gaw, to be Dental Officer PDO 17 Region DDA (Sennelager), Apr 23; J T Graham, to be Comd Med 1 (UK) Armd Div, Apr 25; W G Cubitt, to be Comdt Combined Arms School, Apr 9; D G Hayes, to be Dir Joint Warfare, Defence Crisis Management Cell, May 1.

Lt Cols: J F J Allen RLC to DESO, May 28; G R Belgium REME to RMCS, Jun 8; R A Blue LI to BEO USA, Jun 15; I K Bucklow, R Signals to HQ SOINC(A), Mar 23; D R Caldwell RLC to LARO, Aug 13; S R Caley PWO to BEO Canada, Sep 1; E C Cameron AGC(OPS) to HQ Land, Mar 1; J S Carter RGJ to HQ ATE,

Feb 1; N P Challis RLC to LARO, Sep 10; W D Cowan REME, to D Sp Ops, Aug 13; J W Drage RA, to RMCS, Jul 16; A D Duncan REME to JTFHQ SL, Oct 1.

M W Ewence RA to HQ Land, May 8; J R Free RA to DGES(L), May 9; J M Gale, R Signals, to BMATT SL, Mar 30; A A Gilbert LI to DA Luanda, Jul 19; E Glover, R Irish to JACIG, Apr 17; R L C Hackett RWF to UNAMSIL, May 24; V H Hall AGC(ETS) to JPAT, Apr 23; P D P Hankinson QRL to VCDS, Jul 30; D C Hudson RE to PJHQ(UK), May 23; A P B Lake RGBW to RCDS, Jul 2.

P J Macey RRF to SHAPE, Jul 2; R D F Millington RTR to RMCS, Jul 30; A L Pearce, R Signals to DRUMM IBT, Mar 30; A V Pedder RA to AMC, Jul 16; I D Raley RA to UKMILREP Brussels, Apr 23; D W Reeve RLC to DTR, May 8; J R C Saville REME to HQ Land, May 8; G J Sheeley AFC AAC to DA Almaty, Jul 14; H E Shields LI to BMATT SA, Jul 22.

A J Shepherd RA to HQ EU, Jun 4; T J B Sinclair RA to JPAT, May 18; D H Toler, Coldm Gds to SHAPE, Jul 2; M R Walton RA to



Three's company: It was a bit like an RAOC reunion at PJHQ Northwood when outgoing superintendent clerk **WO1 Neil Bloomfield**, left, handed over the reins to **WO1 Ron Russell**, right, on his last day in the Army. Just for good measure **WO1 Brian Stoddart**, Media Ops staff assistant, who also serves in The Bunker, was on hand to see fair play. All three, now cap-badged to the AGC, began their military careers as apprentices in the RAOC.

MONUC, Apr 23; P A Warden RLC to JTFHQ SL, Apr 25; J N E Watson RA to RMCS, Jul 17; A C B Whitelaw RHF to C2DC, Jul 30; H Wildman AGC(ETS) to HQ UKSC(G), Jul 23; J G Wilford, Para to JTFHQ SL, Apr 25; P R Williams RA to RHQ AFSOUTH, May 21.

SEARCHLINE

Edinburgh School, Munster: Find friends at uk.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/edinburghschoolmunster or e-mail Dave Longhurst at: lngrstd@aol.com

8 Regt RCT, Portsmouth Barracks, Munster (1977-81): Les Carr seeking former members for chat and nostalgia. Remember Rudi Ackers? Contact les@netcentral.co.uk

Ex-RMP LCpl Dave (Lofty) Roberts seeking comrades from 580 Training Sqn (1956), 3 Ind Inf Bde Provost Sec, Nicosia, Cyprus (1957-59). johndmunds@johndmunds.screaming.net

Ex-LCpl Ray Iles seeks **Lofty Rendell** and other members of RAOC (TAVR) Supply Platoons and mobile bath and laundry units. E-mail q3502@hotmail.com

Kent's Secret Army (XII Corps Observation Unit) 1940: Researcher seeks info on men and women involved in underground bases. Contact Adrian Westwood, Hawkesdene, The Street, Hastingleigh, Kent TN25 5HU or tel 01233 750563.

Do you recall **four tall brothers**, sons of a Russian, all soldiers in 1960s, married with

Frank's war story

FRANK MOODY, from *Wellow in Hampshire*, was "an ordinary Tommy" posted to the 149th Anti-Tank Regiment. He found himself in the line at Monte Cassino and in the Adriatic. His story, *Wartime Memories*, is briefly told in a 27-page softback published by the Pentland Press, price £8.

children? Surname sounded like Muscat but may be spelled differently. They had two younger brothers, Bruce born 1950 and John born 1953, both living in Aldershot in 1972. Bruce worked at Butlins, Bognor Regis, in the summer of 1972. Linda Bishop, a friend from those days, wants to make contact. Ring 01493 441736.

Oxon Bucks Light Infantry, 1939-45. Former comrades of late **Charles William (Buster) Brown** are asked to contact his son, John Brown, 39 Merrick Avenue, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1NF, tel 01872 279461.

George V medal (inscribed on reverse "1918" and "1924") issued to **87392 Pte E J Bendall RAMC**. Current owner requires information on above. Replies to Natalie Lewis, Lower Sandyway Cottage, Sandyway, St Leonards, Herefordshire HR2 8NX.

Steve Smart, ex-3 RRF 1986-90, would like to hear from old comrades. Contact him by e-

mail at stevesmart2@activemail.co.uk

Maj Edward Wade, Belfast from 1945, married Mary (née Wilson) ex-WAAF in 1946. Sought by former WAAF colleague Sally Brewis (née Dickinson), now 81, who regrets losing touch with dear friend. Tel Peter Brewis 0171 6520395 or e-mail pbrewis@cix.co.uk

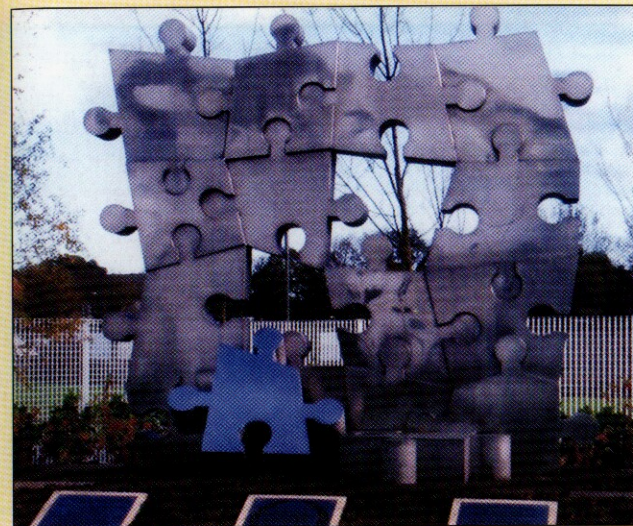
Bill Fleckney, Fort Darland, Chatham 1946 would like to hear from anyone else who was there. Also anyone who was a guest in any guard room or detention centre at Bovington Camp 1945-60. Replies promised by return. Bill Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Portsmouth, Hants, PO2 7DB.

Can anyone tell Gordon Mackinlay what became of the **RAMC Apprentice College** and the **Junior Tradesmen Regiment** at Kimmel Park Camp? Is there anything in print and do they have associations connected with them? Replies to 38 Bridge Road, Westmead, Australia 2145 or gam47@one.net.au

Useful numbers

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Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124
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 Germany 0800 1827 395
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 Bosnia 0800 731 4880
 Others UK 1980 630854
Operations worldwide Paradigm Home-link Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841617
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National Gulf Veterans and Families Association (0900-1700) 01482 833812; 24-hour helpline 01482 808730
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Pulling together

WHAT is intended to be the biggest tug-of-war event staged by the Army is being planned to coincide with the golden jubilee of the inter-unit championships at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot, on July 6.

Event secretary Maj (Retd) Dick Field is keen to have a reunion of as many past Army pullers as possible and asks that any who can get to Rushmoor Arena on the big day ring him on 01252 312186 or write to 109 St Michael's Road, Aldershot GU12 4JW.

● **THE Army's Confidential Support Line** (see *Useful numbers* below) received fewer calls last year than in 1999. Caller traffic during January to April 2000 was lower than the previous year, although the pattern was the same or higher for the next eight months. Call numbers for the past three years have been: 2000 - 1,613; 1999 - 1,694; 1998 - 1,123. A seasonal pattern reveals that calls rise after block-leave periods.

Those needing support in a crisis tend to call at weekends and in the evening. The number of recruits ringing the line is said to be low and there have been fewer calls regarding homosexuality or gender issues.

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War Pensions Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 00441253 866043 (from overseas)
WRVS 01235 442940

REUNIONS

Glosters Regimental Association (Royal Forest Of Dean): Grand social evening, June 1. Tickets £5. E-mail abj1879@tesco.net. Visit website at glostersfodean@aol.com

Armourers' Association: Armourers and Artificers Weapon (REME & RAOC) serving or retired, annual reunion, Victory Services Club, London, June 23. Contact Chris Dennis on 01905 755334.

Royal Leicestershire Regt: Annual reunion of Royal Tigers and Leicester Branch of the R Anglian Regt Assn in Leicester, June 23/24. Dinner/reception by ticket only. Contact TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY.

4 Bn, Essex Regt: Annual garden party, June 30, RHQ, Warley, Essex. All ex-Pompadors welcome. Contact M Chapman, 13 Lynbrook Close, Rainham RM13 8DD, 01708 520948 or michaalg@chapman33.fsnet.co.uk

Northamptonshire Regt: Annual reunion of Regimental Assn and R Anglian Regt Assn (Northamptonshire), Northampton July 7-8. AGM, dinner, reception ticket only. Contact TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.

25 Regt RA 1947-84: Reunion on July 1 at Larkhill, Wiltshire. All on mailing list have been informed. Further details from Len Haddow, 4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SF, tel/fax 01634 388156 or e-mail marianneluckhurst@cableinet.co.uk

Cheshire Regt Association: Annual Berlin, Northern Ireland veterans' reunion, July 7, Ellesmere Port. Ticket only. Details from A G Gregson on 01244 301564 or fax 01244 301478.

