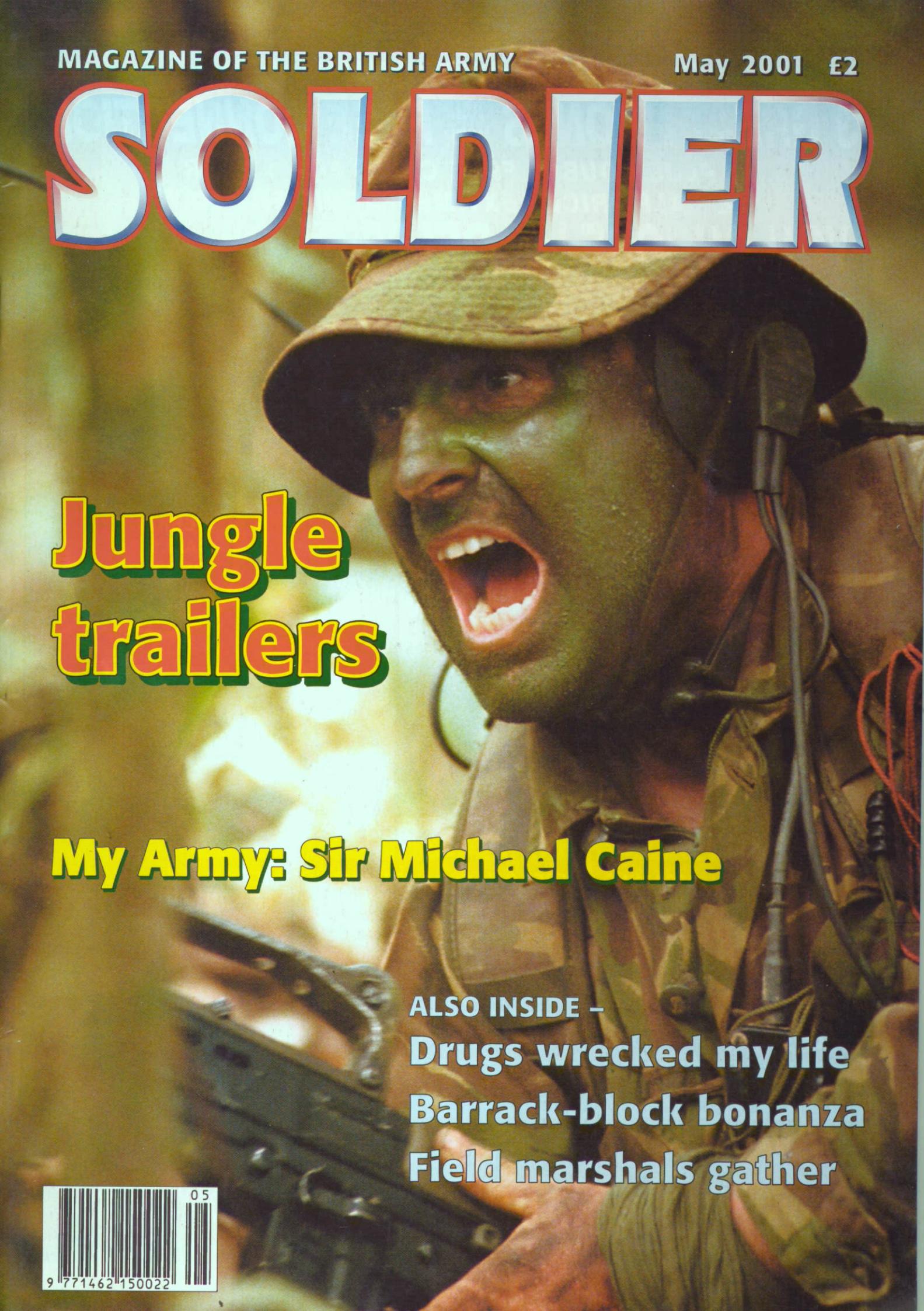


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

May 2001 £2

SOLDIER

A close-up photograph of a British soldier in a camouflage uniform and beret, shouting with his mouth wide open. He is holding a rifle in the foreground, and a bright, possibly exploding shell, is visible in the background.

Jungle trailers

My Army: Sir Michael Caine

ALSO INSIDE -

Drugs wrecked my life
Barrack-block bonanza
Field marshals gather



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● Images – Page 40

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



34-35 Cover story

A soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers gets into the swing of things during jungle training in Belize.

Picture: Stuart Bingham

Meritorious Service Medal qualifying period cut to 20 years

– Page 8

Sappers recover kit in Belize

– Page 27

Welsh pub in Paderborn is home from home for soldiers of Royal Regiment of Wales

– Page 33

‘It was terrifying. We thought we were going to die. But the obscenity of realising that someone is about to kill you makes you do strange things’

Korean War veteran Sir Michael Caine on the moment he thought he was about to be shot

– Pages 38-39

PLUS

12 Under Big Ben
21 Chip cartoons
24 TA Q and A
43 TA pay scales
44 Sport
51 Win £100

62 Info section
64 Diary
66 Wish list
68 Books
71 Comment
72 Mail

4 Good, bad and horrible

Army to tackle its poor single living accommodation

17 Foot-and-mouth epidemic

What the Army is doing to help the UK's farming community

23 Captain Corelli connection

CCF officer spent months on location with Cage and Cruz

24 Making an impact

Ammo experts make the world a safer place

27 Art of war and peace

Armed Forces Art Society prepares for 67th exhibition

29 It's (a lot) better than work

Perham Down sappers enjoy life on the ocean wave

30 Low life, high society

Former soldier warns against getting involved with drugs

37 All quiet on southern front

Military returns South Atlantic island to civilian control

40 Ranking in the first order

Field marshals out in strength for a very special dinner

78 Vox pop

What kit would you buy if you had £250 to spend?

The good, the bad and the horrible

Single soldiers have put up with poor accommodation for years. Something is now being done

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Soldier photographic staff

UNHEATED, draughty, leaking quarters with no running hot water and precious little in the way of home comforts will be consigned to history as a multi-million pound repair, renovation and rebuild programme begins to bite.

On top of a massive Government commitment to find the funds to rectify the problem in the longer term, a "quick-fix" solution is being drawn up to tackle the worst single living accommodation (SLA) in the UK and Germany.

A new determination to solve a long-running problem means that decaying, crumbling barracks – many of them built 30 or 40 years ago and now long past their sell-by dates – are to become very much a thing of the past.

The message that something needed to be done urgently was signalled at the end of last year when Armed Forces Minister John Spellor used the word "appalling" to describe some SLA.

On a farewell visit to the Welsh Guards in Aldershot, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, then Chief of the Defence Staff, expressed his disgust at the state of Montgomery Lines, home to the 1st Battalion. Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon was similarly unimpressed.

Poor quarters have been a regular hot topic for single Service personnel in letters to this magazine's Mail pages.

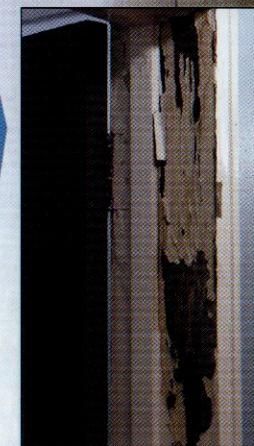
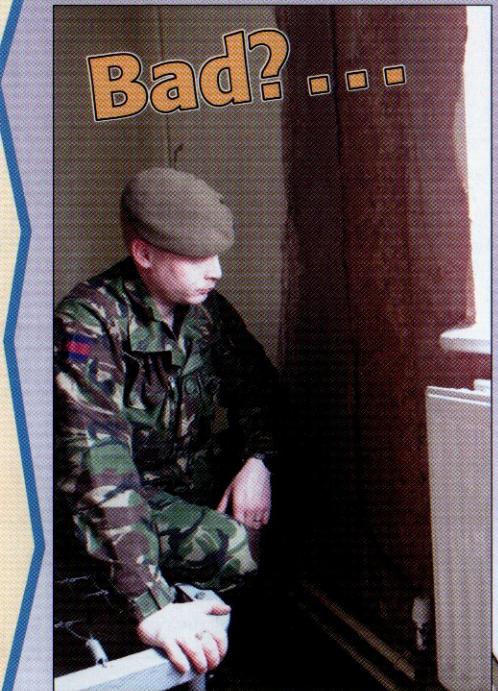
As we reported (Under Big Ben, April), Mr Hoon has signed up to an investment programme under which about £200 million a year, including £110 million of new money, will be spent on getting it right.

About 30,000 low-quality bed spaces have been identified as requiring urgent attention. The promise is that the worst will be first in the firing line.

The good news comes, however, with a caution... this is going to take time.

But steps are in hand to shake up SLA

Soldiers tell us they want privacy, security and quality. We aim to give them just that



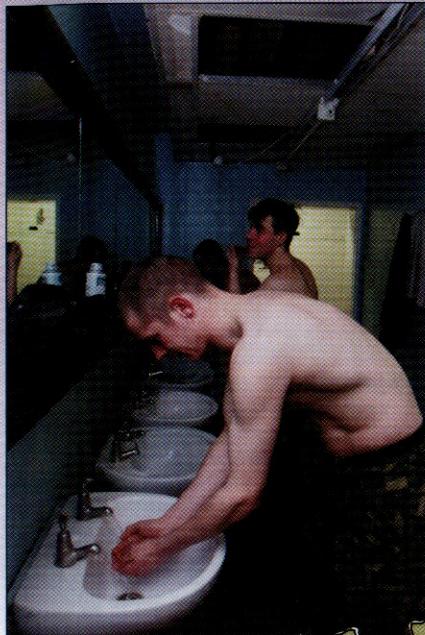
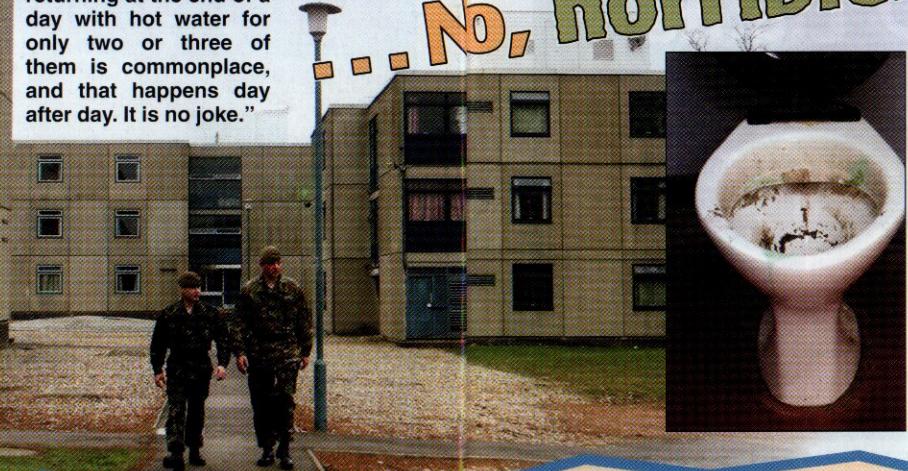
MONTGOMERY Lines at Aldershot, for years the home of Parachute Regiment battalions and now occupied by the Welsh Guards, is fairly typical of the poorest barracks.

Here are some of its unlovely features:

- Metal framed windows that won't shut properly;
- Window frames actually falling out of the wall;
- Damp due to poor ventilation, tiles falling off walls and ceilings, and mould;
- Poor or non-existent light in ablution areas and potential safety hazards;
- Severely scaled pipes resulting in a lack of running hot water;
- Too many soldiers sharing too little hot water;
- Crumbling walls, gaps in brickwork.

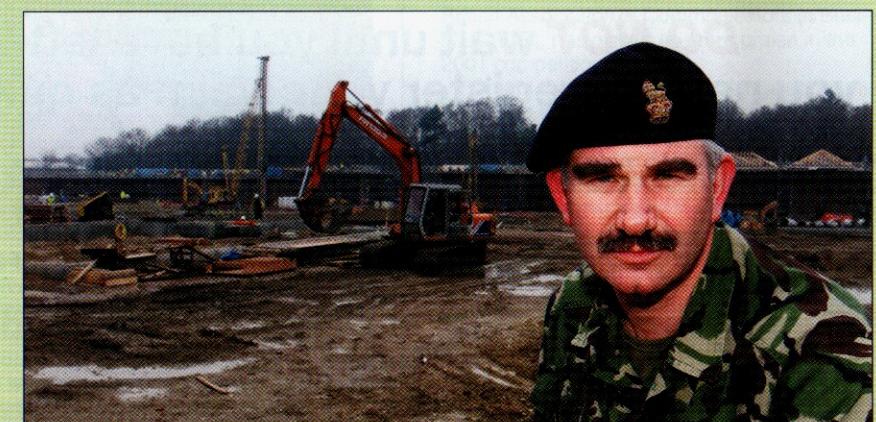
Maj Bob Gamble RTR at Land Command said: "The lack of fitted windows and poor ventilation giving rise to damp are the most significant problems.

"A lot of SLA has suffered from maintenance underfunding. For example, scaling of water pipes results in a shocking lack of hot-water facilities. Ten soldiers returning at the end of a day with hot water for only two or three of them is commonplace, and that happens day after day. It is no joke."

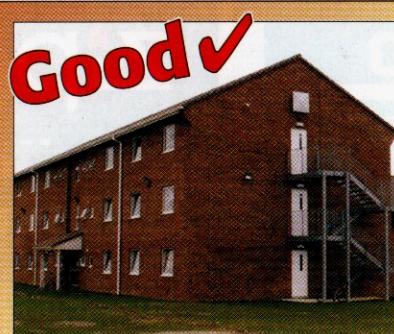


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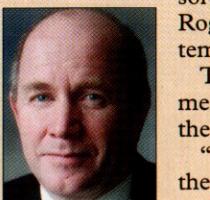
- Accommodation for soldiers doing basic training – and some training camp accommodation – will continue to be dormitory-style.
- The interim programme will benefit 8,000 of the 20,000 soldiers currently living in sub-standard accommodation.
- There are plans for significant investment in both family and single living accommodation abroad, including Germany and Cyprus.



Coming soon: Brig Tom Foulkes on the site of Aldershot's New Mons Barracks



Future perfect: Soldiers of The Light Dragoons at Swanton Morley, Norfolk, have their own en suite rooms in Z Type accommodation. We will be taking you inside this superb new barrack block in a forthcoming issue... and telling you what the occupants think of it.



Project leader:
Roger Eustis

Between those extremes, Reader addresses all sorts of issues. "It is not going to solve all our problems," said Roger Eustis. "It is first aid... a temporary quick fix."

The really significant improvements will begin in 2004 when the second phase is launched.

"What soldiers tell us is that they want privacy, security and quality," said Brig Foulkes. "And we aim to give them just that."

His commitment is that all new-build long-term battalion barracks will have Type Z accommodation.

Type Z is not a dream – it already exists

at The Light Dragoons' base at Swanton Morley in Norfolk, and many RAF personnel have enjoyed something like it for more than 30 years.

While their old blocks are being demolished, soldiers will live in new temporary quarters. In some cases this will be based on the flatlet concept, with four or five sharing, albeit with more storage space.

With serious money now on the table, the Army's major single-soldier accommodation problem is now on course to be tackled properly. "We didn't want to go around telling people we were going to make things better until we knew we had the money," said Brig Foulkes.

"We know some accommodation is very bad and soldiers may have thought we don't care. But we do and we're going to do something about it."

Project Reader is very important and is starting this year while the substantial programme of upgrading and rebuilding to a new standard in Britain and Germany is being planned."

Already under way is the construction of New Mons Barracks at Aldershot. It will not, however, be Type Z because building began before the latest announcement. Although every soldier will have their own room, they will share ablution facilities.

"We want soldiers to have decent accommodation," said Brig Foulkes. "Unless we are able to meet their aspirations we won't be able to keep the quality of soldier we want. Bad accommodation is indefensible."



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Welcome to the foal: Owner Helen Penrose and LBdr Martin Twee, yard manager of the 1 RHA stables at Tidworth, welcome new arrival Kalita, who was born on Mothers' Day. Proud mum Sapphire is on the left. Kalita, the first foal to be born under military supervision in the Tidworth stables since the Second World War, was a surprise to everyone except Sapphire. A vet investigating Sapphire's sudden weight gain three weeks before the birth was able to confirm that it was not caused by an excess of oats.

Medals mark Africa rescue

TROOPS who stormed a guerrilla stronghold to rescue comrades held hostage in Sierra Leone last year have been awarded 25 gallantry medals.

Six R Irish soldiers and their interpreter, held captive for more than two weeks in the jungle, were freed.

The awards include two DSOs, five MCs and two Conspicuous Gallantry Crosses.

One DSO was awarded to Brig David Richards, the joint task force commander in Sierra Leone. He was responsible for securing Lungi airfield to allow the evacuation of civilians and planned the operation that secured Freetown.

Major Andy Harrison, Para, who

made a daring escape after 75 days as a prisoner of the rebels, received the MBE. He was taken hostage while acting as a UN observer.

Sgt Stephen Heaney, Para, who was in charge of a position attacked by rebels at Lungi Loi, Sierra Leone, was awarded the Military Cross for his courage and leadership under fire.

Radio operator LCpl John Wozniak, R Signals, and driver Cpl Jason Kostilek, KRH, were Mentioned in Despatches for courage in Grancanica, Kosovo last June when a hostile crowd endangered the life of Brig Richard Shirreff, commanding MNB(Central).

● Full list of awards – Page 62

Death rate among Gulf veterans is no higher – report

RESEARCHERS at Manchester University have concluded that death rates among Gulf War veterans are no different from other Service personnel. The Government-funded study does confirm that Gulf veterans are twice as likely to report ill

health, and are likely to complain of symptoms suggestive of nerve damage or widespread pain. Every one of 95 symptoms covered by questionnaires, from tiredness to convulsions, was more frequently mentioned by

those who had served in the Gulf. Dr Lewis Mooney, Under-Secretary for Defence and Veterans' Minister, welcomed the findings and said: "We are determined to continue to address the concerns of Gulf veterans."

Taut jungle story hits mark, again

SOME of the finest print industry judges in the country think Soldier is a bit special. And that's official.

Your magazine, which in two of the past three years has been voted the best in the UK by the British Association of Communicators in Business (CiB), has picked up more praise in the 2001 competition.

"One of the most appealing things about this magazine is that it is clearly written for people and their families serving at home and abroad," is how one judge summed up the magazine.

"The feedback spread is well-written and presented . . . forthright and thought-provoking," he went on. So well done to all the many serving readers who have made our correspondence pages the envy of our sister publications. A hotbed of opinion and views, Soldier's vibrant Mail section (expanded to five pages in this issue) provides absolute proof that we are read by the people who matter . . . serving soldiers, NCOs and officers.

"Clearly, a great deal of thought goes into the magazine . . . design is first-rate and the overall effect is busy, professional and, when needed, fun."

A feature on military training in Brunei ("It's a jungle out there", May 2000) written by Anthony Stone was described as fast, taut, lively and superb, backed up by great colour pictures from photographer Graeme Main. It is in line for a top prize at the CiB's awards ceremony at Newport on May 11.

Ray Routledge's interview with Maj Andy Harrison, a captive of Sierra Leone rebel forces ("Return to the war zone", Sept 2000) was described as "a real Boy's Own story of heroism, adventure and derring-do . . . conveying excitement and tension. He depicts his story like a painting".

Ray's piece on living conditions in Kosovo ("The truth about those tents", March 2000) was "a highly readable story about an interesting, somewhat off-the-wall aspect of Army life in Kosovo."

