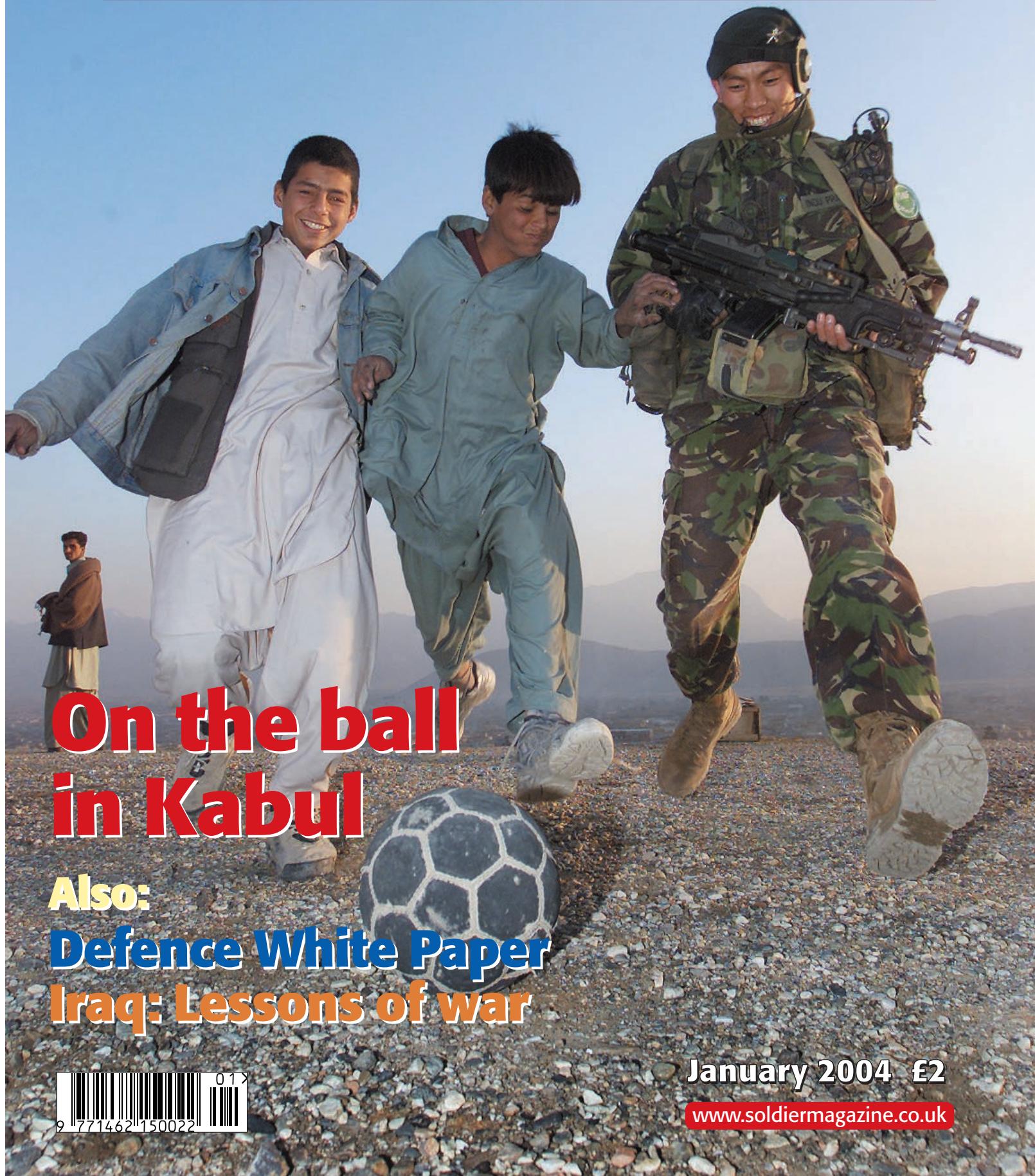


SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



On the ball in Kabul

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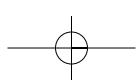
Defence White Paper
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Cover picture

On the ball: Rfn Induprakash Limbu, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, breaks off from the serious business of patrolling with the Kabul Protection Force in Afghanistan to join a street-corner kick-about with some children. The Gurkhas use the patrols to gather low-level intelligence. Picture: Graeme Main

Charge of the light brigade

A new light brigade and the reduction of the Army's three armoured brigades to two are outlined in the Defence White Paper.
– Page 8



"He had a request on 'Two-Way Forces' Favourites' 40 years ago and still thinks he's a celeb" – see centre pages

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Iraq lessons

Main picture: WO2 Giles Penfound

Modified version of personal rifle wins confidence of troops

THE SA80 rifle, in its modified A2 version, finally won its spurs in action, concludes a Ministry of Defence report on lessons learned during the war in Iraq, **writes John Elliott**.

The weapon proved highly effective during Op Telic and units expressed confidence in its performance. And the SA80 underslung grenade launcher, previously proved in action in Afghanistan, also performed well in Iraq, although it was not delivered in time to everyone. A programme to procure the weapon for land forces is under way.

The Minimi light machine-gun, which many infantry units received just before the operation, was widely used and said to have been highly effective. Troops considered it to be a major factor in the speed of manoeuvre on the ground.

Op Telic, says the report [*Operations in Iraq: Lessons for the future*], used a combination of lightly-equipped and heavy forces to great effect and achieved a far higher level of integration than had previously been possible. Equipment available to UK land forces was technologically far superior to that of the Iraqis and allowed British troops much greater freedom of manoeuvre.

Overall, says the report, land equipment performed well and reliability levels were often exceptionally high, despite the challenges of a very demanding environment.

PROTECTION AND FIREPOWER

The high level of protection and firepower of Challenger 2, Warrior and AS90 provided UK heavy forces with an advantage in encounters with Iraqi irregular forces and enabled peace support operations. The Iraqis used very few effective anti-armour weapons.

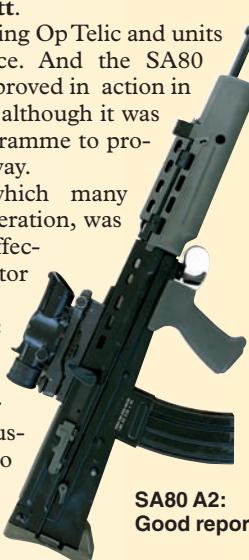
Challenger 2s – of which 116 were deployed – fired 1.9 tonnes of depleted uranium and 540 high explosive rounds, while the 36 AS90s and 105mm light guns fired 9,000 and 13,000 artillery rounds respectively, some 2,000 of the former as bomblet shells.

Increased armour protection improved the usefulness of the smaller reconnaissance vehicles – Scimitar and Spartan – and they proved highly effective, with crews able to locate targets and coordinate air support to attack them. The long-range Swingfire anti-tank missile, fitted to some recce vehicles, was used to great effect during the combat phase.

Lessons learned during Exercise Saif Sareea 2 – particularly the impact of the desert environment on Challenger 2, Warrior and AS90 – paid off, contributing towards very high availability rates.

On personal equipment, the report admits to localised shortages in appropriately camouflaged, lightweight combat clothing and says the fabric used to satisfy the competing demands of robustness and lightness “remains under review” by the Defence Logistics Organisation.

A head-mounted night vision system greatly enhanced troops’ effectiveness.



SA80 A2:
Good report



The rapid generation and deployment of a balanced joint force of 46,000 personnel was an exceptional achievement and confirmed the MoD's ability to deliver the UK's expeditionary strategy.

Training is key to best use of gap-bridging kit purchases

ALTHOUGH Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs) were very successful in delivering equipment procured specifically for the war in Iraq, personnel did not always have time to train fully or become familiar with it.

Analysis showed that in some cases – especially communications and information systems equipment – users did not have complete confidence in their ability to use the items and commanders were not always able to appreciate the addi-

tional capabilities available to them and how they might employ them in combination to produce an effect.

UORs intended to close capability gaps with the US, such as airborne surveillance equipment, were only effective once training had been completed.

But the majority of UORs – a cost-effective alternative to stockpiling equipment and stores to meet all conceivable contingencies – were very successful in rapidly delivering enhanced capability.

of war

The fight for Basra

CONTROL of Basra, Iraq's second city, was one of five key objectives for 1 (UK) Armoured Division.

The report says it achieved the mission against a requirement to avoid unnecessary military and civilian casualties, so avoiding comparisons with Grozny or Stalingrad, which would have been used by the regime to force world opinion into ending the conflict.

Although the powerful 7th Armoured Brigade could have fought its way into Az Zubayr and, subsequently, Basra, "it maintained the initiative through intelligence-led precision strikes and raids on regime activists, and physical and moral support for the oppressed community".

"Although," says the report, "at no time did UK troops lay siege to Basra, the raids mounted from the strongholds on the Shatt-al-Basra bridges, together with an innovative information operation, penetrated deeper into both the city and minds of those who resisted."

Saddam's "vice-like" grip on Az Zubayr was overcome in just ten days, while by April 6 full entry into Basra became possible, with resistance quickly overcome by superior UK firepower, the excellent protection offered by Challenger and Warrior, and UK troops' resourceful determination.

"In some places irregulars fought with great venom and fanaticism. Nevertheless, UK forces stuck to their task with great courage and completed it with breathtaking speed and mercifully light casualties," says the report.

Body armour was life-saver

ENHANCED combat body armour is believed to have reduced the number of US forces killed in action from torso wounds by at least 50 per cent and possibly up to 90 per cent, and those killed in action overall by more than 20 per cent. Although data is not available for an analysis of UK soldiers, the inclusion of enhanced combat body armour in standard equipment issue is being considered.

■ Scales of issue of head-mounted night vision equipment, so effective in enabling forces to operate effectively after dark, are being reviewed by the MoD.

■ Shortages of equipment, mostly personal kit and spares, were experienced but did not have a significant adverse effect on operational capability.

■ Challenger 2, Warrior and AS90 did well.

■ The fleet of smaller recce vehicles underscored the philosophy of reconnaissance and stealth and demonstrated their utility during stabilisation operations.

■ Bowman personal-role radios were a considerable success.

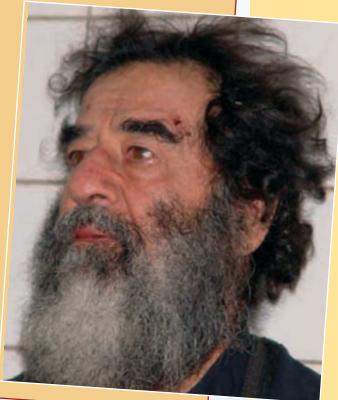
■ There was a shortage of linguists.

'We've got him!'

SADDAM Hussein's capture last month was the most important event in Iraq since the end of the war. It brought to a conclusion a massive search that had occupied coalition troops and intelligence services attempting to accelerate the rebuilding of the country.

The news that Saddam had been found in a cellar-like "spider hole" in the ground at Al-Dawr, near Tikrit in northern Iraq, came as this issue was going to press. He was taken without a shot being fired during an intelligence-led raid by 600 troops of the 4th US Infantry Division.

An MoD spokesman confirmed that no British troops were involved in the operation.



Battle-proven

Clockwise from left: night vision equipment; Minimi machine-gun; enhanced combat body armour; Bowman personal role radio



Al Faw: 'a classic assault'

■ The joint US-Royal Marines operation to seize the oil infrastructure on the Al Faw peninsula was a classic amphibious night helicopter commando assault and had immense strategic significance.

■ Overall, UK command and control arrangements worked well.

■ A combat identification concept of operations to avoid blue-on-blue incidents should be available at the outset.

■ Close US/UK liaison at all levels

was key to coalition planning and such relationships should continue routinely with the US and other potential coalition partners.

■ Of its personnel, the report says: "The performance of UK Servicemen and women in meeting the many and wide-ranging challenges they faced in Iraq was exceptional, reflecting high-quality training, experience, courage, skill and determination."

Impressive performance

— says watchdog

A National Audit Office report on UK military operations in Iraq concludes that personnel and equipment performed impressively.

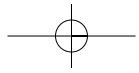
The Parliamentary watchdog recommends the MoD to review its readiness assumptions and should develop procedures to identify the levels of stocks, or industrial surge arrangements, required to support approved levels of readiness.

It also urges improved management of logistics to reduce risks, in particular by introducing

the means of tracking distribution of materiel once it has arrived in theatre.

It notes that some front-line troops experienced shortfalls in enhanced combat body armour ("insufficient numbers distributed in-theatre"), desert clothing and boots ("few troops received their full complement"), night vision equipment ("insufficient numbers available during combat phase") and NBC equipment ("significant shortfall — some 40 per cent").

UK Military Operations in Iraq, published by The Stationery Office. Online at www.tso.co.uk/bookshop



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Heavy brigade:
Challenger 2, War-
rior and AS90 still
have a crucial role
to play in support
of medium and
light forces



Charge of the light brigade

A NEW all-arms light brigade and the reduction of the Army's three armoured brigades to two are outlined in the Defence White Paper.

Although this will mean a reduced requirement for some heavy forces – main battle tanks, other heavy armoured fighting vehicles and heavy artillery – the realignment of assets is designed to create a better balanced land force capable of delivering “a decisive impact across the full spectrum of operations”.

The White Paper says that heavy forces will continue to be held for operations where the greater protection and combat power offered by Challenger 2, Warrior and AS90 is required.

Central to the role is the development of a new set of medium-weight forces to augment the heavy and light forces already in existence.

They would offer a high level of deployability and much greater levels of mobility and protection than are currently available to light forces.

Britain's heavy brigades, which offer firepower, integral tactical mobility and the protection necessary to carry out ground manoeuvre warfare, require massive logistic support to deploy and operate. Light forces, on the other hand, can

deploy rapidly but lack the firepower, mobility and protection to strike an enemy equipped with armour and mechanized forces.

This is where the new medium-weight assets will come into their own, based on the Future Rapid Effects System (FRES) family of vehicles now on the drawing board.

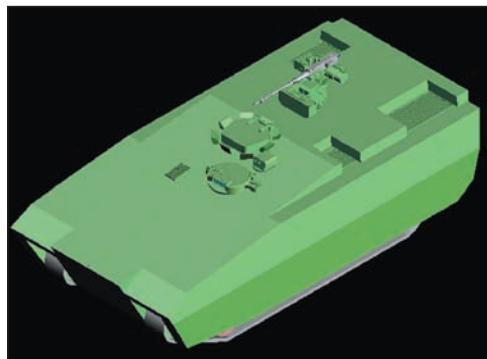
Behind the evolution is the reality that in the post-September 11 era, international terrorism and global insecurity –

the Balkans, Sierra Leone, East Timor, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are recent examples – pose a greater menace to Britain and her allies than the threat of conventional war.

Afghanistan 2001 is seen as an example of a medium-scale operation, in contrast to the Army's small-scale mission to Macedonia in 2001 and the large-scale Operation Telic in Iraq.

Plans for future Army structures are still evolving and further details are likely to emerge in the coming months.

Mock up of a FRES vehicle: The variant shown is the protected mobility, recce and infantry fighting vehicle. First versions are likely to be protected mobility rather than complex variants such as scout vehicles



Message is positive, says Gen Jackson

GEN Sir Mike Jackson, the Chief of the General Staff, has told commanders that the message of the Defence White Paper is “very positive” for the Army.

It is “centred on the theme of rebalancing to ensure a more useable and deployable Army overall,” he said, “with capable formation and unit structures and more robust and resilient unit establishments.” It would be an army “better designed and prepared to meet the military tasks demanded of us by defence planning assumptions”.

The outcome of the Future Army Structure (FAS), developed over the past 18 months, would be a warfighting army that was expeditionary in outlook and highly deployable.

Training for operations and methodology for basing, unit moves and re-roling would be examined.

Gen Jackson told commanding officers: “I assure you that we have no intention of abandoning the ability to conduct large-scale ground manoeuvre or undermine the divisional and corps capabilities and levels of command.

“Our heavy forces are the cornerstone of any high-intensity conflict to which we might be committed, a fact confirmed on Op Telic. Our ability to deploy two armoured brigades at large scale will be important.”

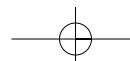
Gen Jackson said it was planned for 4 Armoured Brigade in Osnabrück to re-role initially into a mechanized brigade and subsequently into a medium, Future Rapid Effects System-equipped brigade, while 19 Mechanized Brigade in Catterick would become an all-arms light brigade.

Re-roling is planned in the short term and will dovetail with the roll-out of Bowman. Other intentions include the re-roling of one armoured regiment as an armoured reconnaissance regiment, establishing how the attack aviation capability, based on Apache, can best support the Field Army, and further work to integrate the Reserves with the Regular Army.

Gen Jackson concluded by asking his commanders “to emphasise this very positive message at every opportunity” in advance of detail which will emerge during 2004.



Gen Sir Mike Jackson



Army brokers arms truce with warlords

Diplomacy, tact pay off for Afghan team

A SMALL British Army team based in Mazar-e-Sharif has helped to negotiate a ceasefire between the two main factional forces in northern Afghanistan and kick-started a process of disarmament, writes **Andrea Frazer**.

Against the odds, the achievements of the 85-strong UK Provincial Reconstruction Team (UK PRT), led by Col Dickie Davis, has eased tensions in the region's turbulent security situation.

Col Davis has personally liaised with two of the north's most powerful warlords, Gen Dostum and Gen Atta, former Northern Alliance commanders.

Even-handedness, tact and diplomacy on the part of the UK PRT encouraged the parties to sign a truce agreeing to disarm their main militia forces and start putting heavy weapons under Afghan government control.

Although progress in the disarmament drive has been slow, signs are encouraging. Heavy weapon systems, including tanks and artillery pieces, have been handed in at specially-constructed cantonment sites guarded by a battalion of the newly-trained Afghan National



Negotiation skills: Col Dickie Davis, right, commander of the UK PRT, meets warlord Gen Atta

Picture: Graeme Main

Army. The UK PRT is made up mainly of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles and includes logistic, communication, intelligence, engineer and medical elements in addition to senior British and American civil servants.

The team's main task, in support of the Afghan Transitional Authority, is to help stabilise the security situation in the five

northern provinces, where deep-seated tensions between rival militia factions regularly explode into full-scale tribal warfare. The lack of security in the area has seriously limited the ability of humanitarian and aid agencies to operate, so discouraging badly-needed international investment and long-term reconstruction.

Professional yet approachable, firm but fair, British troops have been working with leaders on both sides to ease factional tensions and generate support for the disarmament and demobilisation of local fighters.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited the team to see at first hand the results of its work to reduce violence.

- The February issue will include more on the work of the UK PRT in Afghanistan.
- Turn to Pages 27-29 for reports on British Army units stationed in Kabul.

Thousands hit £

Complex issues will take until 2005 to be sorted

PAY and allowances of about 9,000 soldiers have been affected by glitches following the introduction of the new Pay 2000 structure in April 2001.

Although the transition for the vast majority of officers and soldiers went smoothly, problems emerged for a significant minority. While some of these issues are on schedule to be rectified from April onwards, more complex areas may not be corrected until the summer of 2005.

Following the introduction of Pay 2000 it quickly became clear that additional programming on the Army's computers was required in the cases of about 7,000

all ranks, and for another 2,000 whose circumstances could not be reflected in the new system. This proved complex and difficult and the completion date was further affected by urgent operational taskings

Those who are r

- Soldiers who have moved from lower to higher pay range as a result of a change of employment qualification;
- Temporary crew commanders (Armoured Fighting Vehicles);
- Soldiers who had a driving ban in place when Pay 2000 was introduced;
- Additional qualification pay for University Officers' Training Corps officer cadets;
- Non-Regular Permanent Staff who

Picture: Graeme Main



Family ties: Territorial Army soldier Fusilier Manjit Nijjar, above, RRF, The West Midlands Regiment, was keen to deploy to Afghanistan because his grandfather served in the Punjab Rifles Regiment during the third Anglo-Afghan War and fought in the Khyber Pass area in 1921.

"This is my first operational tour. There was a real incentive to do it because my grandad served out here," he said.

IN BRIEF

- The third annual Army Benevolent Fund race day at Brighton Racecourse raised £5,500 for the charity.
- An Army Learning Centre was opened in the Junior Ranks Club Building at Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone, by Maj Doug Wren, 2ic of 36 Engineer Regiment. It offers

six PCs connected to the internet and more than 500 online LearnDirect courses. Pictured right is Spr Daniel Steel, who is working online to complete his European Computer Driving Licence course.

- Eighteen RLC Territorial Army soldiers at Grantham pulled the 180mph TA-sponsored

Hero collars top award

BUSTER, a sniffer dog trained by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, joined a select group when he became the 60th recipient of the Dickin Medal, the animal Victoria Cross.

The six-year-old springer spaniel won the award, which was introduced in 1943 to reward conspicuous bravery in animals serving with British and Commonwealth forces, for his exploits in Iraq.

Buster, serving in 101 Military Working Dog Unit with handler and trainer Sgt Danny Morgan, uncovered what searching troops could not – a cache of weapons and explosives hidden in the town of Safwan near Basra. The ordnance would have been used to attack coalition forces.

Sgt Morgan told *Soldier*: "It is such an honour for Buster to be recognised for his work, not just for himself and the corps, but for all the military dogs that were deployed.

"Soldiers come back from tours with medals, so why shouldn't at least one of the dogs? Buster is like any other dog really – he loves attention, so he is enjoying every moment of his new-found



I've got you licked: Gallantry award-winner Buster with handler Sgt Danny Morgan Picture: Graeme Main

fame." The four-legged hero was presented with his Dickin Medal by Princess Alexandra, patron of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, which issues the award, during a ceremony at the Imperial War Museum in London last month.

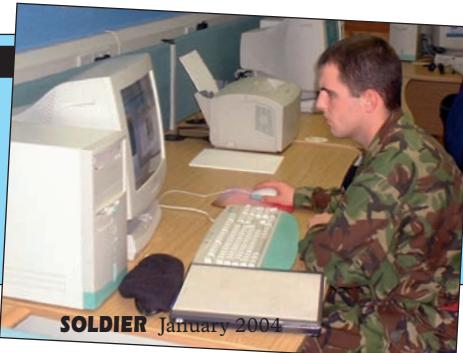
by pay glitches

such as the war in Iraq. Remedial measures – known collectively as Pay 2000 follow-on work – are now being given a very high priority by the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency.

most affected

enlisted on or after November 1, 2002;

- Soldiers who have been promoted back to a rank held previously;
- Soldiers on mark-time rates of pay when Pay 2000 was introduced;
- Soldiers who have re-enlisted or re-engaged since Pay 2000 was introduced;
- Soldiers granted exceptional authority to gain accelerated incremental progression.



SOLDIER January 2004

In some cases, pay records will have to be taken apart and re-built from the date Pay 2000 was introduced. Until that happens, unit regimental administrative staff, with the help of AFPAA in Glasgow, are managing the pay of those affected.

While the Directorate of Staff and Personnel Support (Army), which oversees soldiers' pay, acknowledges this is not satisfactory, it should ensure no individual is financially disadvantaged while their pay is being sorted out.

RAO staffs are being kept up-to-date with progress and DSPS(A) intends to produce a further report in the summer.

- For months, the magazine's Talk-back pages have reflected soldiers' views on pay issues. More in Page 74.

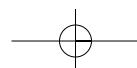
ASCAR to the Rockingham track to raise £1,500 for Children in Need.

- Maj Gen John Moore-Bick, the GOC, watched as his wife, Anne, opened the new HIVE at SHAPE. It has expanded into three rooms with the help of a grant from *Sixth Sense*, the Forces' newspaper in Germany.

Fusiliers' freedom



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers march through Celle in Germany to mark their Freedom of the city. Only the third granted to a British unit since 1945, the honour is in recognition of the regiment's close ties with the city since 1996. Lt Col Simon Marr, CO 1 RRF, said the people of Celle had supported their families during long periods of separation while the Fusiliers were serving in the Balkans and Iraq. Picture: Sgt Teresa Pickin



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AN association going back 52 years was honoured when 2 Battalion REME marched through the centre of Stadt Fallingbostel in Germany to accept the biennial freedom award, a tradition dating from the Middle Ages.

The battalion, formerly 7 Armoured Workshop REME, moved to its present site in Siebenfelder Camp, Fallingbostel in 1951.

The Cambrai Band of 2 RTR led 130 soldiers through the rain-swept streets.



African bush adds dash of hot reality

Platoon commanders' course exported to Kenya

AFTER 40 years of completing the final phase of their platoon commanders' battle course in Wales, young officers joining the Infantry are in future to finish their training deep in the Kenyan bush.

The first course, based on the Kamwaki Farm and Archers Post training areas in Kenya, was pioneered by 82 officers from the British Army, the RAF Regiment and foreign and Commonwealth countries.



Boy soldier: Members of 5 Bn REME entertained Graham Robinson (6) at their Catterick base after an approach from the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the charity which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Graham is pictured in a Challenger 2 with Cpl Scouse Williams of A Sqn, QRL. Also involved was 9 Regt AAC. Sgt Mitch Mitchell of 5 REME organised the visit.

What the young platoon commanders thought of Kenya – Vox pop, Page 78

Many were due to deploy on operations on their return to their battalions, and will do so with a much greater understanding of expeditionary operations in arid and semi-arid environments.

It was the first time the 14-day final exercise, Grim Warrior, had been taken overseas, giving the officers, fresh from RMA Sandhurst, a more realistic taste of skills required to lead platoons on ops and to train and administer them in peacetime.

The platoon commanders' course, which moved last month from Warminster to Dering Lines in Brecon, qualifies them to plan and conduct field firing, and trains them to lead platoons on operations.

Unseasonal weather in Kenya meant the students had to cope with heat and persistent rain. Instructors felt the bush environment greatly increased the training value.

The Kenyan Army helped out and the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment provided live-firing support in the shape of their mortar and machine-gun platoons.

The relocation to Brecon means the platoon commanders' battle course will be based with the section commanders' and platoon sergeants' battle courses, bringing all key platoon instruction together in one location. Brecon, with Kenya as the location for the final exercise, is set to take the training of platoon commanders forward.

Researchers seek to learn more about military lifestyles

MORE than 16,000 personnel from all three Services – selected at random – are to be asked to respond to a questionnaire about their military experiences on recent operations.

It is the first part of a long-term project under which the volunteers will be contacted again in two, five and ten years. The aim is to look at a range of issues, putting the benefits and risks of military service into context.

The form, from the new King's Centre for Military Health Research at King's College in the University of London, will ask questions about health and lifestyle.

A team from the independent centre will visit bases to explain the study and recruit volunteers.

The confidential survey follows a detailed study begun by the King's Centre as Op Telic got under way. It asks questions not directly connected to Telic, such as how families were affected by stress and how Service personnel fare after going into civvy street.

The centre, which has the support of the Army and welfare organisations, was created to increase understanding of problems associated with military service, current and past.

Fus Kelan Turrington

FUS Kelan Turrington, who died in action while serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in Basra on April 6, was given an incorrect first name in *Soldier's Telic* awards coverage (Dec, Page 9). He was awarded a posthumous Mention in Dispatches. The error is regretted.

Alpha courses for Forces

AS a result of interest shown by Christians in the Armed Forces, an Alpha course tailored to the military community has been produced by the Holy Trinity Brompton Church, London, which created it in the 1980s. The course has the backing of the Chaplain General. Details from Maj Kevin March on 01258 450652 or go to www.alphacourse.org

Wanted: New Pathfinders

FIT and well motivated volunteers of any cap badge are being sought for a selection course being run by 16 Air Assault Brigade's **Pathfinder Platoon**. Soldiers must be of lance corporal or below rank. Previous Airborne Forces experience is preferable but not essential. For details of the course, which runs from February 1 to March 12, call the Ops warrant officer on 94651 3178.