3 R Anglian (Eagle & Garter Dinner Club): Annual Salamanca Dinner for serving and retired officers and SNCOs of Pompadors, July 14, ATR Basingbourn Sgts' Mess. Contact Maj Bob Potter on 01206 573498 or bobandkathleen@hotmail.com

Tidworth HIVE is a gold mine of information

TIDWORTH Garrison's HIVE, more often associated with helpful advice to families moving into the area, is earning itself a reputation among single soldiers. Its internet station proved so popular that a second PC was installed with the help of the garrison welfare committee. Now staff hope a third can be added.

The HIVE, in the new Tidworth Leisure Centre, offers useful information on courses and further education opportunities available to soldiers, resettlement news, welfare advice, local places to visit, as well as lists of useful outlets for mobile phones, discounted sports equipment and much more.

It's open daily between 0900 and 1300 and on Wednesdays from 1730 to 2000. You can contact Lisa or Gillian, who run the HIVE, in confidence on 01980 602224 or hive@tidworthh.fsnet.co.uk

Queen's Own Buffs: Remembrance service and reunion, Aug 5. Parade 1200, Cathedral Service 1300 and reunion at Howe Barracks. Details from H Delo on 01227 765867 or henry.lynn@freeserve.co.uk

Queen's Own Buffs Royal West Kent Regiment OCA: Remembrance service followed by reunion, Sept 9, in Maidstone. Details from Bryan Bartlett on 01322 346053.

Royal Naval School, Tal Handaq, Malta: Biggest-ever reunion, Colerme, Wiltshire, Sept 22. Details from Viv Daly 07966 549397 (day), 01752 894846 (pm) or vivdaly@bigfoot.com

12 Bn Devonshire Regt (6th Airborne): Reunion dinner-dance, Oct 6, at Devon Hotel, Exeter. Former personnel, families and friends welcome. Contact Ada Follet, Rosemount, Exmouth Rd, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ or tel 01392 874596.

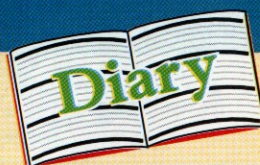
Glosters' Band and Drums: Reunion on Oct 6, Cheltenham. Contact Jeff Hinchcliffe, 20 St James Court, Havercroft, Wakefield, W Yorks WP4 2PQ or tel 01226 723735.

5 Field Amb/Armd Fd Amb: First annual reunion to be held on Oct 13 in Preston. Contact Axel Foley on 0161 881 5066.

Environmental Health (past and present): Reunion on Oct 29, Jarvis Hotel, Bromsgrove. Contact WO1 Jeff McGowan RAMC, 01252 340237 or e-mail sutuzsir@aol.com

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)): 25th anniversary, Nov 10 (not Nov 11 as previously advertised) at Bulford Camp. Contact WO2 (SSM) Ken Marsh on 01980 672193 for a booking form.

Elizabeth College CCF centenary 2002: All Old Elizabethans invited to parade, Mar 18 2002 in Guernsey. Contact Lt Col I J Rawlins-Duquemin, OC Elizabeth College CCF, The Grange, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2PY (tel 01481 726544 extn 212).



DATES

JUNE

2: Major General's Review.
6-7: Household Division Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade.
9: Colonel's Review.
13: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
16: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards.
24: Guns and Drums at Aldershot Military Museum. Special events day organised by Friends of the Museum to include re-enactments, bands and displays.
27: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
30-July 1: Minley Show, Combat Engineer School, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Surrey, 1000. Proceeds to charity. www.minleyshow.co.uk

JULY

7-8: Flying Legends Air Show, Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Booking line: 01223 499353.
11: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
17-21: Music of the Night. Massed bands of Royal Artillery. Front Parade, Woolwich (tickets on 0208 317 8687; credit card hotline 0870 608 2000).
18-22: Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society five-day War and Peace Show. Beltring Hop Farm Country Park, Kent. Enquiries: 01304 813128.
25: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

AUGUST

3-25: Edinburgh Tattoo.
8: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
18-19: "Chutes and Daggers", Airborne and Special Forces show, Station X, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes. To mark 60th anniversary of Recce Corps.
24-27: International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth.

SEPTEMBER

8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.

OCTOBER

14: Duxford Autumn Air Show.
26: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Margate (tickets from D Stokes, 01843 292882).

NOVEMBER

2: Suez, an evening lecture by Maj M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).
10: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.
11: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

No mandolins for 9th

NOT many people know that Cephalonia, the setting for Louis de Bernières's book *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, was occupied by the British from 1815 to 1864. Maj Gen (Retd) Edward Fursdon tells us he has turned up among old family papers 90 letters from one Ellsworth Fursdon describing life on the island with the 9th of Foot. He later died of the plague in Hong Kong.

Stephen marches on

ARMY cadet Stephen Menary, the 14-year-old blinded and badly injured in a torch bomb blast in West London on February 21 joined 500 fellow cadets at the start of a 14-mile sponsored walk from Tower Bridge to Hammer-smith at the end of April. Helped by cadet colleagues, Stephen, pictured right in the baseball cap, completed the entire course, which snaked its way across 14 London bridges. The walk by London cadets was

for the ACFA appeal to raise an initial £100,000 for Stephen's immediate future, and £500,000 to secure his long-term future. He and his mother also received a special donation collected by staff and residents of the Tower of London. Stephen was given a hero's welcome at the finishing line. Anyone wishing to help Stephen can send a donation to the ACFA Stephen Menary Appeal, ACFA, E Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, London SW3 4RR.



Picture: Michael Nolan, Middx and NW London ACF

Buy a ticket for the future

PUT your Service details on a new website and you will be benefiting the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond. In association with the Abbey National, the Star and Garter has set up the Odyssey Project to raise money for the home for disabled ex-Servicemen and women.

Just buy a ticket on the Odyssey Timeship for £10 and you can enter your Service details via a dedicated website (up to 50 words) and include two photos. Family members can also make entries on behalf of loved ones who have died. The website will be open from June 6 (the anniversary of D-Day) until October 31. Once full the "timeship" will be stored in the Imperial War Museum until 2101, creating a unique military archive for historians.

Look out for www.OdysseyTimeship.com going live on June 6.

Korean veteran honoured

CHELSEA Pensioner WO2 Bob Moy, a veteran of the Korean War, visited the war memorial in Washington DC, where he was hosted by WO1 George Vosper, AGC (SPS) of the British Army Staff in Washington. Bob was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by the US Defense Secretary, for his contribution during the war, where he served as a baker in the Royal Army Service Corps.

Sid's sad pilgrimage



SID Chandler, 86, has seen for the first time a memorial to the father he never knew. The Leicestershire pensioner, left, joined a team from The East of England Regiment at the Loos memorial between Lille and Arras in Belgium. Sid's father, Pte Richard Chandler, was 21 when he disappeared during

the First World War, but his name was discovered among the 20,000 recorded on the Loos memorial by **Capt Ty Smith**, a nephew. Sid and Ty met at the memorial after Ty and his TA colleagues had completed a 100-mile trek from Calais to retrace the route marched by the Leicestershire Regiment in 1915.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Gallant soldier given the blue plaque treatment



WE made mention in these pages last month of the blue plaque which now identifies the Bromley home of Col Sgt Frank Bourne, a hero of Rorke's Drift. Frank, who

retired as a colonel in 1919 and died in 1945, lived in King's Hall Road, Beckenham from 1909 to 1930. We've now got a picture of him, left, and his plaque.



Bronco will do the talking

BRONCO Lane, ex-soldier, conqueror of Everest 25 years ago and owner of a fascinating military CV acquired during 30 years of derring-do all over the world, will help your unit raise funds for adventurous training. And he will do it for nothing.

Just guarantee him an audience of 50 and he'll turn up and give an hour-long talk suitable for all ages. You can contact him through Dawn or Peter at Hayloft (017683 42300), who published Bronco's entertaining book, *Military Mountaineering*, on the history of Army expeditions.

Political cartoons on agenda

HISTORICALLY important cartoons which were once the property of the late Jimmy Friell, recruited in the final months of the Second World War to draw for the embryonic *Soldier* magazine, are to go on exhibition in London.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Operation Barbarossa, the recently-formed Political Cartoon Society is staging an exhibition of original war-time cartoon art by Kukryniksy, the best-known signature in the history of Soviet cartooning.



Kukryniksy is the collective signature of Mikhail KUPRYANOV, Porfiry KRYLOV and NIKOLAI SOKOLOV.

The original artwork was given to the *Daily Worker* by Khrushchev and Bulganin when

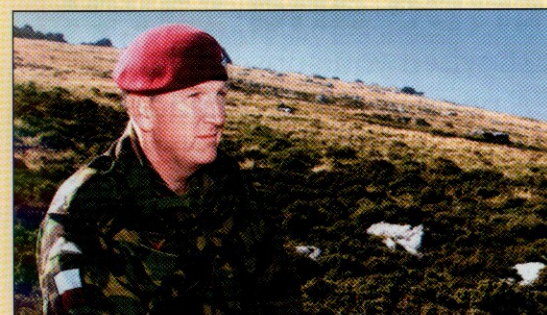
they visited Britain in 1956, and later passed on to Jimmy Friell. The genial and popular Sgt Friell, pictured above, was the creator of the squaddie cartoon character Smudger in the early days of *Soldier*. Under the pen-name Gabriel he became one of Britain's foremost political cartoonists, working for the *Worker* and subsequently the *Daily Standard*. Jimmy died in 1997 at the age of 84.

● The exhibition is open every day (1100-1800) from June 22 to Aug 31 at Vinopolis, 1 Bank End, London SE1 9BU (nearest Underground is London Bridge).

Paras retrace steps across the Falklands

A GROUP of British paratroopers who fought in the Falklands War 19 years ago have retraced their steps across the South Atlantic islands.