In the design category, the judge wrote: "Soldier has become a legend in its own lifetime. Awards on awards, year after year. Soldier knows what it is doing, who it's doing it for and which way things ought to be done. It has its own unique style and in a category where we have seen evidence of copycat trends, this has to be welcomed."

"It has the confidence to cock a snook at some of the more designery titles."

A feature on the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets deployed in Kosovo ("Welcome to the Bronx, Pristina-style", January 2000), by Dennis Barnes and Kevin Capon of Land Command's Mobile News Team, was "a typical high-impact feature from Soldier that invites the reader in by using excellent photographs and solid headlines".

Brunei special

It's a jungle out there

The British Army trains instructors in jungle warfare in the toughest classroom in the world

Jungle story from last May

In tune for charity



Sweet music: Musicians with the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps at Deepcut, Surrey, have handed over more than £3,000 to three charities. **Cpl Harvey German**, left, handed a cheque for £1,132 to the Chemotherapy Day Unit at Frimley Park Hospital after a colleague's wife was treated there; **LCpl Dave Sanderson**, centre, presented an identical amount to the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust; and **SSgt Rob Jones**, right, gave a similar cheque to Blackdown Pre-School, of which he is chairman. The band raised the money at a series of charity concerts in the Tela Theatre in the RLC's Princess Royal Barracks. Picture: Graeme Main

Making light of it



Apple of his eye: **Cpl Doey Richards** lost 2½ stone to raise £600 for the Wessex Heartbeat charity after daughter **Briony** recovered from a life-threatening illness. Doey, serving with 6 Battalion REME at Tidworth, wanted to show his gratitude for the care Briony received on Ocean Ward in Southampton General Hospital's paediatric unit, so he went on a sponsored slim.

"Briony still has six-monthly appointments at Southampton, but she's doing well," he said.



First ladies: Army Air Corps pilots Capt Alison Kay, left, and Sgt Jo McCleary made aviation history by being the first women pilots to deploy on Exercise Grand Prix in Kenya. On attachment with the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, they are serving with 663 Squadron of 3 Regiment AAC based at Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk. Picture: Mark Owens

MSM scale cut by seven years

THE qualifying time for the Meritorious Service Medal has been reduced from 27 years to 20 with immediate effect.

It is expected that the first individuals to be selected under the new rules will be named in November. This year commanding officers' recommendations for the MSM will be considered by a board sitting in late summer or early autumn. In future, it is intended to hold two boards a year.

A reduction in the qualifying period corrects an anomaly which meant the Army's second oldest medal – after the Long Service and Good Conduct (Military) Medal – and one of its most cherished, could not be awarded to soldiers who served on a normal engagement.

It will greatly increase the number of those eligible, raise the standard and increase the number of recipients.



The decision, approved by the Queen, will give warrant officers and senior NCOs a chance of earning the MSM while serving in units – which will make the medal much more visible and restore its standing.

The MSM, which was instituted by Royal Warrant on December 19, 1845 to recognise the service of sergeants, has to be earned for extra good work or deeds and is not a long service award. Length of service is just one of the criteria and commanders are being reminded that citations, which have to be supported through the chain of command to at least two-star level, must demonstrate evidence of meritorious service.

Royal Warrants in 1916 and 1917 extended the MSM to WOs, NCOs and soldiers who had been recommended for acts of gallantry, saving a life, valuable service and devotion to duty.

IN BRIEF

- A Centre for Defence Medicine (CDM) has been opened by the Princess Royal in Birmingham. The facility will allow military and NHS staff to work side-by-side at the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust's two sites at Selly Oak Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It will have research, teaching and clinical roles and

will incorporate the functions of the Royal Defence Medical College. Military staff and students currently based at the RDMC in Fort Blockhouse, Gosport, Hants, will transfer to Birmingham.

- The University of Central England has won the contract to train military nursing



Pathfinder: Spr Grant Keogh finds a way through the jungle to the Mayan ruins near La Sierra research station during Exercise Sailfish in Belize

Pictures: Sgt Brian Gamble

That's my boy . . .



Family welcome: WO1 (RSM) Jack Kemp, right, welcomes his son, Gnr Daniel Kemp, into the 26th Regiment RA during Exercise Sheldrake Spear at Hohne Ranges. Jack is to be commissioned and posted to 3 RHA as a battery commander. Daniel is serving with 159 (Colenso) Battery, part of 26 Regt, which is based at Gutersloh. Picture: Chris Atkins

Rhine show culled

FOOT-and-mouth has claimed two more victims, this time in Germany, with the cancellation of the prestigious Rhine Army Summer Show and the JHQ International Show.

The plug was pulled on the events, which draw huge crowds, in a bid to stop the disease spreading to the Federal Republic. It is the first time in 55 years that the RASS has been cancelled. More than 150,000 had been expected to enjoy the three-day show in June.

● The Army's role in the UK's foot-and-mouth crisis – see Pages 17-19

Well done, LADS



Level head: Spr Alistair Batty at work in the 25 Flight AAC hangar at Airport Camp, Belize

Top team: Winner of the REME's prestigious Ryder Defence Excellence award for 2000 is the light aid detachment REME serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales at Paderborn, Germany. Pictured receiving the trophy at the REME Museum in Arborfield from **Geoff Hopwood**, right of Ryder, are **Capt Paul Loader**, seated, officer commanding the LAD, and **WO1 (ASM) Steve Bromby**. The unit also won two £250 cheques, one of which it has donated to the REME Benevolent Fund. Picture: Graeme Main



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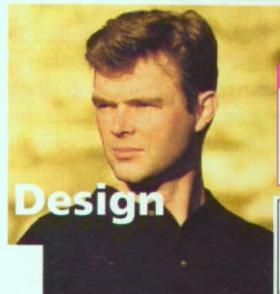
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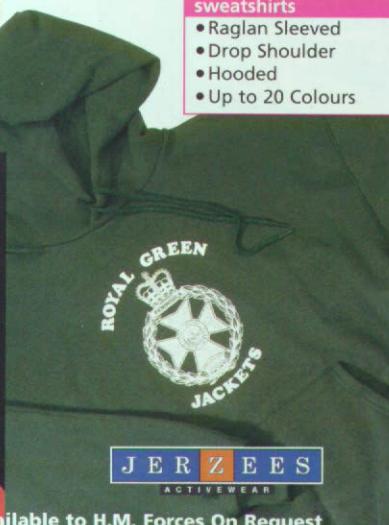
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Stand and deliver: Members of the newly-formed 88 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC get to work in Aldershot. The unit, part of 27 Regiment RLC based in Buller Barracks, was established to provide postal and courier support to 101 Logistic Brigade.

Currently at about half strength, 88 PC

Sqn will eventually consist of 57 soldiers. It is about to start training for a summer tour in the Balkans, where they will support units deployed across Bosnia and Kosovo.

Pictured above are, from left, LCpl Carl Jones, Pte Juliet Holmes, LCpl Smurf Leonard and Pte Kenny Miles

Picture: Graeme Main

Two soldiers killed in Kosovo incidents

CAPT Andrew Crouse, of the Army Air Corps, was killed when his Puma helicopter crashed near the Kosovo-Macedonia border.

And in a separate incident, Tpr Adam Slater, aged 20, serving with the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, died when the Scimitar reconnaissance vehicle he was travelling in struck a landmine near Krivenik on the Kosovo border.

Twenty-eight-year-old Capt Crouse, who came from Randburg in South Africa, had served with the AAC for six years. Tpr

Slater's home town was Dunmow in Essex. Neither man was married.

Another pilot, Royal Air Force officer Flt Lt Mark Maguire, also died in the Puma crash. Four soldiers from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and an RAF loadmaster, who were passengers in the aircraft, were taken for treatment to the American military field hospital at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. Their injuries were not life-threatening.

An investigation into the cause of the Puma crash is to be held.

Delayed exposure

DETAILS of the 2001 Army Photographic Competition will be delayed until the summer while the event is reviewed.

It is hoped to re-launch the competition bigger and better than before.

Reproduced above is WO2 Gerry McFarlane's winning 2000 image.



Golden celebration

ROYAL Military Tattoo 2000, the Services' major project to celebrate the millennium, has won a prestigious international award.

The show, staged on Horse Guards Parade in London last summer, has won a gold award in the live events category staged annually by the International Visual Communication Association.

"The producers have taken a well-worn event," said a citation, "and achieved a step-change in terms of narrative, spectacle and sense of scale." RMT 2000 took the place of the discontinued Royal Tournament.



Who's pulling rank? Newly-wed Territorial Army soldiers SSgt Colin and LCpl Diane Skarratt met while serving with 238 (Sefton) Squadron RLC (V) at Bootle, Merseyside.

Toni's track record



Road show: Ten-year-old Toni Fisher and her dad, WO2 Paul Fisher RLC prepare her bike for her charity cycle around the athletics track in Thiepval Barracks at Lisburn, Northern Ireland. Toni, who only nine months ago could not ride a bike following major brain surgery, was raising money towards an interventional MRI scanner for Great Ormond Street and the national hospitals in London. Paul is serving as a permanent staff instructor with 152 Ambulance Regiment.

All is rosy in garden

GARDENERS who tend Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites are to receive pay increases of between eight and 12 per cent from July 1 following an independent review into their remuneration package by Baroness Dean.

The review was set up after the gardeners faced a cut in their salaries. Its findings have been welcomed by unions.

Garden Paras

FIVE soldiers from Colchester-based 3 Para have been brightening up the garden at an Ipswich women's refuge.

Led by Pte Claude Poole, they took on the 12-week project working with Prince's Trust volunteers.

"We asked local business for donations and equipment," said Pte Poole, "and are adding picnic benches, swings and a sandpit to what was a rather plain-looking garden."



Under Big Ben

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

Junior doctors get 6.2% pay boost

SOME junior doctors in the Armed Forces have been given a 6.2 per cent increase after Pay Review Body recommendations were accepted in full by the Government.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told the Commons in a written answer that the recommended overall pay increase of 3.9 per cent for Defence Medical Services was being implemented as from April 1 this year.

"The Review Body also recommends a 6.2 per cent increase for certain categories of junior doctors and a 4.2 per cent increase for general medical practitioners, inclusive of the overall 3.9 per cent."

"In addition, there are recommendations for additional payments to general medical and general dental practitioners' pay scales."

All the recommendations were being implemented, he said.

WOs' school: A Joint Services Warrant Officers' School, as part of a new Defence Academy, and more joint training between the Services are among proposals resulting from an MoD review.

Foreign meat: More than half the meat consumed by the Armed Forces during the past two years was bought from overseas countries, including Australia, Brazil, France, Spain and Uruguay.

Retention: Surveys show that dissatisfaction with pay is not one of the most influential factors in an officer's or other rank's decision to leave the Service. More often than not it is the cumulative effect of several factors.

Gulf War pensions: By January 31 this year, 965 war disablement pension awards had been made for Gulf War-related illnesses.

— **Armed Forces Minister John Spellar** in the House of Commons.

it is the cumulative effect of several factors.

Gulf War pensions: By January 31 this year, 965 war disablement pension awards had been made for Gulf War-related illnesses.

Ethnic minorities: Recruiting and equal opportunities initiatives have led to the Army's ethnic minority strength rising from one per cent (1,066) in April 1997 to 1.9 per cent (2,057) in February 2001.

Porton Down: In just over three years, 25 former Service volunteers have visited the Wiltshire establishment to inspect records of the studies in which they were involved.

Monitoring for DU and urine tests proposed

BIOLOGICAL monitoring for Service personnel at risk from exposure to depleted uranium is one of four proposals made in a consultative document issued by the Surgeon General, Lt Gen Bob Menzies.

Following widespread media coverage at the beginning of the year of possible health risks faced by those working in environments subjected to DU, the Surgeon General put in place measures to identify a voluntary screening programme.

Now specific proposals have been set out in a consultation paper which draws on expert advice. The four main proposals are:

- To introduce biological monitoring for those assessed at risk from DU exposure while on current and future operations;



Lt Gen Menzies

- To let a contract for urine testing for uranium isotopes, to assess past exposure to DU. The results of this test will be used in an epidemiological study to find out if DU has harmed the health of those who have served in the Gulf or the Balkans.

The test will be made available on demand to Service personnel and MoD employees who served in the Gulf or the Balkans, and who are con-

cerned that exposure to DU has made them ill;

- To establish an oversight board which would give veterans a stake in the process of developing an effective and validated screening programme;

- To assess the need for a permanent mass-testing programme once the results of the urine tests and study are available.

The consultation process, the details of which are available at length at www.mod.uk/index.php3?page=1819, closes on July 4.

In an interview with *Soldier* (Feb), Lt Gen Menzies said troops who served in the Gulf, Bosnia or Kosovo faced an "exceedingly low risk" of becoming ill because of DU.

"As far as we know, it is exceedingly difficult to acquire a dose of DU sufficient to cause any damage to health at all," he said.

Despite numerous visits to Bosnia and Kosovo he was not concerned about any risk to himself and did not intend to be screened for DU.

"On all the evidence that we have at present, and I believe very strongly that we must base our comments on scientific evidence, I believe the risk is exceedingly low."

Have your say on Services' pensions overhaul

SERVICE personnel and ex-Service groups have until July 31 to respond to a public consultation exercise on the Armed Forces Pension and compensation schemes.

Options emerging from a review aimed at overhauling pensions and compensation for Servicemen and women can be found on the MoD web-

site at www.mod.uk, which includes the full proposals. Current members of the existing pension scheme will have the option to join the new scheme when it is agreed, while all new members of the Armed Forces will join the scheme automatically.

A summary of responses is to be published in due course.

IN BRIEF

- Shropshire Army Cadet Force member **Kerry Bayliss** (14), left, saved a stab victim's life the day after passing her first-aid exam. She and fellow cadet **Anna Thomas**, right, saw a man lying on the ground in Shrewsbury town centre with



a chisel stuck in his back. In a crowd of adults, Anna helped to pull an alleged assailant away while Kerry put the victim in the recovery position and used a scarf to stem the bleeding without removing the chisel.



Picture: Cpl James Elmer

On guard: LCpl Lee Summers, left, and Cpl Dave Henretty of 2 RTR keep watch from the turret of a Scimitar armoured vehicle on high ground overlooking the Macedonia-Kosovo border. Using thermal imaging sights, they keep a 24-hour, all-weather watch

Task force helps stop gun-runners

TASK Force Cambrai, a 400-strong special force from the Multi-National Brigade (Central) – MNB (C) – in Kosovo has made an impact on stopping Albanian terrorists from crossing into neighbouring Macedonia.

Two hundred British troops are attached to the force. Centred on the tactical HQ of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, a recce troop was joined by Czech and Finnish soldiers, while 2 RTR's A Squadron combined with armoured infantry companies from the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and soldiers from the Finnish and Swedish battle-groups.

Support was provided by 26 Engineer Regiment and AS90s from 3 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

The task force stiffened up patrols in a border area of the American-controlled sector. So successful were the patrols that it was believed cross-border operations by arms smugglers had virtually ceased.

A key element was the AS90 guns of 3 RHA, which were used to fire illuminating rounds over areas of the border where violations were suspected.

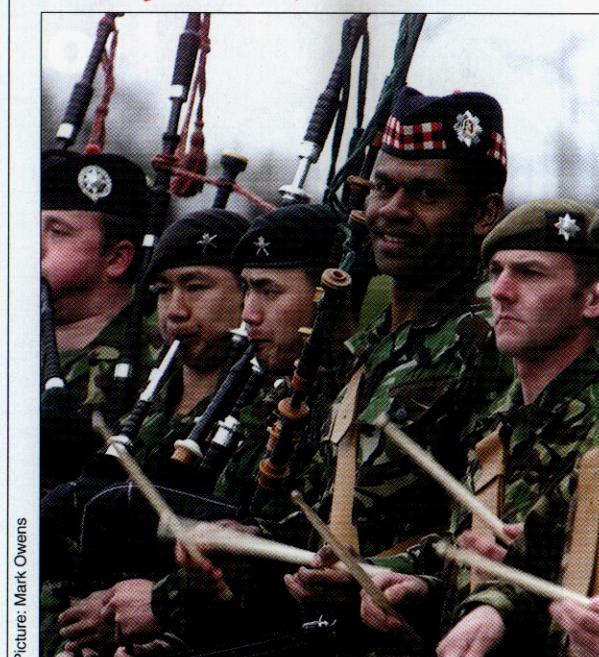
British soldiers deployed after several serious incidents, including the wounding of two Albanian rebels in a gun battle at Mijak with US troops from the 82nd Airborne Division.

Brig Hamish Rollo, commander of KFOR MNB (C), said the deployment would be short. "It is to ensure southern Kosovo doesn't become a rear area for extremists from Macedonia," he said. "Rapid deployment of a coherent and capable fighting formation will bolster border interdiction operations."

Sector C (East) was handed back to Serb control in March. Sector D, which straddles MNB Central and East, was returned to the Serbs with little incident, although it is being monitored by soldiers from 3 RHA.

In Bosnia, where the Bosnian Croat Army has threatened to disband and has left weapon sites unguarded, SFOR units are standing by. UK battle-group involvement is minimal at present although troops are on standby.

I've got rhythm



Picture: Mark Owens

Island drums: Fijian **Saul Vasakula**, facing camera, loved the Edinburgh Tattoo so much he joined the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots. Now he has become the first Fijian to qualify as a drummer after a 22-week course at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh.

Ta for the toys ...

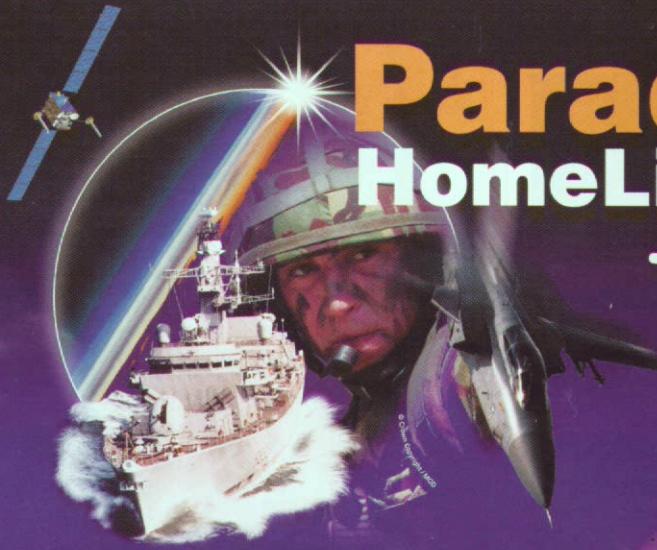


Toy story: LCpl **Sharon Astor** shows **Megan** (3) and **William** (4) one of £1,000-worth of carefully selected games and toys delivered to the Rhyme Times playgroup and crèche in Lisburn Station's Thiepval Barracks leisure centre by 321 EOD Squadron RLC. OC Maj Chris Snaith revealed that cash for the toy bonanza was generated through Christmas profits taken over 321's squadron bar.

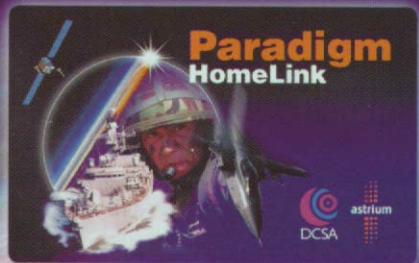
ations from Germany, who saw it as a pay cut. LOA is a tax-free allowance paid to personnel based in countries where the overall cost of living is higher than in the UK. Soldiers deployed from Germany will keep their full LOA rate for the first 17 days, after which the rate is reduced to about 70 per cent for married personnel and to 40 per cent for single soldiers.