Gloves off over TV licences

SOLDIERS, senior NCOs and officers, messes and junior rates' clubs in the UK are being warned to make sure they have valid TV licences for sets kept within barrack areas.

A warning was circulated last month that the "gloves will come off" and that the TV Licensing Authority will begin cold-calling on barracks and training establishments – and issuing prosecution notices if no valid licence is held.



Under Big Ben

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

More reserves to be called up for Iraq

ABOUT 1,100 more reservists are to be mobilised for service in southern Iraq. Most will receive their call-up notices around January 9 and are expected to deploy, for six months, from the middle of next month.

Including post-tour leave, the majority will be mobilised for between eight and nine months, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said in a written answer.

As part of the routine roulement of British land forces in Iraq, HQ 3 (UK) Division will be replaced by a composite headquarters for the Multinational Division (South-East), staffed by British and allied personnel.

Units of 1 Mechanized Brigade will replace 20 Armoured Brigade as the foundation of the UK's commitment inside Iraq by the end of April.

And I quote...

• The recruitment of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals is currently the Territorial Army's highest recruitment priority and additional funding is being made available in support of this goal. •

– Defence Minister Ivor Caplin

November 14, 145 UK military personnel had been wounded in action, of whom 74 needed to be brought back to the UK for treatment.

Arms dumps: Since the end of major combat operations, UK forces in Iraq have discovered an average of about 45 new sites containing arms and/or munitions each week. Sites containing large numbers of arms are guarded by UK forces until they can be cleared, which is done when resources allow.

War costs: The cost of operations in Iraq, for 2003-04, totalled £847 million, comprising £629 million operating costs and £217 million capital costs.

Question: James Gray (North Wilts MP): "How many civilian milk tankers have been converted to military refuelling tankers?"

Answer: Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram: "No civilian milk tankers have been converted to military refuelling tankers. The wheeled tanker programme, which will provide 357 tankers to carry fuel (300) and water (57) at a cost of £171 million, is planned to come into service in February 2005 and will have a 15-year life."

Dalton chemical 'incident' sorted

RFN David Bael, right, of The Royal Rifle Volunteers, watches as a fireman is decontaminated after dealing with casualties contaminated during a chemical incident at Dalton Barracks, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

But no one took harm during the exercise, Autumn Roebuck, which was designed to test the newly-formed Civil Contingencies Reaction Force (CCRF) based on Territorial Army units drawn from Reading, Oxford, Southampton and Milton Keynes.

The TA soldiers joined forces with emergency services to test their responses to a major chemical incident. In all, about 200 troops were involved, along with 150 firemen, 60 police officers and the ambulance services. Four hundred more soldiers and cadets acted as members of the public.

CCRFs based on county-based TA battalions are being trained across the United Kingdom to meet civil emergencies and terrorist threats.



On the march: Sixty soldiers of The King's Royal Hussars, pictured above in Preston, completed two Freedom marches in two days to honour their affiliations to South Ribble and Preston. On the previous day they paraded through the streets of Leyland. Brig Christopher

Price, Colonel of the KRH, said: "It is a great honour for the regiment. It cements our links with the local communities."

Lt Col Toby Bridge commands the regiment and the parade was led by Maj Justin Kingsford. The Freedoms were last exercised more than ten years ago.

IN BRIEF

- Sig Craig Heron, pictured right, received the 1,000th certificate in security, safety and loss prevention to be awarded under a scheme piloted at the Army Training Regiment Lichfield. Developed by PDM Training and Consultancy Ltd, the



level two NVQ allows new recruits to leave the training establishment with a qualification widely recognised in the security industry. Sig Heron is now on a course at the Royal School of Signals at Blandford, Dorset.

Picture: Graeme Main



MPs criticise new pension proposals

GOVERNMENT proposals for new pension and compensation schemes do not do justice to the Armed Forces, says a report published by the House of Commons Defence Committee.

Although the committee welcomed improvements in key areas, it criticised plans to reduce benefits, and disputed Government claims that the proposals were necessary to curb rising pension costs caused by increased life expectancy.

Particular criticism was reserved for the Government's belief that the new proposals should be "cost-neutral". MPs say this hamstrung the review and meant improvements would have to be paid for by benefit cuts elsewhere.

Chairman Bruce George said: "We're pleased that entitlements for widows

and widowers are to be improved and there are new rights for unmarried partners. But as the situation stands there will be too few winners and too many losers. Most personnel will have to wait an extra five years before receiving their pension and early departure benefits will be of lower value."

"The overall value of benefits for those who transfer to the new pension schemes will be less than for those who remain on the existing one."

Worldwide garrison

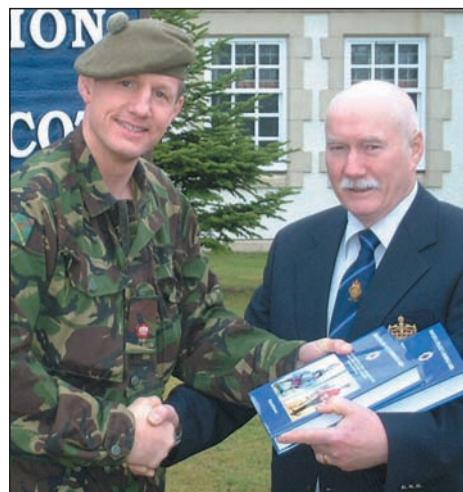
GARRISON Radio, the British Army's radio service in the UK, has launched an online radio service available worldwide from its site at www.garrisonradio.com

● **Cpl Smudge Smith** of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC at RAF Lyneham lines his canoe at Gull Island rapids (right) during an adventurous training expedition by the 13 Air Assault Support Regiment unit to Goose Bay in Labrador, Canada. Seven members of the squadron travelled down a 300-mile stretch of the Churchill River in two-man canoes.



SOLDIER January 2004

Gifts from Wick



Thanks: **Maj Guy Richardson**, 2ic of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, receives from **Mike Kelly** of Wick Royal British Legion the first of a batch of Christmas presents collected by the branch for soldiers serving in Iraq. Mike also handed over a cheque for £700. The Royal Scots have three companies and elements of battalion HQ deployed in Iraq with 20th Armoured Brigade.

Tasmanian trek



Far flung: **Spr Roger Green**, rear, and **LCpl Tristram Hughes**, both from Tidworth-based 22 Engineer Regiment, pack their gear in Anglesea Barracks in Hobart, Tasmania, before setting out on the long trek to the southern tip of the island. Seven sappers, who were aiming to get as far away from Britain as possible during some time off, aimed to complete the walk, which usually takes up to two weeks, in ten days. Picture: Australian Army newspaper

● A charity evening held at the White Rose Club in Catterick Garrison raised more than £1,000 for Everyman, the male cancer charity, chosen by organiser Steve Goodwin because WO2 Dougie Howarth had suffered from testicular cancer. Entertainment was provided by the King's Division Waterloo Band and the Clann Na Ngael Irish dancers.

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Regulations for the operation of the scheme are promulgated in JS/DCI



Picture: Mark Owens

Land Rovers at dusk: One hundred Territorial Army soldiers in Scotland took part in the appropriately titled Exercise Mudmaster to promote off-road driving skills. About 40 Land Rovers and off-road vehicles took part in a gruelling 48-hour drive through central Scotland.

Desert Rats put French HQ to test

HEADQUARTERS staff from the 7th Armoured Brigade deployed to Sissone, France to test a developing French high-readiness corps HQ within a multi-national coalition involving personnel from 12 nations.

"For the French this was an extremely important exercise, representing a significant step towards accreditation of their Nato High Readiness Force Headquarters," said brigade commander Brig



Brig Adrian Bradshaw, left, with Lt Gen Jean-Claud Thomann, French land forces

er workstations and tentage for 3,000 soldiers was installed by the French Army. Visitors included the head of French land forces, Lt Gen Jean-Claud Thomann.

Adrian Bradshaw, whose staff was representing HQ 1st (UK) Armoured Division.

"For our part it was a great chance to give the brigade headquarters a run-out and to test our procedures in a multinational environment."

More than 600 telephones, 640 comput-

Dannica's day

Hot shot: Cadet Cpl Dannica O'Kelly, right, from Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force, emerged as the national champion at the Cadet Inter-Service skill-at-arms meeting at Bisley. The runner-up, LCpl Tom Cook, left, from Stroud, was also representing Gloucestershire.

Dannica, from Cheltenham, showed her potential last summer when she finished 24th out of 500 in the cadet target rifle competition at Bisley.



Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Army wives are enjoying a baby boom – nine months after their husbands set off for the Gulf. Soldiers went into action with their sweethearts before saying farewell, triggering an explosion of pregnancies in towns with Army, Navy and RAF bases. – *Sun*

● Miracle moggy Gracie escaped war-torn Iraq – by stowing away in a British Army tank. The tiny black and white kitten took six weeks to complete the sea journey to Britain when the unit's tanks were loaded aboard a ship. It is believed she survived the ordeal by eating bugs and lapping up condensation from the vehicle's walls. – *Sun*

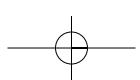
● The Queen recorded her Christmas message at Combermere Barracks, home of the Household Cavalry, as a tribute to our boys. She met heroes of D Squadron, The Blues and Royals, including George Cross winner Tpr Chris Finney, at the base, two miles from Windsor Castle. – *Sun*

● It is famed for treating stars such as Kate Moss and Caroline Aherne, but now the Priory, the London rehabilitation clinic, is to open its doors to Britain's soldiers. The MoD's decision to use the Priory's services, in a contract that could cost as much as £5 million over three years, follows the closure in April of the Duchess of Kent Psychiatry Hospital in Catterick, which was the Armed Forces' only remaining hospital. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● Ten headstones from the graves of British First World War soldiers have been stolen – to be used as garden ornaments. Sick thugs took them from the Hivers Trench cemetery near Arras in northern France. – *Sun*

● Former Rolling Stone Bill Wyman advocates the return of National Service. "I did it in the 1950s," he told London Spy. "I was in the Army for a year and that's why I support the [Gulf] war. National Service calms you down and gives you perspective. Perhaps I would have been even more crazy without it." – *Daily Telegraph*

● Britain has taken a dramatic step towards a fully-fledged European army, signing up to Franco-German proposals for a planning headquarters outside Nato. – *Daily Telegraph*

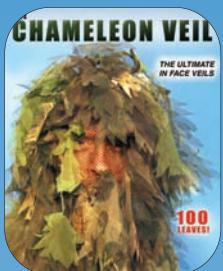


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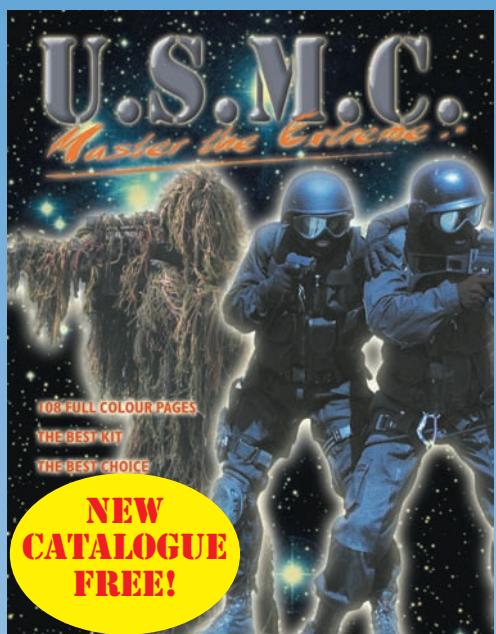
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In safe hands

Dustblown tented complex at Shaibah offers the best of British medical care

FROM the outside there's nothing special about the collection of nondescript, dust-blown tents at Shaibah, but every Service-man and woman in southern Iraq can rest easier for knowing they are there.

Step inside and you discover a first-rate, highly-sophisticated, 75-bed facility run by 23 Field Hospital RAMC. At the height of last summer's conflict it had a capacity for 200 patients.

Supporting the clinical staff are REME personnel, signallers, drivers, engineers, a guard force and others.

"They play a vital role in keeping us running," said Capt Mel Bailey RAMC, adjutant of the hospital.

It has two static operating theatres and a container-mounted mobile version. All three can support the most complicated procedures.

"Our main objective is to stabilise a patient's condition, which may mean emergency theatre-work. Once they are stabilised we get them back to the UK for long-term treatment," said Capt Bailey.

The hospital also provides life-saving

The hospital also provides life-saving treatment for Iraqi civilians, many of them mine victims requiring amputations

treatment for Iraqi civilians, many of them mine victims requiring amputations. After treatment they are sent to the main hospital in Basra.

There are plans for the hospital, which is currently housed in temporary deployable accommodation (TDA), to move into Corimec buildings.

Many of the unit's clinical staff are drawn from military wards within NHS hospitals in the UK. A third to a half of



Helping hand: Capt Kirsten Templeman attends to Pte Ryan Wayth as he recovers from an appendix operation

them are Territorial Army personnel.

The comfort and welfare of patients is a priority. "We have a wide-screen DVD facility and show a film every evening," said Maj Sharon Woodhouse, QARANC, an occupational nurse based at the Royal Hospital Haslar. "There are personal DVD players on the wards, as well as games and books. A welfare telephone system is also available to patients."

Blood supplies are flown out from the UK, but if extra is needed at short notice there are several thousand personnel in desert combat willing to give an armful.

A roulement will see the scalpel passing from 23 to 22 Field Hospital during the next two months.



Wash your hands!

CASUALTIES aside, one of the main concerns for hospital staff is the infamous D and V – diarrhoea and vomiting – viral infection that has affected hundreds of British soldiers.

Capt Mel Bailey said: "The drop in temperature in recent months has brought an increase in flies, and transit camps have people in a condensed area with many coming into theatre for the first time.

"Their hygiene routine is not as good as it should be so the infection spreads more easily. Hand washing after going to the toilet and before meals can minimise the spread."

Life in desert doesn't have to be a drag

MANY soldiers in Iraq are taking the chance to give up smoking, which means plenty of work for Maj Jane Morley QARANC, a smoking cessation adviser.

A reserve officer with 256 Field Hospital in London, her civvy job is with Chelwell Vale NHS Trust in North Oxfordshire.

Now serving at the Shaibah hospital, she reckons many soldiers are using the change in lifestyle to kick the smoking habit. "I asked if anyone wanted to give up while they were here," she said. "The feeling was that nobody would because cigarettes are cheap, and there is an atmosphere that it is acceptable. But we were very surprised at how many responded so we set up a clinic and waited for people to come and see me."

She started the classes in September and is now seeing soldiers who have stayed off the ciggies for several months.

Iraq's new model army takes shape

Former soldiers are being trained to take over security duties

INITIAL steps have been taken to hand internal security in Iraq back to the Iraqis.

The first companies of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) are patrolling the streets, setting up vehicle control points and working closely with British soldiers.

They were on joint patrols with B Company, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry in Al Amarah when *Soldier* called.

Capt Andy Wood LI, the ICDC liaison officer in Maysan Province north of Basra, said: "The Royal Green Jackets supervised the initial training for two companies. Recruits complete a three-week training package in Abu Naji and I arrange to get their equipment, including AK47 rifles

and uniforms."

Recruits start with static guard duties, graduating to joint patrols in places such as Ali Ash Sharqi. "They see how we do business and as their confidence grows and we are satisfied with them, we hand over to them."

Their role is to assist the police with security on the outskirts of towns and in rural areas. Their presence



Stop and search: An ICDC soldier carries out search duties in Al Amarah, above, while, left, Maj Sabir Hawir discusses tactics with Sgt Ifor Lloyd, 1 LI

battalion strength in the 1 LI battle-group area will eventually be 850.

Many applicants are ex-Iraqi Army soldiers and a military committee that oversees the system includes former officers and other ranks.

Commissions are given to company commanders, the second-in-command and platoon commanders. Salaries are set by the coalition force.

Capt Wood oversees the paying of Iraqi soldiers, in US dollars, during a ceremony very reminiscent of the old British Army pay parade.

Low flier

It's tough keeping helicopters fit to fly in this environment

MAINTAINING the engine of a Lynx helicopter in temperatures above 50C is not a job for softies.

Especially as there are no air-conditioned hangars to work in. Sometimes it's so hot crews can't touch an airframe without getting burnt.

Sgt Wayne Spelman, an avionics technician who works mainly on Lynx and Gazelle helicopters, and engine and airframe specialist Sgt Craig Peaple, both REME attached to 4 Regiment AAC, reckon their aircraft have taken a battering in the hostile environment.

As have the maintenance crews, who remain remarkably cheerful despite the working conditions.

"It is hard work in the heat," said Sgt Peaple. "During the worst of it we were issued with flying gloves because the air-

Taking control: An ICDC soldier at a checkpoint in Al Amarah



Me and my good mate Danko

YOU go on an operation, make new friends and at the end of the tour go your separate ways.

It could be years before you meet again. So what are the chances of a dog handler being reunited with his favourite hound?

Pte Flo Fleury, a D and D reservist, is working in Iraq with Danko, a three-year-old Belgian Malinois he first teamed up with in Kosovo.

"I've been a handler for just over a year and Danko was the dog I first used on an active tour," he said. "I became very attached to him."

After Pristina, Pte Fleury returned to the UK to be demobbed. A tour for a dog can last several years, so they go through a succession of handlers. On re-enlisting, Pte Fleury was deployed to the Military Dog Support Unit at Shaibah, and the word around the kennels was that Danko was there.

Fortunately his most recent handler had left theatre and a bit of arm-twisting resulted in man and dog being reunited.

Danko is a protection dog, meaning a lot of night work. "Although it is a long way off," said Flo, "when he retires I will bid for him."

The work of the Military Dog Support Unit at

Shaibah is tough

on handlers and hounds. The dogs are trained not to be nice to anyone, yet their health and well-being is a top priority.

They even have air-conditioned kennels.

SSgt Tony Witson RAVC is consulted on the deployment of protection and specialist dogs, which are also being used at Basra Palace and Umm Qasr. Breeds include German shepherds, Springer spaniels and Labradors.

"On key locations where there has been a lot of theft our aim is to act as a deterrent," said SSgt Witson. Clearly it has worked. The haul of the explosive



search dogs has included bomb-making equipment, pistol magazines, AK47 rifles, grenades, shotguns and ammunition.

While most veterinary needs are met in theatre, canine patients are occasionally sent to a specialist unit in Cyprus. One was "dogevaced" recently after it broke its tail.

Heat and dust can cause pad, eye and ear problems, and a parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of sand flies is a potential hazard.

rs, high maintenance



Wattisham-based:
Lt Tristan Jackman

frame was too hot to touch. Airframes and engines have taken a hammering from the dust and the heat."

The two technicians are among 413 soldiers from the Joint Helicopter Force at

Basra Airport which provides helicopter assets to the Multinational Division (South East). Media officer Lt Tristan Jackman, 4 AAC, said the Wattisham-

based regiment supplied the headquarters element of the JHF. It is to be replaced by an RAF unit in the New Year.

"Although we have five Mk 7 Lynx in theatre, soon to be replaced by the Mk 9, we only have two or three tasking runs a day. This is to allow downtime for maintenance."

The fleet also includes seven Gazelles (of which three specialise in surveillance), five Chinooks, five Sea Kings and two Pumas.

Main role of the Chinooks and Sea Kings is movement of men and materiel, although the Sea Kings are also used to deploy troops on surprise vehicle checkpoints.

The very nimble Gazelles provide top cover for ground movements of soldiers and with the Lynxes, fly along the lines of pylons to check electricity cables have not been vandalised.

Aircrafts typically fly 60 hours a month, four times what they could expect in the UK.



Hot work: Sgt Wayne Spelman, left, and Sgt Peaple set to on a Lynx engine

Sgt Spelman said: "As well as emergency repairs, helicopters have to go through a routine service programme between 25 and 50 hours' flying, depending on the model."

"Under normal circumstances every flying hour needs about eight man-hours of maintenance. In this environment you can triple that."

Cooler winter temperatures in southern Iraq have brought some respite for the maintenance crews.

Iraqis adopt Danny Boy as their own

Soldiers in Maysan province are seeing positive changes

A VEHICLE checkpoint dubbed "Danny Boy" straddles Route 6 north of Al Majarr al Kabir. It is on the main road between Basra and Baghdad.

Six months ago the post was manned by British soldiers, but now Iraqi guards watch for smugglers and illegal arms.

Danny Boy is symbolic of change in southern Iraq, where local authorities are claiming back responsibility from coalition forces.

Light Infantry battle-group soldiers based at Abu Naji outside Al Amarah are determined the hand-over will be quick, smooth and without bloodshed.

Lt Col Bill Pointing, commanding the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, is quick to acknowledge the work of his predecessors, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, from whom his battalion took over.

He is determined to build on their success and sees his role as providing security to enable Iraqi institutions to take root.

"Once that has happened non-governmental organisations will come in and get the economy developing," he said, "and when that has started there is a chance of moving to a democratic society."

Lt Col Pointing said things were now in transition, with primacy for delivery of the reconstruction effort moving from the coalition to local police and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

In the past few months the volume of traffic on the roads has increased, houses have been built, and shops are again trading vigorously.

The attitude of most Iraqis in Maysan has been positive, according to Lt Col Pointing. "I think they realise what we are

doing is for their benefit and that we are here for a finite period of time."

His battle-group's area is the size of Northern Ireland. It includes a 150km chunk of the Iraq-Iran border and two sizeable towns. Al Amarah, with a population of 200,000, is the size of Portsmouth, and Al Majarr al

Kabir, with 80,000, is infamous as the site where six British military policemen were killed last June.

Maj Phil Fox, o/c B Company, shares his HQ in Al Majarr al Kabir with local police soon to take over the site. "We've made massive progress," he said. "The police are gaining in confidence and we will pull back, perhaps in a matter of weeks, to Abu Naji. But we will not abandon the town and will still undertake occasional patrols."

Civilian-military liaison projects have brought some regeneration to the area. They include street-lighting to improve safety at night.

While B Company may be pulling out soon, regular patrols will be on the duty sheet for a bit longer for 84 soldiers from A Company based at the sports stadium at Al Amarah.

Capt Marc Briggs, 2i/c, reckons the largest city in the province is keeping his company busy. "The KOSB started to develop good relations in the town," he said, "and we have taken it a step further."

His soldiers patrol outlying parts of the city and have become used to nightly explosions and gunfire, some of it celebratory. Tribal vendettas also keep them on their toes.

A Company patrols with the new Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC) to convince local people that it is a credible force.

Back at Danny Boy, Iraqi police admire



Lt Col Bill Pointing

Liaison projects have brought some vital regeneration to the area. They include street-lighting to improve safety at night



Stop and search: Iraqi police operate a vehicle control point with LCpl David Marsh, top, and Pte Gareth Jones, pictured left

their purpose-built office and small jail, complete with toilet, plumbing and electricity. It was built, for \$5,000, as an emergency regeneration project.

Maj Fox said: "It gives them a static location to operate from and it will allow us to draw back from this task. The local police will take primacy and call us in if they need back-up."

● From their base at Ali Ash Sharqi, soldiers of D Squadron, The Queen's Royal Hussars, part of the Light Infantry battle-group have helped police arrest villains stealing copper power cables.

"Local people tipped us off," said officer commanding Maj Matthew Cocup. "They were fed up with thieves stealing the power lines."

With helicopter support, the squadron dropped in three OPs during a night operation. The mission paid instant dividends and by morning police had arrested ten people and seized two trucks, one of which was full of cable, weapons and ammunition.

Passport off

AN office which issues identity cards, birth, marriage and death registration, passport processing and visas in Al Amarah has been opened with Cimic help.

The office also provides identification information to courts and issues ration cards for the province. Project manager Capt Stuart McFarland, QOY, said: "This is a Department of the Interior function, which plays an important part in everything. It has so many fingers in so many pies."

"The courts can't run without it, food can't be distributed unless ID cards are issued and people can't get married without authority from the office. It touches a



Class act from school ma'am

Soldier extends her tour to finish project

IF the beaming faces of the dozens of children whose lives she has touched mean anything, SSgt Anita Smith is an angel.

She extended her tour to oversee the building of a primary school at Al Hoq, a village on the outskirts of Basra. In addition to her Royal Signals duties, SSgt Smith has spent her spare time working on civil-military cooperation (Cimic) projects.

Her school is one of hundreds of quick impact projects designed to build goodwill and improve security in the British area of operations in southern Iraq.

Back in civvy street, Capt Steve Little of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) is a BAE Systems engineering project manager; in Iraq he manages Cimic projects. "We have more than 600 schemes on the go across the MND(SE)," he said. Most are in the Basra area.

Projects include schools, healthcare, water, power, sanitation and transport.

"We needed to have a high impact in local areas and schools give us that," said Capt Little. "There are 2,200 school sites



SSgt Anita Smith and Capt Steve Little

in southern Iraq and most are in poor repair. "A grants scheme gave 1,800 senior head teachers \$500 each to get essential repairs done for the winter. Then we turned our attention to schools that needed more than a coat of paint. Some needed refurbishment or major work."

About 190 have been or are in the process of being rebuilt. As the builders move out a Czech team moves in with books, chairs and other essential supplies.

Projects are led by Iraqi contractors and local labour is used. This policy ensures deprived districts get a useful amenity and the money benefits the local economy.

"When we first started negotiations with builders it was on an Arthur Daley basis," said Capt Little. "We

have progressed and now have contractors who give us a proper breakdown of work estimates. Their tenders are of a standard you would expect in the west, and can be scrutinised."

Capt Little and his team also supervise the builders and have to be satisfied with the quality of the finished project before it is signed off. Negotiating with local traders, for whom "face" is important, brings its own challenges. Getting the smallest detail agreed can take hours of patient talk mixed with tantrums. Healthcare pro-



Many thanks: Children from Al Hoq always welcome SSgt Anita Smith

jects are high on the agenda and 50 primary sites are currently being given the Cimic treatment.

The health of residents in the Al Hiyaniyah district of Basra is causing concern. "The district has a high water table yet is located in a depression, so all the sewage floods up through the streets," said Capt Little. People have to walk through excrement."

Team members were stoned when they first went into the district to recce schools and clinics, but gradually won over the inhabitants. The word was out that the Cimic people were there to help.

Back at Al Hoq, SSgt Smith keeps an eye on her project. The school, for 350 boys and girls who are taught in shifts, has a mud floor and palm roof. There is no electricity, no play area, no lighting and no fans. Water comes from standpipes and the toilets empty straight into a river.

"The new school building will include electricity, bathroom facilities and a real roof," said SSgt Smith.