In a poignant graveside meeting they talked about their memories with Argentinian families who had travelled to see where their sons were buried. The Paras – led by Lt Col Paul Farrar, 2 Para – had been walking back over the ground where they fought hand-to-



Poignant return: Lt Col Paul Farrar in the Falklands

Ah yes, that was a very good year

EVEN in Bermuda's close-knit, 21-square-mile community, where "everyone knows everyone else", few people are better-known than Capt Herman Eve.

As the longest-serving member of the Bermuda Regiment, which has operated conscription since 1957, 51-year-old Capt Eve, pictured right, has helped to train more than 4,500 young men who have returned to Bermudian society the better for their military experience.

Crucial to this story, however, is that in his 31-year service he has served at every

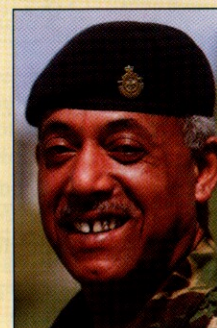
rank up to captain – and Bermudians are meticulously polite when greeting others.

"What makes me smile," he told *Soldier*, "is that, depending on their age and the period of their national service, they all see me at different levels."

"When I walk down the street, one person will address me as Cpl Eve, another as Sgt Eve, another as Colour Eve, yet another as Sgt Major Eve, and so on."

"So I am able to gauge when they were in the regiment – except when they call me sergeant major, because I was a warrant officer for 20 years, something of a record."

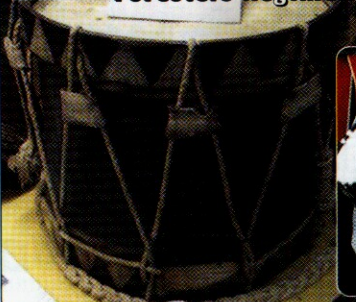
A right royal apology: Reference was made to The King's Own Hussars in the Legends of the regiments and corps column (May) on the origins of the Emperor's Chambermaids. It should, of course, have read *The King's Royal Hussars*.



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Legends of the regiments and corps

24 The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment



Dicing with death: The original drum, which can be seen in the regimental museum in Nottingham Castle, and, inset, detail from modern WFR drum

Heroes of Alma

STUDENTS of military drumming will have noticed the unusual black-and-white triangular pattern which distinguishes the drums of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

It marks the major role played by the 95th Regiment of Foot (later to form the Sherwood Foresters with the 45th of Foot) in the assault on the Great Redoubt during the Battle of Alma on September 20, 1854 in the Crimea War.

The 95th advanced through the blazing village of Bourliouk, leap-frogging the 7th Fusiliers through withering Russian gunfire before wading the Alma and bursting into the redoubt on the far bank.

MANY SLAUGHTERED

Many on both sides were slaughtered as the 95th engaged the 31st Imperial Russian Guards at close quarters. The Queen's Colour of the 95th was placed on the walls as a rallying point and passed from hand-to-hand of officer, sergeant and, finally, a Pte Keenan, as bearers were killed or wounded.

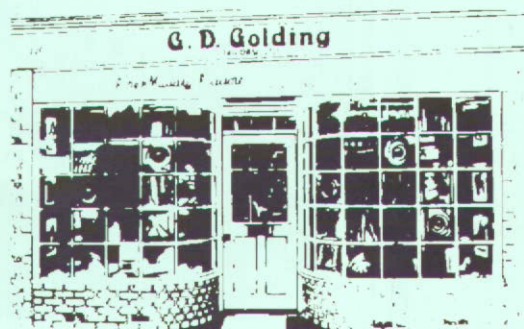
When British reserves appeared later in the day the Russians withdrew. By then the regiment had lost two-thirds of its officers and a quarter of its men.

The Russian drums were captured and, to commemorate the battle, permission for their triangular dicing to be borne on the drums of the 95th was given. The tradition is continued to this day.

The museum, in Nottingham Castle, is open all the year round, 1000-1700, but closed Fridays Nov-Mar. Entry free Mon-Fri; entry charge weekends and bank holidays. Tel 0115 9465415.

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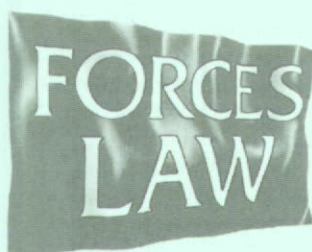
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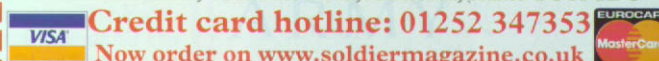
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You little monkey

Fold it up and tuck it in your car boot – this cheeky little bike really is child's play and Robbie Williams and Geri Halliwell are among its fans

WE asked David Attenborough to conduct this test, but he courteously declined. We were saddened, but understood, writes Syd Taylor.

Today zoologists all over the world are turning their attention to a new simian breed of creature that gets from A to B and back again on a squirt of grape juice.

It's the new Easy Rider Monkey Bike – a Honda design first seen in the Sixties and now resurrected and built under licence by Chinese firm Jincheng of Nanjing City. Jincheng had input from Honda, so standards are high.

This little monkey certainly has style with its well-proportioned exhaust – covered by a chrome heatshield – curling away from the finned horizontal cylinder of the 49cc low-maintenance engine.

It has been around for years in the Honda C50 "step-thru" – the world's best-selling two-wheeler – so its credentials are impeccable. With three gears, a "heel'n toe" clutchless gear-change and a centrifugal clutch, it couldn't be easier to ride. In fact it's child's play and is small enough for use by kids of eight years and over to learn to ride off-road.

On the other hand, I'm 6ft and found it easy to control and ride: not in the least cramped. Even my 6ft 4in anthropoidal pal, who weighs 16st, had no problem. So as practical town transport, it's great – a far more exciting way to get about than on a boring 50cc scooter.

With quick-folding bars, and weighing only 60kg, the Monkey will fit in the boot of a small car. You can even take it on the train.

Picture the scene. It's the day of the big match and the whole world is heading for town. You're late: traffic is nose-to-tail and stationary. What do you do? You just park the car, open the boot and lift out the Monkey. The bars quickly unfold – and you're off.

Kick-starting the little Monkey into life couldn't be easier because of the small capacity and fairly low compression. You could even do this by hand if you wanted. Once the engine is running, you snick into gear, open the throttle and you're away –

Easy Rider M50 Monkey Bike

Tech spec

Engine Air-cooled four-stroke single-cylinder 49cc.

Transmission Three-speed with centrifugal clutch and chain final drive.

Suspension Rear, twin shocks; front, telescopic forks.

Brakes Front, disc or drum; rear, drum.

Tyres Front and rear, 350 x 8.

Electrics 12 volt.

Fuel capacity 4.5 litres.

Weight 60 kg.

Seat height 28in.

Price £899 front drum braked model; £999 front disc model.

but be careful. Believe it or not, this tiny bike will actually "pop a wheelie". The short wheelbase means it's best to keep your bodyweight over the bars as you pull away: lean back and the front wheel lifts instantly. Once under way you change up simply by easing the revs and pressing down on the gear-lever. You

'A far more exciting way to move about than on a boring 50cc'

don't exactly rocket away from standstill, but performance is enough to move briskly through town traffic. Top speed is 35-40mph but because you're so close to the ground it feels like 60. At that speed, the Monkey – with its balloon-style tyres and amply-padded seat – is stable and comfortable.

A sealed battery and 12-volt electrics make for reliable and powerful lighting – useful, because on this little Monkey you need to be noticed. Myopic car drivers are not always aware that you're there.

For those who seek extra performance there are all sorts of bolt-on extras, such as a Chinese-made barrel-and-piston kit that increases capacity to 72cc and takes speed up to 55mph.

With a bigger carburettor and even a supercharger or perhaps an 85cc four-speed "clutch" engine, fun is certainly the name of the game. It's not surprising there's a Monkey Rally every August at Billing Aquadrome in Northamptonshire.

The growing number of celebrities who are fans of these little bikes include Michael Barrymore, Robbie Williams and Geri Halliwell. But the ultimate seal of approval must surely come from the Duke of Edinburgh, who has bought some for his estate workers.

As for its economy, tales of 150mpg abound, but there was no chance to check this during the test, but the fuel level seemed to remain constant over 105 miles of riding – so maybe it's even more economical.

If any bike fitted the bill – the circus bill that is – this is the one. All you need is a barrel-organ, a fez, a cheeky smile and a battered old trilby in which to count your blessings.

To passing motorists you might look as if you're taking a catalytic converter for a walk and you might have problems dissuading neighbourhood dogs from taking an interest – but seriously, this really is a fun little bike which brings a smile to everyone you meet: you wouldn't be riding it if you didn't have a sense of humour!

Thanks are due to OTT Bike Shop (0800 358 0481) for the loan of the test bike.



Dream on...

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

OLYMPUS' Camedia C-700 Ultra Zoom is one of the world's smallest 10x optical zoom cameras.

The digital camera's lens offers a focal length equivalent to 38-380mm on a conventional 35mm camera and is boosted by a digital zoom that gives a combined performance of 27x.

An electronic viewfinder displays the exact image captured and also shows full photographic data.

Its impressive features list also includes multimedia capabilities, manual controls and numerous metering options.

① £599.99



Switched on...

FEELING IS BELIEVING

LOGITECH'S revolutionary iFeel mouse engages its user's sense of touch.

Designed to fit your hand, the mouse creates realistic tactile sensations to prevent people from overshooting icons, buttons and links.

The mouse, which records motion optically without use of a ball or roller, is compatible with the Immersion TouchSense technology used in Lionhead Studio's PC release *Black & White* (see *Game On...* opposite). Playing with an iFeel mouse brings an added level of realism to the game: for example, you can actually feel fish nibbling at your hand through the mouse.

① £39.99



WELCOME SIGHT

THIS Flatron LCD monitor represents the cutting edge in advanced design and technology. Not only does its flat LCD panel deliver stunning pictures from a much wider viewing angle than conventional screens but it also doubles as a Nicam stereo television.