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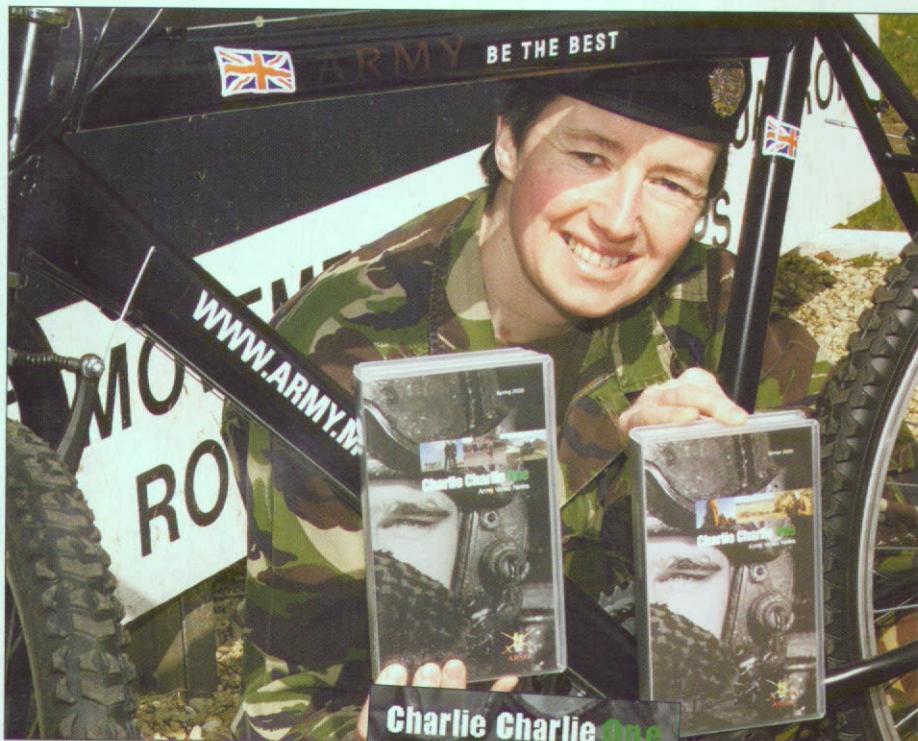
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Way to go: Maj Sarah Whatmough, officer commanding 55 Squadron, 29 Regiment RLC at South Cerney, is pictured with the mountain bike she won for answering correctly three questions on the winter edition of the Army's *Charlie Charlie One* video.

Maj Whatmough's old bike has accompanied her to, among other locations, the Gulf and the Falklands, so the new one has a bit to match up to.

Incidentally, the spring edition is now out and features Northern Ireland for the first time. It covers a range of topics in the Province, from patrolling in South Armagh, to public order training in "Tin City" and

a mountain bike. The answer to these questions are all in the video: a) Who is Felix, the cat with nine lives?; b) What should you get before you go to Crossmaglen?; and c) Who was in his Top Gear on the slopes?

Answers on a card to Charlie Charlie One competition, SO3 DCC(A), Room 0368, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB or post them on the CC1 page on the Army website (where you can also say what you think of the video) at www.army.mod.uk



Gurkha loggies form new unit

A NEW Gurkha regiment formed at Colchester last month to reflect the brigade's wider role within the Army's logistic organisation.

The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, formed from the existing 28 Squadron, Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment and a new squadron to be created at Hullavington, Wilts, will have its headquarters and half its 320 troops based in Colchester.

About 100 Gurkhas will make up the Hullavington squadron, to be fully formed by 2003, and there will be outposts of the regiment in Brunei, Wales and Yorkshire.

In October, 28 Squadron is due to deploy to Kosovo for six months as part of the new regiment. It will form part of

Nato's peacekeeping operations, supplying and distributing stores and equipment.

During the formation parade, 40 new soldiers marched under a large flag with hands raised to touch it.

● One hundred and 20 Gurkha soldiers on attachment to the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment for the past five years are to return to their parent regiment, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. The company made up a manning shortfall and their imminent return was sparked by an upturn in Parachute Regiment recruitment.

During their time with the airborne soldiers, the Gurkha paras deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo and East Timor. They have worn their own kukri cap badge with pride on the famous maroon beret.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Field trials designed to test the ability of women to serve in front-line combat units were so diluted that they amounted to little more than "aggressive camping", according to a senior officer who evaluated them. The exercises, a crucial part of the Army's Combat Effectiveness Gender Study, have concluded that women are as capable as men of serving in combat units. — *Daily Telegraph*

● Army bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion after a Whitstable, Kent, mother bought £2 of war junk at a jumble sale for her daughter's history project... and got a live shell. — *The Sun*

● Masai and Sambura tribesmen are preparing legal action against the British Army over allegations that explosives left behind after military exercises in Kenya have caused more than 200 deaths and mutilations. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Lawyers acting for 350 former soldiers allegedly suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder are to sue the MoD in one of the biggest claims against a government department. — *Guardian*

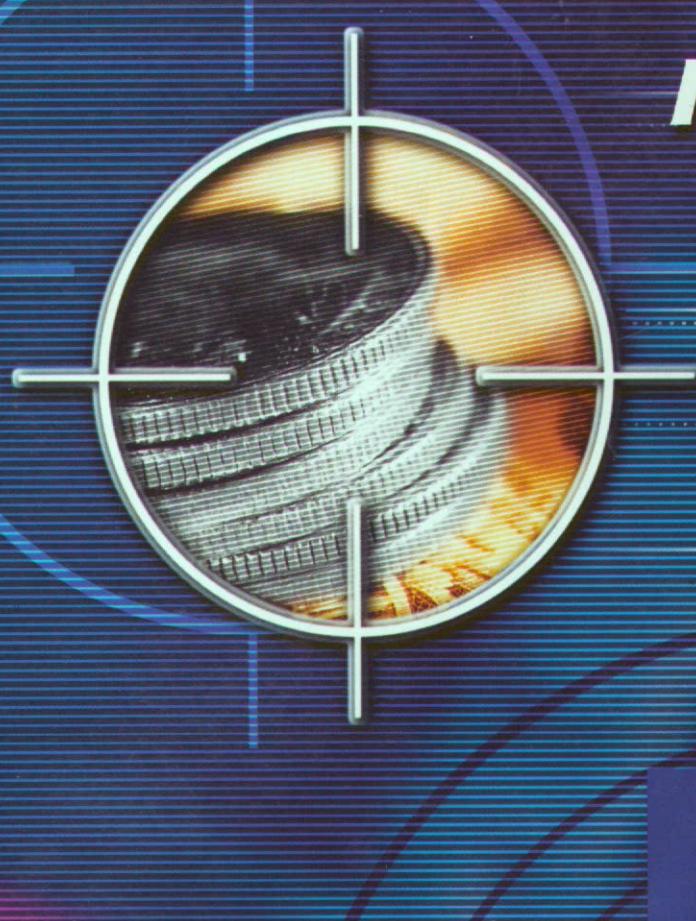
● A British ship was sent back from Quebec City, Canada because of foot-and-mouth fears. It had equipment for 5,000 British soldiers on exercises in Alberta. Food inspectors said mud on military vehicles was sufficient reason to fear contamination. — *The Times*

● Army bomb disposal experts were examining an explosive device that was found in potatoes from the Somme district in France. The 7lb device was thought to be a First World War shell. — *Daily Telegraph*

● British troops face a further extension of their mission in Sierra Leone after the UN force admitted it lacked logistics to deploy to an area recently handed over by rebel troops. — *Daily Telegraph*

● The traditionally itinerant life of Army families is to be transformed under proposals to bring the Armed Forces into the 21st century. The intention is to restrict moves to once every five years. — *The Times*

● Leading bomb disposal experts have called for the inventor of the Wheelbarrow robot, Col Peter Miller, 89, who lives in Camberley, Surrey, to be honoured. — *Daily Telegraph*



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Battle of Britain's killing fields

Carcass pyre: The burn site at Grange Farm near Woolston, Tewkesbury

Professionally and efficiently, the Army has helped to bring foot-and-mouth under control

Report: Anthony Stone

ACROSS the UK, 2,000 troops have been deployed in the battle to halt the advance of foot-and-mouth. That's four times as many troops as were used during the last outbreak in 1967 and the largest UK military and civilian joint operation since the end of the Second World War.

Throughout, the show has been run by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with the Army assisting. At first this involved only command-and-control tasks and the supervision of the disposal of carcasses. But now this has widened to supporting operations at all stages of the disposal chain. This includes help with disinfecting, reporting, digging burial pits, notifying farmers, engineering tasks and the culling itself.

In most areas the tasks of slaughtering

animals and transporting and destroying carcasses through burning, burial or rendering has been carried out by private firms, with the Army lending its logistical support to MAFF.

But 50 butchers, mostly from the Royal Logistic Corps, have been deployed as slaughtermen. All are trained in butchery at the Army School of Catering at Aldershot, although some had to undergo refresher training. In the main they are working in Cumbria, although they can deploy throughout the UK if required. A further 100 are trained and ready to deploy at 12 hours' notice. The butchers kill with bolt guns issued by MAFF.

In addition to the national headquar-

Areas cleared for training

A SIX-week blanket ban on routine military training has been lifted, allowing 21 areas in the UK to be cleared for training.

The newly-opened training areas are at locations free of infection and do not have animals grazing on them. Troops exercising on them will carry out disinfectant procedures before and after use.

ters established for MAFF by 101 Logistic Brigade, regional HQs have been set up to work alongside MAFF offices. Each is coordinating the activities of

a number of field teams supervising the work at specific locations.

As *Soldier* went to press 1,039,000 animals had been slaughtered, a further 541,000 were about to be killed and 408,000 carcasses were awaiting

disposal. Brig Malcolm Wood, Commander 101 Log Bde, said in an interview: "I have been in the Gulf War and in Bosnia and nothing I have been involved in personally has been bigger than this logistically."

Routine Army training was an early casualty of the disease. This has had a knock-on effect for the Army's training regiments and could still disrupt TA annual camps. In Germany the Rhine Army Summer Show and the JHQ International Show have been cancelled in an effort to prevent the disease being spread to the Federal Republic.

More on Pages 18 and 19

Who's doing what and where

1 Devon: Personnel from 43 (Wessex) Brigade have established a headquarters in Exeter. The primary unit involved is 158 Pro Coy RMP, based in Bulford, assisted by elements from 1 RHA and the QDG, who have taken over from teams from the Household Cavalry (LG and RHG/D). Regular Army staff assigned to local Territorial Army units are also helping. Royal Navy personnel from Devonport are relieving some of the soldiers deployed early on.

2 Cumbria: Personnel from 42 (NW) Brigade have established a headquarters in Carlisle. Units involved include 1 PWO, based in Chester, and elements of the RLC. In particular, they are supervising the slaughter and burial of animals at a disused airfield at Great Orton. RLC butchers are assisting with the slaughter.

Other units so far involved are 16 Regt RA, 32 Regt RA, 9 Sqn Para RE, 38 Regt RE, 39 Regt RE, 1 Staffords, 1 RGJ, 8 Regt RLC, 23 Pnr Regt, CSS Regt AMFL, ITC (C), 5 GS Med RAMC, RAVC, CVHQ RA Pool of Wkprs, 103 Regt RA (V), 75 Regt RE (V), 156 Tpt Regt RLC, 1 Kings, 1 Cheshire, 33 Signal Regt (V), LCV, KCR, LUOTC, Mand SUOTC, 156 (NW) Tpt Regt RLC (V), 208 Fd Hosp RAMC (V), HQ AG, 39 Regt RA, 101 (N) Regt RA (V), 22 Regt RA, QOY, 34 Signal Regt, Tyne Tees Regt, 4 Para (V), 102 Bn REME (V), 11 Cadet Trg Team, Joint NBC Regt, East and West Riding Regt, 150 Tpt Regt RLC, 9 Cadet Trg Team.

3 Dumfries and Galloway: Personnel from 52 (Lowland) Brigade have established a headquarters in Dumfries. Field teams are being drawn from 1 Hldrs, 10 Regt RLC and 5 Regt RA. Regular Army staff assigned to local TA units are also helping. A burial site at Birkshaw Forest has been prepared and RLC slaughtermen are helping out.

4 Scottish Borders: Personnel from 52 (Lowland) Brigade and 1 Hldrs were deployed to the Galashiels area but have since completed their tasks there.

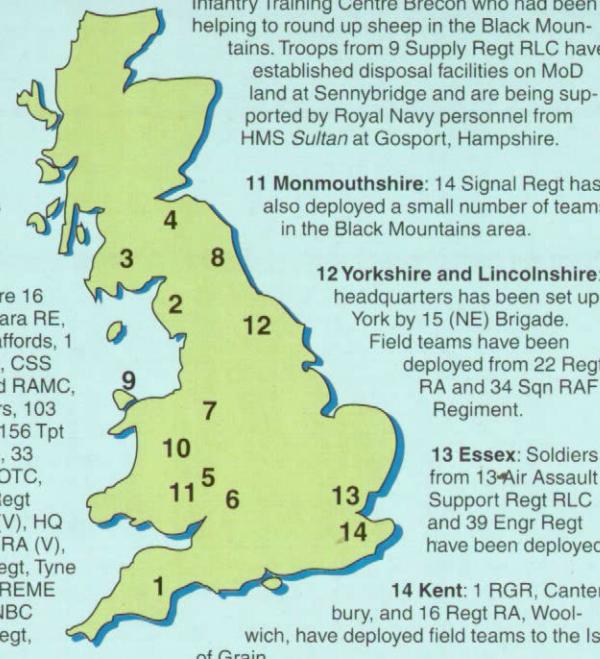
5 Worcestershire and Herefordshire: 1 GH, based at Warminster, has set up a headquarters in Worcester. Field teams have been deployed. Soldiers from 1 RTR are also providing personnel to assist. A disposal site has been established at an airfield at Throckmorton.

6 Gloucestershire: Soldiers from 1 RHA, based at Tidworth, and 36 Engr Regt are assisting.

7 Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire: Soldiers from 47 Regt RA have been deployed.

8 Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, Northumberland and County Durham: Soldiers from 39 Regt RA, 32 Regt RA and 101 Regt RA (V) have been deployed, along with personnel from the Joint NBC Regt.

9 Anglesey: Soldiers deployed from 14 Signal Regt supported by RAF personnel from RAF Cosford and 26 Sqn RAF, normally based at RAF Waddington. A disposal site on disused land adjacent to RAF Mona, a support airfield for



Listen up: Members of A (Gurkha) Coy, 1 Hldrs are briefed by Lt Hitman Gurung in the Dumfries and Galloway area



Nerve centre: Pte Danny Dorraine, left, and Sgt Ashley Connor, both Green Howards, in the joint MAFF and Army ops room at Worcester

MoD land used for mass burials

• The team's performance and success has been universally praised but sadly, though the epidemic appears to be abating, the operation must continue. None of us are proud of what we are doing, but we are certainly proud of how we have done it. – Brig Alex Birtwistle

INITIALLY, the largest concentration of the disease in Cumbria was centred on Carlisle and ran north over the Scottish border and south-west into the Lake District, writes **John Salisbury-Baker**.

After a request for help from MAFF, 42 (NW) Brigade, under **Brig Alex Birtwistle**, took over organisational responsibilities, leaving MAFF vets free to concentrate on veterinary issues.

The deployment was organised by teams of ten headed by a senior NCO. The task involved supervising contractors hired by MAFF to build pyres and burn carcasses as the task threatened to overwhelm the civilian structure.

As the national and international media focused on the fate of the Lakes and the surrounding countryside, **Brig Birtwistle** became the voice and face of the Army in the media.

The spread of the disease soon

brought 15 (NE) Bde, headed by **Brig Andrew Farquhar**, into the operation to deal with hotspots in Northumberland and Durham. Soldiers from 15 Bde, like their counterparts at 42 Bde, rapidly set about identifying potential sites for mass burial of slaughtered livestock.

This was carried out and is continuing in co-operation with the Environment Agency. Many of the identified sites are on MoD land, including disused airfields, ranges and training areas.

One of these sites, at Great Orton airfield in Cumbria, was used to bury thousands of sheep.

At Catterick an area adjacent to Cambrai Barracks has been commissioned as an incineration site for uninfected culled livestock carcasses from the farms on the Yorkshire Dales.

Additional reporting by Lt Col Barry Hawgood

Hard choice in the hills

BEHIND the cold statistics lie the broken lives of many farming families, writes **James Gaskin** in Cumbria.

In the front line of dealing with the human tragedy were the Army's liaison officers, who worked as part of a team with other agencies visiting farms where foot-and-mouth was suspected.

"We recognised at once the sensitivity of the work and we chose only senior NCOs who would have the maturity to handle this delicate work," said **Maj David Holt**, chief of staff of 42 (NW) Brigade.

Liaison officers were often the only people to whom the farmers, often in tears, could pour out their hearts.

Sgt Alan Teal, 1 PWO, spoke of his first day on the job. Working alongside a vet, a MAFF representative and an environment expert, **Sgt Teal** assessed the options: burning, burying or rendering.

"If a person in Army uniform explained gently that burning on site was the best option, the farmer would tend to accept this advice," he said. "But you always had to accept that this man was losing his livelihood and he was being told this by a total stranger."

Such were the bonds forged in this time of deep despair that many farmers and their families offered country holidays to the soldiers once they have rebuilt their lives. Others shared meals and showed great hospitality.

The face and voice of **Brig Alex Birtwistle** became the symbol of the Army's determination to win this battle on the home front. In numerous interviews his personal dismay at the tragedy and his concern for animal welfare were readily stressed.

Dealing with the tragedy in a humane way was the highest priority. To that end an Army vet, **Maj Neil Smith**, RAVC, was at Great Horton to supervise the macabre task.

When he learned of the crisis he volunteered to put his course at the Royal Military College Shrivenham on hold.

Since the opening of the site at Great Orton, **Maj Smith** has been in charge of the large-scale slaughtering process.



Identification: Sgt Maj Dave Hizzet helps separate healthy sheep on a farm in Dumfries and Galloway

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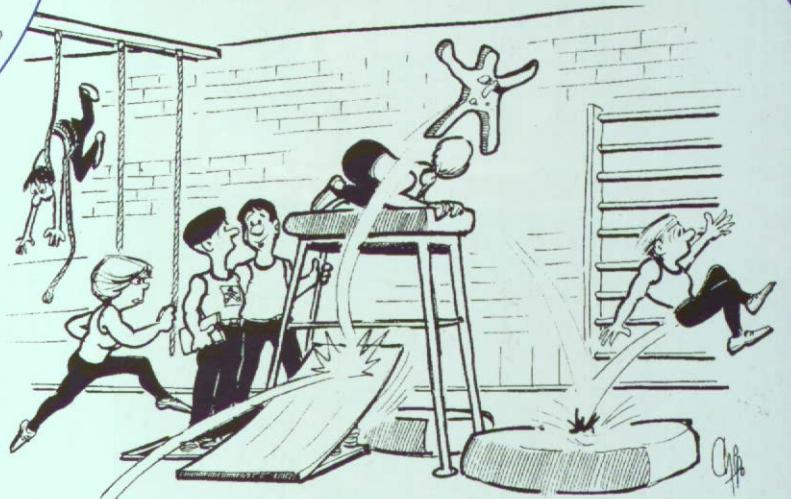
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Chuckle with Chip



"I'm afraid you've got this bit wrong sir... it says here I'm a narcissist, but I'm actually Presbyterian!"