People are measured in Iraq by what they can deliver. The Cimic team is delivering.

ffice back in business



Capt Stuart McFarland

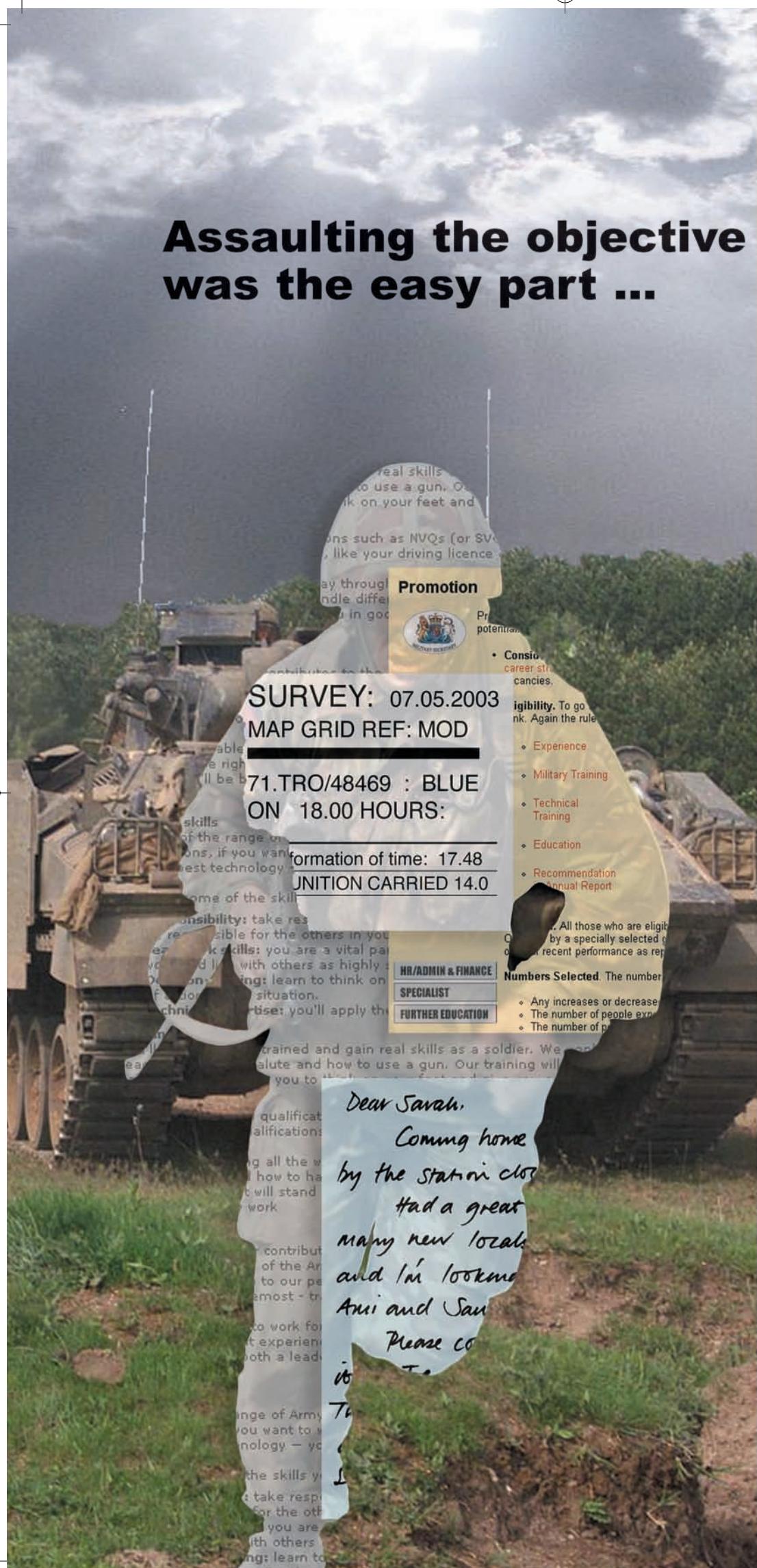
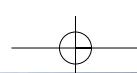
large section of Iraqi life. "When we arrived here the place had been looted and trashed. This is the first such site to be refurbished and 20 others around the province should be up-and-running over the next few weeks." In its first week the Al Amarah office was flooded with people desperate for identity cards, without which they can't travel or do business. Many wanted documents so they could join a pilgrimage to Mecca. WO2

Paul Davies, of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, said there were a great many fraudulent passports under the former Iraqi identity system.

"To combat that, coalition forces have designed a new passport that is being issued on a one-year basis," he said. "It is giving Iraqis the chance to travel internationally for the first time in many years."

Office gossip: WO2 Paul Davies helps out in the Al Amarah passport office





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Day of Javelin draws nearer

WAITING in the wings to replace Milan, the Raytheon/Lockheed Martin Javelin is due in service within two years, **writes Ray Routledge**.

The lightweight, medium-range missile is designed to provide the British Army with its anti-armour system for the next 20 years . . . at a cost of £300 million. It is claimed it will defeat all current armour.

Training on the weapon is scheduled to begin in February next year and the first brigade should be Javelin-capable by the autumn of 2005.

A single, man-portable weapon, the fire-and-forget missile has a range of 2,500m, about 500m more than Milan. It was used with effect out to 4,000m by American soldiers in Iraq. It can be deployed day or night. The operator uses a command launch unit (CLU) which houses a variety

of optics. Once the target is locked on, the system seeks out thermal "hot spot" reference points and identifies a pattern. When the fire command button is pushed, the missile keeps itself locked on to the thermal pattern.

It packs a lot of firepower, has better accuracy and greater range. Fire-and-forget means that exposure to enemy fire is kept to a minimum

"I tested Javelin in trials and it's a big improvement on Milan," said Cpl John Hulme, 2 Para. "It packs a lot of firepower, has better accuracy and greater range. Fire-and-forget means that exposure to enemy fire is kept to a minimum.

"It is not as heavy as Milan. Training is straightforward and although the official course is ten days, we were firing with confidence in a week."



Things to come: Cpl John Hulme tries out the simulator of the American version of Javelin

Javelin comes with a back-up and training aids package regarded as second to none. "The trainer simulates the real thing as closely as possible," said WO2 (QMSI) Steve Thorburn SASC.

"The simulator can take you through all the drills. Because life isn't perfect it also includes faults such as the CLU going down or a low battery.

"The present American simulator is not the one we are getting for our training needs. There is an enhanced version on its way."

Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Jordan and Lithuania have selected Javelin as their anti-armour system.

Clock runs down on ageing missile

Milan packs punch, but it is living on borrowed time

ALTHOUGH the chief guest on Exercise Foxhound Strike made its usual high-impact appearance on Salisbury Plain . . . it is now on borrowed time.

Milan, the anti-armour weapon which was the object of the annual training concentration, is due to be phased out when the new Javelin anti-tank guided weapon enters service in 2005.

Organised by the Warminster-based Anti-Tank Training Division, Foxhound Strike brought together soldiers from 1 Staffords, 1 R Anglian, 2 Para, 1 D and D and 1 RGBW under the watchful eye



Foxhound Strike: A Milan casing is ejected during a live-firing exercise on Salisbury Plain

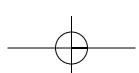
of chief instructor Maj Adrian Prior PWRR.

Recent changes to the training regime have seen a move away from Cold War defensive tactics to a more offensive role, including the art of ambush.

Capt Max Wray, WFR, an assistant

instructor, said Milan lacked punch against modern armour. "It has been a popular and effective weapon but it is at the end of its service life," he said.

But until Javelin comes on stream, Milan and Foxhound Strike will carry on.



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Top-gun Tamzin

Red Cap is back. Its star talks to *Soldier* about guns, awards and the SIB advisers

Report: Andrea Frazer, Chris Horrocks. Pictures: Graeme Main

SHE trained as a dancer, became a celebrity as the glamorous man-magnet Mel in *EastEnders*, and confirmed her serious acting credentials in the TV drama *Out of Control*.

Now, as the second series of the award-winning *Red Cap* hits our screens, its star Tamzin Outhwaite has revealed another weapon in her armoury.

Like her character, Sgt Jo McDonagh of the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police, she has become something of a gun expert, having carried out 9mm pistol and SA 80 training especially for the part.

"Jo is such a weapons nut. It's very easy to become obsessed with a gun when you know it's not loaded but it's still very scary – the whole weapon thing scares me."

"So it's actually quite embarrassing that I did so well in my weapon training. I had to learn to strip a weapon blindfolded. The training was very alien to me so it was nice learning it from scratch."

"I didn't get obsessed but I did let people know if they hadn't done their weapon training properly and I got quite into letting the boys know, for instance, that you wouldn't cock a gun like that. I probably got a bit 'know-it-all' about it."

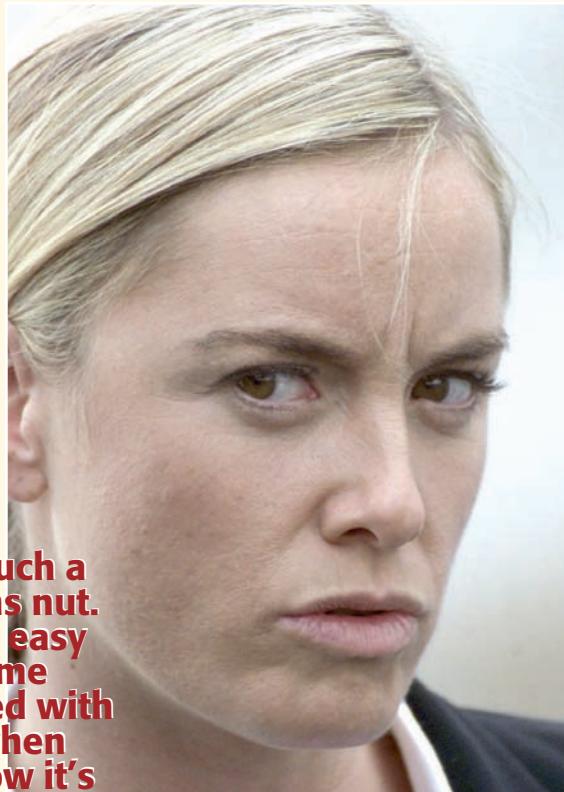
"And as a sporty person I like the self-defence aspects. When we are doing a stunt I'll always push myself and try and do it before the stunt person takes over."

Last autumn the excellence of the first *Red Cap* series (and all the indications are that the second series will be even better) was recognised by two TV awards.

"We flew up to Blackpool in a private jet," said Tamzin. "*Red Cap* was judged drama series of the year and I won the award for outstanding performance."

"All our RMP colleagues came with us, and wore their mess dress for the ceremony. One of our advisers, WO1 Clive Robbins, went up for the drama award." The

'Jo is such a weapons nut. It's very easy to become obsessed with a gun when you know it's not loaded but it's still very scary – the whole weapon thing scares me'



Set piece: Tamzin in thoughtful mood on the set of the *Red Cap* TV series near Oxford

fact that a military adviser rather than the producer, director, or one of the lead actors collected the trophy on their behalf speaks volumes for the regard in which the SIB professionals are held by all those involved with the production. WO1 Robbins is assisted by WO2 Gary Ward in ensuring that what millions see on the TV screen is authentic. Both are on the staff of HQ Provost Marshal Army at Upavon.

"While we have a certain amount of theatrical licence, they are very good at scouring the scripts to see what is right and what isn't," said Tamzin.

WO1 Robbins said: "I get involved at a very early stage, right from the beginning with the scriptwriters, right through to the final drafts, and advise on military and police procedure. We try to make it as realistic as we can. The producer, Sarah Wilson, is very keen on that."



WO2 Gary Ward, one of two Special Investigation Branch advisers to the series

Tragedy and trauma . . .

TAMZIN on *Red Cap* reaction to the killing of nine RMPs in Iraq:

"When those tragedies happened, we did feel as if in some way we knew them, even though we didn't. There was a very sombre atmosphere on set."

Has working on the series given you a greater empathy with the military?

"I cannot empathise with what it is like for soldiers on operations. I have absolutely no idea what it could possibly be like."

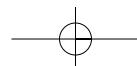
"The closest I get is through news reports and I suppose I do keep tabs on what is going on. When the war was happening it was quite traumatic."

"In real life we don't have murders or serious crime going on every day like you get in *Red Cap*, but the way the investigations are dealt with are as authentic as they can be without turning the programme into a documentary."

WO2 Ward said: "There are six episodes and a murder in every one. In real terms in the SIB (leaving Iraq to one side) we have dealt with only one murder, albeit a multiple one, in the past five years – and that was in Belize. Having said that, details such as how the SIB speak to one another, how they are deployed, how fingerprints are recovered, photos are taken, scenes of crime are dealt with – and how the rest of the Army relates to the SIB – all are very realistically portrayed."

WO1 Robbins admitted he was envied a little by his colleagues for his work with the series. "I get the mickey taken about being a luvvie," he said, "but this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"It's nice to know that I'm there imparting my knowledge and assisting with the production of a prime-time BBC series. That's quite a nice feeling, to be honest."



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Punching above their weight

Patrol company of 160 is responsible for security of a third of urban Kabul

Reports: Andrea Frazer Pictures: Graeme Main

BRITISH soldiers in Kabul are making a big impact in terms of their contribution towards international peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan's capital.

The International Security Assistance Force's British contingent provides an independent patrol company within the Kabul multinational brigade.

The 160-strong company is a mix of Regulars drawn predominantly from C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, but includes more than 60 reservists who play a full part in the operational cycle.

The Kabul patrol company (KPC) and its supporting elements, numbering just 380, is responsible for one third of the urban area of the city, a significant responsibility considering there are 5,600 Isaf troops in the capital,

of which 800 patrol the streets.

The British area-of-operation covers a large chunk of eastern Kabul and spans two police districts. Troops conduct a full range of peace support and counter-terrorist operations.

"It's a challenging, varied and rewarding tour at every level," said Maj Fraser Rae, officer commanding the KPC. "There is a very real threat from terrorism and it's high-tempo, exciting work."

Many individuals have been faced with situations that few soldiers encounter in 22 years of service, such as specialist arrest and search operations.

Striking a balance between deterring terrorism while



"Real threat": Maj Fraser Rae, 2 RGR



Rfn Janka Magar, 2 RGR, makes friends with children in Kabul

reassuring the local population takes great skill. "Decisive, immediate action is required in this theatre. We've got to be able to switch instantly from peace support to dealing with a real terrorist threat," he said.

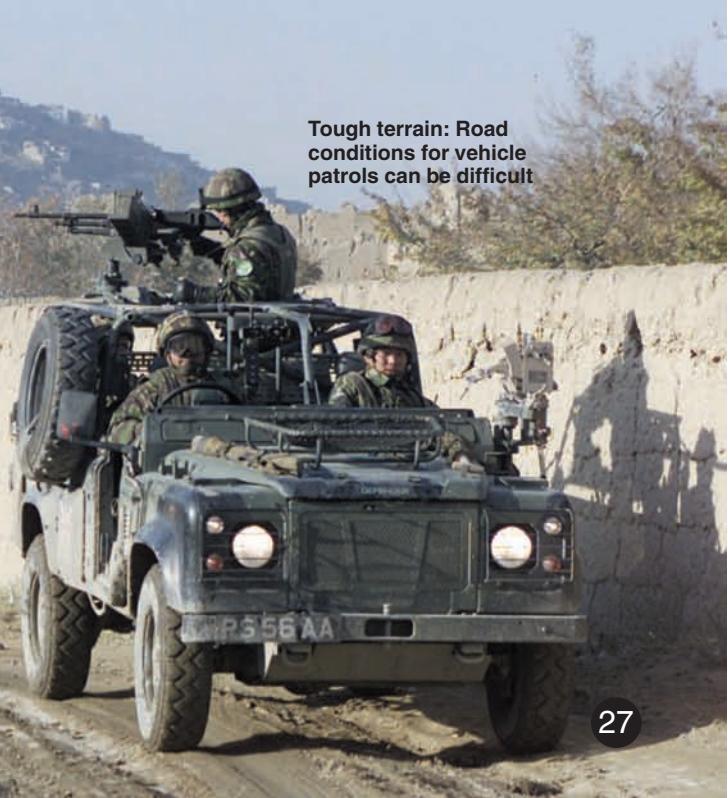
"We have benefited from the British Army's corporate experience of peacekeeping across the world. "The soldiers are of a very high calibre and the language skills of the Gurkhas are a great advantage."

'There is a very real threat from terrorism and it's high-tempo, exciting work'

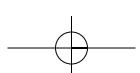
■ More from Afghanistan – pages 28-29



Punchline: Pte Clive Davis, RRW, shares a joke with local children



Tough terrain: Road conditions for vehicle patrols can be difficult



The enemy wit

Terrorist attacks are at forefront of troops' minds as they preserve Kabul's fragile peace

DEALING with the threat of a suicide bomb attack is one of the greatest challenges that any British soldier faces anywhere in the world today, according to British Forces commander Col Richard Kemp.

"We have devised a comprehensive training package with our own specific guidelines which all soldiers go through on arriving in theatre and follow-up with refresher training," he said.

"I have confidence that our soldiers can handle the challenge, but it is an extremely difficult situation to be in. How do you identify a suicide bomber? We've worked out a number of ways of doing that but they are not foolproof.

"Imagine being a 19-year-old soldier patrolling the streets of Kabul or on guard at Camp Souter, and suddenly being faced with a possible suicide attacker. That soldier has to make an instant-

aneous decision by himself, with no time to consult anybody, and once he has decided that this is a suicide bomber, he is almost obliged to shoot him.

"If he hesitates, he's dead and everyone else is dead as well."

The suicide bomb attack on the German bus in June last year was the first time Isaf had been deliberately and specifically targeted in a serious terrorist attack.

Since then there has been a significant number of attacks aimed against Isaf and the United Nations – including car bombs, shootings, close-quarter assassinations, mines on vehicle routes, grenades, under-vehicle booby traps, and rockets fired from miles away.

"We've had examples of most of those attacks targeted against British forces here in the past few months," said Col Kemp. "There have been four shootings

against British soldiers in Kabul, including two at this camp, and an attack on a group of soldiers which included a Gurkha who was subsequently given an American Army medal for his actions under fire in evacuating an American colonel who had been shot three times."

A proactive approach to anti-terrorist operations, gained during years of experience in Northern Ireland, has helped British soldiers counter the threat and disrupt terrorist networks within the city.

Towards the end of 2003, British troops captured six terrorists and seized many weapons intended for an attack against western forces.

"We are probably leading the way in Isaf in terms of taking the offensive against these people," said Col Kemp. "Each nation has its own particular strengths and weaknesses and different capabilities in terms of training and equipment.

"ISAF welds all the different elements together. It's far from perfect but it does work. British troops adapt and improvise and are performing very well, often leading multi-national operations against terrorists with Canadian and US counterparts at very short notice.

"The majority of the population in Kabul is extremely friendly, beyond anything you would imagine. Their hospitality is overwhelming but could lull us into a false sense of security. The training, discipline and leadership of our soldiers prevents that from happening."

Promising signs in a city blighted by constant war

KITES fly against Kabul's piercing blue skyline, groups of teenage girls walk eagerly, unescorted, to school, Asian music blasts from radios, and bazaars sell the latest Bollywood movies.

Forbidden fruits under the Taliban, these sights and sounds of downtown Kabul now paint a positive picture of an Afghanistan slowly emerging from the shadow of a repressive regime.

Although vast improvements are clearly evident and huge strides have been made, this battle-scarred country will take a long time to heal. Afghanistan, fought over for centuries, has suffered from almost 25 years of constant war.

During the Taliban's reign, cultural expression was forbidden and personal liberties ceased to exist. Those who disobeyed the rules vanished and millions fled to Pakistan and Iran.

Although the regime ended two years ago, life for the majority of the popula-

tion is still a tough and constant battle to survive. The economy, institutions and infrastructure are in tatters and Afghanistan suffers from enormous poverty, drought and food-related problems.

Violence between warring militias is widespread, the crime rate high and there is little central government control outside Kabul.

Trade in drugs such as opium and hashish is becoming more organised and Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily land-mined areas of the world.

Although men confidently shave their beards, a surprising number of women, particularly in the provinces, are reluctant to remove their burqas when outside the family home. Women are no longer completely invisible within society but continue to face restrictions.

History has not been kind to the people of Afghanistan but it does not seem to have dampened their spirit, their resolve or their optimism.



thin

Taking notes: Sgt Gareth Williams, West Midlands Regiment, gathers information during a patrol in Kabul



Peacekeepers more important than ever

Security operations in Afghanistan are case of work in progress

WITH the media spotlight focused on events in Iraq, it is not hard to understand why thousands of soldiers on peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations elsewhere could feel forgotten.

Two years ago coalition forces toppled the Taliban regime in response to September 11 and thousands of troops returned home. With Bin Laden still at large, many onlookers assumed Afghanistan would be quietly assigned to the history books.

They were wrong. Military operations in the region are very much a case of work in progress.

In Kabul there are approximately

5,600 International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) troops, 380 of them from the UK.

Another 85 British are part of the UK Provincial Reconstruction team based in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The al-Qaeda terrorist network is suspected to be operating in the country and a US-led coalition force continues to pursue remnants of the Taliban regime.

This multi-national peacekeeping force is needed now more than ever to create an acceptable level of security. Its ongoing training and reform of a new Afghan-led army and police force are critical steps toward improving the country's dire security situation.

Country-wide stability is essential to help the interim government extend its authority and enable critically-needed reconstruction efforts to take place.



Eyes on: Rfn Tanka Magar, above, 2 RGR, overlooks Kabul



Good sports: Cpl Kulbahadur Tumbapo and Rfn Chirendra Limbu, 2 RGR, take time out for an impromptu game of cricket during a patrol in Kabul, left

Believe it or not, there was praise across the board for Op Fingal and life at Camp Souter. Too good to be true? We thought we'd get it in writing, just in case.

Pte Clive Davis, RRW, West Midlands Regiment

An excellent tour. We have been fully integrated into the operational programme – the patrols, the quick-reaction force and guard. We've probably done a bit more than we expected to do and gained a wealth of experience in the process.

Sgt Scott Porter RLC, kitchen manager

Rumour has it that Camp Souter's got the best scoff in theatre. When other Isaf troops come here and see all the variety they get a bit carried away as they usually only get one choice per meal. I have to remind them it's a selection, not a collection.



LCpl Richie Jones WFR, West Midlands Regiment

I'm very impressed with the welfare side of things and have never seen anything like it. Very good package. We are the only troops in Isaf to have proper accommodation. Most of the other nationalities are still living in tents.

SSgt Bryan Brocklehurst, 1 GS Regiment RLC

Facilities are great. We've got a gym, a small EFI and a bar. If you didn't know where you were, you'd think you were on a course.



Cpl "Brummie" Davies, 1 GS Regiment RLC

I'd give Camp Souter nine out of ten. Everything falls into place here, the welfare system is good, the food here is better than back in Germany, the accommodation is brilliant. I'd like to extend if anything.

LCpl Baldrick McDonald, 1 GS Regiment RLC

The kit's pretty good, particularly the boots and cold weather gear. The soft jackets and trousers have been very popular.



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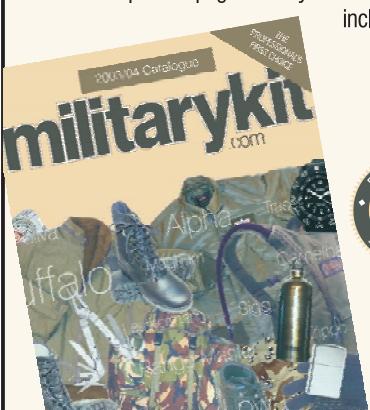
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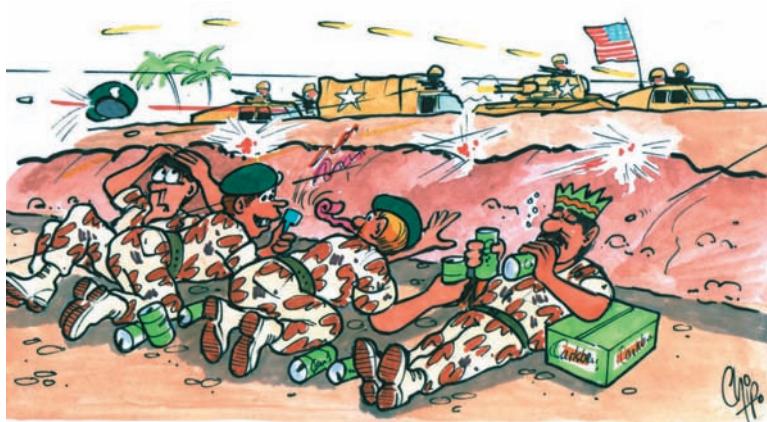
"Every year, without fail, you manage to disappear before the January sales."



"Happy New Year to you too, Private Simpkins . . . now, since it's February 10, perhaps we could consider getting back to work?"



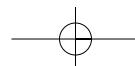
"For all those of you who made a New Years resolution to get fitter . . . I have some very good news . . ."



"Wishing 'em a Happy New Year was OK, but letting off the party popper was a bit of a mistake."



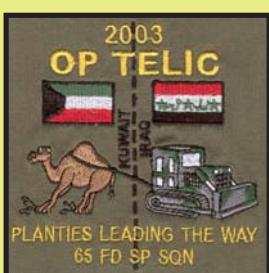
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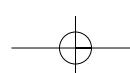
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IN THE FRAME

Full of FEELING

Portrait of child wins our January prize



THERE was plenty of variety on show among the entries for *Soldier*'s January photographic competition.

The £25 voucher winner was Sjt Gary Ranu, HQ Coy, 1 LI, who has just deployed to Iraq. Gary set out to capture the feelings of a child when her parent was about to leave for a long deployment away from home and the message comes across loud and clear with his picture, entitled "That's what I think".

Runners-up included "Getting to know the locals", featuring the reclining SSgt Larry Lumsden and a fearless gopher on the Canadian prairies during Exercise Medicine Man 2, photographed by Pte Christopher Jones of 23 Brigade Support Squadron, 2 CS Regiment RLC; and a

montage taken at Basra airport and camp Abu Naji in Al Amarah by Territorial Army soldier LCpl Stefan Edwards, currently serving in Iraq at HQ MND(SE).

They will go forward in the *Soldier* competition to be judged for our £250 award, one of the categories in the 2004 Army Photographic Competition. Send your entries, preferably

prints up to A4, to the Chief Photographer (address on Page 3), including a self-addressed envelope for return, or e-mail them to phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk, indicating *Soldier* Photo Comp. Closing date for the February competition – your last chance to enter – is **January 5**.

Soldier rules apply. Query line: 01252 347357 or Aldershot mil 2357.

Closing date for the 2003-04 Army Photographic Competition is February 15. The prize-giving is due to take place in London in April. Judges will be looking for pictures with PR potential and the organisers are hoping that there will be many entries from sol-

diers who took part in operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans and Northern Ireland between January 2003 and January 2004.

The competition is open to all Regular and Territorial Army personnel, staff and cadets of the Combined Cadet Force (Army), Army Cadet Force, University Officers' Training Corps (Army), MoD civilians and contractors who work for the Army, and dependants.

Send entries to DCC(A), SO2 (P), Room 1/20, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP by February 15. Queries to DCC(A) on (civ) 020 780 78653 or (mil) 9621 78653. See also DCI Army 83/03 or www.army.mod.uk/competitions/apc2003.htm

SOLDIER Photographic Competition



Photo art catches judges' eye

MAJ Hugh Brown, whose ambition is to become a war artist, won the first Chemring painting competition at the Army Arts Society's annual exhibition.

The Royal Logistic Corps officer, who works in London District Logistics Support Branch, received the top prize of £300 from Gen Sir Mike Jackson, Chief of the General Staff, at the Medieval Hall in Salisbury Cathedral Close.

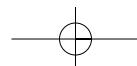
His winning picture was a

pastel and wax pencil reproduction of a photograph that appeared in the London *Evening Standard*.

Warminster-based Maj Cameron Campbell AAC picked up the second prize for a drawing of helicopters and ships, and Pte William Suthon, LI, West Midlands Regiment (Volunteers) was third.

Pictured with their winning entries are Maj Brown, left, and Maj Campbell, right.