With a maximum resolution of 1,024 by 786 pixels at a flicker-free refresh rate of 85Hz, the picture clarity of LG's LE-15A10 is first-class. The perfectly flat screen also eliminates any geometric or colour distortion.

① £899



MUSIC ON THE MOVE

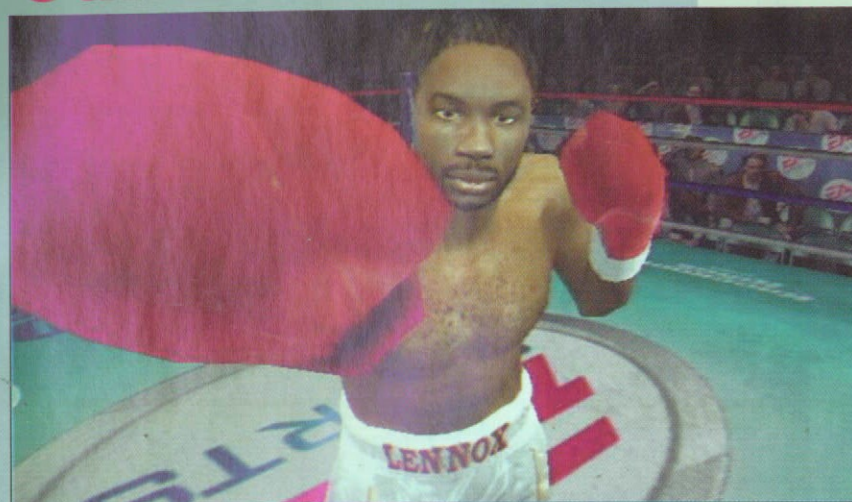
FEATURING the latest digital technology, LG's MF-PD360 is one of the smallest, lightest and most portable MP3 players on the market.

With the capacity for 64MB of memory and full Windows compatibility, the player weighs only 60g without batteries. It also benefits from "solid state" technology – unlike CD or MiniDisc there are no moving parts required to play the software, so the player overcomes the biggest problem of music on the move by being 100 per cent skip-proof.

For maximum convenience the MF-PD360 has a unique back-lit wired remote control on the earphones, leaving the user free to store the player in a pocket and simplifying track selection in dim lighting and when on the move. The remote control also displays battery time remaining, track number, song title and artist.

① £169.99

Game on...



KNOCKOUT KINGS 2001, PSX & PS2

OUT NOW

THE best-selling boxing game of all time is back and, unlike Lennox Lewis, is ready to defend its title.

Electronic Arts' *Knockout Kings 2001* features an impressive line-up of world-famous boxers which includes Lewis, Muhammad Ali, Ingemar Johansson, Frank Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Oscar De La Hoya, Shane Mosley and Floyd Mayweather.

The game also offers players the chance to step into the shoes of some of the world's top female boxers, with Mia St John and

WIBF world junior and flyweight champion Regina Halmich among the female contingency.

As is customary with an EA Sports title, *Knockout Kings* combines addictive, realistic gameplay with slick presentation. Visually the game is stunning and with in-fight commentary provided by Harry Carpenter, Barry McGuigan and Ian Darke, EA's latest offering leaves its boxing rivals out for the count.

SOLDIER'S VERDICT: First-class but as Lennox Lewis proved – nothing is perfect. **9/10**



DESPERADOS, PC

OUT NOW

FEATURING train robberies, bounties and shoot-outs, *Desperados* takes real-time strategy adventures to a place they've never been before – the Wild West.

Set in New Mexico during the turbulent days of the American Civil War, the game puts players in control of a band of gun-slingers on the hunt for an elusive bandit-leader, El Diablo.

Set across 24 missions, Infogrames' epic western oozes authenticity and includes every-

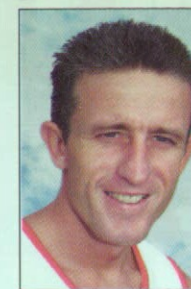
thing from bar-room brawls to saddling and riding a horse.

Advanced artificial intelligence makes the streets of New Mexico a dangerous place to roam with the game's enemies defined by factors such as brains, courage and resistance to alcohol.

Protection comes in the form of an arsenal of classic firearms, throwing knives and explosives.

VERDICT: Forget the bad and the ugly – this is good. **7/10**

TESTED BY THE ARMY BOXING TEAM



Army boxing coach SSgt Neil McCallum (APTC)

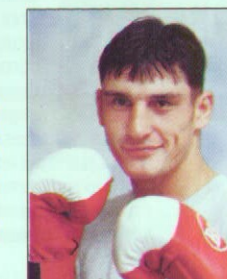
GRAPHICS: 9/10
SOUND: 8/10
REALISM: 8/10
PLAYABILITY: 10/10

OVERALL RATING: 9/10

Double novice ABA finalist
LCpl Lee Morris (RRF)

GRAPHICS: 8/10
SOUND: 8/10
REALISM: 8/10
PLAYABILITY: 10/10

OVERALL RATING: 9/10



England international Pte
Steven Briggs (1 PWO)

GRAPHICS: 9/10
SOUND: 8/10
REALISM: 8/10
PLAYABILITY: 10/10

OVERALL RATING: 9/10

BLACK & WHITE, PC

OUT NOW

IF you think a brigadier has power then you obviously have not had a chance to play *Black & White*.

This original offering by Electronic Arts sees players step into the breach and become the god of a Utopia populated by nine different tribes.

You can be any kind of god you choose – you can be a caring, benevolent deity who takes care of their every need, or you can terrorise these people into believing in you and doing what you demand through fear.

VERDICT: An acquired taste and just like Marmite you will either love it or hate it. **8/10**



Find out who you really are

STAR WARS, STARFIGHTER, PS2 OUT NOW



VERDICT: Action-packed and one of the best space-shooters to date. **7/10**

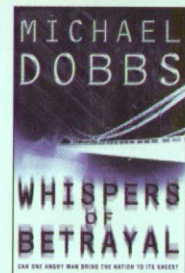
LOOSELY based on the film *Star Wars: Episode One*, *Starfighter* tasks players with the responsibility of saving Naboo and the rest of the galaxy from the oppressive abuses of the Trade Federation.

In layman's terms you get to pilot a number of 3D *Star Wars* spaceships – including the Naboo NI – through more than 14 different missions.

Each sortie is set in its own stunning environment and objectives range from escorting other ships to strafing enemy strongholds on a planet's surface.

Novel way to bring London to its knees

WHAT if a group of former soldiers, led by a disgruntled war hero, decided to hold London to ransom? That's the idea behind

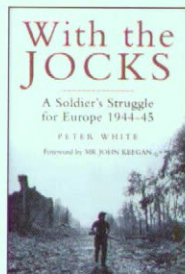


Michael Dobbs's latest thriller, **Whispers of Betrayal** (HarperCollins, £5.99) in which a renegade colonel brings the capital to its knees by cutting off its lifelines. The story crackles along faster than a computer virus, and draws on the author's experiences as a

security studies student when he wrote a thesis about the vulnerability of modern cities. A book crying out to be made into a mini-series for television.

Recalling a soldiers' struggle for Europe

AN extraordinary book by an extraordinary man, **With the Jocks** (Sutton, £19.99), is the journal of Peter White who, as a

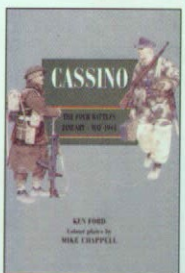


24-year-old lieutenant in The King's Own Scottish Borderers, detailed his regiment's advance into Germany during the closing months of the Second World War. It's an account of heroism and the strain of conflict, binge drinking, and life with death as a

daily companion, all recorded through the author's evocative drawings and his natural gift for story-telling. Peter White died in 1985 leaving his unpublished journal to enrich future generations.

Cassino gamble cost Allies dear

FAR from being the Axis's soft underbelly, the Italian peninsula proved a nightmare battleground. Expertly fortified and stubbornly



defended by some of Germany's finest troops, the Cassino massif and the devastated town at its foot defied assault by American, British, French, Indian, New Zealand and Polish troops. Ken Ford tells the grim story of **Cassino, The Four Battles January -**

May 1944 (The Crowood Press, £35) in serious detail, supported by appendices, maps and photographs. Military artist Mike Chappell illustrates the text with colour plates depicting soldiers from eight of the armies involved.

Urbane warriors

A history of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers mirrors the challenges faced by British infantry units over the past three decades

WHEN Simon Dunstan was asked to write a regimental history of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers he had a clear idea of the kind of book he wanted to produce.

"I wanted to get the point of view of the fusilier," he said. "The guy on the ground, the guy who walked the streets of Belfast during the hunger strikes, the guy who sat in the back of a Warrior during the Gulf War. I was not necessarily interested in massaging the reputations of retired generals."

In *For England and St George* he has written a compelling account of life in a modern infantry regiment. It follows the men through war and peace in the years since the regiment was formed in 1968. In so doing, the book reflects how the role and skills of the Infantry have expanded, from internal security in Northern Ireland, to armoured warfare in the Gulf.

The story is told through the voices of the men who were there - from the Bogside to the Balkans. These first-person accounts are vivid and

For England and St George by Simon Dunstan (The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, £25).

Review: Anthony Stone

emotive, none more so than when telling the story of the "blue-on-blue" incident in which nine soldiers of the 3rd Battalion lost their lives during the Gulf War.

The graphic descriptions of what happened when the APCs were hit by Maverick missiles fired from US Air Force Thunderbolt ground-attack aircraft are quite horrifying. The terrible details are recorded here, along with the many acts of unselfish bravery that were carried out on that day.

"It was a tragic event but accidents happen in war," the author said. "It took me a long time to gain the trust of people who were involved because many of them had not spoken about it, not even to their wives. Several said: 'I have never told anyone this'."

"I spoke to as many guys on the ground as I could, the guys in the back of the vehicle that was hit, and those who sur-

Terrorist threat: Fusiliers of 11 Platoon Z Company on exercise in a deserted Turkish Cypriot village outside Paramari during the 1 RRF residential tour of Cyprus in 1986

vived. It took me a long time to track them down. But we got there."