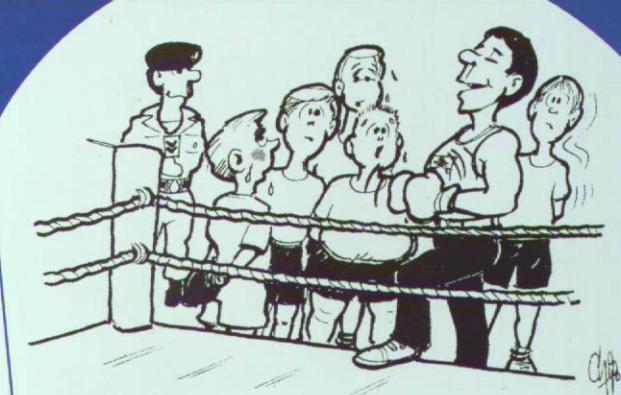
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For you, Corelli, the war is over

Vehicles put blockbuster on right track

Report: Anthony Stone

Main picture: Graeme Main

CAPTAIN Corelli's Mandolin, the Second World War epic already tipped to make sweet music at next year's Oscars, opens at cinemas this month.

If Corelli hits the right note it will be due in no small part to British military expertise which gives the film an authentic Second World War feel.

The production, based on the Louis de Bernières bestseller, tells the story of a doomed romance between Corelli (Nicholas Cage) and Pelagia (Penelope Cruz) during the Italian occupation of Greece.

About 100 British extras, mostly ex-Servicemen, were used in the battle scenes and the film company relied on military advice from former officers.

Two of the vehicles featured – a Jagdpanzer Hetzer 38 (t) and Volkswagen type 82 Kubelwagen – were supplied by David Carson.

David, whose day job is estates bursar at Abingdon School, is also a captain in its Combined Cadet Force and a former member of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. His private collection of military vehicles landed him the job as the film's armoured vehicle co-ordinator.

He spent four months on location in Cephalonia, rubbing shoulders with Nicholas Cage and the beautiful Penelope



Character role: David Carson, dressed in his German wartime tank officer's uniform, stands proudly in front of a Jagdpanzer Hetzer 38 (T) tank destroyer, pictured at Shrivenham

Cruz. David caught the collecting bug as a child when he began acquiring buttons and badges. Today he owns six military vehicles, two of which are kept at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, where they are used for teaching students.

Through the magic of movies David was able to pop up in several guises throughout the film, but his main role was playing the lead general officer's driver.

"I had to do a bit of acting in the sense that I had to open and shut doors and salute at the right moment," he said. "In one scene I got to yell a few expletives in German and hurry some soldiers along. It was pretty ham acting, I have to say."

It might not be enough to win him the best supporting actor nomination, but the work had plenty of compensations.

"I met everybody," he said. "Nicholas Cage was somebody who came on the set and did what he had to do and then left

again. "To start off I thought he was being a bit precious, but when we got into the battle scenes, he was out there with the rest of us, baking in the sun amidst the smoke, rubble and noise. I warmed to him towards the end. And John Hurt was a charming man, friendly to everyone."

If you see the film, watch closely for the big battle scene when David's Hetzer appears to be blown to pieces as Corelli scores a direct hit. As it was David's vehicle's big moment, he asked the stunt co-ordinator to fix it so he could fire his cannon before being sent to the great cutting room in the sky.

"He arranged it, so honour was satisfied," he said.

Anoraks may question what a Hetzer was doing in Greece in 1943 when they did not come into service until the following year. David has thought of an answer. "My story is that they were trialling a prototype," he said.



Close harmony: Captain Corelli (Nicholas Cage) and Pelagia (Penelope Cruz), left

John Hurt, far left, as Pelagia's father, the village doctor

Right: More scenes from the film, which opens this month

Pictures: Peter Mountain





Another in our occasional series

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



UNIFORMS Why can't the Army issue Combat Soldier 95 (CS95) clothing to the TA when it can be bought in any surplus supply store?

ANSWER The Army has started to issue CS95 to the TA. The process began in June 2000 and is being carried out according to an order of priority. More than two-thirds of the TA should, by now, have got it. This includes most of the independent units in the TA, including the majority of the teeth and support Arms. The remainder of the TA should be kitted out by September 2001. If you haven't got it yet and think you ought to have, take a look in the QMs stores to see whether it is neatly stacked on the shelves.

The scale of issue per TA soldier will consist of two sets of vests, Norwegian shirts, lightweight jacket and trousers; and one set of gloves, field jacket, thermal liner and water-proofs.

TRANSFER Do experienced TA soldiers really have to go back to recruit training if they decide to join the Regular Army?

ANSWER Yes they do. This is to ensure a consistent standard of training and experience. If your expertise, ability and knowledge are evident in the first week, you can be fast-tracked through some of the training and move on quickly to Phase 2 training.

However, any TA soldier who is thinking of signing on full-time would be well advised to go on an operational tour or do a period of Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) to make sure they are making the right decision.

If you have done six months on operations or 12 months FTRS, have enjoyed it and got good reports, you will find it very easy to transfer straight into the Regular Army without further basic training. This process will be organised for you as you demobilise through the RTMC at Chilwell.

Next month: Pensions and tax on TA pay

Making an impact

A squadron of ammunition experts is helping to make the world a safer place

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock

IN a room not much bigger than a garden shed, the bomb-maker was hard at work. Surrounded by shelves of biscuit tins, boxes, pipes, jars and wiring, he worked intently, soldering electronic components to the printed circuit board.

Satisfied with his handiwork, he cast his eyes back to the shelves to select a trigger. He was spoilt for choice – mercury and pressure switches competed for shelf space with electronic timers. In the end he improvised, as only a true professional can, with blue tack and elastic bands, and the device was fitted into its new home: a family-size box of chocolates.

The only thing missing was some explosives, but then this particular bomb was never meant to blow up. The improvised explosive device was designed and built in the workshops of 821 Squadron,

11 EOD Regiment RLC, and would be used to train bomb disposal experts. It was just the latest off a production line of fiendishly ingenious devices that keep

'I'm off to lunch. Leave the bomb on my desk when it's done'

arguably the most experienced counter-terrorist units in the world. Britain is now sharing this hard-won knowledge with friendly governments around the world to help them overcome their own domestic threats.

It is just one of the diverse roles of the squadron which deploys at home and abroad fighting criminals and terrorists or anyone else who tries to make illegal explosive devices.

It is a task made more difficult by the growth of the internet. Once bomb-making was the preserve of professional terrorists, but the web has opened the gateway to every disaffected nutter with a grudge.

A recent call-out typifies the sort of operation the squadron might get involved with at home. Police asked for help after a row between neighbours quickly escalated from words to axes to shotguns to pipe bombs.

Pipe bombs are the weapon of choice of home-grown bedroom bombers; easy to make and the parts are readily obtainable. But

the squadron's soldiers at the forefront of counter-terrorism.

"To understand the terrorist you have to know how they operate," said Maj Jim Convery, OC of 821 Squadron, based at Didcot. "You have to study what they have done in the past and what their thought processes are, and from that, develop techniques to defeat them. We try to be proactive to stay ahead of the game."

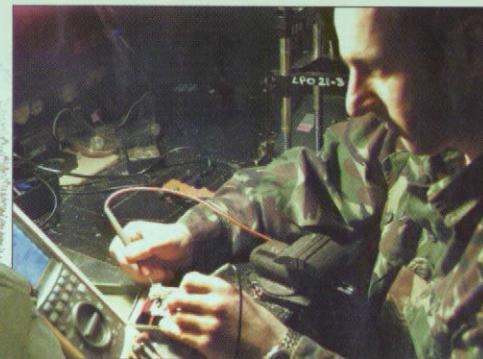
The British Army and the Israelis have arguably the most experienced counter-terrorist units in the world. Britain is now sharing this hard-won knowledge with friendly governments around the world to help them overcome their own domestic threats.

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Keeping up-to-date: SSgt Paul Quinn, above, employs his skills to put the finishing touches to a training device in the workshop

Be prepared: Sgt Nick Jones, left, walks into another situation dressed for the unexpected

bombers killing or maiming themselves.

Whereas other squadrons within 11 EOD are based in the UK or in Germany, 821 is unique because most of its effort is concentrated on supporting British interests overseas and giving close support on overseas operations.

The squadron deploys all over the world, wherever the British Army goes or friendly governments ask for help. This diverse workload makes the squadron flexible and multi-skilled. They need to be, as their expertise might be called upon to make safe ammo dumps in Sierra Leone or Kosovo or advise governments on counter-terrorists techniques for beating drug cartel bombers.

But whether it is explosive ordnance detonation at home or close support of expeditionary forces, what underpins everything is the squadron's knowledge of ammunition.

"Our expertise stems from our knowledge regarding the intricacies of ammunition design and operation, basically how to create and maximise an explosive effect," said Maj Convery.

"It takes years and years to train up a good technician, which is why I have no privates and very few lance corporals. The main ranks are sergeant and staff sergeant."

Back at the bomb factory, the "box of chocolates" was almost ready when Maj Convery walked past the open door. "I'm off to lunch," he said. "Leave the bomb on my desk when it's done."

Now that's something you don't hear every day at the office.

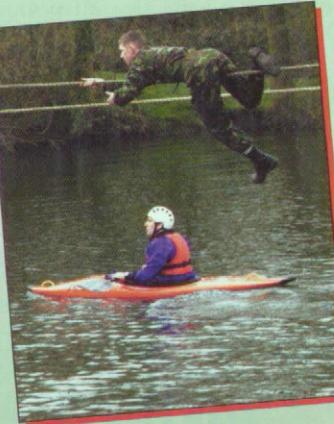
Paris lure on Dragoon Day

A TRIP for two to Paris on Eurostar was the prize for a soldier from The Light Dragoons based at Swanton Moreton, 20 miles west of Norwich.

All he had to do was score the most points at paintballing, semaphore, fishing in NBC suits, map-reading, driving blindfold and a host of other fun activities.

It was all part of The Light Dragoons Shield Challenge, a team-building activity held three times a year. Proceedings were restricted to camp because of the foot-and-mouth outbreak, but the lure of the Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysées ensured a competitive day.

Rope trick: Tpr Michael Williams, right, tries to avoid getting wet



Don't look up: Canoeist Cpl Marcus Adams provides a reassuring presence for soldiers taking the high way across the lake



Gone fishing: Cpl Grant Cuthbertson attempts to thread a hook while wearing NBC gear

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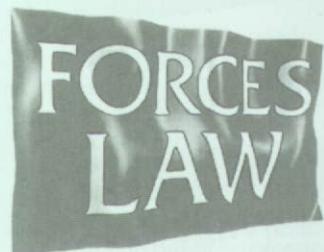


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Art of war and peace

Military painters and sculptors are to hold their annual exhibition later this month

THE Armed Forces Art Society's 2001 exhibition opens this month in London, **writes Anthony Stone**.

It is the society's 67th exhibition and shows again the profession of arms and the pursuit of art are not incompatible.

The antecedents of the society date back to 1925 and the exhibition has grown in stature each year since. The Prince of Wales, a past exhibitor, is the patron.

But most importantly, this is an opportunity for all ranks and their spouses to share a stage with established artists. Although they all have in common a Service background, the subjects of the paintings and sculptures are diverse and not confined to the military.

This year's show, sponsored by Thales, formerly Racal, takes place at the Mall Galleries, Pall Mall and will give talented

amateurs the chance to sell their work alongside professionals.

To be eligible to exhibit you must be serving or have served in the Armed Forces. Spouses, including Auxiliary and Territorial Volunteers and Reserve Forces, are also eligible. All works are assessed by a committee with a view to considering the artist for election to full membership of the society.

Prizes are awarded at each exhibition, including the Society's Prize, the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers' Prize and the National Army Museum Prize.

To apply to join, contact John Ashton by e-mail erik@cherrypit.freeserve.co.uk

- The exhibition is open to the public on Thursday, May 24 and Friday, May 25, 1000 to 1700, and Saturday, May 26, 1000 to 1300.

Work in progress: Pictured in front of his latest canvas, exhibitor Hugh Beattie is a full member of the Armed Forces Art Society, and a two-time winner of the National Army Museum prize.

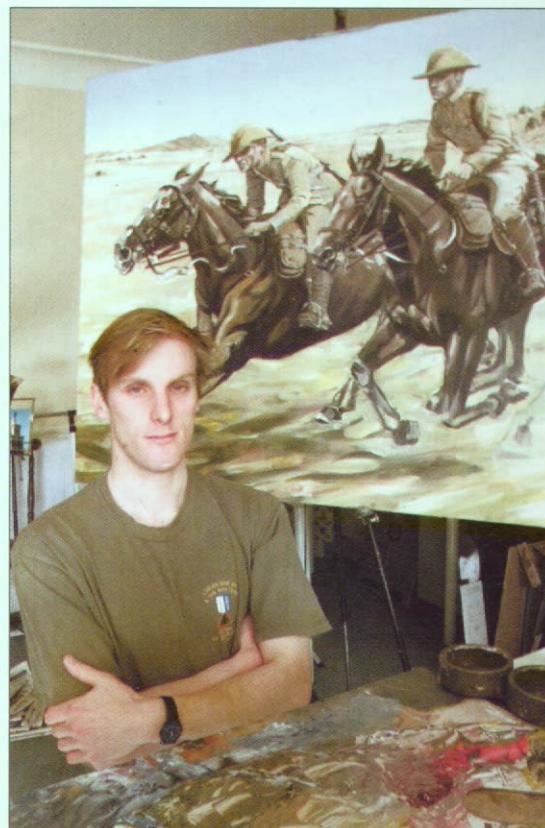
A physical training instructor with the 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Hugh, who has just passed his Territorial Commission Board, and has completed three tours of Bosnia, hopes the exhibition will give his art wider exposure.

"I went to Bosnia to glorify war because my view is that if you don't glorify the Army and what it does you can't get anyone to join, and then you can't do the peacekeeping," he said.

"The TA is very much a part of my culture but I found out quite quickly that I was an artist not a soldier."

He describes his work as observational and illustrative, but is at a loss to explain where his artistic ability stems from. "It is a genetic anomaly because I am not from an artistic family."

Picture: Mike Weston



Murky job: Spr Gavin Murphy prepares to search for kit lost on the bed of a crocodile-infested river in Belize

Picture: Kevin Capon

Crocodile Gavin comes up with the goods . . .

Sappers recover lost kit from river in Belize jungle

A FOUR-man diving team from 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment have completed an unusual task deep in the jungles of Belize, **writes Dennis Barnes**.

Their task was to recover equipment lost in a crocodile-infested river when soldiers from a 7th Parachute Royal Horse Artillery patrol disturbed a hornets' nest while patrolling near the Guatamala border.

Under aerial bombardment, the Aldershot-based Airborne Gunners dived into the Macal river to get away from their insect attackers, but not before one man had been stung 110 times on his ears, mouth and nostrils. He and several other casualties had to be airlifted out.

The sappers, led by SSgt Graham Vernon, had their own problems reaching the site of the incident after they were dropped at the nearest helicopter-landing pad, 2½km away.

Their Gemini inflatable was caught in rapids, thrown into the air and badly damaged. They patched up the boat, gathered up their equipment and paddled the rest of the way.

Ignoring reports that a 14ft crocodile lived in the stretch of the river, Spr Gavin Murphy found the abandoned kit in 8m of mud-brown water.

"I made sure I had a knife strapped to my leg before I plonked in and I couldn't believe my luck when I found what we had come for on my first descent," he said.

A second search-and-rescue mission, to the Clarissa falls, involved recovering the body of a Canadian man who had died while "skimming" the falls on an inflated inner-tube.

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It beats the heck out of the day job

Sun, sea and sailing provide memorable training for sappers from Perham Down

SOME adventurous training expeditions are a tad more attractive than others, but a group of sappers from 22 Engineer Regiment appear to have drawn the lucky straw when they opted for a couple of weeks diving and sailing off Tanzania's east coast.

As these photographs show, the Indian Ocean has, on the face of it, more going for it than the expeditioners' Perham Down base back in soggy Wiltshire.

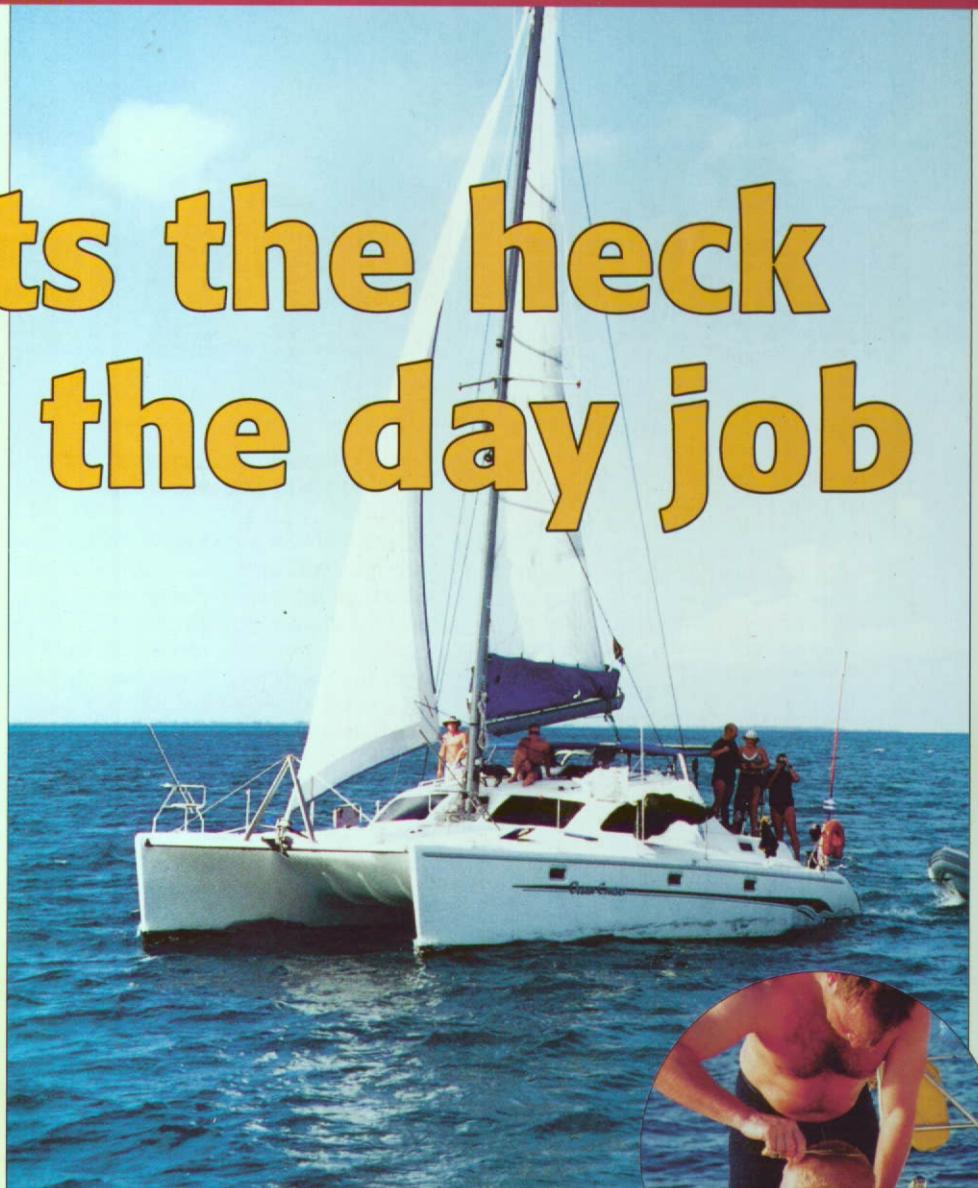
Having qualified as crewmen and club-level divers above and below the South Coast's slightly murkier waters, the Royal Engineers took off on Exercise Masheriki Dragon.