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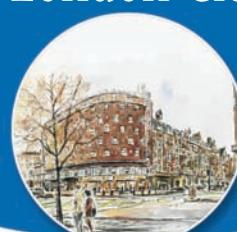
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On the move, again

Army charity helps ex-Queensman to regain his mobility

JOHN Blanchette served in The Queen's Regiment for 25 years.

He left the Army as a warrant officer in 1986 and set up his own driving school before becoming a lorry driver and travelling all over Europe.

In October 2001 his working life was cut short by an accident at work. John, now 57, was trapped under half a tonne of timber, leaving him with severe spinal cord injuries and confining him to life in a wheelchair.

He had recently spent thousands of pounds on buying and doing up his ideal home, which after the accident required modifications costing £45,000 to make it suitable for a wheelchair user.

"My wife and I had just bought and completely renovated a bungalow that we had our hearts set on for a while, so it was not easy to fund the modifications needed to cope with my disability," said John.

The changes included extending the home, widening doorways, laying laminate flooring so he could push himself around more easily, adding a purpose-built bathroom and constructing ramped access.

Also on the increasingly expensive shopping list was a fully adjustable electric bed, a riser-recliner armchair, a powered wheelchair and portable ramps. Over the past year the Army Benevolent Fund has contributed £14,000 towards the cost



Wheels: Army Benevolent Fund grants have given John Blanchette more freedom

of this kit. John said: "Our lives were turned upside down by the accident, but thanks to help from the ABF, I can now move around our home with relative ease and independence and don't have to rely on my wife or carer to get me around."

A whole Lotta medals

A SET of medals won during the Peninsular War under the Duke of Wellington has been acquired, with help from the National Lottery, by the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum in Lancaster.

The Army Gold Cross, Companion of the Bath and Army Small Gold Medal belonged to Lt Col John Piper (1783-1821), who was given an "infant commission" into the King's Own Regiment in 1795 at the tender age of 12.

The Heritage Lottery Fund met just under 90 per cent of the purchase price when the



medals, which had been in America, came up for auction. The Gold Cross is one of only 163 awarded in total, two of which went to the regiment. Curator Peter Donnelly said Piper, who served throughout Europe in the wars against the French, twice took charge when his senior officer was wounded on the battlefield.

He died while commanding the regiment, not in battle but probably of yellow fever, in Barbados on December 12, 1821. Piper's set of medals went on display in the museum in Market Square, Lancaster, last month.

Simon Brewis, Director of Grants and Welfare at the Army Benevolent Fund, said: "Mr and Mrs Blanchette have had a great deal to cope with over the past two years so we were only too pleased to help. This is a most deserving case which we will review as necessary if we can be of any further aid to his independent living.

"This is a great example of how the ABF continues to provide for those in need whether they are still serving or former members of the Army community."

John said: "For 25 years I paid into the 'day's pay scheme'. Many soldiers at grass-roots level never thought they would need to draw on these funds – I certainly never believed for a moment that I would be one to benefit from them.

"When I knocked at the door of the ABF and found out how much help and support was available to me, I realised what a worthwhile cause it really is.

"We are eternally grateful for the financial assistance we've received. Our lives would be difficult without it."

John is delighted to have been given an additional grant from the ABF to purchase a manual-assist wheelchair. Its wheel rims contain sensors and microprocessors which help to propel the wheelchair over grass, gravel and uneven surfaces, making every push from John the equivalent to eight pushes from an able bodied person. He can even manage to get up and down hills.

● For more information about the ABF visit www.armybenfund.org

Military museum number six opens in Winchester

THE Queen was shown her provisional driving licence when she opened the new Adjutant General's Corps Museum in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester.

Signed "Elizabeth" in 1945 when she was a member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, it is now on display in the historic Guard House, which was extensively renovated with the help of a £235,000 Heritage Lottery Fund Grant.

The military museum joins five others in Winchester, four of them in Peninsula Barracks. They are the King's Royal Hussars, the Light Infantry, the Gurkhas, and the Royal Green Jackets, with the Royal Hampshire in Southgate Street.

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THE PRINCE'S TRUST NEEDS YOU!

The Army seconds selected NCOs and young officers to act as team leaders for the nationwide Prince's Trust Team personal development programme

The course enables young people to develop their confidence, motivation and skills through team work in the community. It brings together young people of different abilities and backgrounds.

The role of the team leader is to enable the team to define and reach their goals. It offers a tremendous opportunity to test and develop your leadership skills in a relatively unstructured environment with little supervision.



The four-month secondment has to be agreed by your commanding officer. You need to be an above average, commonsense individual with the ability to get on with young people.

You can reap enormous job satisfaction from helping disadvantaged young people realise their potential. Placements may be arranged near your unit or in your home area.

* If you volunteer for secondment you will go through a careful selection process and be fully briefed and trained before leading your team.

*Secondments usually last 17 weeks.

*If you are due to leave the Army and want to work with young people a secondment to the Trust is an excellent first step.

If you wish to volunteer or would like to talk over the commitment contact the Services Liaison Officer in the Trust Headquarters on 0207 543 1328

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Tank run

Lancers learn Operation Telic lessons in Wales as they get ready for quick return to Iraq

Report: Tim Purbrick
Pictures: Steve Dock

A SHARP triple boom rang out over 6,000 acres of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

“Targets destroyed,” came the swift report from the tank troop leader, Sgt Brew Brewster. The Challenger 2 main battle tanks of C and D Squadrons from The Queen’s Royal Lancers were on the remote, beautiful Castlemartin Ranges in west Wales, putting into practice what they had learnt during Op Telic for the next time they deploy on operations. For many QRL soldiers this will be in March when they head back to Iraq.

Castlemartin plays host to units from all three Services. Forward air controllers have brought in more than 70 RAF ground attack sorties this year, Royal Marine commandos have scaled the rugged coastal cliffs, and Army Air Corps air gunners have honed their skills on the helicopter ranges.

Aside from all this jointery, Castlemartin is also a fast developing adventurous training destination, with rock climbing, canoeing, land yachting and fishing available. In the spring, four married quarters at Castlemartin will become



**Maj Nick Woolgar,
OC D Squadron QRL**

available as Service holiday homes. Bookings can be made through the camp quartermaster.

But there was not much time for the hard-training QRL cavalry to enjoy the countryside or the local facilities. “Castlemartin offers an excellent opportunity to bring Challenger 2 and my crews together for live-firing tests and skills development,” said Maj Nick Woolgar, OC D Squadron.

The tank ranges were a scene of incessant activity. Crews dashed from briefings to their tanks, completed a battle run, and ran for their debriefing from a gunnery instructor before racing back to their



tanks to “bomb” them up for the next range practice.

The Death or Glory boys are now back in Catterick for a short break before starting preparations for their deployment to southern Iraq.



Left and below: Challenger 2 main battle tanks of the Queen’s Royal Lancers limber up at Castlemartin for their deployment to southern Iraq



Life and death on the front line

Veteran correspondent says Grozny was the most frightening place he has reported from

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

BBC television news special correspondent Jeremy Bowen, long associated with reporting conflicts in Israel, has lost many friends on the front line. He has almost come a cropper himself.

"I always wanted to be a foreign correspondent and got a job as a BBC trainee," he told *Soldier*. "If you want to be in broadcast news there is probably no better place to be than the BBC."

After starting his career as a reporter in business news, he switched to become a radio foreign correspondent based in Geneva. "It was like the nursery slopes of

Win the book



Soldier has teamed up with publishers Simon & Schuster to offer readers the chance to win one of two signed copies of *Six Days* by Jeremy Bowen. Just answer the following question:

What was the name of the one-eyed Israeli general so famous during the Six-Day War?
a) Moshe Dayan b) Yitzhak Rabin c) Levi Eshkol

Send your answers on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to Six-Days Competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU. Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by January 30.

being a foreign correspondent." In 1988 he was offered a move to TV, since when he has reported from many of the world's trouble spots, particularly the Middle East. There was a quieter, early-morning stint as a presenter on *Breakfast Time*. Today he is the BBC's special correspondent.

"I have been to lots of wars: the Gulf, El Salvador, Lebanon, the West Bank, Afghanistan, Croatia, Bosnia, Chechnya, Somalia, Rwanda, Kosovo and Iraq," he recalled. "My first, in El Salvador, was just for a couple of weeks. Bosnia was three years.

"I had some dealings with the British Army in the Balkans when they were in Unprofor [the United Nations Protection Force]. I was with Col Bob Stewart and the Cheshire. When he first arrived I took his company commanders up to Travnik to show them what was going on there.

"After that I spent more time with the Bosnian Army than the British Army."

There were times when Jeremy feared for his life. "I have been in bombardments and shootings and on about half a dozen occasions I have thought I was going to die," he said.

Bowen reckons the most terrifying place to work in was Grozny, in Chechnya.

"Anybody who has covered conflicts in the last 20 years will tell you Grozny was the worst. The Russians were using all the weapons they had developed to fight Nato, apart from nuclear."

"Most of the press went from Sarajevo to Grozny when it started in the winter of 1994-1995. We thought we had these things sussed out, but Grozny was in a different league."

"The Russians were using modern warplanes and artillery to bomb and shell. In a month they reduced a steel and concrete Soviet city to rubble."

"One day we arrived in



World at war: Jeremy Bowen has reported for the BBC from trouble spots all over the globe

Minutka Square in the middle of Grozny to pick up a freelance doing some work for the BBC. It was clearly dodgy and we could hear shelling close by. The buildings were on fire. I was talking to some Chechen fighters then moved down a side road.

"At that moment I heard the scream of jet engines and threw myself down behind a wall, which wasn't much more than a kerbstone. I saw two planes at rooftop height as they attacked with cluster bombs. I lay there thinking: 'You are going to die now'. I didn't, but two of the Chechens I'd been talking to did."

Risk, it seems, goes with the job. Bowen recalls being robbed at gunpoint on the Kosovo-Albanian border. "I thought those guys could kill us on a whim and forget about it by lunchtime."

"No story is worth a life, but the only way to ensure that doesn't happen is to never send anyone to a dangerous place. The BBC now takes training very seriously, including hostile environment courses and combat first aid. They also spend a lot of money on flak jackets, helmets, and air-freighting bullet-proof Land Rovers around the world."

Despite his war reporting, Jeremy Bowen is best known

Bowen factfile

Born: Cardiff, February 6, 1960
Awards:
Best news correspondent 1995 at the New York Television Festival
Best Breaking News Report 1996 at the New York Television Festival for coverage of the assassination of President Rabin.

MY OTHER JOB



‘No story is worth a life, but the only way to ensure that doesn’t happen is to never send anyone to a dangerous place’

for his work in the Middle East and he has written a book about what he regards as the catalyst for the present troubles, the Six-Day War of 1967.

“When I was the correspondent in Jerusalem I felt that understanding 1967 was the key to the current situation. I took time off without pay to write the book.

“There were some real characters – Moshe Dayan, the one-eyed Jewish warrior, and King Hussein of Jordan, who was convinced he was going to lose the war and who only got involved because he thought he would otherwise lose his throne because the Palestinians in his kingdom would rise up. While other Israeli generals were raring to go, Yitzhak Rabin, who was the head of the Israeli Army, had a breakdown on the eve of war and was out of it for 24 hours.

“Everyone thinks of the Six-Day War as David versus Goliath, little Israel surrounded by huge Arab armies. Israel was very small but incredibly powerful, while the Arabs had big armies but did not

know what to do with them. The Arabs hadn’t trained properly and underestimated the Israelis.”

Bowen is sceptical about the American-sponsored road map to peace.

“The Middle East seems complicated, but I don’t think it is really. Put simply, there is one piece of land and two sets of people who want it. The Palestinians are not going to scare the Israelis away with terrorism. Equally the Israelis cannot impose their will on the Palestinians.

“There is no military solution so there has to be a political deal. They have to split the land between them in a way that both sides regard as fair, or they won’t get peace.”

He believes many countries could take a lesson from the British Army. “It has learned about the application of force. Just because someone is shooting at you does not mean you have to blaze away back. There are other ways.”

Bowen is working on his second book, this time about war reporting, and planning a follow-up to his successful TV historical documentary, *Moses*, with a new project on *Noah* due for broadcast later this year.

He has no regrets about his chosen and dangerous career path.

“I have had some fantastic times, especially in the Balkans; tough days but a lot of fun. Like soldiers, we had a comradeship sharing adversity together.”

Busman’s HOLIDAY

FANY officer returns to the world of expeditions

WHEN Sandra Webb, training officer of the all-volunteer FANY (Princess Royal’s Volunteer Corps) led an expedition to the Pyrenees, her enthusiasm might have been a little diminished, **writes Ray Routledge**.

Why? Because it’s exactly what she did for several years in her day job.

Sandra, who as a staff commander (equivalent to a lieutenant colonel) is the third highest ranking officer in the corps, organises outdoor activities for City of London youth groups and approves expeditions for Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme leaders. She was formerly a Duke of Edinburgh’s scheme coordinator in Wandsworth.



Expeds: Sandra Webb

“I was involved in several expeditions a year,” she said. “Now that my work is more desk-bound I have time to commit to the FANY. (The initials stand for First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, although the corps has had nothing to do with nursing since 1907.)

The five-day mountain trek into the Pyrenees was her first major adventure exercise as training officer. “Managing the programme isn’t difficult, just time-consuming,” she said. “Corps members are competent individuals in their own right. It is all about building a strong, supportive team.”

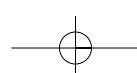
The FANY, created in 1907 as a first-aid link between front-line fighting units and field hospitals, has a proud past. Seventeen of its members were awarded Military Medals during the First World War.

Many female agents sent by the Special Operations Executive to France in the Second World War were commissioned into the FANY. Twelve died in concentration camps and three – Odette Hallowes (tortured by the Gestapo and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp), Violette Szabo (another Gestapo victim, executed in 1945), and Noor Inayat Khan – were awarded the George Cross, the last two posthumously.

Today FANY supports London’s military and civil authorities. It recruits women aged between 18 and 45, who are trained in communications, languages, first-aid, map reading, navigation and orienteering, shooting, self-defence and survival techniques.

To find out more about the FANY (PRVC), look at the website (www.fany.org.uk) or telephone: 020 7976 5459.

● Are you a TA soldier with an interesting day job? If you are ring 01252 340753 or e-mail rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk.



Sounds of the S

Broadcasting stars recall early years of worldwide network

A GALAXY of broadcasting stars lit up the magnificent Banqueting House in Whitehall last month to mark the 60th anniversary of the British Forces Broadcasting Service, writes John Elliott.

Dame Vera Lynn, whose songs the embryonic radio station carried to soldiers across the globe during the final year of the Second World War and beyond, paid her tribute to Forces' broadcasting, as did the legendary David Jacobs, who followed his introduction to the airwaves while serving in the wartime Royal Navy in South East Asia with a lifetime of achievement with the BBC.

Familiar faces – and voices – included Radio 2's Sarah Kennedy, "Whispering" Bob Harris of Old Grey Whistle Test fame, BBC TV sports commentator Barry Davies, and presenter David Hamilton.

All worked for BFBS at one time, many of them owing their pre-eminence in broadcasting to lessons first learned on the Forces' network.

The 60th anniversary was also a reunion



Forces' favourite
Dame Vera Lynn
recalled arriving early
at studios in Piccadilly
to record programmes
before the German
bombers arrived over
London. Her songs
were later broadcast
on the British Forces
Network all over
Europe.

for many who helped to make Forces' broadcasting what it is today. Men like Bryan Hodgson, who was working for the BBC when the D-Day invasion unfolded. He was called up in 1946, joined the British Forces Network in Hamburg the following year and went on to produce classical music programmes until 1951.

Trevor Hill, a BBC programme engineer, was also called up for wartime service. He enlisted in the Royal Scots as a bren gunner before a posting to BFN. As well as starting a



Main picture: Peter King at work during BFBS's formative years. **Top right:** Reporter Rory Higgins as British units launched their attack last March. **Above right:** Katie Roy interviews Royal Engi

features and drama unit at Hamburg in 1945 he produced a programme, read by a young Raymond Baxter, to mark *Soldier's* first anniversary in March 1946.

Cpl Douglas Brown, R Signals, was a founder member of the 1st Field Broadcasting. A technician, he helped to set up radio stations behind the advancing Allied armies and opened up the BFN studios in Hamburg on July 29, 1945. A few months later set up a relay station in Berlin so troops stationed there could tune in.

Peter King, a wartime private in the RASC, returned from Germany in August 1946 to join the BBC and became the Terry Wogan of his time. Peter, who was a driver in the 7th Armoured Motor Brigade before he was seconded to the new Forces

radio station launched in Hamburg, was present when Hitler's henchman Himmler committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule.

Peter covered the 1948 Olympics for the BBC and fronted

Trevor Hill helped produce a Forces' radio programme in Hamburg to mark *Soldier's* first anniversary in 1946.

Raymond Baxter, later to become synonymous with BBC TV's "Tomorrow's World", did the voiceover.

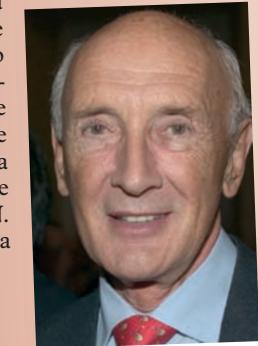


many popular shows until turning to news reading, which he did until 1979.

In 1982 he was called back to the BBC studios to make morale-raising broadcasts nightly to the Argentine-occupied Falkland Islands, which he knew well.

Someone who made it to the top at both BFBS and the BBC was Alan Protheroe, managing director of the former for six years and assistant director general of the latter. A Territorial Army colonel in The Welsh Regiment (now the Royal Regiment of Wales), Alan was also editor of BBC TV news.

From humble beginnings in 1943, when



Football commentator Barry Davies says:
"Without BFBS I certainly wouldn't be doing the job I am today." As 2nd Lt Davies RASC, he was put in charge of a unit football team in Germany and ended up doing match reports for BFBS.

Portraits: Mike Weston

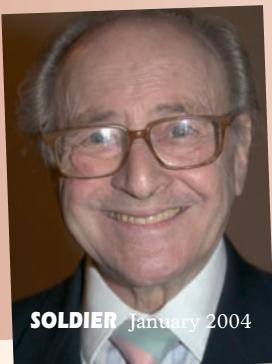
Services



gins uses a satphone to transmit a story from the Kuwait-Iraq
Engineers extending an airfield apron at Bunia in the Congo

it transmitted to troops stationed in Algiers, BFBS has evolved into the Armed Services' bespoke and worldwide audio entertainment and information source. It has stations and reporters in 23 countries, usually living alongside the Forces' community. Just ten days after British troops entered Iraq last March, there was a BFBS station broadcasting from Umm Qasr in the south.

In addition to two English language channels – the pop-orientated BFBS Radio One and the more laid-back BFBS Radio Two – the network serves Gurkha soldiers and families with their own radio station. The Nepali programmes can be picked up wherever Gurkha units are serving, including Brunei, Iraq and the Balkans.



David Jacobs cut his broadcasting teeth while serving as a petty officer in the Royal Navy. "Doctor Who" actor Jon Pertwee was in his section at the South East Asia Command station in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) between 1945 and 1947.

SOLDIER January 2004



Whispering Bob Harris made weekly programmes for BFBS for 14 years. He recalls hosting "Drive Time" in Gibraltar and forgetting to give the answer in a prize competition. When he walked into a pub minutes after completing the programme, the first person he saw asked him for the answer.

Responding to pleas for a cinema in the Balkans, SSVC commissioned a £500,000 state-of-the-art Movie Machine – a purpose-built lorry trailer which converts into a luxury cinema with armchair-quality seating for 80. Hugely popular, it rumbles between Bosnia and Kosovo, showing three films a day, six days a week. The offerings – free to soldiers – are projected just six weeks after release in the UK.

● **The Link With Home: Sixty Years of Forces Radio** by Alan Grace – see book reviews in Pages 68-69.

Some key dates in the history of Forces radio

1943: British Forces Experimental Station begins test transmissions in Algiers, from where the invasion of Sicily was planned.

1944: BFES goes on air. Mobile radio stations are sent to operate close to the front line in Italy, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq are added.

1945: The Forces Broadcasting Service prepares for the invasion of Europe, operating in Holland and Germany, Florence and Austria. British Forces Network Hamburg launches on July 29.

Late 1945: Adjutant General suggests that the BBC take over Forces broadcasting.

1946-48: Rapid expansion of the network throughout Europe, North and East Africa and the Middle East.

1960: War Office withdraws suggestion that the BBC take over Forces broadcasting.

1962: Aden station opens and broadcasts until the last days of British control in 1967. It is the only station ever to come under direct attack and was guarded day and night by British troops, who manned a machine-gun post on the roof.

1965: London begins production of sport, current affairs and music programmes.

1966: BFBS London sports team, led by Gerald Sinstadt, covers the World Cup.

1972: BFBS Germany and BFBS London cover the Munich Olympics and beat the BBC to the story of the massacre of Israeli athletes.

1974: BFBS Cyprus becomes the sole means of communication during the Turkish invasion.

1979: Services Sound and Vision Corporation is established.

1982: BFBS joins forces with the Falkland Island Broadcasting Service to transmit to troops liberating the islands, then opens its own studio.

1985: BFBS wins Sony Gold Award for its outstanding contribution to radio.

1990: BFBS2 begins transmitting from Chalfont Grove, SSVC's headquarters in Buckinghamshire.

1991: BFBS Middle East closes down.

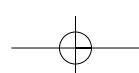
1993: BFBS celebrates 50 years of broadcasting. First programmes transmitted from Balkans. Northern Ireland station opens.

1997: Stations in Gibraltar and Hong Kong close down.

2000: Suffield, Canada, goes on air.

2002: Bosnia station on air.

2003: BFBS journalists embedded with troops during war in the Gulf. BFBS Middle East opens in Arijfan.



A wheelie good

Ex-Flying Gunner makes 'riding' a motor bike look easy

Report: Jonathan Turner
Pictures: Graeme Main

EVERYONE knows that wheelies aren't big and they aren't clever. Except, of course, for the fact that they are.

Paul Gower is a man who knows all there is to know about wheelies. The ex-team leader of the Flying Gunners motorcycle display team is now a professional stunt rider and instructor with his own Wheelie School.

A former corporal in the Royal Horse Artillery, Paul spent 17 years in the Army, the last eight of them with the gunners. Now he's based at a disused airfield in Bovingdon, in Hertfordshire, passing on his skills to everyone from novice bikers to

hardened racers. "We have people who are unemployed who have saved up for ages, people getting it as a birthday present, multi-millionaires, you name it," said Paul. "The other day we had a magistrate and a bunch of barristers come through."

Which might be good for free legal advice if you get caught doing a wheelie on the open road.

Paul makes it clear right from the start that if you pop wheelies in public, you could be facing a dangerous driving conviction and a ban. So isn't teaching the public how to wheelie just asking for trouble? Paul does not think so, and neither do many of the police he's spoken to. "When I first thought about setting this place up, I did stop and think about whether morally it was the



Enthusiast: Former Flying Gunners team leader Paul Gower has turned his passion for bikes into a business

right thing to do," said Paul.

"Then one day I was chatting to some police officers who were training on the airfield. Their attitude was that people are going to try it anyway, and it's far better to teach them how to do it safely, and with a depth of knowledge."

And depth of knowledge is exactly what you get at Wheelie School. The first part of the day-

long course covers the theory of getting the front wheel airborne, with the emphasis on keeping it safe and under control.

After that, it's a matter of getting the wheel up and keeping it there, which isn't as easy as it sounds. A big attraction for Paul's customers is that they get to use his 1200 Bandits, sparing their own bikes in the event of an accident – which is thankfully rare.

"We have only had two people come off during wheelies, and they were luckily both OK. We want people to be smooth and in control. That's what is important, not how high the wheelie is."



Up and over: Paul demonstrates you can do amazing things on a motor bike and keep on the straight and narrow at the same time



January 2004 **SOLDIER**



42

Rev i
of his

FEATURE

job



This is how you do it: Paul Gower instructs a fresh class of "bikers" at his Wheelie School

Paul looks back on his military career with fondness, and is keen to encourage would-be stunt riders to try out for the Flying Gunners.

"I'd always been into bikes and enjoyed wheelies, but before I joined the team I didn't know anything else," he said. "I just had to get out there and learn it. I was in the team 18 months and a mate of mine who was the team leader left, and after that I was in charge."

One of the highlights of his career was the chance to compete in the Paris to

'Most of my injuries have been bad twists and stuff... with a very few breaks. I obviously bounce well'

Dakar rally with the gunners. "I'd pack my bags and go again tomorrow if I could," he said. "My time in the Army was brilliant. And being allowed to do all the bike training was the icing on the cake.

"I mean, I was being paid to jump cars on a motor bike. I was doing something that I loved, and it wasn't a job any more. It was just brilliant fun."

But as Paul tells his students, stunts on bikes are risky. He says he's been lucky, but his X-rays might tell a different story.

"Most of my injuries have been bad twists, with very few breaks. I obviously bounce well."

Paul's most recent achievement was to help train Billy Baxter for his successful attempt to break the world speed record for a blind person. The former Flying Gunner was struck by an illness during a tour of duty in Bosnia which left him without sight.

But that didn't stop Billy setting a record on a bike at a jaw-dropping 165.8 mph. "I nearly cried," Paul recalled. "We all had lumps in our throats. It was a very emotional experience, especially because the media who were there hadn't expected much of him.

"But he did it. He totally exceeded everyone's expectations."

What's next for Paul? Having taught people how to get the front wheel in the air, he now wants to show them how to do the same with the back.

"I'm hoping to open Stoppie School next year. At the end of the day, any extra element of machine control is a good thing."

One thing's for sure. The big fat grins all round after a day at Wheelie School speak for themselves. It's £175 well spent, even if you go away just knowing you can do it if you want to.

● www.thewheelieschool.co.uk



Rev it up: Paul shows off more of his skills on two wheels



SOLDIER January 2004

MONEY

Manage Your money



Credit Action Director Keith Tondeur, will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.

Caught by the sales

LAST year should have been a year to remember for Cpl T and his wife. Newly married, they decided to buy a three-bedroom house even though it really pushed them financially.

It was a good idea because house prices continued to rise. But neither of them had owned a property before and so did not appreciate the add-on costs – things such as stamp duty and solicitors' fees. Neither did they put money aside to pay for the electricity and gas.

What they did do was take advantage of several store cards they were offered.

Cpl T and his wife wanted to furnish their home quickly and so bought electrical goods and furniture in the January sales and took full advantage of the "nothing to pay for six months" and "0% interest" offers.

They didn't stop to calculate what they would have to pay off. While the house looked great their bank balance did not. They soon reached the higher overdraft limit that they had agreed to.

TIME RAN OUT

Through the early part of the year they just about managed, but did not seem able to get the bank balance down from its limit. Then the periods of "nothing to pay" began to run out and the small £30 here and £50 there began to add up. New agreements kicked in without warning and they failed to make the payments.

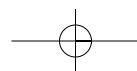
As a result they were charged very high rates of interest, which added to their woes and caused increasingly bitter rows between them. They realised they needed help.

Cpl T recalled that he had been given a book about personal money management when he finished initial training. He found it and rang a number – 0800 1381111 – to get free advice. He was able to supply details of what he owed and to whom and was put on a Debt Management Plan.

This means he only has to make one affordable payment each month and that sum is distributed on a pro rata basis to all his creditors. Just doing the exercise helped them learn how to budget and already they are seeing the amount they owe coming down. For the first time their new house is beginning to feel like a home rather than an expensive liability.