This is Dunstan's first regimental history, although he has written about 30 military books. The Fusiliers' long and illustrious history meant there was no shortage of material, but the author kept his sights on his original plan.

The history of the four county regiments before amalgamation is dealt with concisely, highlighting the

battle honours, the significance of regimental days and how the hackle came about. But the meat of the book is the last three decades, making this a contemporary historical document.

Fusiliers are alert and comfortable on the streets, quick to pick up a change of atmosphere. From Belfast to the Balkans, Fusiliers bring with them classic infantry qualities of discipline, professionalism and their own brand of

humour, making them the complete urban warriors.

Its publication is well-timed. The youngest officer to be commissioned into The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was 2nd Lt Roy Wilde, who recently became Colonel of the regiment - the first officer to go all the way through.

● The book can be ordered from Capt John Davis, RHQ, RRF, Tower of London, ECN 4AB (telephone 0207 488 5606). Include £7.70 p&p.

Second World War, serving with the Royal Engineers and SAS in St Valéry, El Alamein, Sicily, Belgium, Holland and Germany. (Stockwell, £19.99.)

Marching Over Africa by G A Morris. Family saga spanning Lucknow to the Somme via the Black Hole of Calcutta, the Charge of the Light Brigade, and the Zulu and Boer Wars. Sweeping historical fiction from an author who served ten years

with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Tank Regiment. (The Book Guild, £16.95.)

Recently published at £9.95 each in the Leo Cooper "Battle-ground" paperback series for the real or virtual traveller: **Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana** (Zulu War), both by Ian Knight and Ian Castle; **Asiago** (Italy, First World War), by Francis Mackay; **Airfield & Airmen** (Ypres) by Mike O'Connor; and **Das Reich**

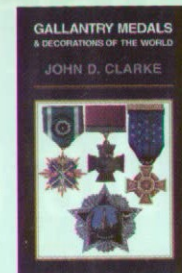
Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Rewarding courage in extreme adversity

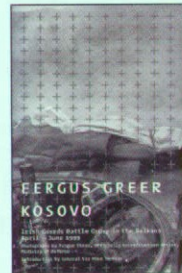
ALTHOUGH a specialist reference tool, **Gallantry Medals & Decorations of the World** (Leo Cooper, £25) is not a dry academic tome. Orders, decorations and medals from 43 nations are detailed, covering the period from the Crimean War to the present, but the text is enriched by stories of heroism with extracts from citations. Included is the first award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to Cpl Wayne Mills, 1 DWR, in recognition of his service in Bosnia when his patrol came under fire and he risked his own life delaying the aggressors while his men escaped.



Kosovo conflict was black-and-white issue

DURING the Kosovo conflict, former Irish Guards officer Fergus Greer became the first photographer to be officially accredited by the Ministry of

Defence as a war artist. From April to June 1999, he followed the Irish Guards Battle-group as it moved up from Macedonia to Kosovo, recording their activities which culminated in the liberation of Pristina. Greer's work, taken exclusively in black and white, can be seen in **Kosovo** (Rosebud Media, £15), a collection of gritty prints, each informed by the photographer's understanding and affection for his subject.



Polished performers from age of elegance

CAMPAIGN furniture, designed to be folded up, packed, and carried on the march, has been used since the time of Julius Caesar and even earlier. In the first book written on the sub-

ject, **British Campaign Furniture: Elegance under Canvas, 1740-1914**

(Abrams, £30), art historian Nicholas A Brawer reveals the secrets of the furniture that accompanied British Empire builders to the farthest corners of the earth. The extraordinary pieces photographed in this book are marks of a society dedicated to style and appearances, even in the face of enemy fire.



IN BRIEF

The Bloody Road to Tunis by David Rolf. Story of the six-month Tunisian campaign of 1942-43 told in depth after extensive research in the British, American and German archives. (Greenhill Books, £19.99.)

What If? edited by Robert Cowley. Military historians, including Sir John Keegan (How Hitler Could Have Won the War) and Alistair Horne (Napoleon's Missed Opportunities), imagine

what might have been. Not a new idea, but entertaining nonetheless. (Pan paperback, £7.99.)

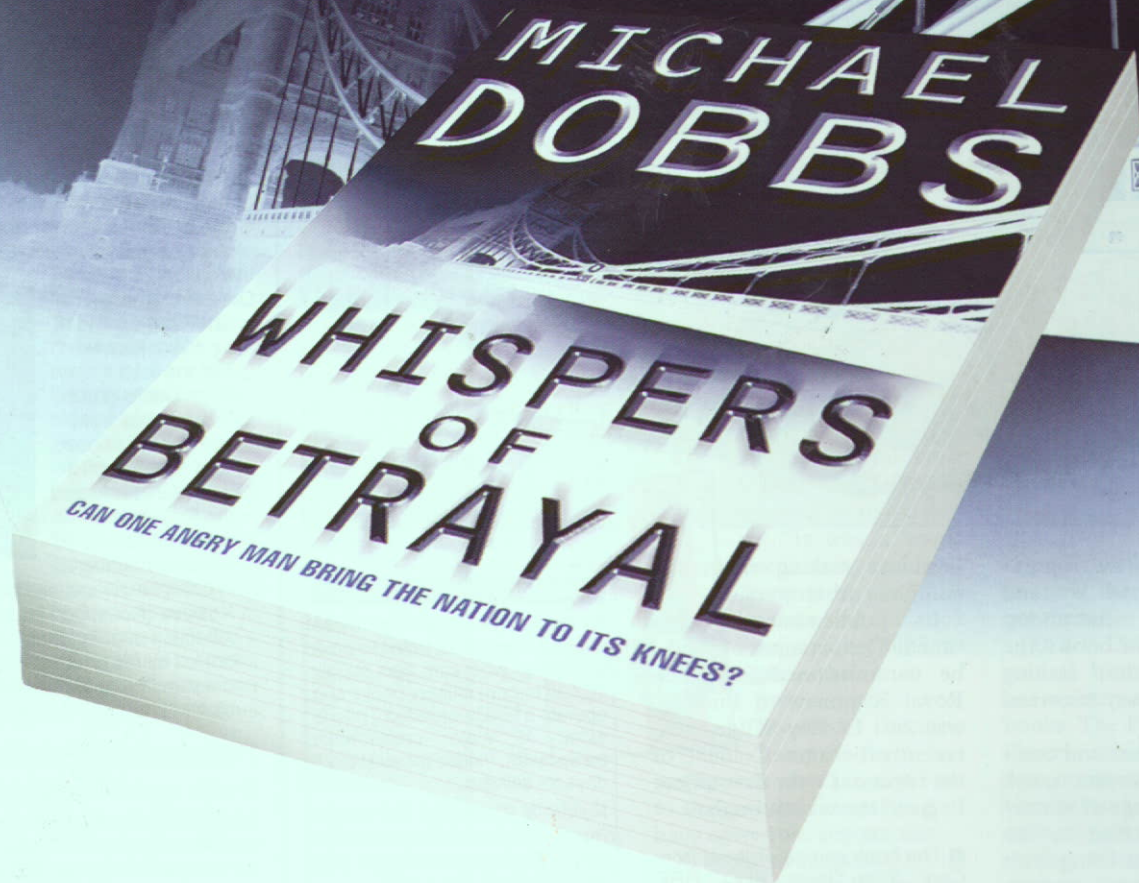
Warfare in the Seventeenth Century by John Childs. Another gorgeously-illustrated volume in Cassell's History of Warfare series. £20.

Collector's Guide to British Army Campaign Medals by Robert W D Ball. Colourful volume first published in 1996

with illustrations ranging from the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 to the Gulf War Medal 1991. Dedicated to the "British Imperial, Colonial, Indian and Native Forces, both living and dead". (Antique Trader Books, Dubuque, Iowa; available from Gazelle Books, 01524 68765.)

The Lame One by W A Deakins. In this autobiography sub-titled "Sod this for a game of soldiers", Bill Deakins charts his life in the

What harm can one bitter,
enraged ex-soldier do?
Hold the capital to ransom & bring
the nation to its knees



'Terrific ... as good as anything Dobbs has done ...
Superb' *Sunday Telegraph*

**OWN THE THRILLER OF THE YEAR,
OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK**

SOLDIER
to soldierComrades
(& friends)
in arms

SPEAKING at the annual lunch of the Victory Services Club, BBC war reporter Kate Adie reflected on why men don't, by and large, have friends.

Men have colleagues and work-mates, she said, but only women have friends.

This lack of friendship, resulting in loneliness, was the root of much unhappiness in society.

But the Armed Forces were different, she said. Soldiers had plenty of good mates, who ultimately trusted each other with their lives. And there wasn't a greater friendship than that.

♦ ♦ ♦

Her observation was echoed in a different context by a young trooper living in the superb en-suite, flat-type accommodation available to single soldiers serving with The Light Dragoons at Swanton Morley.

Although fulsome in his praise for the new quarters ("This is the best accommodation I have ever had and I've been in the Army for a number of years") he sounded a note of caution.

Because the flats are self-contained there is less compulsion to mingle or socialise with mates. His commanding officer reckons it could hinder teamwork – the foundation stone on which the Army is built.

The planners have already picked up these vibes and are looking at design options which would allow for a communal area but at the same time give soldiers their own space.

♦ ♦ ♦

Our man in Bermuda reports (Pages 37-39) that comradeship is a surprisingly unifying bond for the island's disparate military conscripts. A sergeant told him: "Like any army in the world you make permanent friends. Here, people from all walks of life... come in and stay mates for the rest of their lives."

Thriving old comrades' associations (see *Reunions* and *Searchline*, Pages 60 and 61) bear witness to that.

Kate Adie is absolutely right.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

It's all a big
paper chase

HAVE you been reading the papers lately? Let me paint you a picture of the Army in the 21st century, as depicted by recent stories in the national press.