First stop was Kiwengwa, a village on the east coast of Zanzibar, where they collected two 38ft catamarans... their transport, diving platforms and homes for the next 17 days.

So while Britain was soaking up unusually heavy winter rains, the sailing sappers were basking in warm equatorial waters.



Night dive: From left, standing, are RQMS Dave Wotherpoon, Pte Jim Wilshaw, Maj Mark Stevenson, Cfn Andy Wrigley and QMSI Tom Taylor. Cpl Jo Jackson is sitting on the edge of the boat and Lt Andy Torbet is in the water



Plain sailing: Life on the ocean wave can be relaxing ...

Having completed a dive on one location, the party would up-anchor and sail to the next. Provisions were augmented by freshly-caught fish as the two "cats" were navigated around Zanzibar and Pemba islands, home to some of the best diving areas in the world. Swimming in clear blue water hovering at an acceptably warm 30C, the divers spotted turtles, manta, dolphin, shark and wrecks.

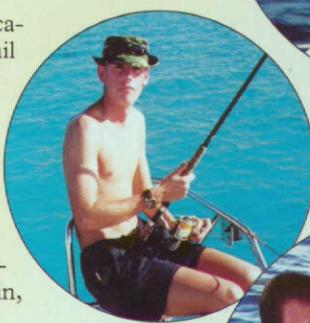
There was more adventure ashore, where "white-knuckle" flights from Tanzania to Zanzibar will not be forgotten quickly, neither will a chance meeting with an eccentric Englishman living in a remote bay in North Pemba. He helped the sappers with fuel and showed them a hidden dive site.

Fishing on the open sea and bartering with local traders added to the colour and excitement of the experience.

Now, who wants to spend a fortnight potholing in the Mendips?



Ship's barber: QMSI Tom Taylor, above, tries his hand at hairdressing

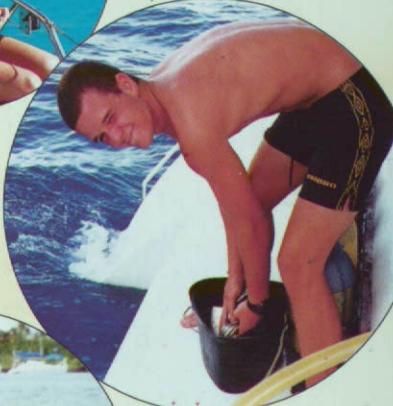


What's for supper? A hopeful Spr Jamie Stevens in action, above



Galley duties: Pte Jim Wilshaw, above, cleans fish for a meal

Rescue drill: LCpl Stu Bunston "saves" LCpl Jo Jackson, left



Low life and high society

A soldier kicked out for taking Ecstasy has teamed up with a reformed drug dealer to give hard-hitting advice



Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

MAYBE it was a bad batch of E... or perhaps the would-be wild weekender simply hadn't drunk enough water. Either way there wasn't much point in the ambulance racing to the scene. Certainly not once the young man's brain had overheated and expanded so much that it pushed his eyeballs halfway down his face.

The corpse was sprawled on the sofa where his "mates" had left him. The only chillin' he'd be doing was in the ice box at the mortuary.

You could have heard a hypodermic drop when the Army drugs presentation team flashed up the next photograph on the overhead projector.

It was the naked torso of a heroin addict whose injection sites had gone septic and turned into large open wounds. He looked like he had been in a traffic accident.

The photographs were part of a hard-hitting talk by two civilians who knew what they were talking about. Both had paid a high price for their knowledge. Lindsey Smith is a reformed London drug dealer and Colin Brodie, a former Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, was

LISTEN to what I have been through. Listen to what I have lost. I had used various drugs before joining the Army at 16, although not to any great extent.

My problems began when I was posted to Germany. Two of the guys I was living with were always going to Amsterdam.

Back in the UK, I could get drugs quite easily. My civvy mates were probably the biggest influence.

Then I was posted to Northern Ireland and knew I would have to knock drugs on the head, not just for my own safety, but for my mates' safety as well. Looking back, that was the best six months I had in the Army.

I saved up £3,000 while I was there and when I got home all I wanted to do was go clubbing. At the end of two weeks



tablets are made will not be sterilised and the chemical process will be imprecise.

The two joined forces to give drugs awareness talks to soldiers. Their street style and gritty anecdotes carry the weight of conviction. Several serious convictions, actually.

In front of an audience of several hundred soldiers from London District, Lindsey Smith explained the dealers' marketing strategy. It was one driven by greed, unclouded by moral concerns.

That's why heroin is not generally sold at school gates: kids can't afford it, he said. Heroin is not cut with rat poison. No point in killing off your punters. Ecstasy is marketed as a safe recreational drug. But the labs where the

kicked out of the Army for failing a compulsory drugs test (CDT).

It is all about money. The business is run by gangsters and enemies of the Crown. Buying a £10 wrap from a pusher could also be buying the bullet that is fired back at you, Lindsey said.

Capt Matt Sharp, AGC (ETS), of the Directorate of Personal Services (Army), said: "Our soldiers need to know why we have a drugs policy that is so robust. The key thing is that soldiers understand it is not just about their individual rights but about the responsibility and safety of others. The problem is not going to go away but it is time all of our soldiers realised that drug misuse puts everyone at risk."



Lindsey Smith

My career went up in smoke

Colin Brodie failed a drugs test and was discharged from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He ended up serving time for armed robbery. He has turned his back on illegal substances and now works with the Army drug and alcohol awareness unit. This is his story

I had £90 left. All I had to show for it was a new pair of trainers. I had spent virtually all of it on drink and drugs.

I started losing ambition and took the chance to sign off. Over a weekend I took Ecstasy and smoked dope and on the Monday morning the CDT team arrived.

It took two months before I was kicked out, and it was probably my worst two months in the Army.

The week before I was discharged I heard the regiment was going to Kenya. I was heading home in the rain with no job prospects.

A succession of low-paid jobs followed. Soon I started on smack



Colin Brodie

(heroin). The next inevitable step was crime, because there is no way, even with a job, you can afford it.

Along with three of my so-called mates, we stole a car and robbed an off-licence of £600 and some fags. I got five years.

The hardest thing I have ever had to do was coming off heroin in prison. Drugs are in your face 24/seven.

There's a lot of violence in prison because of drugs. A guy got stabbed 13 times over a £2 bit of dope.

In prison I lost both my grandads, my uncle and my dad. The only funeral they would allow me to go to was my dad's – and even then I was handcuffed so I could not carry his coffin.

At the end of the day the Army can give as many drug presentations as it wants, but the decision is yours.

Just stop and think. It only takes a second to do something that will affect the rest of your career.

Get this...

CDT's ability to detect drugs is always being refined. In the past few months Ecstasy detection has been revolutionised and is now 20 times more accurate. E is detectable in smaller quantities for a longer period.

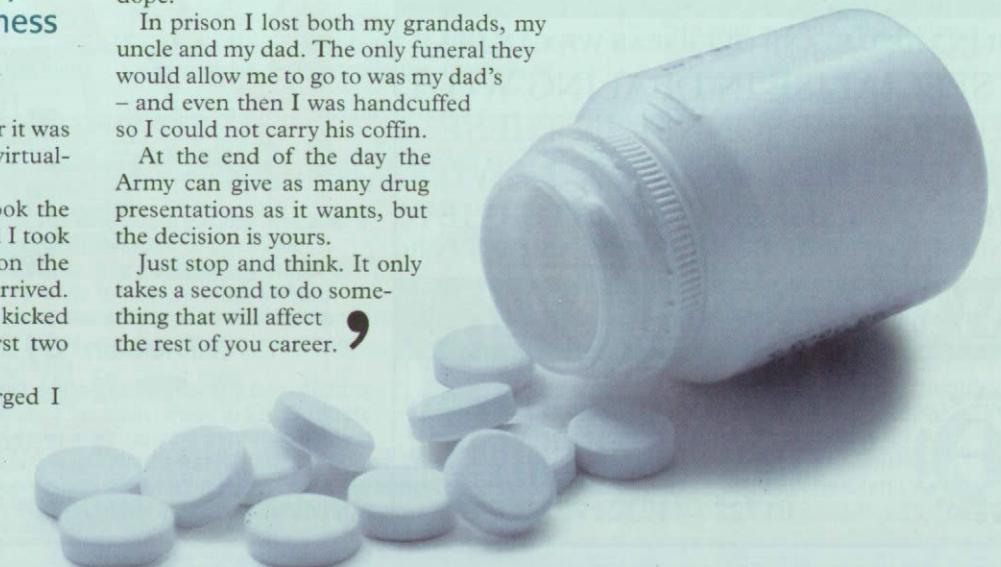
The CDT programme has increased by more than 40 per cent in the past year, making the MoD the biggest tester in Europe. Last year 117,659 tests were carried out and 702 were positive. In percentage terms that's a failure rate of 0.6 compared with a civilian rate of six per cent.

Some soldiers believe using drugs is a quick way out of the Army. However, a record indicating discharge relating to drug misuse makes it difficult to find worthwhile employment. Criminal convictions for drugs carry even wider implications and can seriously restrict the individual's options.

Drug misusers are five times more likely to be involved in an accident outside the workplace and 3.6 times more likely than a non-misuser to injure themselves or another in the workplace. Drug misusers in the Army are a threat to everyone.

Cocaine use triggers an immune system reaction that causes normal cells to burst. Most vulnerable are delicate membranes, especially around the nose, as former East-Ender Danielle Westbrook has discovered. Heart tissue is particularly vulnerable and more and more young people are dying of heart attacks as a result of drug misuse.

One in five British men who die in their 20s do so because of drug misuse.





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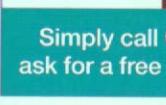
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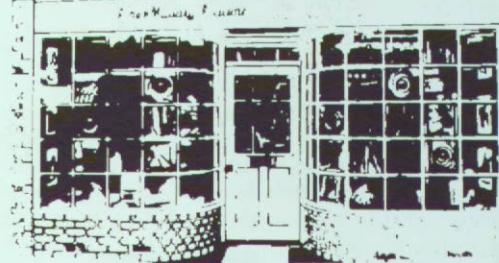
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Boyo boy . . . you're very welcome at Roy's place

Welsh pub is real home from home for Germany-based soldiers of Royal Regiment of Wales

PADERBORN-based soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales are assured of a warm welcome when they cross the threshold of their local, writes **Ray Routledge**.

They know that regimental old boy Roy Jones will be behind the bar to greet them with a pint and a cheery smile.

Roy, who runs the popular Spirit of Wales in Paderborn, the German base of 1 RRW, spent 22 years with the Welsh regiment. His bar is the second he has owned in the town.

"I travel with the regiment," he said, "moving a year in advance to ensure the business is set up."

"Before the Royal Regiment of Wales deployed to Germany I came over to do some reconnaissance while running a bar in Spain. It was a profitable venture, but my heart wasn't in it."

Although Roy's Welsh pub is aimed at the RRW, it is very definitely open to everyone and attracts a clientele made up of about 40 per cent Germans to 60 per cent British. Soldiers tend to dominate Roy's establishment at weekends.

But everyone is welcome in the Welsh



Pictures: Graeme Main



Mine hosts: Roy Jones, left, and barmaid Jackie Trimble serve the pints at the Spirit of Wales in Paderborn

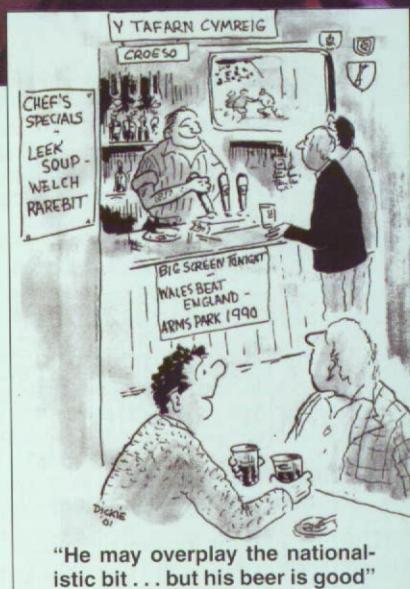
Pub and locally-based REME, Royal Green Jackets and King's Royal Hussars personnel are regular visitors.

"Although it is a Welsh bar, I want people from all units to feel at home here," said Roy. With no recorded incidents at the bar in the three years he has run the place, it seems they already do.

"Being with the military is great for me. I am lucky to have a close relationship with everybody, including the Royal Military Police, and it works very well."

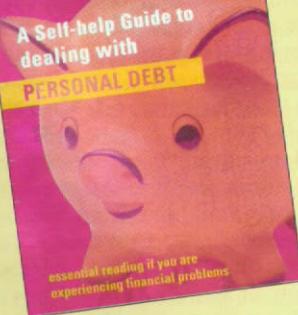
A motto hanging above the bar sums up Roy's philosophy. It says:

Be you Welsh or stranger, united we stand, divided we fall. The Spirit of Wales welcomes all.



"He may overplay the nationalistic bit . . . but his beer is good"

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pocket . . . but if you do, don't despair. There are people out there who can help you without adding to your problems.

The Army, in association with the national money education charity Credit Action, has published a booklet of advice for soldiers and their families. It is available from units or direct from the Credit Action confidential helpline on 0800 591084 (open 0930 to 1700).

- Look out for a new column in *Soldier* on money management and debt by Credit Action's David Mapes, pictured left.

Treading a native trail



If you can't hack it you shouldn't have joined: LCpl Dummer, Fus Johnson and Fus Slade fight their way through dense jungle in the Kinloch training area, Belize

Leeks, song and a few snakes as Royal Welch Fusiliers get to know the jungle

Report: David Webb
Pictures: Stuart Bingham

THERE is a lot for the average tourist to savour on a hot day on the Caribbean east coast of central America, but it wasn't quite the same for soldiers from B Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, working up a sweat on Exercise Native Trail in Belize.

Snakes, tarantulas, scorpions, crocodiles, pumas and, of course, the ever-present mosquito, were the order of the day for the Welshmen training in the humid, sweaty depths of the Belizean jungle.

Departing from their base in Tern Hill Shropshire, 140 soldiers and supporting elements deployed to Belize to take part in the six-week exercise. It was a first for the battalion, which had not worked before with the Army Training and Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) in the former British colony.



With an HQ established at BATSUB and a tented forward base camp on the edge of the jungle at Cooma Cairn, the B Coy soldiers exercised in the harsh and demanding jungle environment of the Kinloch training area.

The main aim of Native Trail is to allow troops to conduct jungle operations at company group level. The four phases begin with six days of basic training, designed to take away fears of the jungle. Some of the younger lads had never previously been abroad.

A five-day tactical exercise, with troops of the Belizean Defence Force acting as an enemy force, was next on the agenda,



That warm damp feeling: Could it be something to do with sharing the Macal River, above, with leeches, watersnakes and crocodiles? Fusiliers savour the real jungle experience

Enjoying the sunshine: Fus Christopher Hancock, left, at Cooma Cairn forward base camp

bite me but I legged it all the same," he said.

With phone calls from Belize costing about £2 a minute, contact with wives, girlfriends and families back home might have proved prohibitive for many. But an e-mail facility set up between Company HQ in Price Barracks, Belize and the Families' Office back at Tern Hill eased the problem. Messages received from the UK were printed out and delivered within 24 hours to soldiers on exercise in jungle and other locations.

Soldiers were able to e-mail the UK.

Maj Ken Hume, OC B Coy, praised his men's efforts. "I've seen the basic infantry skills of the company come on in leaps and bounds," he said. "The challenge of maintaining and sustaining command of 140 soldiers in a jungle environment was enormous, but we succeeded on all fronts in what was a genuinely hostile and challenging environment.

"We even hired a local goat as a stand-in mascot," said Maj Hume. "The boys loved it and the day ended with fine Welsh singing ringing out across a still and beautiful jungle sunset."

"Most of the soldiers are under 20, and some as young as 17. I believe the exercise

served to mature them physically and professionally. You can't produce soldiers who are fully trained in jungle warfare in six weeks, but we have produced soldiers who are jungle-experienced.

"Many were apprehensive to begin with, but they soon overcame any fears. The spin-off will come when we return to conventional operations, where our basic infantry skills will be that much sharper."

The regiment has a proud tradition of celebrating St David's Day, so on March 1 a little bit of Welshness was injected into a Belizean environment.

The company gathered at Cooma Cairn to mark the day in style with NCOs and officers waiting on the soldiers and serving them lunch. As a drummer and piper played, the youngest soldier in each platoon ate a leek.

"We even hired a local goat as a stand-in mascot," said Maj Hume. "The boys loved it and the day ended with fine Welsh singing ringing out across a still and beautiful jungle sunset."

Picture: Graeme Main



Getting a grip: George Spencer ensures England women's rugby international Vanessa Huxford is ready for the scrum

Well fitted to succeed

The latest in our occasional series about what soldiers do when they quit the Army

USING skills learned in uniform to carve a niche in civvy street is nothing new, but for one old soldier it helped him to overcome his post-Army blues, and provide a valuable service for others, writes Ray Routledge.

"I made the mistake of buying myself out," said George Spencer, who spent 12 years with the Coldstream Guards as an Army physical training instructor (PTI) before leaving in 1974.

"When I left the Army it was a shock. I was lost and had no points of reference."

George had problems settling down as a civilian and took jobs as a milkman and then a builder. But he knew he had a talent as a PTI, so turned it to his advantage and now runs a successful business in Farnborough, Hants. It is based on military-style physical training and his newly-acquired skills as a hypnotherapist.

It attracts clients from all walks of life and from a wide age range. "We modify the exercise to suit each person," says George.

Those he has worked with include British and European kick-boxing champion Alex Reid and Vanessa Huxford of the England women's rugby team.

George uses hypnosis to help people overcome phobias and to quit smoking. He is a consultant hypnotherapist to a dental practice in Frimley, Surrey, and a special needs school in nearby Camberley.

"I get quite a few ex-Army people coming to see me . . . some in scruff order. One of the basic problems is that they have lost their sense of identity."

He helps them come to terms with civilian life and, having been through the process, knows what he's talking about.

"I love being a PTI. I've been doing it for almost 50 years and I can help former soldiers, because I can relate to them."

George Spencer can be contacted on 01252 656869.

● Are you in a second career that might inspire others about to leave the Army? Drop us a line or send an e-mail to routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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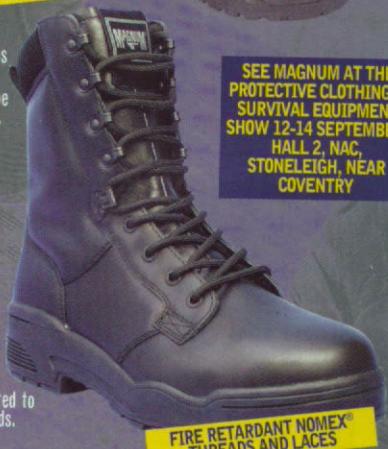
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Lonely spot: As part of the handover from the military to the British Antarctic Survey, a dedication service was held at Grytviken church and afterwards at the whalers' cemetery overlooking King Edward Cove. Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne RLC



All quiet on the Southern front

South Georgia is now back in civilian hands

Report: Ken Johnston

WHEN the blizzards ease next spring, contractors will move onto an isolated South Atlantic outcrop to demolish its last military links.