If you would like totally free debt or money advice, please contact the Credit Action/Consumer Credit Counselling Service on 0800 1381111 or visit the website below.

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Picture: Graeme Main

No way through: Cpl Stewart Ridsel (RLC) fails to escape the attentions of the East Hull pack during the Army's Challenge Cup tie in Aldershot

Road to Cardiff blocked

Amateur side end Army's bid for glory

Army 12
East Hull 22
Powergen Challenge Cup, 1st Round

DREAMS of the Army embarking on a lucrative giant-killing run in Rugby League's showpiece Powergen Challenge Cup were cut short by East Hull ARLFC at a rain-soaked Aldershot Rugby Stadium.

Fielding a vastly different side from the team that lifted the Inter-Services Challenge Cup, the Army, coached by former Great Britain star Andy Gregory, were slow to get to grips with the weather conditions and their first-round opponents.

The visiting Humberside club, who

are coached by Bradford Bulls' forward Lee Radford and were two points clear at the top of Division Two of the National Conference League as *Soldier* went to press, punished the Army for a series of handling errors by amassing a 22-point lead with little more than 30 minutes of the tie played.

A try by Spr "Nacker" Nacamavuto (RE) and conversion from the boot of all-rounder Cpl Lee Innes (RE) just before the break represented the Army's only points of the first half, but restored some much needed pride.

With strong words from manager Capt Rich Naivalurua (REME) ringing in their ears, the Army began the second period as they had ended the first - in the ascendancy.

Cpl Andy Parkinson (R Signals) collected the ball from an East Hull

kick in his own 20-metre area and ran the length of the pitch to score beneath the posts. Innes duly converted to reduce the deficit to ten.

However, staging a comeback against a team featuring former GB amateur international fullback Phil Batty, scrum half Mick Docherty and Lee Brown, considered to be the fastest prop forward in the amateur game, was never going to be easy and the Army failed to convert their lion's share of the possession into further points.

A final score of 22-12 in East Hull's favour meant that, for this season at least, the Army's journey along the road to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was over before it had begun.

◆ Anyone interested in playing or officiating Rugby League should contact Capt Mark Bairstow on mil 94357 5430 or visit www.arl.org.uk

Magnificent Seven fir



Line breaker: Scotland international OCdt Mark Lee (RMAS) turns the defence during the Singapore Sevens

Picture: Roger Thompson

RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . .

ANGLING: Army shore championships – 1, WO1 Dougie Douglas; 2, SSgt Pete Gardner; 3, Sgt Jim Cargill.

British Army Carp Classic – 1, Sgt Daz Jones 620lb 8oz; 2, SSgt Mick Redden (12 Regt RA) 450lb 12oz.

ATHLETICS: Army cross country relay championships, major unit team standings – 1, 21 Sig Regt (A); 2, ATR Pirbright (A); 3, 25 Trg Sp Regt RLC; 4, AGC Centre; 5, 3 (CS) Regt RLC; 6, RMAS (B); 7, 21 Sig Regt (B); 8, 3 RSME; 9, RMAS (A); 10, 2 PWRR (B); 11, 29 Cdo Regt RA (A); 12, QDG; 13, 2 Bn REME (A); 14, RMCS (A); 15, 30 Sig Regt; 16, ATR Pirbright (B); 17, 3 Royal Irish; 18, RMAS (C); 19, 23 Engr Regt (A); 20, 11 Sig Regt (A).

Minor unit team standings – 1, Kings Troop RHA; 2, 16 (CS) Med Regt (A); 3, ATR Lichfield; 4, 42 Engr Regt (GEO); 5, DMSTC; 6, 24 Regt RLC; 7, F Coy Scots Guards; 8, 4 GS Med Regt (A); 9, Kings Troop RHA (B).

Junior men's team standings – 1, 11 Sig Regt; 2 – DMSTC; 3, AFC Harrogate; 4, F Coy Scots Guards; 5, SEME Bordon.

Women's team standings – 1, 21 Sig Regt (A); 2, RMAS (B); 3, DMSTC (A); 4,

RMAS (A); 5, 3 (CS) Regt RLC; 6, RMAS (C); 7, ATR Pirbright; 8, 4 Royal Irish; 9, 25 Trg Sp Regt RLC; 10, RMCS; 11, 6 Sup Regt RLC; 12, HQ 2 Med Bde; 13, 21 Sig Regt (B); 14, 42 Engr Regt (GEO); 15, DMSTC (B); 16, 16 (CS) Med Regt; 17, 39 Regt RA; 18, Kings Troop RHA; 19, 10 Regt RLC.

Veteran men's winners – 11 Sig Regt.

FOOTBALL: TA 10 Army Crusaders 2; TA (NI) 2 Army (NI) 4.

Massey Trophy – RAC 0 Infantry 13 (Pte Brown (4), Cpl Rhodden (4), Pte King (2), Cpl Wood (2), LCpl Locke); AGC 2 (Cpl Harries) RE 5 (Spr Lawson (2), Spr Cotton (2), Sgt McCabe); RLC 2 (Sgt Hope, Pte Biggs) AMS 1 (Sgt Cochrane); RA 1 (Bdr Wojtas) Int Corps 2 (LCpl Broadhurst, Sgt Head); APTC 1 (Sgt Pulham) R Signals 6 (Sig Wood (2), Cpl Stephenson (2), Cpl Moffatt, SSgt Alford); AAC 1 (Sgt White) RA 3 (Sgt Cunningham 2, LBdr Hale); REME 1 (Cfn Culliford) Infantry 4 (Brown (2), LCpl Hunter, LCpl Powell), REME 5 (Cfn Combelack, Cpl Luckhurst, Sgt Smith, Cfn Rumgay, Cpl Ashurst) Int Corps 0.

Pricewaterhouse Cooper League – AGC 5 AMS 2; REME 1 R Signals 11; RA 6 Int Corps 0.

ICE HOCKEY: Cleveland Comets 6 REME Stallions 7 (Scorers – Cfn Rob Taylor (2), SAC Ian Pagano (2), Sgt Andy Thompson, Cpl Ben Wedgwood and Maj Ben Durand).

MARTIAL ARTS: Inter-Services championships, weapons kata – 1, Cpl Michele De-Vry (RAF); 2, Fit Lt Gary Bickett (RAF). **Karate, men's junior kumite** – 1, Cpl Shakya (RGR); 2, WO1 Trevor Wallis (RLC). **Men's senior kumite** – 1, LCpl Graham Thomas (RRW); 2, Sgt Brian Hall (REME). **Women's kata** – 1, Sig Stephanie Bogart (R Signals); 2, Cpl De-Vry. **Women's kumite** – Cpl De-Vry; 2, Gnr Donna Kelly (RA). **Taekwondo, women's patterns** – 1, SAC Kat Bingham (RAF); 2, Mus Thomas (CA Mus). **Women's senior sparring** – 1, Cpl De-Vry; 2, SSgt Lisa Stace (RLC). **Women's junior sparring** – 1, SAC Bingham; 2, Spr Lindsay McCann (RE). **Team standings, junior karate** – 1, Army; 2, RN. **Senior karate** – 1, Army; 2, RN. **Junior taekwondo** – 1, Army; 2, RN. **Senior taekwondo** – 1, RN; 2, Army.

SQUASH: Inter-corps championships, final league standings. Div one – 1, RLC

nd it tough at the top

Soldier's rugby guru Roger Thompson reflects on a season of 'near misses' and relative disappointment for the Army's Sevens squad

THE Army's Rugby Sevens team enjoys wide support on the world stage.

From Cayman to Bangkok, the British Army - with deliberate emphasis on the British - has adopted a style of play which is appreciated by both the rugby connoisseurs and a wider audience, who simply marvel at the fast-moving spectacle of the hunter and the hunted.

Sevens epitomises the Army ethos with an emphasis on fitness, strength and teamwork, but at the very top level, in the public eye, the Army must also be seen, on merit, to be winners.

Reaching the semi-finals in the Middlesex and Singapore tournaments and the final in Dubai this season does not reflect the true strength of Army Sevens. If "Be the Best" is to be taken seriously then the management and coaches must, with

Churchillian exhortation, be given the "tools to finish the job".

Negotiating for the release of players as the propellers are starting to turn at Heathrow airport is not "best" practice.

In modern times the Army has not won the Sunshine Sevens in Singapore. This year injury had deprived the squad of skipper Capt Howard Graham (AGC) and the "artful dodger" Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (RS). Sevens without the playmakers is rather like negotiating Trafalgar Square without the traffic lights - they bring order and direction to the power and speed.

Nevertheless, emerging forwards OCdt Mark Lee (RMAS) and Pte Joe Kava (RLC) added punch to the forward line as did Pte Matthew Raikosa (RS). Lee is an experienced Scotland international who has adapted remarkably quickly to the structured style imposed by Army coach Lt Col Andy Hickling.

However, it was during the latter stages of the Singapore tournament that Army deficiencies were exposed. In the semi-final the Durban Harlequins, fielding a number of ringers with international pedigree, barred the way to the final.

For sheer lack of old-fashioned sporting values, both teams in the final bore little resemblance to those of the earlier rounds, but this is big business and in professional rugby to win such a tournament generates huge prestige. Lost opportunities may mean lost sponsorship.

Operational deployments and further injuries at the end of a hard season could have made the Emirates Air International tournament in Dubai a pitch too far. Regrouping Singapore survivors with unproven battle casualty replacements, without

rehearsals and time to marry-up again fell short of "best" practice.

However, in overcoming Russia in a hard fought quarter-final, Pte Tui Koroinilevu (RGBW) and Tpr Jim Tuitubou (RSDG) produced the old "smoke and mirrors" style which had charmed the 25,000 Dubai crowd for the past three seasons. LBdr Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA) was back in the sort of form that earned him international recognition with England in 2002.

Beating the Marauders, an international select side, in the semi-final was a huge achievement as was only losing 24-19 to the South Seas Drifters in the competition's final. Defeat is never easy to accept, but at the hands of the Drifters, an invitational squad packed with Fijians and Samoans desperate to catch the eye and win a professional contract, it was understandable.

At international level this might have been a less successful season than 2002, when the Army won two major trophies, but it was not without positives. Most notably new players have been found to take over from those who might well be considering a future in coaching. If today's disappointment can be forged into a steel-tipped resolve to improve, then the 2003 pill can be swallowed.

The team already ranks alongside England's national Sevens team and certainly has the capability to be one of the top teams in the world. "Being the Best" is an Army matter and not just a problem for those who take responsibility for management, coaching and the players, who with massive pride, pull on the red jersey.

♦ The Middlesex Sevens' website, www.londonpridemiddlesex7s.com, invites visitors to vote for the club they most enjoy watching. More than 60 per cent of the site's visitors have nominated the British Army and readers of Soldier might care to enhance this fantastic endorsement.

• Sevens without the playmakers is rather like negotiating Trafalgar Square without the traffic lights •

• At international level this might have been a less successful season than 2002 but it was not without positives •

... RESULTS SERVICE ...

A 97pts (champions); 2, Infantry A 65pts; 3, AGC A 63pts; 4, RE A 49pts; 5, REME A 38pts; 6, APTC A 26pts (relegated).

Div two - 1, R Signals A 109pts (promoted); 2, AAC 107 pts; 3, RLC B 74pts; 4, RAC 60pts; 5, RE B 54pts; 6, REME B 43pts (relegated); 7, R Signals B 0pts (relegated).

Div 3 - 1, RA 115pts (promoted); 2, APTC B 86pts (promoted); 3, AMS 82pts; 4, Infantry B 68pts; 5, AWS 56pts; 6, AGC B 53pts; 7, Int Corps 0pts.

WATER SKIING: Army championships, advanced slalom winner - WO2 Spud Nutter (2 LI). Trick riding winner - LCpl Gareth McCormick (4 R Irish). Team winners - R Irish.

WINDSURFING: Inter-Services championships - 1, Army (Bdr Iain Beaton, Sgt Doc White, Capt Allan Cross, Maj Gareth Baker, WO Brian Grieve and WO Jed Cunningham); 2, RN; 3, RAF.

Inter-corps championships - 1, REME (WO2 Jed Cunningham, Sgt Dave Tindall, WO2 Brian Brieve, Lt Col Tim Sands, WO2 Steve Myers and Mark Greensmith); 2,

SHORTS**Terriers mourn loss**

MAJ (Retd) Stuart Cottage, the secretary of Territorial Army football, died suddenly while returning home from player trials in Northern Ireland late last year.

An unrivalled authority on Terriers' football, Maj Cottage joined the TA Sport Board in 1970 and, in recognition of his contribution to the game, the Cottage Cup was commissioned and is now awarded to the runner-up in the annual TA Challenge Cup.

Snowboarding the web

TIRED of having to pay inflated prices for his snowboarding gear, former slalom and reigning Army big air champion Cpl John Craig (REME) has set up his own sportswear company.

Launched last month, www.sixfeetabove.co.uk, caters for surfers and boarders, and offers free delivery on all orders of more than £10.

Life Guards' winning line

COMBINED Services angler WO1 Warren Douglas (LG) won the Army sea fishing shore championships at Dover.

During the competition's two five-hour matches, catches were measured by length rather than weight so that the fish were out of the water for the minimum time possible. Douglas's winning haul included a 486cm and 387cm catch.

◆ Anyone interested in joining the Army fishing team should contact WO1 Dai Kemp on 07715 008454 or WO2 Glen Evans on 07944 366903.

Poolside position

ARMY triathletes who train for competitions at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre are on the hunt for a new swimming coach.

The group range in ability from beginners to Great Britain athletes and currently train twice a week at Aldershot's Olympic-size pool.

Anyone interested in the post should contact Maj Adrian Clark on 01252 833461.

Ten in a row for loggies

FOR a record tenth successive year the Royal Logistic Corps' squash team were crowned inter-corps champions at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre.

Amassing an impressive 97-point total, the loggies' closest challengers were the infantry who, promoted to the top flight only last season, finished on 66 points. Missing talisman WO2 Gingy Whiteman through injury, the AGC, who challenged so strongly for the title last year, had to be content with third place (for full results see Page 47).

Champions in

Treble winners enlist the help of Army's former number one

FULHAM Football Club is clearly a favoured destination for Services' shot-stoppers, writes Andy Simms.

In the close season former Combined Services goalkeeper SSgt Dean May (APTC) followed the example of Maik Taylor, the man he succeeded between the sticks for the Army, and joined the staff list at the South London club.

While Northern Ireland number one Taylor, who signed for Fulham in 1997 and is currently on a season-long loan at Birmingham City, continues to ply his trade on the pitch, May joins the club's ladies' side as first-team coach from rivals Arsenal.

Alongside newly-appointed player-manager Marieanne Spacey, the UEFA-licensed coach has been charged with the unenviable task of continuing Fulham's reign of dominance within the women's game. Last season the team finished their National Premier Division campaign unbeaten, only dropping points in home and away draws with Charlton Athletic, scoring 68 goals and conceding just 13 en route to the championship.

In addition to winning the league title, the girls rounded off a three-year stint as the only professional outfit in Europe by winning the treble.

They won the League Cup with a narrow victory over arch-rivals Arsenal and lifted the FA Cup after beating Charlton at Selhurst Park in front of more than 10,000 spectators and an estimated television audience of two million.

"Emulating what was achieved last season will not be easy," explained May, who was a member of the coaching staff that helped Arsenal Ladies to the treble in 2002. "With FA plans for a professional women's league still some way off, the team lost its full-time status in the summer and the club had to release some of its top players, but that has not stopped us from aspiring to win a second successive treble."

"Marieanne and I have brought some young players into the



Picture: Graeme Main

side and got the team playing a slightly different system than they are used to, but as our league position suggests, things are going very well for Fulham at the moment."

Fulham's leading lady: Marieanne Spacey in action against Charlton



In safe hands



Calling the shots: SSgt Dean May hopes to guide his new team to a second successive treble

Still unbeaten in the league and having already booked a place in the semi-finals of the League Cup, as *Soldier* went to press Fulham's players had experienced defeat just once this season - at the hands of FFC Frankfurt in the quarter-finals of the women's UEFA Cup.

"Although disappointing to be out of Europe, we cannot get too disheartened about losing to Frankfurt," mused May, who is also a member of England women's scouting and coaching set-up. "They had six of the players who guided Germany to victory at the World Cup in America in their side and will now almost certainly go on to win the competition."

Spacey, who joined Fulham from Arsenal in 2002 and took over the reins as manager from Norwegian boss Gaute Haugenes at the start of

As our league position suggests, things are going very well for Fulham at the moment

the season, said: "Having Dean on board at Fulham has been great for me because it means that when I'm on the pitch I can concentrate on playing, knowing that the team is in good hands. We both want to do as well as

we can for the players and the club, and hopefully win the same prestige and trophies as last year," added the striker who has been capped 91 times for England and won the FA Cup five times with the Gunners.

"The fitness regime that Dean has got the girls on is second to none and their fitness can be seen in our results so far this season.

"Being a man in a woman's world has not been a problem for him. If you have got the knowledge and the ability to get that knowledge across, as Dean has, then the players will respect and respond to you - whatever sex you are."

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to January . . .

ANGLING: 5 - Army v Boat Angler Magazine (Portsmouth); 9 - Army shore competition (North Devon/South Wales).

ATHLETICS: 14 - 4 Div cross-country league meeting (Bassingbourn); 28 - 4 Div cross-country league meeting (Bordon).

BASKETBALL: 25 - Founders Cup: Army v Worcester Spartans (Aldershot); 27-29 - 4 Div championships (Aldershot).

BOXING: 31 - Home Counties v Army (Watford).

CYCLING: 10-11 - National championships (Birmingham); 18-19 - Inter area championships (Bolton); 19-25 - World Masters championships (Belgium).

FENCING: 16 - Officials course (Aldershot); 17-18 - Aldershot Open (Aldershot).

FOOTBALL: 9 - AMS v CA Mus; 10 - RMAS v Army Crusaders (Sandhurst); 14 - Army v Fire Service (Aldershot); 15 - Hampshire v Army women (Fareham Town); 16 - RA v Infantry, AAC v APTC, RAC v Int Corps; 17 - Army Crusaders v AMS (Aldershot); 18 - Army youth v Berkshire Schools (Aldershot); 20 - Bournemouth v Army U21 (Bournemouth); 21 - RA women v REME women (TBC), RLC women v R Signals women (Deepcut); 23 - Int Corps women v AGC women (Chicksands), Infantry v AMS, RA v RLC; 30 - RLC v CA Mus, AMS v AGC; 24 - Army youth v Hampshire (Aldershot); 29 - Army v Civil Service (Aldershot); 31 - Army v Cornwall (Aldershot).

HOCKEY: 10-11 - National league fixtures: Army women (Aldershot); 12 - Army U23 v England (TBC); 17-18 - National league fixtures: Army women (Aldershot); 25 - Wales v Army veterans (Newport); 28 - Sandhurst v Army (Sandhurst).

JUDO: 24 - Army championships (ASPT, Aldershot).

LAWN TENNIS: 3 - Shalford v Army women (Shalford); 10 - Army women v Aldershot Tennis Club (Aldershot); 17 - Army women v Wrecclesham (Aldershot); 30-Feb 1 - Army indoor championships (Aldershot); 31 - Elstead v Army women (Elstead).

REAL TENNIS: 18 - Army v T&RA (London).

RUGBY UNION: 14 - Army v Army development (Aldershot); 21 - Oxford v Army (Oxford).

SQUASH: 9-11 - Army tour of Newcastle (Newcastle); 28-30 - Army championships (Aldershot).

TUG OF WAR: 31 - TOWA AGM (Cannock).

WINTER SPORTS: 5-11 - British luge and bobsleigh championships (Winterberg, Germany); 10-20 - Land and 1 (UK) Armd Div ski championships (France); 14-24 - Army snowboarding championships (Austria); 21-30 - Army alpine championships (France); 21-Feb 7 - Army/National/Inter-Services nordic championships (Germany); 31-Feb 7 - Inter-Services championships (Austria).

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

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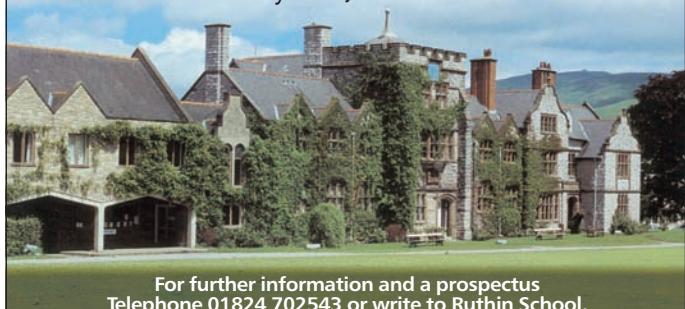
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Home-town hero

Ipswich fan realises childhood dream

LIKE most other schoolboys, Sgt Iain Ross (4 Regt AAC) grew up harbouring ambitions of playing football for his home-town club, **writes Andy Simms**.

Born and brought up in Ipswich, he idolised Blues legends John Wark and Mick Mills, but it was the turf of Northgate International Sports Centre and not Portman Road that he dreamed of treading.

Now 36 and in the twilight of his sporting career, Ross is proud to have achieved his childhood goal, having spent more than a decade on the roster of the East Anglian town's other senior football team – the Ipswich Cardinals American Football Club.

Introduced to "Grid Iron" by his American godfather and Channel Four's extensive television coverage of the sport during the 1980s, the former Army and Combined Services hockey player first pulled on Ipswich colours in 1988 when he returned to the UK from a posting in Germany and a season with the Hanover Broncos.

"As a rugby player I found that I picked up American Football fairly quickly and, thanks to watching games on television, I had a basic understanding of what it was all about," he told *Soldier*. "Playing in goal at hockey also meant I was used to wearing a lot of equipment, so it felt quite natural to be padding up for a game."

"However, I have to admit that being tackled for the first time was something of a shock. The speed of collision is a lot greater than in rugby and although the equipment is there to protect you, its bulk can also hurt quite a lot."

Undeterred by those early knocks, Ross persevered and, aside from a two-year break in the early 90s, during which he trained with the US Marines in Gibraltar and played for the East Kent Cougars, he has been an ever-present member of the Cardinals squad for 16 years.

Having helped establish the 2001 Division Two Britbowl champions as "one of the big four" in the top flight of the British Senior League and featured in six national play-off finals, the quarterback turned wide receiver now plans to hang up his boots and focus on coaching.

"Although I'll still be registered as a player with the Cardinals next season I only expect to provide cover for injured teammates," he explained. "I want to move into the coaching side of things both here at Ipswich and at a national level with the Great Britain team."



Touchdown: Sgt Iain Ross (4 Regt AAC) hopes American Football will soon take off in the Army

With a bulging playbook already to his name, Ross concedes that he would also relish the opportunity of passing on some of his expertise to fellow soldiers.

"I'd love to coach an Army team," he said. "It would be naive to think that every regiment in the Army will one day have its own side, but ice hockey is beginning to take off in the Services, so why not American Football?"

"In theory the Army could have a very

strong, competitive side – you only need to look at the Army rugby team to see that. Rugby players do not always make good football players, but the majority of them do."

"If anyone out there wants to give the game a go, I'd love to hear from them."

◆ **Anyone interested in padding up for the Army can contact Sgt Iain Ross on mil 94674 8434 or via e-mail at mackenzie_ross@yahoo.com**

Picture: Graeme Main

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COMPETITIONS

No 746

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TEN details have been changed in one of our archive drawings by Frank Finch. Circle the differences in the right-hand image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send it to HOAY 746, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by January 30, 2004.

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 February issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

November 2003 competition (No 744): First correct entry drawn at random was from LCpl S P Gregory, 144 Sqn, 232 Pioneer Regiment, Bicester, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr N H Cross, of Barnard Castle, Co Durham and Mrs N J Evans, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: lowest gymnast's footwear, number and mouth; lines on mat; left-hand athlete's union flag motif, left sock and right footwear; ROYAL in sign; windows and flag on neighbouring building.



Freeze frame

"Driver Parkhurst's love of baked beans was becoming something of a problem."

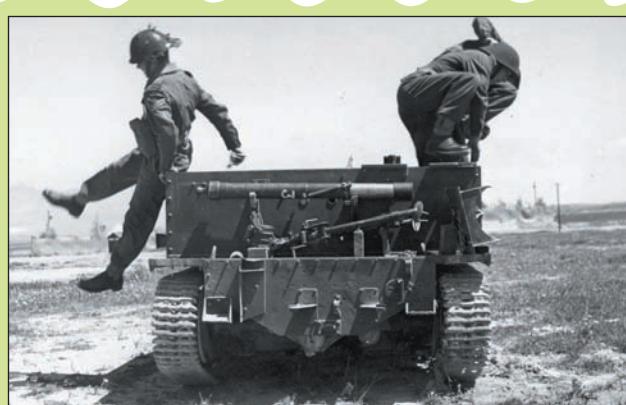
Write a caption for the photograph, right, published in *Soldier* in July 1950. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by February 27.



WINNER of the November competition, left, is the classic "It was like that when I found it," said Pte Tomkins" from Cpl Baker, RIB, LAD, REME, Cyprus.

We also liked "Should have gone to Specsavers" from Sgt Jez Pullinger and "What did Pte Evel Knievel do before he joined the Army?" from Ssgt Paul Moore, both of ACIO Chichester.

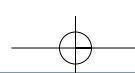
Others to catch the eye included "Don't just stand



there, give us a push" from A Agnew of Hull (ex-Royal Scots Greys) and Andrew Richardson of Brixham, Devon: "The Army tank wheelie championships got off to a great start" from WO1 (SMI) S Horridge APTC at Rheindahlen; "Tpr Jones was having second thoughts about letting Frank Spencer have a go in his tank", from Cpl M J Marshall, 115 Pro Coy, Osnabrück; and "The Time Team was amazed to find a

Centurion when excavating the Roman villa", from LCpl M P Evans of 65 Fd Sp Sqn, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln.

There were lots of suggestions involving women drivers (including "The Wives' Club driving session didn't seem a good idea now" from WO1 John Mill, MAS(S), Camberley); and even more involving anti-aircraft guns. "Gunner, can you see the aircraft now?" from A Rowlands of Colwyn Bay was typical.