Not only, it seems, is the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's tastelessly-named culture of "culling out" to be extended to Scottish brigades (*"Army to merge Scottish brigades"*) and various regiments (*"Senior regiments face axe in cuts"*), but the MoD is apparently planning to move us all up north and sell all the quarters and barracks in the south so we can't move back again (*"Army may head north to cash in on property boom"*).

This is because they need the money, and anyway most of us come from the north (ie north of Westminster) and the powers-that-be want us all to go and live near our families and never make us move again.

Isn't that a nice thought... no moves, no accompanied service, no quarters, no families, no cost to the Treasury. All the money spent a few short years ago on defence buildings in Bristol and the like is apparently now seen as an error of judgement and we would all be much better off in Newcastle.

So, there we are in the north (but not in Scotland) – those of us, that is, who have not deserted or gone AWOL (*"Record numbers desert the Army"*), presumably back to the south, or who have handed in our kitbags in search of a more politically correct profession on the railways (*"Railtrack asks Army for help"*) or displaying our new MoD-improved boobs on Page Three of *The Sun*. So handy when diving into a trench.

Those of us actually still here are wonderful, impeccably-trained people doing a grand job (*"We don't need an election, we need a military coup"*), especially sorting out the foot-and-mouth crisis (*"Right men for a tough job"*) which, despite implications to the contrary, we have been exonerated



Sue Bonney is Editor of the AFF Families Journal

from starting with slops from imported meat as part of a job creation scheme (*"Army not to blame"*).

And yet, would you believe it, we are having trouble recruiting, except for the Paras (*"Thousands in rush to join hero Paras"*). What? Don't they want to join an undermanned organisation based only in the north which goes anywhere at anytime with rationalized and/or vanishing resources (*"Vehicle order halted as Army cuts bite"*) to do jobs which no one else wants, leaving the family behind for months on end? Haven't they heard about the boob jobs (*"Booby trap recruiting"*)?

Your guess is as good as mine as to

Army may head north to
cash in on property boom

● In the news: How the national press saw it

whether these stories are accurately reported, but I suspect most are conjecture and sensationalism and have about as much to do with everyday life in the Army as six months without an operational tour/course/exercise.

It's the effect they have that worries me – both on potential recruits' perception of the Army and the morale of serving soldiers dealing with possible equipment cuts and life-changing decisions about where they are based.

The last word goes to a piece by A N Wilson in the *London Evening Standard* (*"The British Army is the most professional Army in the world, but sadly it has no function"*).

Mr Wilson thinks we don't need an Army and the money would be better spent on "state schools as good as Eton".

Much more press coverage like this and he may find out if he is right as we all hand in our kit, turn out the lights and head, as one man/woman, for the hills, north or south, leaving them all to cope without us (*"Armed Forces are undervalued"*).

**Let me paint
you a picture
of the Army in
the 21st century,
as depicted
by the press**



PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000 PAY 2000

'Losers' will feel it in the pension

WHILE I have no conceptual, trade-related or pay-rate problems with Pay 2000, the reply by the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) to Sgt Amor's letter (April) prompted my pen to paper.

The line "Pay 2000 will recognise and reward experience in rank" caught my eye. As a WO2, the minimum (and at April 1 also the maximum) entry level to Pay 2000 for all WO2s of my ilk is level 5. We all have a nice pay rise to start out equal as no one can earn less than the minimum.

No recognition of experience, of course, but then that is acceptable, given that one has to start somewhere.

However, consider the case of a three-year WO2 promoted on April 6, 1998 but granted acting promotion on Feb 28, 1998. This WO2 started at level 5 on April 1, 2001, and moves to level 6 on Feb 28, 2002. Another WO2 promoted on April 6, 1999 (or even 2000), but not granted acting rank, will also start on level 5 on April 1, but as he/she now has "recognised experience" will move to level 6 on April 6, 2001.

There is no question of marking time as neither started at a higher level than their experience allows and there is no lower level. The situation

is, we are told, the result of a "carefully designed" transition process. The *Titanic* was also carefully designed.

Perhaps the most unfortunate outcome will be the effect on pensions for the losers. If new arrangements come into force we will be asked to choose between the old scheme and a new salary-based scheme. The important words here are "final salary".

Pay 2000 will ensure that if these two WO2s leave in 2003 or later, the WO2 with one or more years' seniority will go with a smaller pension than the junior WO2. It would not apply to the old scheme.

This could lead to a whole band of ex-soldiers with grievances. The new minister for ex-Servicemen could be busy.
— **WO2 P J Creighton, AGC(SPS), Andover.**

Fallout for REME craftsmen

IN the Chief of the Defence Staff's foreword to the pay booklet he says: "Pay 2000 will allow for improved retention of individual skills... and is also designed to encourage recruitment and retention."

This could not be further from the truth as far as REME craftsmen are concerned.

Placing craftsmen in the lower pay band shows no recognition of the skills

Senior people could miss out

FURTHER to "Unfair start to fair system" (Mail, April), I should like to point out that not only is the new pay system unfair when it comes to promotion, it is grossly unfair when it comes to what it claims to reward – seniority and experience.

As a member of a branch of the AGC whose lowest rank is sergeant (and in which competition for the few promotion places is fierce), I am one of many senior sergeants, with eight years in the rank.

From April 1 we sergeants in the MPS entered the new pay scheme, mostly at level 4, and will rise to level 5 during the next financial year, depending on which month promotion was gained. In my case this was March, so I will achieve level 5 in March 2002.

However, a sergeant who

was promoted in the month of April will obviously pick up level 5 in that month. Because we all entered at the same level, there are many cases in my unit (presumably thousands Army-wide) whereby a sergeant who has five years' seniority in April will be being paid level 5 rates for almost a whole year before me with my eight years' seniority.

This will happen this year and every year until promotion is gained or the upper level reached by both.

When I queried the anomaly with promotion dates and seniority, I was told: "You're just one of the lucky ones."

Surely, luck should not come into how much personnel are paid. If the new system is to reward seniority and experience, why aren't appropriately senior persons in each rank being paid the corresponding rate to start with?

As I understand it the new pension scheme will be based on the final year of salary. This will also create an imbalance.

While it's appreciated that relatively junior personnel will receive better rates of pay as they progress, it appears seniors in each rank are losing out, which contradicts what Pay 2000 purports to reward.
— **Sgt J R Carter AGC (MPS), MCTC Colchester.**

achieved during training. For years to come we will effectively be marking time, while other arms and corps catch us up. There are now minimal benefits to be gained by joining the REME. — Cfn Laidler, Martin, Byrne, Wythe, Pennington, Hart, Floyd, Murdoch, Ward, Fish, Turner, Graham, Murray, Whittingham, Garwood, Harvey, Stringfellow, 8 CS Coy REME, 7 Air Assault Bn REME, Colchester.

Men we command will soon be paid more than us

I THOUGHT the way to win the modern battle was to ensure that your command, control and communications strategy was better than your enemy's. I have found since April 1 (April Fool's Day) that this is not the case. The way to defeat the enemy is to send in waves of infantrymen, chefs and musicians... or was the pay review just about retention?

Having been a Royal Engineers vocational communicator for more than 15 years I've been fortunate to serve in the Gulf, Northern Ireland and the Balkans and to use my trade in "real" situations unavailable to many soldiers.

In embracing the move to the digitized battlefield I decided some years ago to attend college and gained management and computer qualifications to enhance my ability to carry out my work. On selection as an instructor at my chosen trade I returned to college and passed the Adult Education Teacher Certificate.

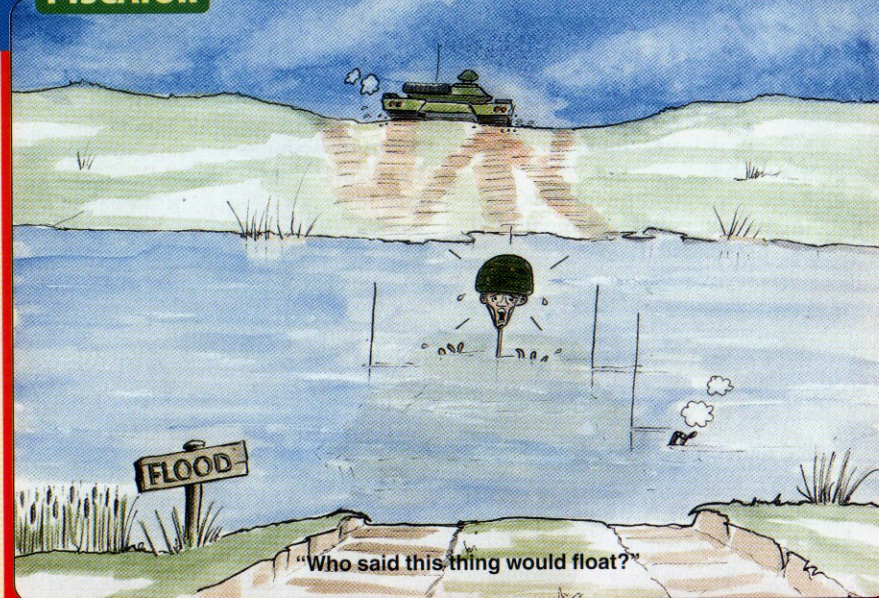
Imagine my surprise on seeing the new pay structure that my efforts were in vain and I was in the lower pay bracket. I thought: "At least I'll be paid on a level par with my fellow communicators". But the Royal Engineer is a funny beast and we are not getting paid for the trade we

are doing, rather for qualifications we hold but don't use. I and many others will soon be in a position where the men we lead get paid more than us by virtue of a course they attended years before, that I was told I couldn't do. Would a commanding officer accept it if one of his majors got paid more than him? I think not.

The MoD should take a hard look at the animosity this is causing. I for one am unhappy at being described as "lower band vermin" in the Sergeants' Mess. — **SSgt Chris Vincent, Comms Trg Wg, RE, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Surrey.**

WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU • E-mail: solmag@btinternet.com

PISCATOR



Question time: The axe is the emblem of which military trade?