Shackleton House, a large two-storey billet on the finger of King Edward Point, South Georgia, has been home to soldiers posted to the lonely sub-Antarctic spot for the 19 years since Argentina invaded the island.

Now crumbling in the gales, it will be dismantled when the weather permits.

At the end of March the last permanently-based detachment of troops quit the island on board RFA *Diligence*.

But while the British presence on the island returns to British Antarctic Survey scientists based in a new laboratory complex, defence remains in the hands of the Commander British Forces Falklands Islands, Air Commodore John Cliffe. "We

will be maintaining regular sea and air patrols and from time to time troops will be deploying to South Georgia to exercise and train on the glaciers," he said.

British troops, supported by air and sea patrols by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, have been on duty in South Georgia since 1982, when authority was handed over to the military as Argentina demanded the surrender of the island.

The sub-Antarctic island, which is about 100 miles long, was first claimed for Britain in 1775. The Royal Navy carried out the first aerial survey in 1938.

In December 1981 an Argentinian Navy ice-breaker arrived in Stromness Bay, marking the start of a sequence of events that led to the Falklands War.

In response, HMS *Endurance*, with a small contingent of Royal Marines on board, set sail for South Georgia and the Argentine vessel departed. The Marines dug in and on April 3, 1982 two Argentinian ships sailed into Cumberland Bay to demand that the magistrate surrender.

He refused and passed authority to the Marines commander, Lt Keith Mills. The outnumbered Royal Marines – 22 in all –

resisted fiercely, destroying an Argentinian helicopter and damaging a ship. But, under heavy shelling, the Marines were forced to surrender.

A small fleet of warships with troops on board broke away from the Task Force heading for the Falklands and re-took the island on April 26.

Until the invasion, the British Antarctic Survey had been responsible for maintaining a British presence on the island. Now that responsibility has been returned to them.

One man who was able to make the journey to see the soldiers hand over the island was Capt Peter Briggs, 2iC Falkland Islands Defence Force. He is one of the last people who can call themselves true South Georgians, having been reared on the isolated finger of land among seals, penguins and whales.

His father had been policeman and handyman in the dying days of the whaling industry. Peter left to become an Antarctic postman, ferrying mail around isolated science bases. He hadn't been able to make the trip back to his former home for more than 30 years.

An old soldier never forgets

In Korea the reluctant squaddie survived constant shelling, giant rats, ravenous mosquitoes – and death at the hands of an unseen enemy

KOREA is often called the Forgotten War but it is burned like acid into the memories of those who survived it, writes Chris Horrocks.

Michael Caine, Oscar-winner, restaurateur and knight of the realm, is no different from the others and you can almost hear the Bermondsey boy saying in his defiant cockney way, "Why the . . . should I be?"

In Vietnam recently for a re-make of *The Quiet American*, the 68-year-old, who has had far more film roles than birthdays, had to scramble about in the mud and rain from 6 am until after nightfall.

"It's 12 or 15 hours, six days a week," said Caine, who plays a *Times* correspondent covering France's vain struggle to hold on to its colony in the early 1950s. "But it doesn't worry me because I was a soldier myself, once." That, too, was in

He told Ike to get on his bike

AS part of a drive to persuade National Servicemen to sign on as Regulars, Caine's unit in Germany was inspected on exercise by Gen Dwight D (Ike) Eisenhower, America's top soldier in Europe and the future president.

It was one of a number of occasions when Pte Micklewhite's Bolshie backchat got him into trouble and the story is told with amused relish in *Arise, Sir Michael Caine*.

While awaiting the great man's arrival the soldiers had to stand for hours in foxholes which had filled to waist level with muddy rainwater.

As Ike's grand convoy swept down the line of bedraggled figures he stopped at – of all people – the disgruntled Micklewhite. Learning from this wet and miserable squaddie that he had so far completed nine months' National Service, he asked encouragingly if he was thinking of signing on.

"Signing on?" replied the incredulous cockney, for all to hear. "Am I f***!"

Ike's reaction is not recorded, but his jeep took off at speed and next day the future Oscar-winning knight was confined to barracks for a month.

the early Fifties – and, for part of the time, in a war not so very far away.

Half a century and two name-changes have intervened since 22486547 Fusilier Maurice Joseph Micklewhite – not, it must be said, the most enthusiastic of soldiers – endured his second year of National Service in another part of the Far East.

He had spent the first year, after six weeks' basic training at the Queen's Regimental Depot, Guildford, on a BAOR posting to Iserlohn with the Queen's Royal Regiment. Then on June 26, 1952, he sailed from Liverpool in the *Empire Halladale* to serve in Korea with The Royal Fusiliers.

According to William Hall's biography *Arise Sir Michael Caine**, written with the actor's blessing, his subject, who had so far hated his time in the Army and had tried to blend into the background (difficult for someone of well over 6ft), volunteered for Korea rather than sign on for a third year of National Service.

From the southern port of Pusan, whose stench Caine remembers vividly to this day, his unit was transported by train up to the infamous 38th Parallel to take over from the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers.

"Mick" and his comrades were housed in primitive dugouts facing the Chinese positions across the Sami-ch'on Valley and bombarded around the clock "with deliberate, demoralising monotony".

Not that he could sleep for very long, anyway. "The rats ran over you when you dropped off," he recalled, "and Korea has to be infested with the biggest, most evil-looking rats you've ever seen in your life."

The rats stole their food but the mosquitoes wanted blood and homed in on the fair-skinned fusilier, doing so much damage to that now famous face that when he returned to camp after one

patrol his sergeant did not recognise him.

Despite his loathing of Service life and Korea, however, Micklewhite was grateful that the Army had trained him to survive ambushes on perilous night patrols against a stealthy, unseen enemy.

On one such sortie he was convinced he was going to be killed. Suddenly hearing the concerted metallic chatter of bolts clicking back and excited voices calling one to another in Chinese, the patrol, fearing ambush, ducked down in the elephant grass and froze.

"It was terrifying," Caine said. "We thought we were going to die. But the obscenity of realising that someone is about to kill you makes you do strange things."

Where others might have prayed, what they did was . . . "We all had a pee. Then we started shouting like raving lunatics and charged into the undergrowth. We were determined to go expensively. At that point, we didn't care any more. We'd decided we were all going to die."

"The whole place was echoing with shouts. The Chinese blazed away at where we'd been – but we ran the wrong way. The echoes misled them, and us too." But the flashes from the Chinese guns gave them away and suddenly



Sir Michael Caine: Believes Army discipline ultimately helped him in his career as an actor

British mortars were opening up. "Somehow we got back to our own lines in one piece. But it was a close shave."

Korea, in Caine's words "a boring, bleak battle for survival", took a year out

of his life – and its mosquitoes rewarded him with cerebral malaria, which led to his collapse on stage at Horsham in the early days of his acting career. Nevertheless an older and wiser Caine told *Soldier*

How a cockney turned snotty

CAINE'S uniformed film roles since his debut in *A Hill in Korea* have included a cockney private in *Too Late the Hero*, a German colonel in *The Eagle Has Landed* and Lt Col Joe Vandeleur, Irish Guards, in *A Bridge Too Far*.

When Caine got his first real break in the film *Zulu* a decade earlier he initially auditioned once again for the role of a cockney private but ended up playing the "upper-crust" Lt Gonville Bromhead.

According to biographer William Hall his interpretation of the part was inspired by Lt Robert Mills, one of his platoon commanders in Korea and a fellow actor.

Caine had a typically cheeky take on it when he told *Soldier* in 1984: "I had always known what an officer's relationship with his men was and the men's relationship with an officer. But I didn't know what an officer's relationship with another officer was.

"For a fortnight I had lunch in the Pirbright Guards Depot officers' mess. I wanted really snotty officers. I figured the Guards would be the snottiest."

in 1984 that he looked back on the Army as "an extremely valuable" experience.

"It teaches you to laugh at adversity," he said. "You are all in the shit and you laugh about it. The Army also teaches you tremendous self-reliance and teaches you a lot about yourself."

Another 16 years on, the reluctant soldier, who was dubbed Sir Maurice Micklewhite by the Queen last November for services to drama, again acknowledged the positive legacy of his Service life.

"I do believe," he says in this biography, "that the discipline of the Army ultimately helped me when I became an actor."

It also came in handy when his cinema career took off in 1956. In his first screen venture he had a four-line part as a soldier and an unofficial role as technical adviser because of his expert knowledge.

The film was *A Hill in Korea*, released in America (perhaps more aptly) with the title *Hell in Korea*.

But the war veteran who, like so many others, had looked death in the face in that far-off country was not even mentioned in the credits.

**Arise Sir Michael Caine* by William Hall (John Blake, paperback, £5.99).



Encore: *Times* finds an old trooper soldiering on in Vietnam

Picture: Mirek Tovsik/Rex Features

Ranking in the first order

Field marshals turn out in strength for special fund-raising occasion at the Royal Hospital

TEN British field marshals sat down to dinner in the Royal Hospital Chelsea's historic Great Hall for one of the most glittering charity events of the year. With them were 300 distinguished guests, including two former prime ministers and several former secretaries of state for defence.

In addition to paying tribute to the rank of field marshal, the dinner was arranged to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The only absentee in the Great Hall was the King of Nepal, Field Marshal His Majesty Birenda Bir Bikram Shah Deva, appointed to the honorary rank in November 1980.

Those present were Fd Marshals the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Kent, Lord Carver, Sir Roland Gibbs, Lord Bramall, Sir John Stanier, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Lord Vincent, Sir John Chapple, and Lord Inge.

Each was treated to his own regimental march by the Band of the Welsh Guards.

Former premiers Sir Edward Heath and John Major were among the guests.



After a dinner of salmon, duck and chocolate pudding, the serious business of the evening got under way. Raffle prizes included two VIP seats at the Combined Arms manoeuvre and firepower demonstration at Warminster in May (with lunch), donated by the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

Sealed bids were made for a watercolour by Piscator (one of whose cartoons appears on Page 73), a limited-edition print signed by three holders of the Victoria Cross, and for one of only five copies of *The British Field Marshals 1736-1997* to have been signed by all living holders of the rank. Valued at between £2,000 and £2,500, the book is pictured above, beneath a field marshal's baton. By the end of the evening £52,000 had been raised for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Lord Carver and a speech of welcome was made by Lord Inge.

The Duke of Edinburgh proposed a toast to the Army Benevolent Fund.



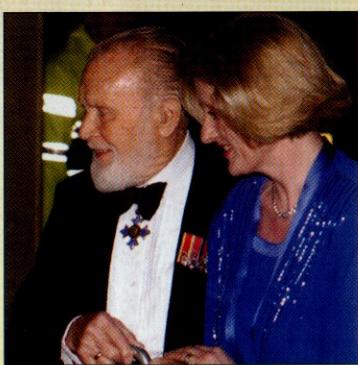
First team: Standing, from left to right, are Field Marshals Lord Inge, Sir John Chapple, Lord Vincent, the Duke of Kent; front, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Lord Bramall, Lord Carver, the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Roland Gibbs and Sir John Stanier. Only the King of Nepal was missing



Stand easy: A moment, above, for the field marshals to relax together before the big event

Honoured guest: Right, the celebrated 93-year-old actor and film producer Sir John Mills arrives in the Great Hall

Music to dine to: The Band of the Welsh Guards performs with precision between the tables in the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital, right centre



In step: In-pensioners Dougie Wright, left, and Archie Hamilton, with Gen Sir Jeremy MacKenzie, Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, lead the field marshals into the Great Hall

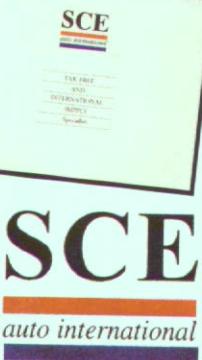
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Territorial Army

RANK	SCALE A	SCALE B	SCALE C
Private IV	27.29	27.59	28.04
Private Class III Band 1	30.72	31.02	31.47
Private Class III Band 2	35.65	35.95	36.40
Private Class III Band 3	41.14	41.44	41.89
Private Class II Band 1	34.34	34.64	35.09
Private Class II Band 2	39.31	39.61	40.06
Private Class II Band 3	44.79	45.09	45.54
Private Class I Band 1	37.33	37.63	38.08
Private Class I Band 2	42.31	42.61	43.06
Private Class I Band 3	47.78	48.08	48.53
Lance Corporal Class III Band 1	37.33	37.63	38.08
Lance Corporal Class III Band 2	42.31	42.61	43.06
Lance Corporal Class III Band 3	47.78	48.08	48.53
Lance Corporal Class II Band 1	39.75	40.05	40.50
Lance Corporal Class II Band 2	44.71	45.01	45.46
Lance Corporal Class II Band 3	50.61	50.91	51.36
Lance Corporal Class I Band 1	42.76	43.06	43.51
Lance Corporal Class I Band 2	47.71	48.01	48.46
Lance Corporal Class I Band 3	53.62	53.92	54.37
Corporal Class II Band 1	45.45	45.75	46.20
Corporal Class II Band 2	50.38	50.68	51.13
Corporal Class II Band 3	56.25	56.55	57.00
Corporal Class I Band 1	48.79	49.09	49.54
Corporal Class I Band 2	53.70	54.00	54.45
Corporal Class I Band 3	59.57	59.87	60.32
Sergeant Band 4	53.67	53.97	54.42
Sergeant Band 5	59.00	59.30	59.75
Sergeant Band 6	64.82	65.12	65.57
Staff Sergeant Band 4	56.75	57.05	57.50
Staff Sergeant Band 5	62.07	62.37	62.82
Staff Sergeant Band 6	67.92	68.22	68.67
Staff Sergeant Band 7	74.94	75.24	75.69
Warrant Officer Class II Band 4	60.67	60.97	61.42
Warrant Officer Class II Band 5	66.02	66.32	66.77
Warrant Officer Class II Band 6	73.19	73.49	73.94
Warrant Officer Class II Band 7	80.39	80.69	81.14
Warrant Officer Class I Band 4	64.69	64.99	65.44
Warrant Officer Class I Band 5	70.03	70.33	70.78
Warrant Officer Class I Band 6	77.31	77.61	78.06
Warrant Officer Class I Band 7	84.47	84.77	85.22

The above rates are not incremental in the normal sense of the term, but are shown in order to provide a point of entry, determined by length of engagement, for those with previous military service; otherwise the "on appointment" rate (see TA 1978 para. 7.036).

All soldiers in the TA are eligible, from the beginning of the fifth year of voluntary service, to receive an increment of £.082 a day in accordance with TA 1978 7.032c.

Full-time Reserve Service

Limited Commitment – 5% X-factor

RANK	SCALE A	SCALE B	SCALE C
Private IV	27.29	27.59	28.04
Private Class III Band 1	30.72	31.02	31.47
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Warrant Officer Class I Band 6	77.31	77.61	78.06
Warrant Officer Class I Band 7	84.47	84.77	85.22

Rates of Training Bounty payable to soldiers of the TA for training undertaken in training year 2000/2001

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	5th & subsequent years
Group A – Higher training obligation for officers and soldiers*	330	725	1,115	1,290
Group A – Lower training obligation for officers and soldiers**	n/a	400	620	720
Group B – Officers, Officer cadets and soldiers in the OTC	110	135	160	160
HRR Bounty***	330			
Ex-Regular Officers and Other Ranks Training Bounty	290			

* Excluding Non Regular Permanent Staff officers, soldiers and Reservists enduring periods of service under FTRS and ADCs.

** Officers and soldiers who are allowed to complete the lower training obligation under the terms of TA Regulations para 2.036.

*** The bounty will be paid on the anniversary of

joining the HRR, except for members of the TA who will receive £50 on the anniversary of joining the HRR and the balance to be paid on entry into service after call out.

Sponsored Reserves – The bounty payable to sponsored Reserves should be based on the full training bounty with the actual rates varying between

50% and 100% of the full training bounty in direct proportion to the training commitment.

Full-time and part-time Reservists are not normally eligible for Training Bounties by virtue of the nature of their duties.

Call out Gratuity – £395.

Lewsey's buzzing

Wasps star targets championship title

WASPS and England international rugby player 2nd Lt Josh Lewsey (RA) is hoping that he will have more than just his boots to polish come May 13, writes Andy Simms.

The 24-year-old, who passed out of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst last month, is just two games away from the Zurich championship final at Twickenham and yet another winners' medal.

After finishing the domestic season in second place, the Wasps have qualified, and are now being hotly tipped to win the inaugural Zurich championship – a knock-out competition for the league's high-flyers.

"We are young, enthusiastic and all want to play rugby at the highest level," explained Lewsey.

"We're not a team of big names and prefer to knock the limelight and just get on with the job."

"That is exactly what Leicester have done for the last three years and they have now won three championships on the trot. For a young side we have already achieved a lot but there

is still a lot to come."

"We still want to win the league and we want to win the European Cup."

Since signing for Wasps from Bristol in 1998, Lewsey has enjoyed considerable success on the field and has been an integral part of the Black-and-Golds' re-emergence as one of the élite clubs in England.

In his debut season at Loftus Road the Wasps won the Tetley's Bitter Cup for the first time in the club's history – a feat repeated in 2000 when Wasps returned to Twickenham and beat Northampton in front of their delighted fans.

"In terms of team achievement I do not think anything can mirror the cup success I have enjoyed with the Wasps," he said. "I would not swap those days for anything."

Versatile in every backline position save scrum-half, the Maximus-sponsoured player has been involved with England from an early age and completed the progression from England colts to the senior side during his time at Bristol.

"I got my first England cap during a tour of the Southern Hemisphere. In terms of sporting achievement my England debut will be hard

to beat. You know for years and years that that is what you have set your sights on and in terms of individual achievement you cannot get much higher."

Despite being one of the only highlights of an otherwise disastrous tour, Lewsey's run in the national squad was short-lived and disappointment followed when he missed out on a place in England's World Cup squad in 1999.

"I was disheartened to say the least that a lot of my friends around me were being selected along with some people who I considered were not playing as well as I was. It was a frustrating time and perhaps one of the reasons that pushed me towards coming to Sandhurst – I don't just want to play club rugby."

"I think I was trying too hard and went back to concentrating on my club game with the attitude that if the England thing happens it happens – if not, no dramas."

His new outlook paid dividends and after scoring 70 points for the Wasps during the 1999/2000 season he was included in Woodward's squad for the 2000 summer tour of South Africa.

Despite not featuring in this year's Grand Slam, Lewsey is still very much part of what is widely regarded as England's strongest-ever squad.

"England are back up there with the best of them and I don't think that any team in the world can beat them at present."

"However, the proof is in the pudding and the team now have to wait for the Rugby World Cup in two years' time to prove it."



In full flight: 2nd Lt Josh Lewsey (RA) scores Wasps' winning try against Newcastle in the 1999 Tetley's Bitter Cup final Picture: Action Images/Andy Budd

From Loftus Road to Sandhurst

AS a child Josh Lewsey set himself two goals in life – to join the Army and play rugby for England. Surprisingly, he achieved the latter first, writes Andy Simms.

And when Lewsey signed a professional contract with London-based Zurich Premiership side Wasps after leaving Bristol University in 1998 it looked as though he would never accomplish his personal double.

"It was always my intention when I was younger – and before rugby turned professional – to join the Army," he told *Soldier*. "I was awarded a bursary to get me through university but decided to put the Army on hold for a couple of years because of my rugby."