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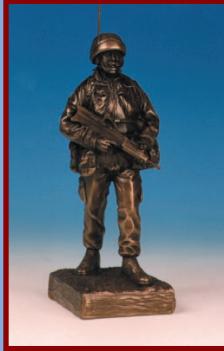
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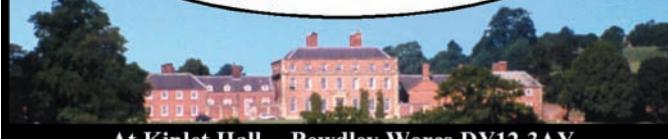


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Tracey, (35), 5'3", slim build with dark hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys walking, animals, watching TV, videos and keeping house. Looking for pen pals with similar interests, 29-36. P001

Danielle, 5'5", blonde with blue/grey eyes. Enjoys swimming, walking, camping, skiing, reading a good book and generally enjoying life. Single mum with a six-year-old girl. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P002

Nicola, (32), 5'4", with dark blonde hair. Enjoys going out, cosy nights in, swimming, walking, cooking, music, animals, the countryside and the cinema. Fun-loving, caring and easy-going girl, seeking pen pals, 27-42. P003

Karen, (33), 5'2", medium build with auburn hair and blue eyes. Enjoys football, pubs, clubs, music and a good boogie. Seeking single mad pen pals with GSOH, 28+. P004

Tracie, (36), 5'4", slim kind-hearted blonde with two children. Enjoys walking, reading, thought-provoking films and music. Independent, down to earth, seeking pen pals with a big heart and big smile, 30-40. P005

Lisa, 5'5", long dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys clubs, pubs, the cinema, travel, reading, having lots of fun and living life to the full. Seeking pen pals over 25 who enjoy a good laugh. P006

Sue, (20), 5'7", student with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys the cinema, pubs, clubs, eating out, travel and having fun. Seeking single, genuine male soldier pen pals, 21-30. Photo appreciated. P007

Natalie, (31), 5'3", shoulder-length brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys studio singing, socialising, travelling and cosy nights in with that special someone. Seeking sensitive, caring pen pals, any age group. P008

Sherree, (31), 5'5", long brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys the gym, socialising and spending time with her two children. Seeking male pen pals, 30-40. P009

Michala, (32), 5'3", slim with long dark hair and dark eyes. Enjoys horses, history, castles, painting, air shows, walking and the countryside. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. P010

Lynne, 5'2", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys music, writing, reading, sunny holidays, photography, dancing and good old pubs with plenty of rum. Loves children, ex-forces childhood, romantic and very GSOH. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P011

Ann, (44), 5'2", dark brown/auburn hair and fun loving. Enjoys gardening, sewing, cooking, the theatre, dancing, documentaries and nightclubs. Seeking pen pals, 45+. P012

Lisa, (34), 5'6", medium build with short brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys socialising, music, films and outdoor pursuits. Seeking single, reliable marines/officer/soldier, 35-45. P013

Lesa, (33), 5'8" with strawberry blonde hair. Enjoys cooking, eating out, swimming, writing and the cinema. Bubbly personality with GSOH seeking pen pals, any age group. P014

Sophia, (32), 5'8", blonde with blue eyes. Bubbly personality, GSOH who enjoys life to the full, but can be persuaded to stay in. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P015

Kerry, (20), 5'7", slim blonde with dark green eyes. Enjoys music, animals, horse riding, pubs, clubs, the cinema and meeting new people. Seeking pen pals, 22-30. P016

Lorraine, (37), 5'7", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys jogging, cycling, drawing, painting, travelling, reading, the countryside, the cinema and going out for meals. Divorced/single part-time student seeking pen pals, 30-42. P018

Sheryl, (37), slim attractive teacher with long hair and green eyes. Enjoys travelling, the gym and enjoying life. Seeking lonely military personnel age 35-50 with GSOH and lively personality essential. P019

Andrea, (27), 5'6", brown hair and eyes. Enjoys travelling, walking, eating, drinking, films, music, keeping fit, reading, animals, driving and sleeping. Seeking pen pals with GSOH which is essential, 27-35. P020

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GH, Ballykelly; Sgt JWA Collins, 228 Signal Sqn, Aldershot; LCpl GW Duncan, NI CSS Regt, Belfast; LCpl AV Hathaway, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Capt GWP Hawkins, LD, Swanton Morley; Pte AH Hicken, 3 Bn ITC Catterick; Lt Col DM Ifland, 103 Regt RA (V), St Helens; Sgt NA Jenkins, 63 Signal Sqn, Thorney Island; Bdr JW Lindsay, 3 RHA, Hohne; LCpl R McColm, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; Cpl A Morgan, QRL, Catterick; Pte LA Seldon, 2 Bn ITC Catterick; Lt Col RG Simpson, HQ AMD, Sandhurst; Pte IA Skirpan, 1 RGBW, Hounslow; Sgt A Tinniswood, SEME, Bordon

29 November 2003

4-way tie for 1st Place (17 Goals, £3,375.00 each): WO1 SH Burley ARTAT, Sennelager; Sgt CD Doick 16 Signal Regt, Krefeld; LCpl WR Finlay F Coy SG, London; WO2 MR Hughes 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh 42-way tie for 5th Place (16 Goals, £102.38 each): Sgt SS Bain APDO (NI), Lisburn; Cpl JD Beasley 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; WO1 NP Belshaw MND (SW) Signal Regt, Herford; Pte T Biddlestone Army Foundation College, Harrogate; LCpl MA Blackburn 11 EOD Regt RLC, Didcot; Cpl K Budd APC - MCM Div (REME), Glasgow; Maj KJ Clarke DLO Andover; Sgt SN Collier 2 Trg Regt AAC, Stockbridge; Cpl BM Cook 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; Cpl JA

Critchley HQ LWCTG (G), Sennelager; LCpl J Crystal 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Sgt GJG Davies ATR Pirbright; Maj MJF Ewing HQ NI; Sgt DK Godfrey DSMRC, Epsom; Brig TJ Gregson HQ LONDIST, London; Cpl SN Hanson 1 Bn REME, Osnabruck; Cpl PA Hicks DST, Leconfield; 2LT JRP Hill 16 Regt RA, London; Maj HB Horton 2 RTR, Fallingshaw; Tpr J Howard HCR, Windsor; Pte RL Koroibauvne 1 GH, Ballykelly; Cpl N Lawrence 17 Port & Mar Regt, Marchwood WO2 FM Lucey RMAS, Camberley; Capt AWD Mack 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove; Capt MRP MacKenzie 1 RGBW, Hounslow; LCpl KH McFarlane Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport; WO2 LG Nesbitt 2 R Irish, Holywood; LCpl EL Nevin CSSU HQ, Akrotiri; Cpl EF Pashley 2 RGJ, Warminster; Spr GJ Porter 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; WO2 J Provan Scot Tpt Regt RLC(V), Dunfermline; Capt RJ Read HQ APA & APA (UK), Uxbridge; Capt PS Reehall 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt, Colchester; Capt N Savage Army Apprentice College, Arborfield; Capt KA Sheldon Army Foundation College, Harrogate; SSgt IR Smith 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth; LCpl JC Snow 28 Engr Regt, Hamein; LCpl RKVC Waqavonovono 2 RGJ, Warminster; WO1 IHR Wilkins 1 R Anglian, Pirbright; SSgt AC Wringe 31 Signal Regt (V), London; WO2 PAJ Yates 4 GS Med Regt, Aldershot; LCpl DA Young QRH, Sennelager

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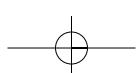
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Reunion and searchline notices also appear on our website. See

REUNIONS

22 Regiment RA royal salute: The regiment will fire a royal salute at Cardiff Castle at noon on Feb 6. Afterwards there will be a buffet lunch for invited guests at the Mansion House. Enquiries to Capt J P Rogers RA, Rapier Barracks, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 4HZ or tel 01904 668447.

Rapier Maintainers: Reunion dinner, Feb 7. Details from SSgt Al Friend on 0118 9763371 or <http://members.aol.com/radarreunion>

Welsh Gunners RFC v Old Boys, Bedwas RUFC: Current Welsh Gunners RUFC will play their final match in Bedwas on Feb 7 against an Old Boys XV, kick-off 1300, cash bar. Enquiries (for those wishing to represent the Old Boys) to WO2 Aled Owen on 01904 668507 or Maj Giles Carter on 07929 200197.

RAMC Reunited: For all ex-RAMC and partners at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool, Feb 6-9. Sae to M McCran, 132 Nightingale Crescent, Lincoln LN6 0JZ, tel 01522 879307, or e-mail michael.mccran@ntlworld.com

RA Gold Cup and gunner reunion to be held at Sandown Park Racecourse on Feb 19. Tickets from RA Steeplechase Office, King's Troop RHA, Ordnance Hill, St John's Wood, London NW8 6PT. Member's badges £12, car passes £1. Cheques payable to The Royal Artillery Steeplechase Fund.

RAMC Association (York): First meeting of new branch, Feb 19 at 1930 in the WOs' and Sgts' mess, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensham, York. Past and present RAMC members in York area invited. Further details from WO1(RSM) Ian Campbell on 01904 442839.

RE Gibraltar Weekend 2004: Mar 19-21 celebrating 300 years on the Rock and 200 years since the Garrison library was built. Concert, parade, reception, gala dinner and farewell supper. First come, first served. Details from WO1 Jack Noble, MES Wks, HQ British

Forces, BFPO 52 or tel 00350 55372.

RHA Association Trowbridge: Fifty-seventh reunion dinner in Trowbridge, Mar 27. For all past and present RHA, ladies welcome. Contact Maj (Retd) R J Whiteway, HQ Dulmen Station BFPO 44, tel 0049 2594 784438 or Mike Carter on tel 01225 708223, or e-mail dinnersec@rhaassn.fsnet.co.uk

All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau Camp, Towyn, Merioneth 1950-66: Reunion to be held Apr 3 in Tywyn. Details via www.aaajlr.com

Past and Present Commando Gunners: 29 Commando Regiment RA is to host a reunion dinner at the officers' mess, Larkhill on Apr 30. Write to Capt Nick Sargent RA, Commando Gunner Reunion Dinner 2004, The Royal Citadel, Plymouth PL1 2PD or e-mail him at cdogrndinner04@hotmail.com

8th Artificer Telecommunications: Reunion dinner to be held at Bailleul Sergeants' Mess, Arborfield on May 14. Seminar to take place before meal, limited places. Details from SSgt Roger Millar 01189 763343 or write to Land Systems Branch, SEAE, Hazebrouck Barracks, Reading RG2 9NH.

RCT-RLC Arctic and Nordic Ski teams: Reunion dinner, Jul 3 at Deepcut. All former 2 ADTR, 1ADTR, 1GS Regt RLC ski teams welcome. Full details from Maj Jamie Clarke on jamieon2wheels@btopenworld.com or tel 01252 833473 or WO1(RSM) Kipper Knight knightsci@hotmail.com or tel 0049 5241 927715.

747 Squad (1960) Royal Marines: Third reunion to be held July 10 at the China Fleet Country Club, Saltash. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Harry Briggs on 02088 590846 or hbriggs747_rm@hotmail.com

Beverley Ex-Boys Association Royal

SEARCHLINE

Dan (Birdy) Bird, Combat Support Troop, 32 Sqn CS Regt, Abingdon 1995-98 would like to hear from old mates, including Bob Davies, Roy Spence, Paddy McNamney and Guy Beezley. Contact Dan via helen@apfs.org.uk

Jeff Park, RLC Mobile Display Team 1994-5, seeks ex-MDT members for reunion. E-mail mail@wingfield2293@fsnet.co.uk

Jerry Nowaczek from Cardiff served with 1 Queens 1964-70 and 2 Queens 1970-76. His daughter Ruth would like to hear from any of Jerry's old Army pals to organise a 60th birthday surprise. E-mail RHrly7@aol.com

Ex-9 Parachute Squadron RE officers. Capt Mac McGill RE is collating a database and requires names, ranks, numbers, current contact details of former squadron officers. E-mail mac.mcgill@ntlworld.com or **Chots - CSD SysDevA Sys SO3** or post to SO3(W) Systems, CSDC, Rutherford Building, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Andrew Williams from Swansea. Old friend is

planning UK visit and would like to see you. bonnie.fillier@calgaryhealthregion.ca

Sgt Craig Badley AGC (RMP) has built Provost Marshal (Army)-sponsored, officially authorised, unique crime reduction website which features a useful e-mail link for specific advice: www.crimereduction.army.mod.uk

Lost forces friend **Mark Smith** (born April 12, 1972, possibly serving in Northern Ireland, is sought by d.davis3@ntlworld.com or ring tel 0115 9245918.

RE-FORMATION PARADE

10 Field Squadron (Air Support) RE will hold a reformation parade at RAF Leeming, N Yorks on Feb 26. Parade with corps band followed by an open day. Guests include E-in-C(A) and Chief Engineer Theatre Troops. All past and present 10 Squadron sappers invited. Details from WO2(SSM) Jim Ross mil 95851 7878, civ 01677 457878 or e-mail Capt Will MacDonald welfareofficer10fdsqn@leeming.raf.mod.uk

Corps of Signals: Reunion to be held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, at Willerby near Beverley, Sept 11. Further information from Tony Hull. beba.tonyhull@lineone.net

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Maj Gen W R Rollo CBE, (late RHG/D), currently Deputy Adjutant General and Director General Service Conditions (Army), to be GOC Multinational Division (SE) in Iraq, June.

Brig T N Tyler, (late REME), currently COS HQAG, to be Deputy Adjutant General and Director General Service Conditions (Army) in the rank of major general, April.

Brig A J N Graham CBE, (late A and SH), currently Director Army Resources and Plans, to be Deputy Commanding General Coalition Joint Task Force 7 and Senior British Military Representative (Iraq), in the rank of major general, in March.

D-DAY CONFERENCE

A CONFERENCE to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day is to be held at Christ Church, Oxford from September 5 to 10.

Organised by the college in conjunction with the National Army Museum, it will examine a range of topics from the 1940 British evacuation at Dunkirk to the development of amphibious warfare and cross-channel commando raids, leading to the appointment of Eisenhower and the evolution of the operational plan under Montgomery.

Guest speakers will include Maj Gen Julian Thompson, military historian Robin Neillands and Dr Stephen Badsey, a senior lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

The full lecture programme, escorted outings (to the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth and Southwick House at HMS Dryad), five nights' accommodation in Christ Church, meals, refreshments and a gala dinner costs £885. Some special needs facilities are available.

For more details/bookings, e-mail Alexandra Webb at d-day@chch.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 276174.

COMPETITIONS

World War I In Colour Book (Nov) Winners: K Tuhley, London; Mr Story, Chester; A Bowden, Stockport; P Baker, Southam, Warwickshire; M Chamberlain, Wallingford. Answer: Sarajevo.

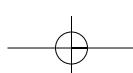
Shot and Captured (Nov) Winners: S Wright, Haworth, W Yorks; G Tait, Melrose. Answer: British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association

Dorling Kindersley Book: (Nov) Winners: Capt V Sanderson, Catterick; K Russell, Swindon. Answer: 11 Nov 1918 at 11 am.

Monte Cassino (Nov): Winners: W Lawton, Redhill, Surrey; E Hemmings, Hove, E Sussex. Answer: Gen Kesselring

Gameboy Advance SP (Nov): Winner: J Brook, Inverness. Answer: Oddworld.

UCA Triple DVD/Video (Nov): Winners: T Detallion, E Grinstead; S Matthews, Ramsgate; Pte Alderson, Op Telic; G Stewart, Henlow, Beds; S Gordon, Aldershot; Sgt P Laverty, London. Answer: Peter O'Toole.

See them at www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

UPDATE EXTRA



Pictures: Michael Lee

THE nice people who run the Victory Services Club sometimes think they are the best-kept secret in town, writes John Elliott.

It seems that many officers and soldiers – of all ranks – simply have no idea that they can make use of the superb facility, a few minutes from Marble Arch in the heart of the London's West End. Yet the VSC offers a warm welcome to Service personnel and their families and rooms at a fraction of what it would cost stay at major hotels in similar prestigious locations.

Hyde Park and Mayfair are virtually over the road, with the delights of Oxford Street on the doorstep.

Constantly reinventing itself to keep up with the times, the VSC has just completed a major refurbishment of its reception area and lounge bar (pictured above right). The new rooms were opened in November by the



Duke of Edinburgh, patron and a loyal supporter of the club for nearly half a century.

Free membership is open to the serving personnel of the UK, the Commonwealth and Allied countries, and for a modest fee retired personnel and the widows and widowers of Service and ex-Service personnel can also join.

Bed and full English breakfast rates range from £34 a night for a standard single (£45 en suite) to £88 for an en suite double or twin and £110.50 for a

family suite. Members have the use of two restaurants, a reading room and library and a TV room. There are also substantial conference and banqueting facilities. If you are travelling into London by car, you can use a nearby NCP car park at a 30 per cent discount.

The club has reciprocal agreements with the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh, the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco and the United Services Club in Brisbane.

Sounds almost too good to be true, doesn't it? If you want to stay ring 0207 616 8335. For membership details ring 0207 616 8302 or look at the website at www.vsc.co.uk

Your very own club in heart of the West End

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenfund.org

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525; www.aff.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org.uk

Career Transition Partnership 0207 766 8020; www.ctp.org.uk

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Consumer Credit Counselling Service Free

Confidential Helpline 0800 1381111

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730;

24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; www.ngvfa.com

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011; www.rfea.org.uk

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845 7725; www.britishlegion.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre 01622 717202/718484; www.rbli.co.uk

ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency 020 7839 4466 www.eshra.com or eshra@britishlegion.org.uk

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

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

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783; www.ssafa.org.uk

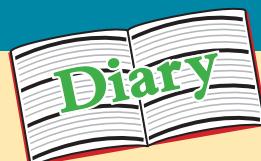
SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); www.veteransagency.mod.uk

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906; www.wrvs.org.uk

UPDATE EXTRA



DATES

JULY

16-18: Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Fairford, Glos. Celebrating 50 years of C-130 Hercules, 30 years of Hawk and 40th display season of Red Arrows. Also hosting tri-Service Defence 2004. Advance tickets £24.95 until Mar 1, £29.95 thereafter, £35 on day. Available at www.airtattoo.com or call 0870 758 1918.

AUGUST

6-28: Edinburgh Tattoo. Booking on 08707 555188 or at www.edintattoo.co.uk

* Enigma-tic challenge: **Bletchley Park Trust** is planning a bike ride from the secret centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War to the Normandy beaches to raise funds for the preservation of the site. Riders leave the Buckinghamshire centre on June 4 and arrive in Normandy in time to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Anyone who wants to join them should contact Christina Cordes via ccordes@bletchleypark.org.uk or on 01908 631137.

* **CAPT Graham Lumley**, left, who commands the plant troop of 75

Engineer Regiment (V), has been awarded a Lord Lieutenant's commendation for exceptional service to the Reserve Forces and the community.

Graham, who has clocked up 31 years in the same unit, from sapper to captain, has, with his wife Carol, fostered 68 children over the years.

Others to receive commendations included **LCpl Peter Thoms** of the King's and Cheshire Regiment, **SSgt Mike Mahoney** of 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron and **Sgt Chris Mossman** from

Sgt Chris Mossman from Liverpool (Aintree) 59 Signal Squadron.

* Rocking rolls: Three chefs from the **51st Highland Regiment** cooked up a treat for the Rocking Horse Ball in Kirkwall, Orkney. Guests enjoyed local seafood and Orkney beef in a five-course meal prepared by **SSgt Ruaraidh MacKinnon** and **Ptes Andy Lingard** and **Christopher Muir**.

They helped raise a staggering £25,590 for a children's hospice. The two privates are now training on the mainland for Op Telic deployments in Iraq.



Sgt Chris Mossman



SSgt Mike Mahoney

from Liverpool (Aintree) 59 Signal Squadron.

Celebrating with the Army Benevolent Fund

WATCH out for details of a super, sensational, spectacular show to mark the 60th anniversary of the Army Benevolent Fund next year.

Featuring pyrotechnics, lasers and dancing flames, "Music On Fire" will be staged at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the team, led by Maj Sir Michael Parker, that produced the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations at Buckingham Palace.

The dates are July 9 and 10 and a little nearer the time

Soldier will be running a competition so you could win tickets for yourself and your family. Other events planned to mark the anniversary of the British Army's national charity include a service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, for which a date has yet to be confirmed, and a beating retreat ceremony on June 2 and 3.

The Edinburgh Tattoo will also be supporting the anniversary and dozens of celebrations are planned elsewhere around the country.



Paddy's a Raleigh volunteer

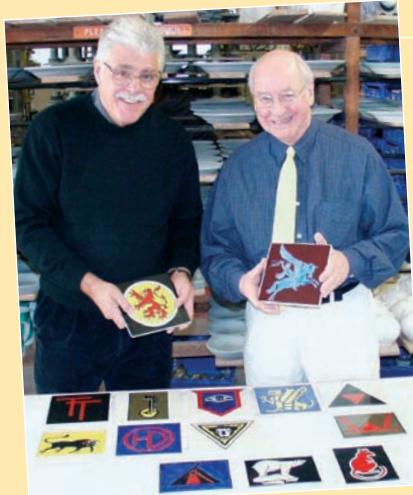


CAPT Paddy Trueman, above right, of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, has been leading a three-month trekking project in southern Chile under the auspices of Raleigh International, the UK-based youth development charity.

He and his staff led nine venturers on treks into the remote La Tapera and Nirehuao valleys, experiencing breathtaking scenery and weather ranging from the benign to torrential rain and blizzards.

Capt Trueman said: "The venturers pushed themselves hard and learned a lot about themselves."

Raleigh operates in Chile, Namibia, Ghana and Costa Rica. If you want to be a volunteer staff member on an exped, visit www.raleigh.org.uk or call 0207 371 8585.



D-Day divisions recorded in Surrey tiles

WEATHERPROOF, handmade tiles used in the British Garden of Remembrance at Caen in Normandy were turned out by Grayshott Pottery in Surrey.

The highly detailed tiles, representing the 14 divisions that landed in the British sector in June 1944.

A whole lot of snogging

THERE were no shortage of takers when Surrey-based soldiers puckered up for a good cause . . . at £2 a time.

They ran a "kiss a soldier" booth at an agricultural show in the county and raised £300 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The soldiers, all serving with 25 Training Regiment RLC at Deepcut, also won prizes for the best stand and the most original fundraising idea.

Cindy's gems win her £800

BRIGHT spark Cindy McMullan, below, has been awarded her second GEMS award under the MoD scheme to reward good ideas that save the department money.

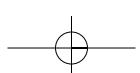
Cindy, who works in the Defence Licensing and Testing Authority of HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division at Herford, received a cheque for £250 after identifying a way to simplify the procedures for driving test applications, and producing a flow chart to help applicants through the procedure.

In July last year Cindy, who is married to Sgt Andy McMullan of 1 Armd Div Signal Regiment, was awarded £550 for creating a database which enabled the rapid identification of available driving examiners and instructors. She received her latest award from Col Mike Hickson, Commander Logistic Support at HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div.

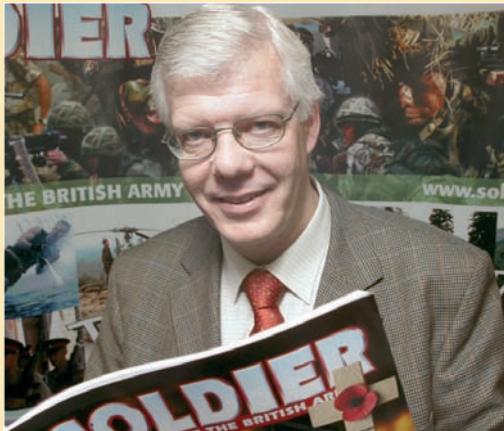


Newport gunners on the pull

VOLUNTEER soldiers from 217 (City of Newport) HQ Battery, 104 Regiment RA (V) pulled a field gun from their home base to Cardiff to raise £2,000 for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. LBdr Mark Adams and his wife Dawn, who lost two infant children, Zoe and Joshua, to the disease in the space of three years, organised the event.



it's just like *Soldier*, really



THE Norwegian national defence magazine *Forsvarets Forum* (Forces' Forum) has much in common with *Soldier*... and soon it's going to have even more.

Both publications started in 1945 and both have faithfully recorded the life and times of their military communities ever since. *Forum*, currently published fortnightly, is about to become a monthly, which is why editor Erling Eikli, above, called in at our offices in Aldershot to compare notes.

Forum prints 99,000 copies a month, with 65,000 going to the country's reserve officers and the rest to serving personnel. It is staffed by conscripts with journalistic experience, which is how Erling first became involved. Then a local newspaper reporter, he did his national service in 1974 and enjoyed it so much he stayed on to become editor.

War Graves Commission battles on

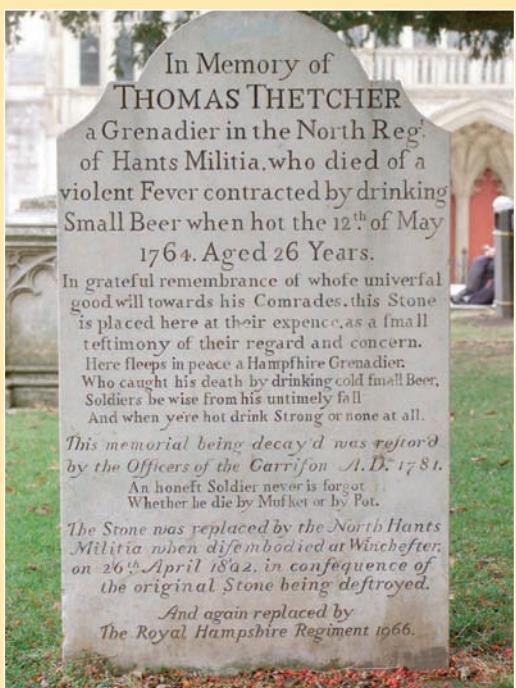
ALTHOUGH natural and man-made problems hindered the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission over the past 12 months, staff worked unceasingly behind the scenes to ensure cemeteries and memorials remain a fitting tribute to those who fell during the two world wars.

In his forward to the annual report, Gen Sir John Wilsey, vice-chairman of the commission, said success in overcoming

problems such as vandalism and extreme weather was "dependent, not only upon the skill and dedication of staff, but also the goodwill of individuals, organisations and governments".

Among the most high-profile acts of vandalism was an attack on Etaples Military Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in France. Offensive remarks about the war dead and war in Iraq were daubed on some of the cemetery's fine stonework.

Grenadier was victim of 'small beer'



A GRAVESTONE yards from the main entrance to Winchester Cathedral tells of the strange and untimely death of a young soldier nearly 250 years ago.

It records that Thomas Thetcher, a grenadier in the northern regiment of the Hampshire Militia "died of a violent fever contracted by drinking small beer when hot on 12 May 1764 aged 26 years".

Could someone really die from drinking a small beer?

In the 1760s water supplies were often contaminated with sewage, so people drank alcohol, especially beer. It was regarded as a food and a side effect of the brewing process was that it killed off many of the bugs.

To make the beer, a large quantity of malted grain was placed in hot water, then drained, the liquid containing the "first runnings". That would make strong beer. "Small beer" was a by-product containing little alcohol content and often diluted with water. Beer mixed with dodgy water could well be what did for this Hampshire grenadier.

Picture: Steve Dock

www.armycaets.com 0845 600 77 99
Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force

ARMY CAETS

ARMY cadets in Cambridgeshire have been branded – or rather, re-branded. The county's entire fleet of minibuses and trailers now boasts the national ACF logo in a distinctive yellow and blue livery.

Gathering of (older) Gurkhas

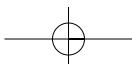
TEN retired Gurkhas, with 354 years of service between them, gathered in a restaurant in Farnborough, Hampshire, recently to catch up on old times. What makes them unusual is that they and three other Gurkhas are all serving under the Retired Officers' Scheme, now replaced by Military Support Function.

Only when there are no British officer candidates applying for an RO post can a retired Gurkha officer apply.

The 13 are currently employed in RO roles ranging from regimental administrative officers to training camp commandants.

IF you want to find out anything about military museums, log on to:

www.armymuseums.org.uk

Edited by Andy Simms E-mail: asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .



SWAP SHOP •

RADICA have launched one of the most practical and innovative accessories for handheld gaming.

Working in a similar fashion to a CD changer, the Game Changer allows Gameboy Advance SP users to switch simply between three games without the need for swapping cartridges.

£9.99, from www.gamesteruk.com

Game on . . .

HIDDEN & DANGEROUS 2, PC

THIS long-awaited sequel to the critically acclaimed first-person shooter *Hidden & Dangerous* places gamers in command of a team of four élite soldiers who have been sent behind enemy lines to take on the Third Reich and their allies during the Second World War.