A) The Lumberjacks; B) The Foresters; C) The Pioneers.

Answers on a postcard please to ABF Soldier Competition, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR. First ten correct entries picked out of the hat will win a Piscator Bugler Boy keyring and a Tommy Atkins fridge magnet (no name and address, no prize). All entries will be placed in the ABF Grand Prize Draw.



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Am I just unlucky to lose extra £7 a day?

WHY be a vehicle mechanic in the REME? This is a question that keeps popping into my head when I look at pay 2000. I realize that it seems to be fairer in some places, but at the moment there are too many little things that seem to have been overlooked.

I read in the DPS(A) response (Mail, April) that job evaluation (JE) will be done in the near future. I think it should have been done before Pay 2000 was implemented and not after... perhaps there will be back pay when it gets sorted out.

I will give you my case and you can judge for yourself if it is fair (I've been told I am just plain unlucky).

I was selected for promotion in February and was told I should have my second tape up this summer, pending a vacancy. As I will be promoted to corporal when Pay 2000 is in place, I will be earning £6

to £7 a day less than somebody who was promoted just before April 1. All I have worked for in the last few years after getting my first tape was my second.

All vehicle mechanics know that the pay jump from lance corporal to corporal is a big one, comparable to REME technician pay scales, which I will not get. Why bother being a vehicle mechanic? — **A Grant, A Squadron LAD, QRL, Osnabruck.**

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy... Soldier welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the our gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Mail
us!

PAY 2000 PAY 2000

There's no reward here for my long experience

ONE of the main selling points of the Pay 2000 briefing was that the new system will reward experience. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that I am effectively promoted to WO2 this month.

Having been a WO2 since 1998 I have not attended any courses or gained further qualifications to increase my pay in this rank. This month, however, I am going to receive the same pay as a newly-promoted WO2 who has the same qualifications as me. Perhaps I'm missing something but I have been a WO2 for three years. This is more of a kick in the teeth than a reward.

The situation is not limited to my rank – in my squadron we have corporals of five years' service whose experience is being rewarded by being awarded the same pay level as a newly-promoted corporal of the same qualifications.

We also have a large number of personnel who were paid specialist trade pay under the old pay system who are now going to be paid in the Low Range of the new system. In pursuing a specialist trade these individuals were directed not to attend the (routine) course which would have qualified them to the High Range pay band.

Unless they are brought up to a par with their contemporaries we will no longer be able to get individuals to follow these pay streams. We will also end up paying for individuals to attend courses simply to get them up to the Higher Range pay level, even if the individuals will never use the skills and knowledge gained on the course. Wouldn't it be simpler and cheaper to upgrade their pay/qualification to the higher pay level?

The sad and infuriating thing is that most people who are going to be disadvantaged are those who are "in too deep". Having already shown their loyalty and commitment to the Army, they are now too late to change careers. I am well aware that much is being done to address teething problems, but by the time all the anomalies of the new system are sorted out morale will have plummeted to an all-time low. — **WO2 (SSM) P M McCallum RE, 60 HQ and Sp Sqn (Air Sp), 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach, Cambs.**



Pregnant pause on uniforms

AS a pregnant Servicewoman I feel compelled to highlight the anomalies I have experienced in trying to obtain a suitable fitting maternity uniform. My first discovery was that I was not allowed to place an order for maternity wear until I was at least three months pregnant and that it would take a further three to four months to arrive.

It does not take an Einstein to work out that I would be at least five months pregnant before the uniform arrived.

I waited the required three months and then went to the clothing store to be measured up. To my astonishment the only measurement they wanted (the uniform includes trousers) was my chest size. Shock, horror... when the uniform arrived it was so big you'd think I was giving birth to a whole platoon. I believe in doing my bit for recruitment, but a whole platoon?

After several visits to the tailoress my uniform is still unwearable and, due to

the length of delivery time, it is not worth re-ordering.

I have nothing but praise for the QM's Department, who have sympathised with my predicament and regularly issued me with larger Combat 95 uniforms. However, it is unacceptable to expect a once well turned out individual to make do with a uniform that is too long in the leg and too big in the chest just so it covers her "bump".

Did the Army seek advice from Mothercare, Blooming Marvellous or Next (to name but a few), all of which are experts in maternity wear?

Have any pregnant Servicewomen been asked to comment on the uniforms?

Why is it that I can go to any high street store that sells maternity wear, pick up a size 12 which will fit perfectly, but the Army cannot make a pair of trousers to fit?

Why do you have to be three months

pregnant before ordering maternity uniform, why does it take so long to arrive and how can one's trouser size be worked out from the size of one's chest? Oh, and does the Army really think that wool trousers are the best things for a pregnant woman to be wearing during the summer?

It has been many years since the Army changed its policy on pregnant women. In that time the maternity uniform has changed at least three times and it is still not acceptable. As I am continuing to work until I am eight months pregnant perhaps the Army would like to subsidise my pay so that I can buy appropriate civilian clothes for work from companies that seem to find it easier to dress pregnant women. After all, it does not seem to matter that they are wasting taxpayers' money by constantly changing and producing a uniform that is poorly designed and ill fitting, to say the least. — **Cpl M J Hemstead, AGC (SPS), Rheindahlen.**

We need feedback from you (good or bad) to improve maternity products
— DLO

▲ *The Defence Logistics Organisation responds: Although we have a good range of maternity products we strive to improve it and welcome constructive feedback (good or bad) to help with this. Based on this process, changes are already planned. For example, the use of polyester crêpe material for the maternity dress. Any suggestions or comments on maternity wear can be*

sent to the Requirements Manager 6, Defence Clothing and Textiles IPT, Skimmingdish Lane, Caversfield, Bicester, Oxon OX27 8TS.

On specific points raised in Cpl Hemstead's letter, we did seek advice from commercial companies when developing maternity wear. Advice was also sought from the US Army, which has had maternity uniforms for some time.

There were problems with delivery at the end of last year due to contractor problems. Expected turn-round time is normally ten days.

It's true the only measurement required is for the bust before pregnancy. It may not sound scientific but during pregnancy the waist and hip sizes become less relevant as the aim of maternity wear is to be adjustable.

Lack of urgency is false economy

THE letter "Our MQ faults 'celebrate' first year" (Mar) reminded me of my experience of trying to get faults repaired in our quarter at Trenchard Lines at Upavon in Wiltshire.

I reported to our DHE office that our bathroom window leaked when it was raining and as a result suffered from fast-growing mould. Eighteen months after the initial complaint and a couple of visits from various surveyors and workmen it still wasn't resolved.

The main concrete joist just above our back door had a crack approximately an inch in width, which was also reported at the same time. Again, after a couple of visits from surveyors (and new

contractors later), nothing was done in the same 18-month period.

We left the house in July last year on a posting to Germany with the problems still outstanding. They were not completed in the seven days that they should have been as the DHE listed them as "urgent".

I know that DHE is always saying it has no money to spend on repairs but the fact remains that fairly minor jobs (which I admit would have needed some cash spent on them) had turned into major structural problems, which in turn will require even more expenditure. Surely a case of false economics. — **Mrs A Whitwham, Rochdale Barracks, Bielefeld.**

They ain't heavy, but they're our brothers

AS an officer in The Royal Dragoon Guards, a regiment that recruits from Ireland (both North and South), I was interested to read the feature on Northern Ireland in your April edition.

While I was delighted to see that mention was made of the cavalry recruits passing through Ballymena, I felt I ought to make two corrections. First, that The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars were amalgamated in 1992 and are now part of The Queen's Royal Hussars. Second, that the "Irish Cavalry" has two constituent parts: The Royal Dragoon Guards, recruiting from Ireland and Yorkshire, and The Queen's Royal Hussars, recruiting from Ire-

land and the areas of England around Birmingham and London.

The strong link between my own regiment and the island of Ireland was indeed alluded to later in that feature, when you quoted Tpr McKenna, soon to join the regiment. However, I am sure our close, light cavalry, friends in the QRH would be somewhat embarrassed by the implication that they were claiming the title of "Irish Cavalry" in isolation from their heavy cavalry cousins in The Royal Dragoon Guards. — **Maj T D Hyams, The Royal Dragoon Guards, Munster.**

▲ *No disrespect intended. We're happy to set the record straight.* — **Editor**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1976: "For two years I was a tank crewman in what is now The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards . . . I was the only Scot in that crew. One other was a Geordie, there was one lad from Barnsley, who was under the happy delusion that Barnsley was an up-and-coming football team in the English League, and there was a Londoner." – Tam Dalyell (Labour, West Lothian) commenting in Parliament on the possibility of an independent Scottish Army.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1951: **Dust** is a scourge again in Korea. This soldier, above, has taken steps to protect his rifle. Meanwhile, the Battle of the Imjin River is no longer news, but history: the kind of history on which the dust will not readily settle. On a hill in Korea the Glosters brought the word "glory" back into the headlines. Somewhere, north of the 38th Parallel, are hard-trying and badly-wounded men who alone can round off the story of the great stand by 29th Brigade.

PS . . .

Lads were great

I'm a civilian slaughterman on the foot-and-mouth cull based at the TA Centre at Kingston Park, Newcastle. I was asked by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if I would work with the Army and was put in a team headed by Sgt Dave Salter of 101 (Northumbria) Regt RA (V).

When I saw how young they were I was worried about them being out of place for the horrid job we had to do. I need not have worried – they were marvellous.

Farmers broke down on some of the farms we killed out, but the whole squad acted at all times with a compassion which belied their age. They carried out the task with superb precision and were a credit to their regiments and the Army.

When so many youngsters are condemned as a waste of time it was wonderful to meet some who defy this description. – Gordon Nixon, Cleveland.

Cardiff was great

From the winner of our world title boxing extravaganza competition (April)

JUST a quick note to let you know my daughter and I had a truly fantastic time in Cardiff. The evening was absolutely awesome. In addition to the event inside the arena, Frank Warren, Frank Maloney and the referees were staying in the same hotel as us. We met Joe Calzaghe in the hotel before the evening got underway. All in all we had a great time, so many thanks. – K-B, AGC, Northern Ireland.