However, when Josh arrived at Wasps' London home, Loftus Road, he discovered that full-time rugby was not all that he expected.

"You can only train so many hours a day and although I found that physically I was being challenged and stimulated, I also realised that mentally there was not a lot there. I was spending virtually half a day of every day of my life doing nothing and decided to put my time to good use."

Consequently, Lewsey decided to renew his interest in a military career and despite the problems presented by his contract with the Wasps he was selected for officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"The Commandant at that time, Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, invited me in and explained that although it would be very hard work for both parties concerned we could make it happen."

And Gen Denaro's faith in the 24-year-old's ability to juggle both rugby and Army careers was justified last month when the officer cadet



passed out of Sandhurst as a 2nd lieutenant. "The Army have bent over backwards in accommodating me as best they can. However, I feel as though that I have done the job, passed all the examinations and completed all the exercises in the same way that everyone else has done."

But Lewsey concedes that balancing the two jobs has come at a price. "There have been some missed opportunities in terms of really excelling and forcing my way into the senior national side this season. There have also been times when Army commitments have affected my performance – having to play the French champions off the back of a five-day exercise with little sleep was hard going."

Realising his childhood double may have been a struggle, but 2nd Lt Lewsey is determined to continue his dual assault next season – with Wasps in the European Cup and with the Royal Artillery at Larkhill.



SHORTS

Army ground RAF

THE Army rugby union squad warmed up for their Twickenham showdown against the Royal Navy with a 13-8 victory over the Royal Air Force at Aldershot's Military Stadium.

See June's *Soldier* for full report.

Kings of the ring

A FULL house at Aldershot garrison's Maida gymnasium saw 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment beat 1st Battalion, Irish Guards 5-4 in the finals of the Army novice inter-unit boxing championships.

Oar-some performance

THE Army men's eight won the inaugural Naafi-sponsored HM Forces pennant at the annual Head of the River Race – an event held on the Thames over the famous boat race course and contested by more than 3,500 rowers.

Of the 420 eights that took part, the Army crew finished 55th, 197 places ahead of the Royal Navy and 256 places in front of the Royal Air Force.

In the women's event the Army were able to field two crews, an Army representative crew and a newly-formed REME crew. Finishing 121st overall the Army women's team emulated the success of the men and collected the first HM Forces pennant.

The REME team, all novice rowers, pulled off an amazing result by finishing 180th, beating the RAF and 40 other crews to the line.

◆ Those wishing to pit themselves against the Army's rowers are invited to take part in the Army indoor rowing championships at Dorney Lake near Eton on May 30.

◆ A two-week course to teach beginners to row and race is being held at Eton from May 28 to June 8. Contact Capt Mike Schofield on 94371 5436 for details.

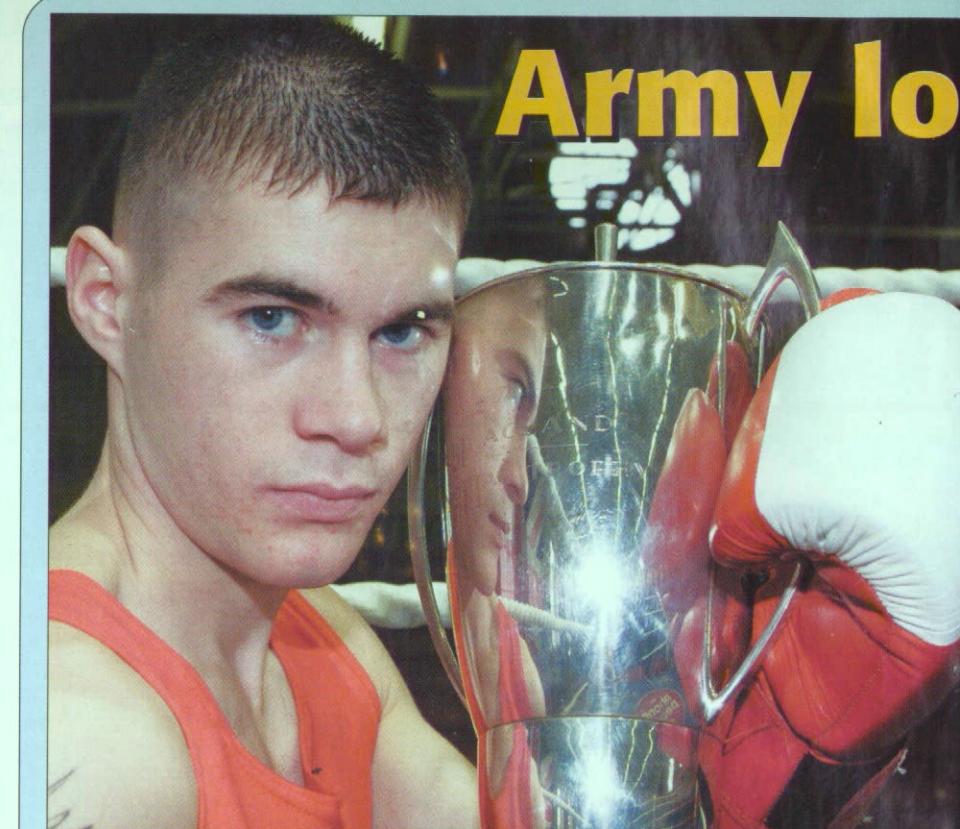
Lyons' share

THE Army Athletic Association has landed its biggest-ever sponsorship deal.

Answers 4 U and Account@nt Online have put together a deal worth £8,000 and will sponsor all Army athletic and cross-country events this year. The deal was masterminded by the secretary of Army athletics, Maj Peter Lyons, and his son Robin Lyons – a former soldier and Army athlete now working for Account@nt Online.

Cancellations continue

THE foot-and-mouth outbreak has continued to wreak havoc with the Army sporting calendar. Among the latest casualties were the Army slalom canoe championships and the Inter-Services canoe championships.



Welsh wizard: Featherweight champion Pte Spence Evans (1 RRW)

Picture: Graeme Main

Army looks to the Evans

DREAMS of representing their respective countries at next year's Commonwealth Games in Manchester have moved one step closer to reality for Pte Spence Evans (1 RRW) and LCpl Dean Frost (RLC).

Welshman Evans furthered his chances of an international call-up when he upset the form book by beating experienced international Dale Rees in the final of the Welsh ABA featherweight championships.

Competing in his first national final, southpaw Evans climbed into the Port Talbot ring as the underdog but emerged four rounds later with a 6-5 points victory and the title of 2001 Welsh champion.

Evans will now go on to represent Wales in the inaugural Four Nations championship, due to be held at St George's Arena in Liverpool as *Soldier* went to press, where victory will all but guarantee a place in the Welsh Commonwealth squad.

Unfortunately, the Army were

denied a second Welsh champion by Ceri Hall, who stopped Pte Daz Bushby (1 Para) in the first round of the light-welterweight final.

Hall – an established Welsh international – sent Bushby to his knees, and defeat, with a punishing left-hander to the body.

In the English championships, the Army's two finalists, LCpl Frost and Gnr Stefan Symes (7 (Para) RHA), both missed out on the silverware.

Symes was stopped by Craig Lyons – whose father John holds a record eight ABA titles – in the second round and Frost was comprehensively beaten 14-2 on points by Carl Froch, regarded as one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the country.

However, a shock decision by the England selectors to pick Frost ahead of Froch for the Four Nations means that the Army has two boxers bidding to capture a British crown.

SHORTS

Home sweet home

MAKING good use of the home advantage, the Army won both the men's and women's team titles at the Inter-Services "B" tennis championships in Aldershot.

The Army's double – their first since 1996 – signalled the end of a two-year reign of dominance by the Royal Air Force.

Victory in the men's singles event came courtesy of familiar names Maj Daryl Amison (RLC) and 2nd Lt Dan Loxton (AAC), but it was two new faces that led the women's assault. Young guns Lt Nell Mead (RAMC) and OCdt Sasha Macey (RMAS) showed no signs of inexperience on the court and both recorded comprehensive victories.

More success followed in the doubles with pairings Amison and Cpl Jamie Friend (RLC); Loxton and 2nd Lt Matt Ketterer (AGC (ETC)); and Mead and Macey all beating both the RAF and Royal Navy.

◆ Anyone interested in trying their luck on the court are invited to take part in the Army lawn tennis championships, to be held in Aldershot on July 20-25. For details contact Maj Sam Erskine-Tulloch on Mil 94271 2932.

ACROSS THE LINE ...

AFTER attending the 12 Regiment, RA inter-battery boxing competition at Paderborn, pint-sized fight promoter Frank Maloney rang *Soldier*'s sports desk to praise the presentation and standard of Army boxing.

"I am a big fan of Army boxing – the Army really knows how to put on a good show," he said. "The combination of the bands, pipers and crowd mean that the atmosphere is always amazing."

"If you could generate that atmosphere at a professional bout it would be a great thing for the sport. I cannot understand why television has not yet picked up on it," he added.

"The feeling of being at ringside for the inter-battery competition was unreal – it was like a mini-Las Vegas."

"Crowds at professional fights are never that passionate and the closest thing I have ever experienced to it was the atmosphere at the first Lewis v Holyfield clash at Madison Square Gardens."

"I had one of the best nights out I have ever had. The entertainment, boxing and hospitality was first class."

◆ The closely-fought competition was won by 9 (Plassey) Battery with 58 (Eyre's) Battery and 12 (Minden) Battery finishing second and third respectively.

Kirsty's just deserts

BRITISH soldier Lt Kirsty-Jane Devoreux (47 AD Regt, RA) has won a race regarded as one of the world's toughest.

The 27-year-old ran for five hours in temperatures reaching 30C to win the individual female category of the Bataan Memorial Death March – a 26.2 mile marathon through the New Mexico desert.

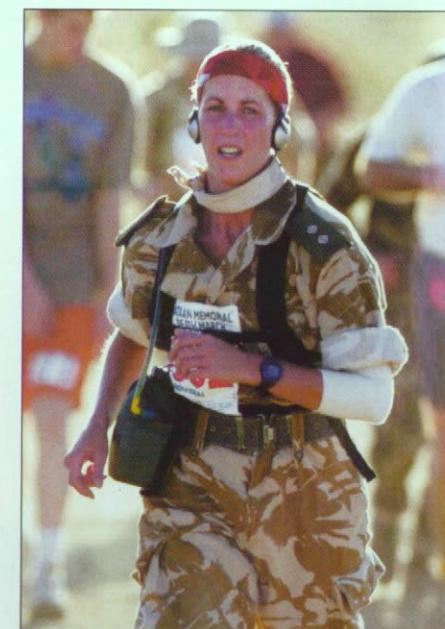
The competition, which takes place in the high altitude and desert terrain of the United States military's White Sands missile range, commemorates the 20,000 Filipino and American service personnel who died when the Japanese invaded the Philippines during the Second World War.

Thousands of PoWs were force-marched across the Bataan peninsula to labour camps in the north.

Devereux, pictured right, was the only female member of the 11-strong squad representing the British Army in the combined military and civilian race.

The men formed two teams of five, one competing in the military light category carrying only water and the other in the military heavy competition where runners were weighed down with 35lb rucksacks.

Competing against 54 American and



Canadian Servicewomen, Devereux had to complete the race in full military combat uniform – including standard military boots rather than running shoes.

British success was further underlined by the heavy team, who won bronze with a time of 5hr 34min.

Champs' goal rush

EIGHT unanswered goals in the final of the Naafi-sponsored Army Cup confirmed 42 Survey Group RE's dominance of Army hockey.

The defending major unit champions showed no signs of relinquishing their title, demolishing 8 R Irish 7-0 in the semi-finals before going one goal better against 26 Field Regiment, RA in the Aldershot final.

Among the sappers' goalscorers was Spr Joe Ruggerio, pictured right, and SSgt Graham Symes. On current form the champions also look set to retain the Inter-Services inter-unit trophy on May 2.

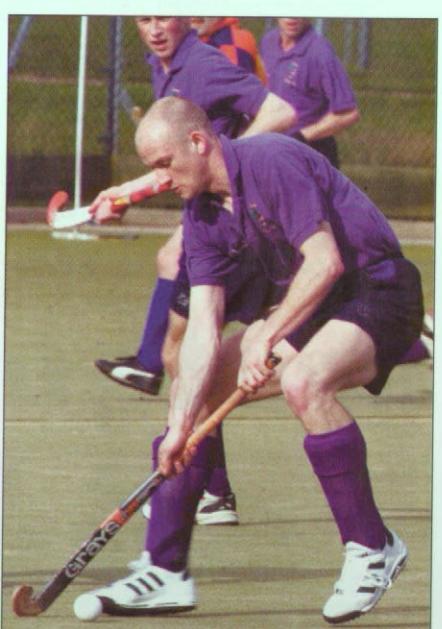
In the women's final, last year's champions and firm favourites 3 Div HQ scored early against their opponents, 11 Signal Regiment, but could not find the net again until late in the second half.

The underdogs hit back with a well-taken penalty corner but could not find the all-important equaliser before the final whistle.

A lone goal proved the difference in the minor units final, with Chilwell Station beating AFC Harrogate to the silverware.

◆ The Army hockey squad took all but one of the honours on offer at this year's Inter-Services championships.

Bolstered by the presence of Olympian Capt Guy Fordham (AMS),



the senior team beat the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy 4-2 and 3-2 respectively. The veterans and U23s added to the haul of silverware with hard-fought victories. Defeat at the hands of the RAF meant that the women's team had to settle for second.



SHORTS

Peak performers

THE Army climbing team are looking to strengthen their squad ahead of the Inter-Services climbing championships at the Foundry in Sheffield on September 12.

Anyone who thinks they have got what it takes to help the defending champions retain the title should contact WO2 Mike Smith on 94355 8303.

High-fliers wanted

THE Inter-Services paragliding championships will be held at Crickhowell, near Abergavenny on June 22-29. Anyone interested in competing should contact SSgt Huw Evans on 07971 212515.

Highlander 50 not out

TEN years after making his debut, Sgt Johnny Greechan (1 Hldrs) has established a milestone in Infantry football history by notching up a record 50 appearances for the Infantry team.

The current captain led the Infantry team to success in last year's Massey Inter-Corps trophy and has represented both the Army and the Combined Services.

As a token of appreciation for his services, Greechan, pictured here, was presented with a silver salver.

Golden retrievers

DOMINATING the competition for the second year running, the Army judo squad left the Combined Services championships at HMS Sultan, Gosport, with a haul of seven gold medals.

The team won four out of seven of the men's individual weights, one of the three women's individual weights and both of the men's team competitions.

Army winners included: Gdsm Lee Potts (IG); LCpl Sean Price (RLC); Pte Sam Whitnall (2 Para); Lt Simon Childs (3 UK DSR); Cpl Dolf Limbrick (RLC); and Pte Stephanie Heart (8 Infantry Bde HQ).

Premiership signing

TOP Italian footballer Gianluca Festa kicked off the Territorial Army's open day at Middlesbrough Football Club's Riverside Stadium.

Middlesbrough's highly-rated defender is no stranger to the Armed Forces, having completed 12-months' National Service with the Italian Infantry.



Come and have a go... . .

REME Stallions and Household Cavalry Chargers throw down the gauntlet

DUBBED the fastest sport in the world and with a knack of erupting into ten-man brawls, ice hockey has become entrenched in the American ethos, writes Andy Simms.

But while the exact origins of the sport are unclear, it is suspected that it was the British Army who first introduced the game to North America. Posted to Nova Scotia, Scottish soldiers found the frozen tundra of Canada far from ideal for their chosen sport of shinty and adapted the game accordingly.

By the 1870s the game had been adopted by college students at McGill University in Montreal and the first set of regulations, known as the McGill rules, were established.

The sport migrated south to the United States during the 1890s and the now world-famous National Hockey League (NHL) was formed 20 years later in 1910.

But whereas Canada and the USA have retained their passion for the sport, its supposed founding fathers have been noticeable on the world ice hockey scene only by their absence.

That is until now. After almost a century in the wilderness ice hockey is beginning to make a comeback among the ranks of the British Army.

Unsurprisingly, and in a case of history

Picture: Graeme Main



Raging horses: REME Stallion Cfn Steve Kimber

repeating itself, soldiers based at Batus in Canada are the ones spear heading the sport's resurrection.

But leading the current renaissance on home soil are soldiers from the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and The Household Cavalry Regiment, Windsor.

"Our interest in ice hockey stems from our time out in Batus," said WO2 Gary Patey (REME). "With four inches of snow on the ground it was impossible to play anything like football or rugby and a lot of people turned to ice hockey as a way of helping to keep fit."

After returning from Canada ice hockey became more than just a means of exercise and the REME Stallions were promptly formed. Training at the Guild-



leads the shooting practice during training

ford Spectrum – the home of the Guildford Flames – the Stallions have gone from strength to strength and now have more than 45 registered players.

Their progress has been carefully monitored by the expert eye of Maj Bob Eddy – a member of the Canadian EME currently on an exchange posting at SEME Borden. "I didn't come to this country to play ice hockey but I am impressed with the way things have progressed and am just lending my help where I can," he said.

"The effort that the guys are putting in here is amazing. It's difficult to get ice time at a reasonable price and because of that training usually starts at around 11pm.

"But as long as we keep the momentum going ice hockey in the REME, and the Army, will continue to improve in size

and stature." Aside from the late-night practice session the Stallions' biggest hurdle has been finding suitable opposition.

"With the exception of the Household Cavalry Chargers there is not really any one else we can play within the Army," said WO2 Patey. "We have had several fixtures with civilian clubs but it would be nice to play some more inter-unit games – we'll take on anybody."

To date the Stallions and Chargers have clashed just once, with the Stallions finishing convincingly 16-0 winners.

The story of the Chargers' formation is an increasingly familiar one. "We first played matches out in Batus last year," explained Lt David Brooks. "While we were out there we bought the kit and we have been training ever since.

"Ice hockey has become our major regimental sport. Everyone on the team has worked incredibly hard and everyone is incredibly committed.

"We want to promote the fact that the Household Cavalry does have an ice hockey team and that we are becoming a very good one."

The hockey bug has certainly begun to take hold and appears to have a universal appeal across the ranks.

Commanding officer of The Household Cavalry Regiment, Windsor – and keen ice hockey player – Lt Col Paddy Tabor told *Soldier*: "Ice hockey is the ideal Army game – it's fast, it's aggressive, it's teamwork. It represents everything a soldier joins the Army to do."

◆ The gauntlet has been cast. Any regiments prepared to don their skates and take on the mighty Stallions or Chargers should contact the sports desk on 01252 347362.

SHORTS

Record broken... again

MAJ Stuart Pearson's reign as a world record holder lasted just seven days.

One week after the RAMC physiotherapist set a new record for running a half-marathon carrying a 40lb backpack with a time of 1hr 53min 9sec, infantry instructor Cpl William MacLennan (1 Hldrs), pictured right, comprehensively beat it.



Competing in the Enron Redcar half-marathon,

MacLennan completed the course in 1hr 43min 42sec – shaving 9min 27sec off Pearson's record. Before both soldiers attempts, the record had stood unchallenged since September 1998 when Paddy Doyle completed the Wimbledon half-marathon in 1hr 58min 24sec.

MacLennan is hoping that his run has raised more than £1,200 for the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood charity.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to May...

CANOEING: 14-20 – Inter-Services slalom championships (River Trent, Nottingham).