Fighting in diverse environments ranging from the unforgiving frozen wastes of Norway to the searing heat of the North African deserts, players must battle through 20 varied missions. Objectives include sabotage forays, informant extraction and full-scale assaults and need to be carefully planned.

Players can choose to equip their men with a selection of weaponry from the game's authentic arsenal of British, American, Russian, Japanese and German arms. Among the guns available are Luger, Colts, Lee-Enfields, Brens, Stens, MP40s and Thompson sub-machine guns. Poor preparation can prove disastrous to a mission. Heavy weapons slow the troops down when travelling long distances and rifles are not well suited to the close-quarter combat encountered during some taskings.

Once deployed the fate of the squad is firmly in the hands of the gamer, who can issue orders from one squad member to another if they're within earshot or take direct control of any individual soldier.

VERDICT: A must for fans of tactical shooters. 9/10



NO STRINGS ATTACHED ♦

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£100, from www.gadgetshop.com (0870 8400567).



PEN PAL ♦

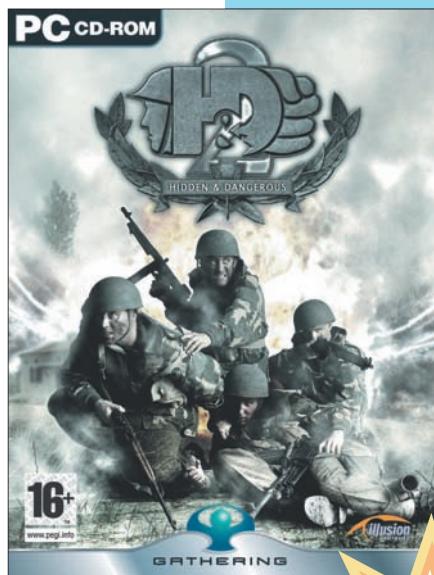
COMBINING the simplicity of pen and paper with the power of the PC, Logitech's io Personal Digital Pen is a gadget fit for the new millennium.

The io writes as well as any ballpoint pen, but also permanently records all your ideas, sketches and notes in digital form on your PC.

Using the digital pen it is possible to hand write appointments, e-mails and word documents and then action them on your computer.

£149.99, from www.logitech.com

OUT NOW



COURTESY of Gathering and Illusion Softworks, Soldier has five copies of *Hidden & Dangerous 2* for the PC up for grabs.

For your chance to win, simply tell us how many missions are featured in *Hidden & Dangerous 2*.

Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by January 30.

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

COMPUTING giant IBM is now involved in chip design for all three next-generation consoles after revealing that it will be providing processor technology for Nintendo's next games system – the N64.

The company is already working on a cell microprocessor for Sony's PlayStation 3 and providing the graphics technology for the successor to Microsoft's Xbox, the Xenon.

ACTIVISTS from America's Haitian community have announced they intend to join protests against Rockstar's *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*, claiming that the title "advocates the killing of Haitians as entertainment." A section of the hit game's dialogue states: "I hate those Haitians. We'll take them out, we'll take these Haitians down."

SONY has hinted that a more advanced version of the EyeToy motion sensor is being considered for inclusion in PlayStation 3.

Integrating motion technology would allow the new console to sport a menu system driven entirely by hand gestures, similar to the computer system used by Tom Cruise's character in *Minority Report*.

ROBIN HOOD: DEFENDER OF THE CROWN, PS2, XBOX

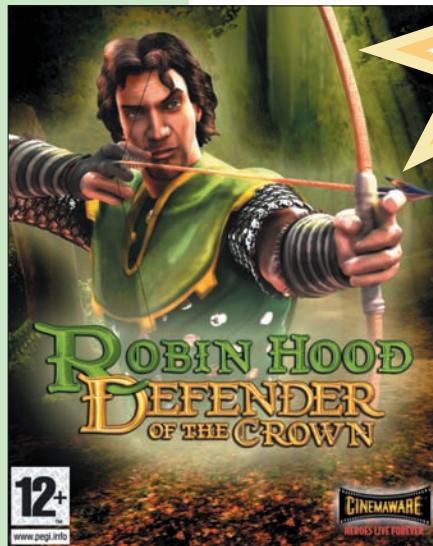
BASED on Cinemaware's hit *Defender of the Crown* franchise, which has sold more than one million copies worldwide, Capcom's *Robin Hood: Defender of the Crown* is a fusion of action, role-playing and strategy genres seamlessly blended together by cinematic sequences.

Featuring an epic storyline that unfolds through the eyes of folklore hero Robin Hood, players embark on a quest to reunite 12th century England by ending the dictatorial rule of Prince John and restoring the rightful king to the throne.

To succeed in this task Sherwood Forest's infamous Prince of Thieves will have to become proficient in the finer skills of sword fighting, jousting and archery, and master siege warfare and battlefield tactics.

As the twisting plot unravels, Robin gains access to the dozens of military units, strongholds and equipment that are required to conquer the game's 38 richly-detailed and authentic territories.

Players will also interact with many of the characters that populate this timeless legend, including Maid Marian, Little John, Friar Tuck and Will Scarlet. These familiar faces are presented through beautiful cut-scene movies, which feature a fully-orchestrated soundtrack, and are voiced by professional British actors.



The title's open-ended gameplay allows players to choose their own path through the story and control the pace of the action.

Decisions taken and orders given in battle will dictate the overall outcome of the game, with a player's performance influencing which one of the eight different endings is arrived at.

VERDICT: Medieval magic. **7/10**

OUT NOW

SOLDIER has teamed up with the Merrymen at Capcom to offer readers the opportunity to experience life in Sherwood Forest.

For your chance to win one of five copies of *Robin Hood: Defender Of The Crown* for the Xbox or one of five copies for the PS2, simply answer the following question:



Who played the lead role in the 1991 movie *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves*?

Send your answers and format requirements on a postcard to *Robin Hood: Defender Of The Crown* competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by January 30. Usual rules apply.

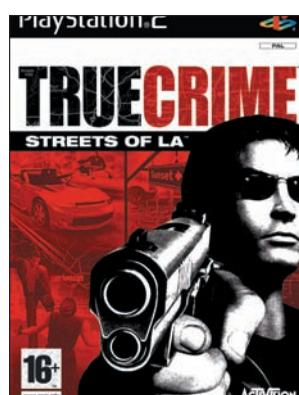
TRUE CRIME, PS2, XBOX, GC

OUT NOW

ACTIVISION'S *True Crime: Streets of LA* delivers a combination of high-speed driving, martial arts fighting and inner city firefights.

Gamers take on the role of Nick Kang, an elite operations operative with the LAPD, tasked with taking out the Russian and Chinese crime syndicates terrorising the City of Angels.

With more than 240 square miles of city to police and a soundtrack provided by music heavyweights like Snoop Dogg and Warren G, the *Grand Theft Auto* series finally has a worthy rival.



VERDICT: A crime to miss it. **9/10**

THE SIMPSONS: HIT & RUN, ALL

OUT NOW



VERDICT: A laugh a minute. **9/10**

COMPLETE with the signature satire of the television series, Vivendi Universal's *The Simpsons: Hit & Run* is a hilarious mission-based driving game which also boasts out-of-the-car platform gameplay.

Stepping into the shoes and varied vehicles of show favourites Homer, Bart, Marge, Lisa and Apu, players must attempt to solve the biggest mystery to hit Springfield since the infamous *Who Shot Mr Burns?* saga.

OUT NOW

TIME CRISIS 3, PS2

ALREADY an arcade hit, the latest instalment in the popular first-person G-con2 light-gun shooter series is now available for the PS2.

Unlike its predecessors, in *Time Crisis 3* players can select from an arsenal of four weapons. In addition to a standard handgun, a machine gun, shotgun and grenade launcher can be selected, adding a new tactical element to the gameplay.

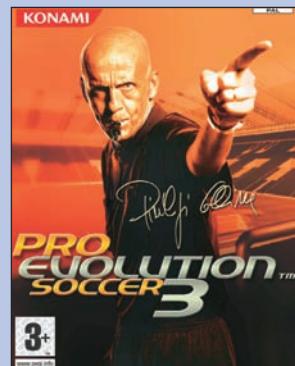
Also included are updated and enhanced versions of the missions featured in *Time Crisis 2*, complete with extra objectives.



VERDICT: Useful shooting practice. **7/10**

PRO EVOLUTION SOCCER 3, PS2

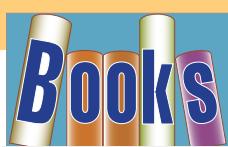
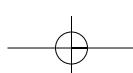
OUT NOW



VERDICT: Unrivalled. **10/10**

IN an effort to improve on a series already regarded as the pinnacle of console football titles, *Pro Evolution 3* has undergone a radical aesthetic overhaul.

More than 80 per cent of the in-game animations have been renewed and the game now benefits from players that look and move like their real-life counterparts. Similarly, the players have improved AI and ball physics that allows them to pull off moves specific to particular situations. As such, long-range drives are now more controllable than before, while players can flick the ball over a defender with their heel and perform deft turns.



Conscript to captivity with Glorious Glosters

TOLD with candour and humour, David Green's *Captured at the Imjin River: The Korean War Memoirs of a Gloster 1950-1953* (Pen & Sword, £19.95) recollects the experiences of a National Serviceman during a conflict largely ignored by historians and publishers. The author's story is a remarkable one, having

been conscripted into

his county regiment at the age of 18, he fought in two major battles, was captured at the Imjin River and endured extraordinary hardships for more than two years at the hands of his Chinese and North Korean cap-

Into battle with the Fighting Fourth

THE story of how more than 500 volunteers were welded into one of the most feared fighting formations of the Second World War is told by James Dunning in

The Fighting Fourth: No 4 Commando at War 1940-45 (Sutton, £18.99).

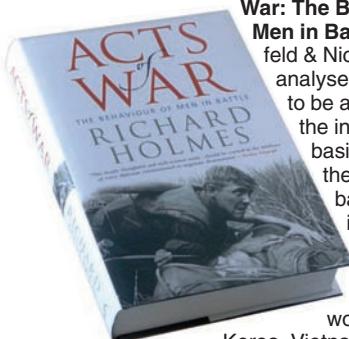
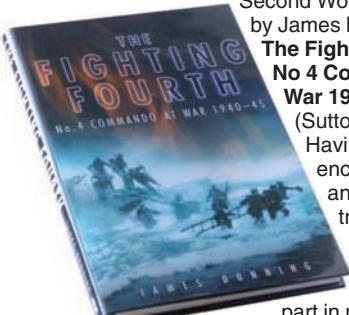
Having experienced the tough and unorthodox training undertaken by 4 Commando and taken part in raids on the

Lofoten Islands, Boulogne and Dieppe, the author has combined his own memories with eyewitness accounts of his comrades to compile a readable and authoritative history of the unit.

This is how it feels to be a soldier

ORIGINALLY published in 1985 under the title *Firing Line* and penned by historian Richard Holmes, *Acts of War: The Behaviour of Men in Battle* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20)

analyses how it feels to be a soldier, from the indignities of basic training to the terror of battle. Including recollections of veterans from two world wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands and the Arab-Israeli conflicts, Holmes paints a picture of what motivates the soldier and allows him to



Nomads born

The gun that went AWOL, the missing chicken and the fake parachute drop . . . just some of the absorbing tales of Forces Radio over 60 years

The Link With Home: Sixty Years of Forces Radio by Alan Grace (paperback, £10.99 + £2.49 p&p. Write to Helen Marland at BFBS Radio, Chalfont Grove, Narcot Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 8TN or helen.marland@ssvc.com).

Review: Chris Horrocks

HOW do you sum up 60 extraordinary years of Forces broadcasting in 36 succinct words? Easy – let Alan Grace do it for you with all the flair of the veteran broadcaster that he is.

“From a harem in Algiers to a container in Umm Qasr, Iraq – in the past 60 years, the members of the Forces Broadcasting Service have operated in 92 different locations: they were the nomads of radio.”

We journalists know a good intro when we see one – it whets the appetite and begs at least one tantalising question.

“Broadcasting from a harem in Algiers? Didn’t the concubines get in the way?”

It is best to explain immediately that the harem in question, which had been kept by a Turkish pirate, was defunct by the time the broadcasters moved in.

The old building was taken over by Lt Col Gale Pedrick-Harvey, in civilian life a journalist, playwright and critic, and he and his team launched the British Forces Experimental Station on January 1, 1944.

Its tiles made it acoustically unsuitable, but they covered the walls with Army blankets and broadcast programmes for a year until the troops moved on to Italy and Sicily.

“None can have realised,” the author writes, “that this was the birth of a broadcasting service that six decades later would still be bringing its own programmes to British Forces around the world.”

Our narrator, whose Forces broadcasting career spanned 37 years and who has been archivist-historian of BFBS since he retired ten years ago, has produced an entertaining record alive with crisply-told anecdotes about the colourful people who provided a link with home for troops around the world.

Many well known national TV and radio celebrities as well as successful production staff and skilled engineers started their careers in Forces Broadcasting. Among them

were Raymond Baxter, Charles Chilton, David Hamilton, David Jacobs, Sarah Kennedy and Cliff Michelmore.

In Haifa Johnny Goodman, who went on to become a successful TV producer, committed the heinous crime of having his revolver stolen from his billet and was given 40 days in a detention camp run by The Parachute Regiment. (“Not exactly Butlins,” he recalled.)

Similarly, but more dramatically, there was a hue and cry in Jerusalem when it was discovered that announcer Johnny Watson’s rifle had gone AWOL.

The RAF Police turned up in the studio when he was on air presenting a classical music programme. His colleague Arthur Appleton pleaded with them to let him finish but the law would not wait. In a new take on the Unfinished Symphony, the detention party led Watson out of the studio unceremoniously and another announcer took over. (“Due to unforeseen circumstances . . .”)

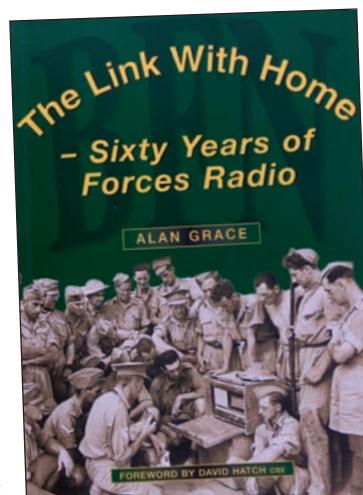
In a primitive studio in Cyprus in the late 1940s the doors and windows had to be left open in the summer to make the temperature bearable, which often resulted in strange sounds “off mike”.

Kay Donnelly says in the book: “On one occasion the continuity announcer was accompanied by the lowing of a cow and another of our announcers was interrupted while reading the weather forecast by the local priest, who put his head through the window and started talking in Greek.

“He had no idea his enquiries were being broadcast over the entire island. Apparently he was asking about a missing chicken.”

In Benghazi in the 1950s one of the success stories was a Children’s Hour drama series written by John Bull. *John Steele – Fighting Marshal* so captured the imaginations of the Service children that they would re-enact each episode after the broadcast.

“Walking home from the studios one evening shortly after I had made use of Steele’s prowess with the lariat,” Bull recalled, “I found one half of the children of Benghazi lassoing the other half and dragging them around the playgrounds.”



'n in a harem



Picture: Mike Weston

Distinguished readership: Author Alan Grace (right) hands copies of his book *The Link With Home – Sixty Years of Forces Radio* to Dame Vera Lynn and David Jacobs at a reception in London last month to celebrate the 60th anniversary of BFBS. In the background (left, centre) is Air Vice Marshal David Crwys-Williams, the Services Sound and Vision Corporation managing

"I dashed home and re-wrote the next chapter, in which I had intended to have a lynching scene."

Equally realistic were the stunts dreamed up by Brian Tesler, John Jacob and engineer Johnny Rothwell for the *Laugh with Your Luncheon* programme in Trieste.

One involved a fake parachute drop, carried out in the safety of the studio. As Tesler gave his "airborne" commentary, Rothwell inadvertently cut the engine effects.

Panic ensued, but the quick-witted Tesler came to the rescue. "There's only one thing to do," he announced dramatically. "Climb out on the wing and drop into the harbour."

His tense commentary on the "drop" was followed by an authentic splash. Minutes later the studio phone rang and a crisp voice intoned: "Captain Roberts here. I've a launch in the harbour. Can we be of any help?"

In the Sixties, Gerald Sinstadt, who had begun his career with Forces Broadcasting in Austria, was seconded from the BBC to set up a BFBS London Sport Unit, which Alan Grace joined in 1965.

Sinstadt persuaded some of Fleet Street's top sports journalists to work for the show on a freelance basis, including Ian Wooldridge

and John Arlott (cricket), Brian Moore, Bryon Butler, Barry Davies and Geoffrey Green (football), Cliff Morgan, Bill McLaren and John Reason (rugby), and Harry Carpenter and Reg Gutteridge (boxing).

It was on BFBS that Alf Ramsey (later Sir Alf) predicted that England would win the football World Cup in 1966.

Today, BFBS broadcasts three networks – BFBS Radio One, BFBS Radio Two and BFBS Gurkha Radio, with staff in 23 countries. During the 2003 Gulf conflict a station was operational in Umm Qasr just ten days after British troops entered Iraq.

In 1985 BFBS won a Sony Gold Award for its Outstanding Contribution to Radio over the Years. After reading Alan Grace's absorbing account of six dazzling decades, it is a surprise that it has not won a few more accolades – including one or two Oscars.

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

A Canadian's view of war with 5th Tanks

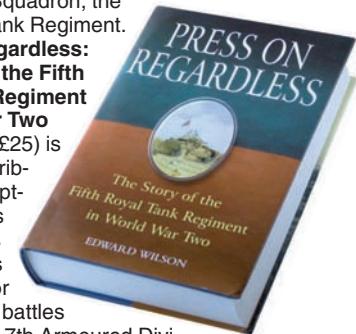
IN 1944, Edward Wilson changed teams but not sides, transferring from the Canadian to the British Army and B Squadron, the Fifth Royal Tank Regiment.

Press on Regardless:

The Story of the Fifth Royal Tank Regiment in World War Two

(Spellmount, £25) is

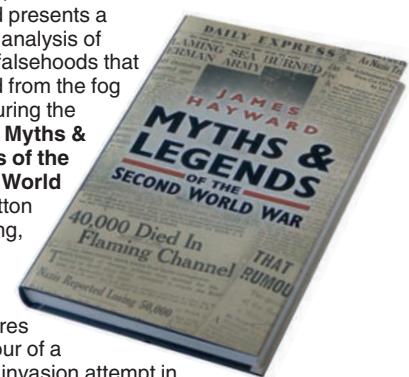
his personal tribute to his adopted unit and its men. It charts their progress from the major North African battles alongside the 7th Armoured Division to their crossing of the Rhine and arrival in Hamburg five days before the Nazi surrender.



Rumours, conspiracies and the fog of war

ILLUSTRATING that no rumour is too ridiculous and no exaggeration too great, social historian James Hayward presents a rigorous analysis of popular falsehoods that emerged from the fog of war during the 1940s in *Myths & Legends of the Second World War* (Sutton Publishing, £17.99).

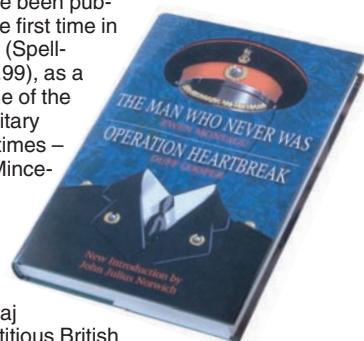
Among others, he explores the rumour of a German invasion attempt in the summer of 1940, the fabrication that no Nazi spies in Britain operated outside MI5's double-cross system, and the various conspiracy theories surrounding Rudolf Hess and the so-called Foo Fighters.

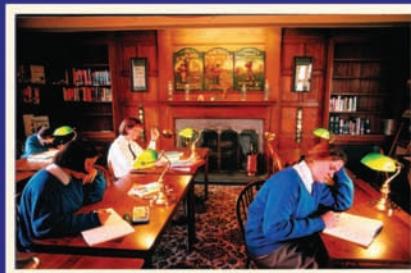
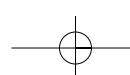


Two war mysteries for the price of one

ON a similar theme, Ewan Montagu's *The Man Who Never Was* and *Operation Heartbreak* by Duff Cooper have been published for the first time in one volume (Spellmount, £18.99), as a tribute to one of the greatest military bluffs of all times – Operation Mincemeat.

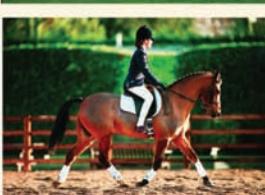
These two accounts add flesh to the legend of Maj Martin, a fictitious British officer used to convince Nazi High Command that the Allies were about to launch an invasion of Greece, and not their true objective, Sicily, in the





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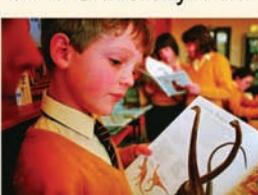


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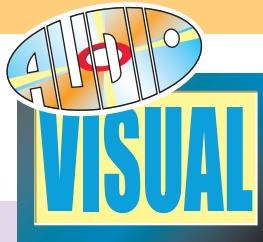
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MUSIC

Gordon Turner

March to the sound of the organ

**Mechanical Marches (SLO 4014)**

ONE of the most thrilling musical sounds is that of a military march played on a fairground mechanical organ. A few years ago Soundline Recordings issued a disc featuring the Marenghi Fairground Organ and they have at last produced a follow-up.

There are 21 tracks, ranging from such old favourites as *Soldiers in the Park* (*Listen to the Band*) and *London Bridge* to the more recent *Aces High* and David Coles's *Commando General JJ*. It is a good mixture of British, American and German marches and a welcome addition to the military music catalogue.

Mechanical Marches Vol 2 is available from Soundline Recordings, 27 Moreton Close, Crookham, Fleet GU52 8NS (price £13 including p&p).

Reflections (BB 19)

REFLECTIONS is the title of a compilation of tracks taken from recordings by the Royal Artillery Band and orchestra. Of the 18 tracks, eight feature the orchestra and it is interesting to note that among them is Sousa's great march *Stars and Stripes*, *Entry of the Boyards*, and *Eleanor Rigby*.

The band provide the overture to "The Force of Destiny", a selection from "Barnum", *Festive Overture* and that wonderful bassoon solo *Lucy Long*, but why no mention of the soloist?

The CD ends with the *RA Quick March* and *Regimental Trots* played by the band and the *RA Slow March* performed by the orchestra.

Reflections (Bandleader) is available from Discuro, 46 High Street, Rochester ME1 1LD (price £9.25 incl p&p).

First and Foremost (MMCD 505)

THE Regimental Home Headquarters, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards has issued a double CD featuring their regimental band which, like other line regiment bands, was amalgamated under Options for Change.

The compilation is taken mainly from commercial recordings made between 1959 and 1996, including a few tracks that were recorded in 1971 and never issued.

There are 42 tracks, including fanfares, marches, selections and fantasias. The inlay notes are most informative and it is hoped that other regimental headquarters will follow suit and reissue recordings of the regimental bands.

First and Foremost (Music Masters) is available from HHQ QDG, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF14 3YE (price £11 incl p&p).

SOLDIER January 2004

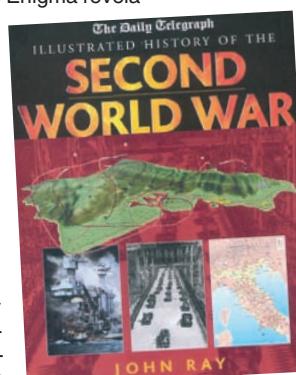
BOOKS IN BRIEF

Enigma variations

The Daily Telegraph Illustrated History of the Second World War by John Ray. Aided by computer-generated maps and more than 300 photographs, this narrative takes into account developments of recent years – including the effects of the Enigma revelations and the opening of Russian archives – on our understanding of battles and campaigns. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20.)

Favourite Wisdom compiled by Deborah Cassidi. Inspirational texts chosen by people from all walks of life, including the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, Tony Blair, Gary Lineker, teachers, a housewife and a schoolgirl. Contributing soldiers include Gen Lord Guthrie, who quotes a piece of Sandhurst wisdom: "If you want to become a general, never get separated from your kit, never march on Moscow and never enter the Balkans." Royalties go to the Threshold Prize, a charity which encourages children's imaginative writing and a love of the English language. (Continuum, paperback, £9.99.)

Soldiers of the Castle: Dover Castle Garrisoned by G M Atherton. This "little gem of a book", in the words of Richard Holmes, is by Wendi Atherton, whose husband, Brig M A Atherton, was Garrison Commander and Deputy Constable of Dover Castle from 1976 to 1981, during which time she started



writing it. In its 99 large-format pages she describes all the units stationed there since 1166. (£10 plus £2 p&p from Merril Lilley, Triangle Publications, 5 East Cliff, Dover CT16 1LX, tel 01304 205254.)

Commandos: Churchill's 'Hand of Steel' by Simon Dunstan. The first British special forces were the independent companies sent to Norway in 1940 to stop the Germans setting-up U-boat bases. From them sprang the Army Commandos and this book, No 11 in the Spearhead series, tells the illustrated story of these elite units up to their disbandment beginning in late 1945. (Ian Allan, paperback, £12.99.)

The Tale of Two Bridges adapted by Barbara Maddox. Previously untold account of the seizure of the bridges over the Caen Canal and River Orne in 1944, based on the diaries of the late Col Geoffrey Pine-Coffin DSO MC. With a foreword by the Prince of Wales. (£12.99 plus £2.50 p&p from Kerry Type Ltd, Chancton House, The Wharf, Midhurst GU29 9PX.)

Discovering English County Regiments by Ian F W Bennett. Brief histories, with battle honours, marches, customs, VCs, nicknames, badges, facings, mottoes, memorials, museums and lineage. Expanded version of Arthur Taylor's 1970 work. (Shire, paperback, £9.99.)

How they saw the Great War

Gallipoli to Gaza by Jill Hamilton. For this unique and moving collection of poetry written by First World War Middle East combatants, Jill, Duchess of Hamilton has delved into archives around the world and found 101 poems by Australian, English, Irish and Scottish soldiers as well as by Turks and Arabs. Her lucid commentary sets the quotations in their military and social context. (Simon & Schuster, paperback, £9.99.)

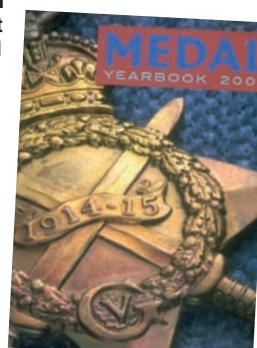
The Fallen: A Photographic Journey Through the War Cemeteries and Memorials of the Great War, 1914-18. The hauntingly tragic quality of these resting places is captured by John Garfield's stunning black-and-white photography. (Spellmount, £20.)

Captain Staniland's Journey: The North Midland Territorials Go To War by Martin Middlebrook. The author of *The First Day on the Somme* and other acclaimed works has turned his hand to a human story of two brothers from Boston, Lincs, who died in 1915. His initial curiosity led him in ever-widening circles to the North Midland Division, whose pre-war Territorials were virtu-

ally wiped out at Hohenzollern Redoubt. (Pen & Sword, paperback, £12.95.)

Tunnel-Master and Arsonist of the Great War by Tony Bridgland and Anne Morgan. The story of Sir John Norton-Griffiths, who exported his mining expertise from South Africa to the Somme. (Pen & Sword, £19.95.)