Kit you're buying could light you up like a Christmas tree

I READ with some concern Sgt Mockridge's letter (May) on buying his own kit. All too often we see equipment at the Surveillance Target Acquisition and Night Observation and Countersurveillance Centre (STANOC) that would probably put lives at risk on real operations.

Chest rigs that look Gucci and are very comfortable but have the wrong infra-red (IR) reflectance make the wearer virtually glow in the dark when seen through an image intensifier.

Bergens made of materials that take up heat when the sun shines on them give the soldier's position away to anyone with a thermal imager. Likewise, Aussie ponchos have an IR reflectance designed for Australian conditions, certainly not for conditions in the Balkans.

We have pointed this out to many people on courses or unit training at the centre. When we ask Pte X what he is

going to do with his dodgy daysack, the usual answer is "Flog it to someone who doesn't know how dangerous it is, Sir."

The Vox pop answers were interesting because much of the kit soldiers wanted to buy fell into the "slightly dangerous" category. Softie jackets should never be worn as an outer layer because, although they are almost the best thing since sliced bread, they glow in the dark under IR light. I understand this urge to buy "better" kit and felt it myself before I became a "nearly" desk-bound staff officer. I have succumbed more than once.

Please be patient Sgt Mockridge and friends. Let the trials and development units have a heads-up if you find a really excellent bit of kit. The chances are that they are aware of it as they are very close to industry and forever being offered bits of kit to trial, as we are.

But if they are not aware of it they will

be grateful for your help. They may, however, have other things on their trials plate and not be in a position to drop everything and look at your favourite bit of kit immediately.

Although not purely a trials and development unit, we at the STANOC Centre are well aware of the fact that trials are serious things and if they are incorrectly handled you can get into service a piece of kit that is fine for one group but considered a positive nuisance by others.

If the CamelBak hydration system passes the trials phase it may come into service if there are sufficient funds. I for one will welcome it as I'm off to Sierra Leone and suspect that it would be a great asset in that climate . . . but I can't be sure. I'll wait and see what ITDU has to say – and perhaps volunteer to trial one for them. – J N J Stadward, SO2(W) Surveillance, STANOC Centre.

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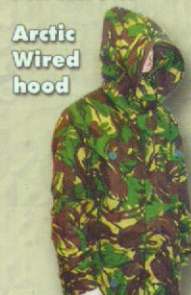
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Our barracks were poor, but that was 47 years ago

WITH reference to your special report on sub-standard accommodation (May), these photos may be of interest.

Taken in 1954, they show Tournai Barracks, Aldershot, where I spent two years with the RADC before moving into tented accommodation in Cyprus.

In those days no lockers were provided and all our kit had to be stored in two ammunition boxes kept under the bed. The only heating was from an iron stove and the washrooms were more primitive than the ones depicted in your report.

It is shocking to learn that some soldiers are still living in conditions little changed over the past 47 years. — **R G Smith, Swindon.**



How it was: H Block, Tournai Barracks, Aldershot 1954



Bleak interior: Inside H Block, upper floor, viewed from the upper right window as seen in the top picture

Rules aren't helping me make a fresh start in UK

I AM a Canadian married to a British soldier and I moved to the UK last December to be with my husband.

My three beautiful children from a previous marriage decided to stay in Canada with their father. I have supported their decision and they have supported mine.

Moving to the UK and giving up everything was my choice but the Army has not made it easy for me or my husband. The Army refused to bring my belongings over to the UK so I was only able to take three bags and pictures of my children.

Before I left Canada I was told that my kids would be eligible for an indulgence flight to visit me. Now the Army says they are not entitled because they have nothing to do with my husband. They're not his, even though I am married to him.

I think the Army has forgotten that these days there are different blends of families out there and step-parents and children are more common than traditional families.

Despite a court order that the kids come to the UK this summer the only way we will get them here is if we take a loan.

Can you tell me why the Army does not accept blend families, or even treat them the same as traditional families?

I accept that the decision to move was mine, but I love my husband very much and the Army is making things difficult for us.

Incidentally, I would like to thank 10 Brigade Support Squadron, part of 3 Close Support Regiment RLC, which has been very helpful and supportive. — **Patricia Kirkwood, Abingdon, Oxford.**

▲ *Soldier understands that the Army is well aware of the issue of foreign-born spouses but powerless to do anything about it unless it can get tri-Service agreement and Treasury approval for additional funding.*

None of this will be of comfort to Mrs Kirkwood, as everything she says in her letter is in accordance with current rules and regulations. Key to the problem is that allowances and compassionate leave travel are provided on the principle that the Army is UK-based and should, where possible, mirror current civilian practice.

Her children have no entitlement because her husband has no parental responsibility for them — and entitlement for indulgence comes from him as a Serviceman.

There is no reason why she cannot apply for an indulgence flight to go and see them in Canada. Her husband could apply for a two-year posting to Canada, in which case they would be entitled to bring her possessions back within a certain allowance. — **Editor**

No name, no letter

A "Bombadier RHA" wrote to tell us that only three members of his six-man tank crew will be eligible to receive the Golden Jubilee Medal. He says that, after a tour in the Balkans, he is proud of all of them and trusts them with his life.

If he cares to contact us with his name and address, we will be happy to print the rest of his letter.

The same applies to the senior NCO from 2 R Anglian who wrote on the subject of mess bills.

Both raise legitimate issues that are sure to be widely debated... but we can't publish them because they are anonymous. We will respect requests for names and addresses not to be printed, but we do need to know that the letters are genuine. — **Editor**

Just eight medals for a regiment

THE issuing of the Golden Jubilee Medal to Service personnel with a minimum of five years' service is generous compared with the Coronation Medal 1953, when only members of Commonwealth and foreign contingents on marching or route-lining duty received the medal as a right.

I realise that it was the personal gift of the Queen, but the allocation of medals among our then 440,000-strong British Army was mean, to say the least. The Army Council decreed that Regular units, regardless of size, would receive a maximum of eight medals, not more than half to be given to officers. TA units received a maximum of five.

At the time I was overseas in a larger-than-normal gunner regiment of four batteries and a total strength of 1,100 men. Our allocation went to the CO, two battery commanders, the medical officer, the RSM and the RQMS, leaving just two for distribution within the regiment. I know of no man who received one, apart from those mentioned. — **Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.**

CONCERNING Mr Ellis's comments (May), why shouldn't the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) get the Golden Jubilee Medal? Is he confusing us with the civil MoD Guard Service (MGS)? We are Regular soldiers on local service engagements. If he does not know much about us I suggest he visits the Army website and finds out more... then comes to watch the MPGS get their medals. — **Cpl D Whitmore, Wilton.**

▲ SSgt T Harris, Chicksands, and Cpl Forbes, Warminster, expressed similar views.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Meddling about

Are too many medals available to today's soldiers... or not enough? Is qualifying for them too tough or too easy? We asked troops serving with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC based near Southampton

2 Lt Sam Quick, 51 Sp Sqn

I heard the idea for a medal for death on active service for Northern Ireland and I think it's a good one. It would give the family left behind something... a symbol of their loss and the soldier's sacrifice for the country.



Cfn Rick Briddon, REME Wksp

I got my Bosnia medal in the early days, living in a ruined house and eating poor food for six months while others got the same medal while not even serving

in the country. The qualifications need a serious review.

Sgt Nick Caden, 51 Sp Sqn

A new cumulative medal could be introduced for, say, five operational tours in different areas. It could be called something like the Distinguished Campaign Service Medal.



LCpl Lowrie Coleman, AGC, 53 Sp Sqn

We could look at the qualification periods for some existing medals. For example, to qualify for a Kosovo medal, you would have to do 90 days in Greece or 30 days in Kosovo. But if you are a Greece-based unit, but serving in Kosovo, you still have to do the 90 days. That seems wrong to me.



Cpl Andy Douglas, 52 Sp Sqn

We shouldn't dish medals out for everything or we'd end up like the Americans. The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal is a total waste of money which could have been spent on Service charities or perhaps for launching a trust fund.



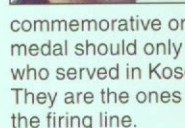
Pte Rob Gasson, 53 Sp Sqn

The waiting period to get our medals is unreal. I waited three years for my Ireland medal and have waited more than a year for my Kosovo medal. Why hold on until an appropriate parade to present it? It could be awarded on leaving theatre or at a ceremony in the CO's office.



Cpl Dave Martin, AGC, 53 Sp Sqn

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal should be made available to everyone, including the TA and cadets, since it's not a campaign medal but a commemorative one. And I think the Kosovo medal should only be awarded to people who served in Kosovo. They are the ones in the firing line.



Pte Tom Stevens, 79 Port Clearance Sqn

I don't think you should get one for long service. Medals should only be for



operational tours like Kosovo or Northern Ireland or campaigns like the Gulf War. And I think the Government should recognise past campaigns that didn't get medals. Old soldiers who served in campaigns such as Korea and Suez deserve recognition for what they went through.

Sgt Darren Holmes, 79 Port Clearance Sqn

We don't need more medals. We would be in danger of getting like the Americans where the medals that mean something are lost among those that don't. Their significant medals become devalued and worthless among all the others.



LCpl Mac McClarity, 52 Sp Sqn



Bereavement medals for active service are a good idea but it would depend on when the families received them. If it was a few months later when they are coming to terms with their loss, it would

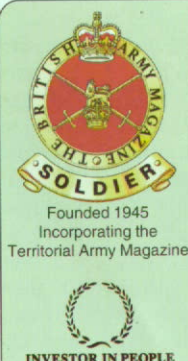
bring it all back. Perhaps it could be awarded at the funeral so they could take something away.

Cpl Gavin Boyle, 53 Sp Sqn

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal is a good idea and the qualifying criteria give it more meaning. But I think the length of service should be three years, not five. I also think the Falklands is overlooked and deserves greater recognition.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock



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