Medal Yearbook 2004 edited by James Mackay, John W Mussell the *Medal News* team. Five hundred pages of pure delight for medal buffs. (Token paperback, £17.95.)



The Mammoth Book of How It Happened: World War I edited by Jon E Lewis. More than 180 eye-witness accounts are quoted in the latest of this popular series. (Constable & Robinson, paperback, £7.99.)

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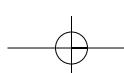


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Comment

SOLDIER to soldier

New order, new army

A DEFENCE White Paper signalling major but largely unspecified changes to the way the British Army goes about its business... many valuable lessons learned during the war in Iraq... the capture of Saddam Hussein... a New and uncertain Year...

If change is as good as a holiday, we should all be thoroughly rested and raring to tackle the brave new world.

The Chief of the General Staff's exhortation that the message of the White Paper (see Page 7) is "very positive" for the Army will be reassuring to those he commands, who before the announcement were subjected to several weeks of high-intensity bombardment from the national media.



In the line of fire were famous regiments about to be cut from an order of battle undermined by cost-cutting. There were to be enough slashes to keep the most energetic sabre-wielding cavarlyman happy for the rest of his days. In other words, gloom and doom at every turn.

So why does an army frequently described as the best in the world have to change again? After all, it has already been extensively modernised in recent years under the Options for Change programme. Because, says the White Paper, the world has changed.

Britain has no enemies capable of charging over the horizon towards her shores in disciplined ranks of heavy armour; the spectre now is international terrorism and regional instability, which demand a different response. It will be a warfighting army, expeditionary in outlook and highly deployable.



Great armies of the past – not least the British Army – have been found wanting because the world had moved on while they were navel-gazing in the misguided belief that they remained as all-conquering as the last time they won an empire.

In that respect it is comforting that our defence strategists are examining minutely the threats they believe this country to be facing... and tailoring our Armed Forces to respond to them.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Daydreams of a White Paper

We'll be looking for some network-enabled kitchens and capable bathrooms in the detail

GOOD grief! It can't be 2004 already...

Only five minutes ago I was pondering in this column on the possibilities of 2003, and here it is, gone. It began with a war and ended with a Defence White Paper, with barely a breath drawn in between.

You've got to hope 2004 is an improvement on that. At least we are able to start this year without the awful prospect of war facing us. I suspect we'll have enough to cope with in other areas.

The Defence White Paper made its appearance just before this edition of *Soldier* went to press. A wise man I know is firmly of the opinion that if you're not cynical by the time you are 50, you haven't been listening. Far be it from me to admit my age, but he's right.

I have been around long enough to see one or two Defence policy reviews, and they tend to remind me of that Army saying that "no plan survives first contact with the enemy".

The devil is in the detail, and a feature of strategic reviews and white papers is that they are usually long on generalisations and short on specifics. Thus I can't help wondering how long it might take for all this network-enabling capability stuff to turn into tangible hardware that works.

Even the most optimistic soul in the Ministry of Defence would have to admit that it can take a teensy weensy bit of time (not to mention money) for kit to leap off the drawing board and onto the battlefield.

And choosing computer systems hasn't exactly been a strong suit in the past – technology seems to move a hell of a lot faster than the MoD ordering procedure. I hope they aren't planning



A personal view
from Sue Bonney,
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

to dispense with the human software too soon.

If you looked very carefully, you would also have spotted the phrase "Defence Housing Strategy" in the White Paper.

This is very encouraging – if only to see the words "housing" and "strategy" linked in the same sentence – and while we have no details about this either as yet, I suppose we can always daydream about network-enabled kitchens and capable bathrooms.

The big event for the Army Families Federation in 2004 will be our worldwide conference in London in June. If the nature of the Army's role is changing, so too are the attitudes and expectations of our families, and it may be that these factors will come together to change the way the Army and its families live and work in the future.

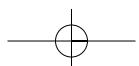
A feature of our conference will be an afternoon's debate between the audience and the policy-makers on that future and its possibilities. Look out for more details coming soon.

What does seem to be certain about the brave new future for the Army and its families is that it's on its way, but will probably not get here just yet.

And it certainly won't get here before *Him Indoors* returns his unmelted boots and hairy shirts and takes the Escape Committee's new virtual reality tunnel into the real world.

As ever, I shall be following him at some point, and the prospect is just a tad daunting. I mean, no one understands initials out there. I shall have to go on a civvy-speak course.

And find a dog-friendly office. I think I'll stick around for a bit and work on my own network-enabling capabilities.



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
 • E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

I didn't think I'd be marking time

I TRANSFERRED over a year ago from the Infantry and am now a corporal in the Royal Logistic Corps.

I was told I would mark time on my pay for two years as I was moving from the higher to the lower pay band for the trade I had moved into – supply controller.

I thought this meant I would not move up another level for two years, but didn't realise it meant I would not get the April pay rise.

Add to that the fact that the supply controller trade in my rank is now on the higher pay band. I thought the April rise was to meet the cost of living and other rises and feel I am losing out. – Name supplied, Abingdon.

SO2 RPA DSPS(A) responds: Your correspondent transferred employment qualifications, which took him from the higher range pay spine to the lower. The pay warrant makes provision for such a move and allows a soldier to keep his higher range pay for up to two years from the transfer date.

The computer runs a shadow pay account for the soldier, which calculates what he would have been paid on the lower range had he moved straight across. The shadow pay allows him to gain annual increments when they are due and the lower range pay increases with the annual pay rise award.

If the lower range pay overtakes the higher range pay on which the soldier is marking time, the computer will automatically switch the soldier over to the pay on the lower range. If, however, the shadow pay does not catch up and

overtake the higher range pay, then at the end of two years the soldier is placed on the lower range and his pay is adjusted accordingly.

The regimental admin officer or their staff will have been able to explain to your correspondent that mark-time rates of pay do not increase with the annual pay award and a soldier will not gain any annual increments to add to his higher range pay.

Patience wearing a bit thin

FURTHER to my letter of last April, my pay problem has still not been resolved.

I know the Army says it is managing the problem, but it is not solving the problem. I have now been in this situation for 12 months and can't believe the Army's technology is so far behind. Could we have an update? – Name, address supplied.

I AM a re-enlisted soldier in Germany with a wife and children to support.

I have been underpaid since November 2002 and tried repeatedly to get it sorted. I was in my admin office when they phoned Glasgow, who said it would be put right by October 2003. I'm still waiting. I reckon I am owed about £3,000. – Private (name supplied), Germany.

SO2 RPA DSPS(A) says: Personnel who have re-enlisted or changed engagement types since the introduction of Pay 2000 (including MPGS who enlisted on or after November 1, 2002) may be in receipt of the incorrect rate of pay.

This is because prior service may not have been included in the calculation of their pay. The work to correct this problem has started in earnest. Units are aware that the corrective process has started.

Soldiers should not suffer hardship as the problem is manageable at unit level. Those who wish may receive a manual payment.

Thanks from Basra

THROUGH the pages of *Soldier* I would like to express my thanks to members of the British Army serving in Iraq.

I am from Basra and work as an interpreter. Recently my two daughters were ready for school wearing new clothes, shoes and bags. These were gifts and made them so happy, as it did my wife and I and all the parents in my area whose children received similar items.

These gifts came from the British Forces. Since you arrived, everyone can see the difference between the last regime and now. Everyone can smell fresh air. Everyone can live peacefully and do what we want to do.

I could not express my thoughts then. Now I can say everything I believe and I can travel. Previously I could not do that even in my own country.

I wanted to say thanks to all my British Army friends, especially in The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and particularly Capt John Austin. I am grateful to them and appreciate them.

I hope they will not forget us and I will be here waiting to welcome them back. – Fadhel Abbas, Basra, Iraq.

Prize letter



Grateful: Fadhel Abbas

With a bit of help from the Army in Basra, we hope to be sending Mr Abbas his prize very soon. – Editor.

Be brief

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda ... but please keep them brief.

E-mails MUST include your name and location (not necessarily for publication).

Anonymous letters will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to edit for length, clarity or style.

Still waiting for increment after a year

IN December 2002, I and 30 others from my unit passed the Military Training Qualification part two (MTQ2) examination, which entitled us to the MTQ2 increment, worth about £5 a day.

In previous years this increment has been added to pay soon after the exam. My cadre, however, has still not received it. Given that I have completed close to 50 man training days (MTDs) since January, this represents a sizeable sum.

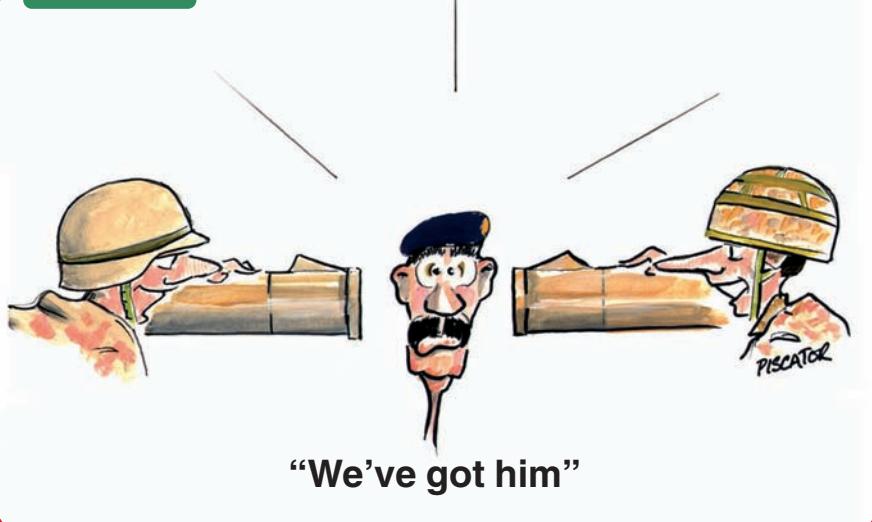
Do I and my fellow course mates have any chance of eventually receiving this money? – Name and address supplied.

SO2 RPA DSPS(A) responds: Regrettably, due to an omission in the Territorial Army and Reserves policy for Pay 2000, the increase due to an officer cadet when he/she passes MTQ2 was not catered for.

This error has been recognised and OCdts who have passed MTQ2 since November 2002 and are currently underpaid are advised to contact their UOTC adjutant or admin officer, who will be able to make a cash payment for the shortfall.

The error will be corrected under the Pay 2000 Follow-On Work and is just one of a number of problems which will be actioned this year.

PISCATOR



This year is the 60th anniversary of the Army Benevolent Fund. To mark 60 years of caring for soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in times of real need we're hoping to raise more money than ever for the Army family. Can you help? For a fundraising pack, please call 020 7591 2042 or send an e-mail to enquiries@armybenevolentfund.com



Call 020 7591 2000 or visit www.armybenfund.org

Ban on Rangers, Celtic strip is daft

AS an avid Glasgow Rangers supporter I was alarmed to read that the MoD had banned the wearing of Rangers and Celtic football shirts in Northern Ireland bases.

I didn't believe it. To be told what not to wear in your own time, especially a football shirt, is ludicrous. However, HQNI has directed that no Rangers or Celtic shirts, or related items, are to be worn in bases in NI whether on or off duty.

I can just about understand the reasoning behind it but if the sight of a football shirt offends, where do you draw the line?

Does being a Scottish soldier serving in England mean I shouldn't wear a Scotland shirt in case it offends? Be serious.

I'm all for building bridges between the two communities in the province but this is a bridge too far. In my battalion there are many Rangers and Celtic fans but seldom a bad word is said. In fact, the wearing of the different colours encourages friendly banter and is good for morale.

I dare say that if people from the Republican community saw Celtic shirts being worn it would go some way to dis-

pellng the myth that the "Brits" are full of Loyalist Protestants.

It also appears we cannot fly our own country's flag. My battalion is not long back from Iraq where we proudly wore the Union Flag on our arms. Now, as we embark on a two-year posting in Northern Ireland, we have to take them off. It's a disgrace. – **Sgt G Dalgliesh, 1 KOSB.**

HQNI replies: Your correspondent is correct in saying that the wearing of Celtic and Rangers shirts is banned within military establishments in Northern Ireland. This decision was taken following a formal complaint within a barracks on the advice of the Equality Commission. It should be noted that these rules do not apply to the wearing of shirts outside barracks.

On the issue of the Union flag on combat dress, the then GOC decided it was inappropriate for soldiers in Northern Ireland to wear an emblem, which is considered emotive in the political climate. This decision is under regular review by HQNI but remains extant.

Your correspondent's sentiments are accepted, but the MoD has a legal duty to ensure its employees do not cause offence to others.

PS...

Smartly done, Steve

I TOTALLY agree with Steve Dock's letter ("Smarten up, lads", Dec). I am forever, during my spare time, disciplining officers, senior NCOs and soldiers for being in mixed dress, smoking, having their hands in their pockets and not wearing headdress.

I should point out that about half the offenders I pick up come from places other than Aldershot Garrison.

Steve Dock also said: "Come on CSMs and RSMs, get a grip". It is not just down to them; it is the responsibility of all who hold the rank of lance corporal and above, including officers. – WO1 (GSM) J J Fairbairn, R Signals, Aldershot.

STEVE Dock's "Smarten up, lads" in the November edition made me smile.

It also reminded me how, after my pal Johnny Ray and I graduated from Boys' Service in March 1956, and had been trucked in a Tilley 15-cwt from Buller Barracks to 2 Training Battalion RASC at Willems Barracks, we revelled in the newfound freedom of "Man's Service" after the severe strictures of our boys' unit.

One evening we were walking near Aldershot station, eating from a pike of fish and chips, when we encountered Sgt Powell, the 2nd Battalion provost sergeant.

As we stood, trembling, to attention, he berated our lack of personal discipline and deep lack of concern for the good name of the battalion he knew we had only recently joined.

He wondered what the RSM, Paddy Attwell, would have done had he seen us and there and then made us stuff our uneaten food in its wrapping into a municipal bin, and ordered us to "march away smartly".

The thing that might surprise modern soldiery is that not only were Johnny and I in civilian clothes, so was the provost sergeant. – Iain Leggatt, Carnoustie.

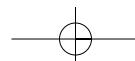
Balloon School

REFERENCE your intriguing story about "Wild Bill" Cody and his involvement in building and flying British Army Aeroplane No 1 (Nov). In fact the Royal Engineers' Balloon School was in Aldershot, not Farnborough.

I joined the Army as a boy in the Royal Engineers and reported to MTTD RE in Gibraltar Barracks on Queens Avenue.

Apart from my trade training as a draughtsman, I was also expected to master the B-flat cavalry trumpet and on many occasions played reveille at 0615 hours in Balloon Square, inside the training depot.

Alas, Gibraltar Barracks is no more, the only building remaining being the 6in astronomical telescope still sitting on Queens Avenue, opposite St George's and St Andrew's churches and the Stanhope Lines post office. – Major (Retd) John H Jessup, York.



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
 • E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Non-grad officer seeks pay parity

I AM writing to raise an issue about the pay of non-graduate officers.

From first joining Sandhurst I was paid less than my graduate peers and this has not changed since I commissioned.

This suggests that any officer with a degree is better than a non-grad as the former is paid more to do the same job. There is no discrimination on the battlefield or in the leadership of our soldiers, so why do we receive less recognition for



DM(A) comments: The correspondent is describing the effect of a policy that has been in place for 50 years.

Army Council Instruction 621 of November 4, 1953 introduced an entry system to attract graduates into the major combatant arms.

It stated: "The essence of this entry is that candidates are aligned precisely, as regards seniority and rates of pay, with their contemporaries trained at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst". Without knowing this officer's circumstances, it is not possible to give a detailed reply, but the principles of graduate entry can be explained.

The rules have evolved over the interven-

our services and see our graduate friends promoted faster?

Over an eight-year period they stand to earn £30,000 more than a non-grad and be well on their way towards their majority, whereas non-grads will be approaching the middle of their captaincy.

We non-grads are often older than graduates, with job and life experience and, in some cases, military experience. I find it objectionable to be differentiated

ing 50 years but the basic principle has remained: a candidate who graduates today after three years' study will, on commissioning, have seniority for pay and promotion aligned to the commissioning date of the commissioning course that started three years before he/she entered RMAS. The rules for the granting of antedates are contained in Articles 53 to 64A of The Pay Warrant 1964 (amendment 70).

Your correspondent is not being "differentiated against", he is being paid at a level commensurate with his own rank and the seniority authorised by his qualification and experience profile under the same rules as an officer with antedated seniority. He will

against because I do not have a degree, which in most cases has little to do with our job. I have been told the Army will not fund me to do a degree as it is not a necessary requirement for an Infantry officer.

We all take pride in commanding and leading the world's finest soldiers, so why are we paid less and held back from promotion? Graduate soldiers are not broken into two tiers, so why discriminate against officers? – **Name and unit supplied.**

also be promoted under common promotion rules.

The graduate candidate is commissioned with the higher level of academic and intellectual development that the Army wishes to encourage and does this through the graduate entry antedate system. Fifty-two per cent of serving officers hold a degree and almost 83 per cent of officer cadets entering RMAS in 2002 had a degree. The graduate antedate policy will have contributed to this situation.

DI Trg (A) comments: The Army does not sponsor full-time residential arts degrees, but it does sponsor a limited number of non-graduate officers in the technical corps as part of the Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme.

A full list of training and professional awards, memberships available on completion of RMAS and distance learning degree opportunities is available from the Officer Career Development Handbook, the Officer Career Courses Accreditation Guide and the local AEC. The annual standard learning credit (SLC) will offset fees in most cases.

Terriers: Time for new name

FOR the past 30 to 40 years the Territorial Army and its soldiers have been referred to by the nickname "Terriers".

I feel that it may be time for a change to reflect the evolving role of the Territorial Army and the possibility of a name change of the TA itself to Army Reserve or something similar.

This nickname would be of use in headlines and articles in magazines and periodicals such as *Soldier*.

If journalists are going to be persuaded to use it, it should be short and snappy – and definitely not a row of initials. If any readers have any ideas please write in. – Simon Goldstein, London.

Facilities management? Just watch this space

I AM thinking about resettlement and as my appointment means I deal with many G4 [logistics] issues and civilian contracts, I thought it would be ideal to book myself onto the four-week facilities management course at Aldershot.

Having recently attended a facilities management exhibition at Earl's Court, I was upset to find that the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM) recog-

nised only the RAF within the Armed Forces to approve facilities management.

I and other warrant officers in RQMS appointments would like to know why the Army has not signed up to a recognised qualification with the BIFM as part of the personnel development programme and not just for resettlement, which the Army is keen to promote. – **WO2 (RQMS) A Manners, London.**

BIFM course, which is offered to resettlement candidates across the three Services.

Finally, BIFM also sponsors a facilities management forum with the Armed Forces. Through this forum, Maj Charlie Aggett RLC is leading accreditation work on behalf of the Army to map the QM and RQMS courses against BIFM requirements. Watch this



HQDETS(A) replies: The BIFM Armed Forces representative, James Lodge, tells us the current BIFM connection with the RAF is largely provided through the Royal Engineers, who handle all facilities management at six RAF stations.

Further BIFM's very useful links with Derek Shaw of the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) in Aldershot have enabled a four-week

In receipt of TEA time rules

MY unit told me that Training Expense Allowance (TEA) cannot be paid without receipts to support expenditure.

My reading of the regulations is that while receipts are required for subsistence allowances, TEA is a fixed-rate allowance for which entitlement arises from circumstances relating to method of travel to a TA centre and inability to take a meal, and that providing those criteria are met the allowance should be paid without the need for receipts (difficult when buying from a vending machine). Are receipts necessary? – **Name, address supplied.**



PS10(A) replies: TEA is to reimburse members of the TA for expenditure on a meal prior to duty. It is a subsistence allowance and, together with Daily Rate of Subsistence Allowance (DRSA) five- and ten-hour claims, is paid at a fixed rate. Commanding officers are entitled, as part of internal audit procedures, to ask for receipts to verify any expenditure where reimbursement is paid from public funds.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1979: For 15 years after the closure of 224 Provost Company, RMP in 1963 there were no military police in Gibraltar – despite the presence of an infantry battalion and a number of minor units. Last year Sgt Bill McCrorie arrived from Edinburgh to set up a detachment and now they have again become a familiar sight on the Rock.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1954: British troops, above, march to their positions in riot-torn Trieste. Their conduct drew a widely-quoted tribute from an American newspaper correspondent. The secret, he thought, was that British soldiers could not care less when the people around them professed to dislike Britons as such.

Credit union for the Forces is great idea

CREDIT unions, a topic raised in the November feedback pages, would be a brilliant idea for the Armed Forces.

Credit unions are run by and for their members, they encourage people to save and most will allow you to borrow up to three times your savings.

They are regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and have to abide by the same regulations as banks and other financial institutions.

The maximum amount a credit union can charge on a loan is fixed by law at 12.68 per cent APR on a reducing balance. The actual rate is 6.5 per cent. After all the overheads are paid, credit unions can pay a dividend to their members. Members win all round.

In the same edition [Page 37], you highlighted the case of "Sharon", who had got into debt. If she had had access to a credit union they may have been able to

help her with her financial problems. My recommendation is go for it, get credit unions up and running in the Armed Forces. – Kevin Connor, Vicechair, Mid-Cornwall Credit Union.

Union works for Irish Army

I READ every issue of your magazine and it was interesting to see a question from one of your readers regarding a credit union for British Forces.

I am with the Irish Army and about eight years back our people got permission to start such a scheme under the direction of the League of Irish Credit Unions. It works very well.

We get great discounts on family and holiday insurance and so on, but the best bit of all is we have a direct debit system for bill-paying. – WO1 Noel O'Neill, HQ UNFICYP.

No change, so our EFI bills are rounded up

I WOULD like to comment on the service being provided by EFI [Expeditionary Forces Institute] at Basra International Airport.

Since my arrival in theatre the EFI shop has had a constant lack of small change, which the staff counters by telling the customers to select another item to round the total bill up to the nearest dollar. This is the rule rather than the exception.

Recently when asked to select an additional item, which I did not want, I made a stand and refused. I asked the assistant for my change and said that if they didn't have it they would have to drop the extra 25 cents. When they refused I gave the goods back and was refunded my \$20 by an impolite and abrupt manager.

If a business in the UK was run this way it would soon go broke.

Personnel on Op Telic work extremely hard, sometimes up to 16 hours a day, and the least we deserve is a friendly, helpful and professional facility that can supply goods that people actually need in theatre at a reasonable price. – Name and address supplied.

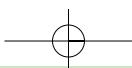


Lt Col Steve Mitchell, CO EFI Bulford replies: Coinage during the conflict was not available from the Forces cashier and the only source was the Bank of Kuwait, which was charging 60 cents for a 25-cent coin. From April to October 2003 small quantities of coinage were available from the US Bank at Camp Doha; however, the US Forces restricted EFI to drawing \$1,000 a week, which was wholly inadequate for the size of our operation.

We have recently reached a new agreement allowing us to increase the sum drawn to \$3,000 a week, which should easily meet our needs. The practice of rounding up was used throughout theatre in unit bars as well as EFI shops and we have striven to provide as good a service as possible while operating in difficult conditions. I can only apologise to your reader for his experience.

Now the good news

HEARTENING news for Suez veterans patiently awaiting the processing of applications via the Army Medal Office. Mr D McNeil of Wareham Dorset tells us the Army Medal Office turned his application round very promptly and he was able to wear his medal ("it's a real beauty and swivels . . .") with great pride on Remembrance Day.



TALKBACK

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue



2nd Lt Jon Hodge, Coldm Gds

An overseas exercise is an extremely beneficial conclusion to my training as a platoon commander. Kenya's hot, arid environment presented a whole new set of challenges for us all, creating an invaluable experience. Assets such as helicopters would

have further complemented the scenario, and a greater amount of live-firing would have been of benefit.

2nd Lt James Dormer, A and SH

This kind of exercise is the best way of simulating the process of going on operations. Deploying abroad in this way allows for the most realistic training in the most challenging environments possible.



2nd Lt Guy Anderson, SG

Exercising in Kenya at the end of Phase 2 training was a challenging but greatly rewarding experience. It gave us the opportunity to train in a testing environment and under expeditionary warfare conditions.

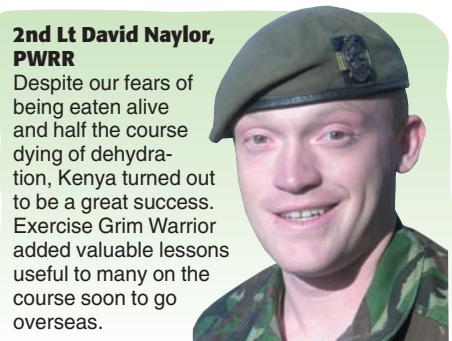


Lt Jeff Richardson, R Irish

Like all exercises, Grim Warrior had both positive and negative points. It would have been good to have done more live-firing and to have had helicopter support.

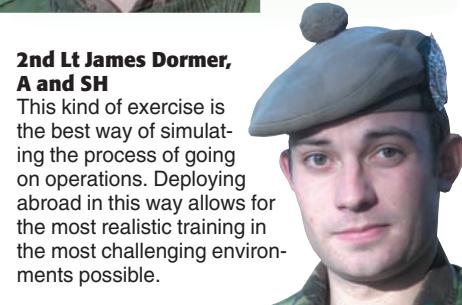
Holding the course final exercise in

Kenya was extremely beneficial. In today's dynamic and volatile world, expeditionary warfare in testing overseas environments will become the norm for the British Army. It is appropriate that young platoon commanders are exposed to such conditions and are therefore better trained to meet such a challenge.



2nd Lt David Naylor, PWRR

Despite our fears of being eaten alive and half the course dying of dehydration, Kenya turned out to be a great success. Exercise Grim Warrior added valuable lessons useful to many on the course soon to go overseas.



2nd Lt Oliver Ormiston, R Anglian

Although we did not have the all-arms assets that we have become accustomed to available on the course, this suited the scenario well and was probably more realistic to the size of the deployment.



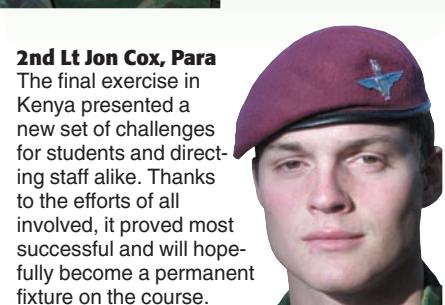
2nd Lt Bob Worthington, Gren Gds

A very good exercise in an arid environment. The Infantry will benefit two-fold from the experiences gained if it is made a permanent fixture at training establishments.



2nd Lt Andy Wolstenholme, R Anglian

It was a bold decision to take the course overseas to Kenya for its final exercise. The efforts of all concerned were appreciated by the students and rewarded by a challenging, realistic training exercise. Logistic and administrative challenges endemic to expeditionary operations were simulated and tested the flexibility and problem-solving skills of staff and students.



2nd Lt Jon Cox, Para

The final exercise in Kenya presented a new set of challenges for students and directing staff alike. Thanks to the efforts of all involved, it proved most successful and will hopefully become a permanent fixture on the course.



2nd Lt David Rees, KORBR

A very good exercise in a challenging place with a realistic scenario. The ground and terrain made navigation very testing and, due to unpredictable weather conditions, personal administration had to be of the highest standard. Overall a

very successful exercise and one would hope that this will become a permanent fixture in the platoon commanders' battle course.

Pictures: Steve Dock

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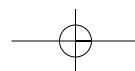
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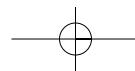
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