CRICKET: 5 – Army U25 v President's XI (Aldershot); 10 – Cambridge University v Army U25 (Cambridge); 14 – Isle of Wight v Army (Ryde); 24 – Army v Hampshire 2nd XI (Aldershot).

CYCLING: 13 – Mountain bike championships (Longmoor).

FOOTBALL: 6 – Territorial Army cup final: 204 (NI) Field Hospital v 203 (W) Field Hospital (St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena).

GOLF: 9 – Army (UK) Inter-Unit golf championships (Army Golf Club, Aldershot).

HOCKEY: 12-13 – County championships (Ludlow, Shropshire); 13-25 – Spanish tour (Spain); 26 – County championship finals (Milton Keynes); 26-27 – Women's county championship finals (Aldershot).

JUDO: 20-Jun 1 – American and Canadian tour (Niagara and Buffalo, New York).

LAWN TENNIS: 19 – Women v Queens (Aldershot).

ORIENTEERING: 15-17 – Army/Land championships (Longmoor, Bordon).

ROWING: 30 – Army indoor championships (Dorney Lake).

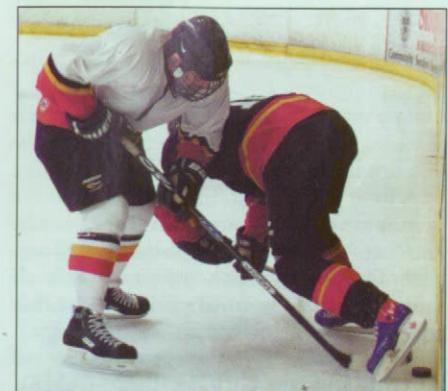
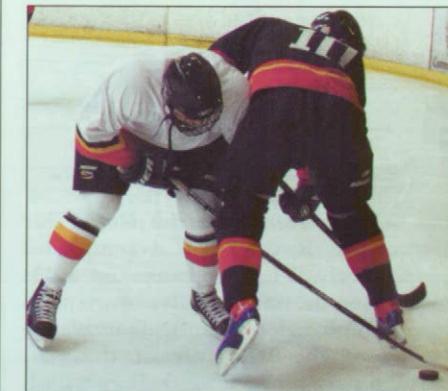
RUGBY UNION: 5 – Army v Navy (Twickenham); 9 – Army sevens (Aldershot).

TENNIS & RACKETS: 13 – Seacourt v Army (Away).

TUG OF WAR: 19-20 – Mitsubishi trophy competition (JHQ International Show).

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

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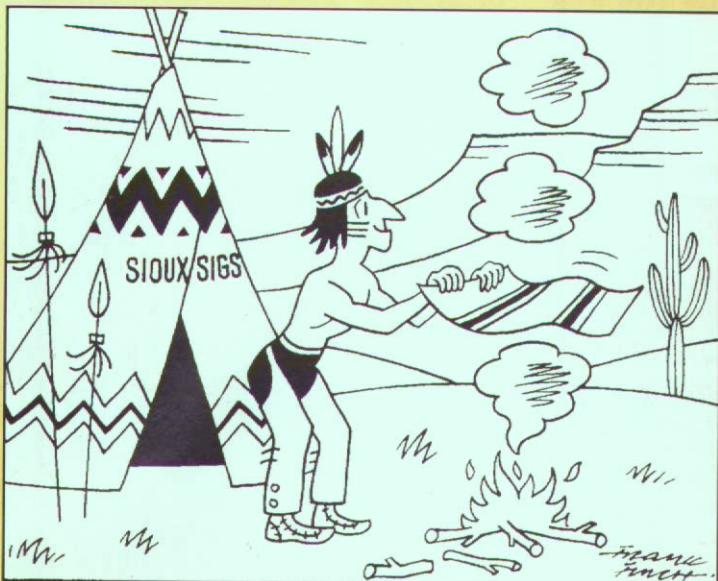
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No 714



How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 714, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by June 1.

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 July issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

May issue (No 712): First correct entry drawn was from Mr R R Dawson, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, who wins £100. Runners-up Miss S Burathoki, of Kirklee, Glasgow, and Mr Simon Harrison, of Ludgershall, Wilts, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: cow's tail, ear, markings and hoof; tree leaves; G in sign; white lines in road; soldier's shoulder tab; car bonnet and bumper.



Freeze frame

"They made a big fuss about these new radios but I still can't get the Celtic match."

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in November 1952. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by May 31.

Best caption, in our opinion, for the March image (inset right) was "Try as they might, the Army's best couldn't find what 'retention' really meant" from Cpl Bob Lovell of Rhino Tp, 1 Sqn, 11 Sig Regt at Blandford. Bob won in a photo-finish with Cpl Cree and Cpl Wells of Coy HQ (att) Alma Coy, 1 DWR, in Pristina, Kosovo, and their "So what exactly does retention mean?"

We also liked "Trust the CO's wife to use a £10 note as a bookmark" from Maj C B Coull, City of London and NE Sector ACF; "The need for an after-dinner joke was becoming desperate" from Mrs J O Upton,



lawyers" from former RASC soldier B Kerry of Crewe in Cheshire. Maj R A James, serving with



CSVIPT (Team 5) at the DLO's Andover headquarters; and "The little-known school for barrack-room

APA(G) at Bielefeld, came up with a topical angle, "A simple explanation of Pay 2000 must be in here somewhere"; Pte C R Moore (TA), of Christchurch in Dorset suggested "No wonder this book was banned ... it's disgusting! Read Page 286"; while A Cregan of Beckton, London took the Pushing-Your-Luck prize for "Here's the answer, lads. It's right arm and left leg".



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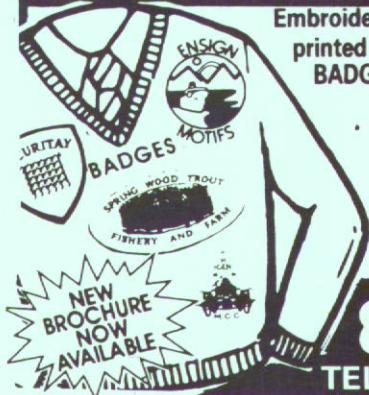
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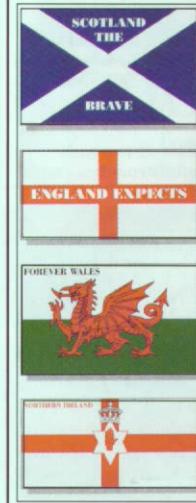


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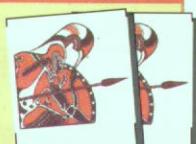
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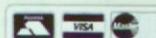


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PEN PALS

Vivienne, 30-year-old, 5'3", dark-haired Scottish lady. Enjoys reading, cinema, swimming, videos, writing, walking and skating. Seeking pen pals, 29-36. P866

Christina, 38-year-old, 5'7", slim, attractive with long dark hair. Enjoys reading, swimming, badminton, dancing, meals out, cosy meals in and a good sense of humour. Seeking friendship possible relationship, happy-go-lucky type. Seeking pen pals, 39-45. P867

Tracey, 31-year-old, 5'4", long brown hair with green eyes. Enjoys walking, dance music, bowling, pets, cooking, cinema and good movies. Prefers a non-smoker, as she does not smoke. Seeking pen pals, 32-39. P868

Dianne, 5'4", brown hair with blue eyes. Enjoys all sports, martial arts and computers. Seeking pen pals, 30+. P869

Michelle, 33-year-old, 5'7" single, slim with fair hair. Enjoys walking, cycling, travelling, socialising and writing letters. Seeking pen pals, 28+. P870

Sharon, 5'2", voluptuous red head with big brown eyes who enjoys a laugh. Loves writing letters and is a real bookworm. Occasionally enjoys going to the cinema, pubs & clubs, but also enjoys chilling out watching TV. Loves watching sport, football, rugby and has been a boxing fan since she was little. Single Gemini looking for her twin. P871

Lisa, 32-year-old, 5'2", white, dark hair with blue/green eyes. Enjoys swimming, cooking, reading, eating out, watercolour painting and sports. Good listener, easy-going with a good sense of humour. Seeking pen pals, 32-40. P872

Lesley, 31-year-old, 5'6" brown hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys various sports, including golf and swimming, but in particular netball. Other interests include sewing, DIY, interior design, cinema, going out and staying in. G.S.O.H., own house, car, teeth, hair etc. Would like genuine male pen pals, 25-35. P873

Gayle, 31-year-old, 5'3", dark hair with blue eyes. Enjoys Formula One, rugby, pub quizzes, socialising and theatre. Seeking pen pals, 33-40. P874

Julie, 27-year-old, 5'2", slim, black hair with blue eyes. Enjoys fashion, dance classes and keeping fit. Would like pen pals from the NorthWest or Merseyside areas, 26-36. P875

Lisa, 27-year-old, 5'7" natural blonde, green eyes with a good sense of humour. Enjoys socialising, cinema, eating out, cosy nights in, talking, laughing and living life to the full. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P876

Lorna, 35-year-old, 5'7", auburn hair and green eyes. Interests include music, walks, talks, wine and having a laugh. Looking to meet people that are honest and genuine. No point in wasting time being something you aren't, is there? P877

Oli, 32-year-old, 5'6" blue eyes with black hair. Single man who likes going out to pubs, clubs, eating out and generally having fun. Would like replies from 26+. P878

Beverley, 39-year-old, 5'4", slim, reddish brown hair with blue eyes. Enjoys horse riding, music, cinema, pubs, and walking, dancing, varied interests. Will reply to all letters from abroad or home, photo would be nice. Seeking pen pals 38-45. P879

Jane, 34-year-old, blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs and eating out. Single mum, G.S.O.H. easy going, fun personality and enjoys life. Seeking pen pals, 24-34. P880

Judy, 39-year-old, 5'4", slim build dark hair with blue eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, music, swimming, jogging and the cinema. Replies from soldiers home or abroad, single or divorced, must have a good sense of humour. P881

Tina, 5'9", blue eyes, blonde, fit build. Enjoys pubs, clubs, keeping fit and enjoying life. Seeking pen pals, 28-40. P882

Debbie, 33-year-old, 5'2" brown hair/eyes. Enjoys swimming, travelling, eating out, pubs, socialising, listening to music and reading. A reply from Leics/Northants area if possible. Seeking genuine replies only, 30-40. P883

Chris, 39-year-old male, 5'8". Enjoys cinema, books and history. Seeking female pen pals only 25+. P884

Sue, 39-year-old, bubbly, fun-loving, brunette 5'3", with brown eyes. G.S.O.H. Enjoys pubbing, clubbing, walking, aerobics, eating out, cinema and bowling. Seeks soldiers to write to at home and abroad, 37-41. P885

Michelle, 5'9", very long blonde hair, athletic but curvy. Late 20s, with big green eyes, high cheekbones and Brigitte Bardot lips. Enjoys keeping fit, cinema-sci-fi, music; trance, modern day R&B, bit of punk and new wave, eating out and long walks. A bit of a wild child, party animal and in a band. Looking for male pen pals, 18-30. All letters with photos will be answered. P886

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

Northern Ireland

CBE: Brig J M J Balfour OBE, late RGJ; Brig P E O'R-B Davidson-Houston OBE, late RGBW.

OBE: Lt Col P J King, R Irish; Lt Col C R J Sloane, RE.

MBE: SSgt J M Crowe, R Signals; Maj R G Grindle, QDG; WO2 J M Macauley, R Irish; Capt A H McPeak, R Irish; Maj C S T Page, SG.

QGM: WO2 M Worrall, RLC.

QCB: Sgt K Main, R Anglian; Maj N D S Smith, Kings.

QCBA: Air Tpr G I McMillan, AAC.

QCVS: Sgt R L Clark, RA; CSgt S B E Cordell, RGBW; Maj P R Evans, RWF; WO2 D Ferguson, Int Corps; Maj I J Flackett, Staffords; Lt J E Fossey, RE; Col T J Gregson MBE, late LI; Maj P K Harkness, Hldrs; Col A C P Kennett MBE, late Para; Maj T L Kingsberry, RGBW; Maj M A J McGovern, R Irish; Sgt K P McLoughlin, Para; Maj T J D Pemberton-Piggott, RLC; CSgt D M Sainsbury, LI; Maj I D Smith, AAC; Lt Col P A Stack MBE, RRF.

Former Yugoslavia

CBE: Brig C L Le Gallais OBE, late R Signals; Brig A R D Shirreff, late KRH.

OBE: Lt Col B N Groves, RLC; Lt Col D W H Norris, I QDG.

MBE: Sgt M W Holohan, KORBR; Maj S R D Marr, RRF; Maj C P J Walker, RLC; Maj R J E Williams, Para.

Mid: Cpl J P Kostilek, KRH; LCpl J Wozniak, R Signals.

QCB: Lt M Davies, RE.

QCVS: Lt Col H D Alfrey MBE, RSDG; Maj Gen R V Brims CBE, late LI; Capt R F Casey, REME TA; Capt K M Copsey, RE; SSgt M J Firth, RA; Spr S M Hodges, RE; Lt Col J L Murray-Playfair MBE, RRF; Maj R D Phillips TD, Int Corps TA; Capt P D Sherrell, RA; Cpl K J Smith, Int Corps; Lt Col J P Sykes TD, RLC TA; Cpl M Tomlin, Int Corps; Maj J C Westbrooke, KORBR.

Sierra Leone

DSO: Brig D J Richards CBE, late RA.

MBE: Maj A S D Harrison, Para.

MC: Sgt S M C Heaney, Para; Lt D J Matthews, Para.

Mid: Cpl N L Bell, Para; Sgt J P J Fitzwater, Para; Cpl F J Gostling, Para; Bdr B Tinnion, RA (killed in action).

QCVS: WO2 R J Bredin, R Anglian; Maj A Charlton, Para; Maj J C Connelly, RLC; Maj J W Cooper, R Signals; Col P M Gibson DSO MBE, late Para; Capt P J Lodge, Para, Lt Col N J N Salisbury, A and SH.

Op Percival (UK contribution to UN Mission to Democratic Republic of Congo)

QCVS: Col J R J Baxter OBE, late RA.

In addition the following awards are announced for gallant and distinguished services in **Sierra Leone**: DSO (1), MBE (2), CGC (2), MC (3), DFC (5), Mid (5), QCVS (5).

CAMELBAK WINNERS

WINNERS of the three Camelbak personal hydration systems (Kitstop, March) were LCpl T G Mulligan, 39 AES, 32 Armd Engr Regt, Campbell Barracks, Hohne (wood cammo mule); CSgt Stannard, 1 DWR, Osnabruck (ThermoBak); and Sgt Navendra, GDC, ITC Wales, Dering Lines, Brecon (ThermoBak). The answer to the question was: H₂O

REUNIONS

Middlesex Regiment (DCO) annual service of remembrance: May 12 at Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, 1500, and evening function at Victory Services Club. Contact Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA or 020 8949 7605.

RAOC in Palestine: Veterans meeting May 16, Fort Nelson. Contact Eric Lowe, Palestine Scrapbook (023 92467181).

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

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: Annual reunion of 86, 105, 135, 148 and 191 Fd Regts, 52 Heavy Regt, 70 HAA Regt and post-war successors on June 16, TA Centre, Marsh Road, Luton, 1800. Details from Ron Currell, 28 St Margarets Rd, Peterborough, PE2 9EA.

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

7 (Para) Regt RHA 40th birthday weekend: Reunion June 29. Past and serving members invited. Contact: WO2 (WOCIS) Bates, 7 (Para) RHA, Lille Bks, Aldershot, GU11 2NQ. 01252 347653 (mil 94222 2653).

SEARCHLINE

RAOC/RLC photographer **John Pullen** is asked to get in touch with Steve Dock at phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk

J Hilton seeks news of **Peter Langley, Berlin 1967-72**. E-mail hilton@medicalia.de

Would **Tom Cassidy**, Hong Kong 1959-61, Guttersloch 1960s contact old friends Iris and Graham (Ted) Lawton at lawton@talk21.com

Simon Wallace, ex-14 Ind Topo RE, contact Helen at carringtonhelen@hotmail.com

Ex-Sgt Joe Hopkins, RE/RWAff, 404 Party, B Sqn, 4 TRRE wants memorabilia and is keen to contact others on his passing out parade at Gibraltar Barracks, Aldershot, on May 24 1952 or Centenary Parade in 1954. Replies to 963 High Street Road, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia.

Gordon (Angus) Morrison is planning a reunion of **3 Sqn R Sig Regt 1977-80** for April 2002. All interested ex-members contact MoD Police, Nato (Sgt), Balado Bridge, Kinross, Tayside KY13 7NH, or phone 01577 862456.

Phil (Taff) Hennessy at philip.hennessy@lineone.net seeks news of ex-Cpl Andy Sinclair, R Signals.

Research into the way soldiers experience the transition from military to civilian life is being carried out at Surrey University. It is expected to provide insights for soldiers leaving the Army. Ex-soldier researcher seeks ex-soldiers from all ranks. Involves questionnaire and is confidential. Participants will get conclusions if required. For details ring Annie Reed on 01276 512476, e-mail psm2ar@surrey.ac.uk or write to him at Dept of Psychology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.

Viv and Ruth Turner, Chepstow early 1990s, sought by Sue and Richard Butland, who are organising a reunion. Phone 01291 630804.

Sgt Frank Payne (born July 25, 1911), served BAOR (Fischbeck-Hamburg) with Recce Corps (mid-1940s), asked to contact Margaret

4 Battalion, The Essex Regiment Annual Garden Party, June 30, RHQ, Warley, Essex. All Ex-“Pompadours” welcome. Contact M Chapman at 13 Lynbrook Close, Rainham, RM13 8DD, tel 01708 520948 or e-mail michaelg@chapman33.fsnet.co.uk

25 Regiment RA 1947-84: 11th reunion, July 1 at Larkhill, Wiltshire. All on mailing list have been informed, further info from Len Haddow, 4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3SF, tel/fax 01634 388156 or e-mail marianneluckhurst@cableinet.co.uk

Cheshire Regiment Association: Annual Berlin, NI, veterans' reunion, July 7, Ellesmere Port. Ticket only. Details A G Gregson 01244 301564 or fax 01244 301478.

4 Regt AAC Battlegroup 10th Op Granby: Reunion July 7, Wattisham Airfield. Visit www.4regimentaac.co.uk for feedback form or phone Maj Rupert Hibbert, Wattisham Mil 8430 daytime, 01449 741114 evenings.

660 Sig Tp (EOD)/EOD ECM Operators: Reunion July 7, Didcot Stn Sgts' Mess. Details Capt Phil Ashworth 01235 513368 or Cpl Steve Bruce 01235 513437/513366.

3 R Anglian (Eagle and Garter Dinner Club): 9th annual Salamanca Dinner, serving and retired officers, SNCOs of Pompadours, July 14, ATR Bassingbourn Sgts' Mess. Contact

Ben Elvers, Gren Gds, asked to contact L Hyde, Flat 3, 1 Castle Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Dave England is planning a re-union for **38 Sqn RCT Mulheim**. Contact 01977 661624 or e-mail converselt@aol.com

Terry Moss, Munster-Lager 1949-51: Ute in Dusseldorf has lost contact. Any information please via nigel_moore@yahoo.com

Ex Spearpoint 1961 printed memorabilia sought by Mike Barling (10 Coy RASC(BR)), 45 Russell's Close, East Preston, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN16 1BT.

Robert Stonier is asked to e-mail old friend at auld@primus.ca

Calling all **ex-RAF VR(T) officers, AWOs and ex-cadets of 32F Sqn ADCC, ATC**. 60th anniversary reunion planned. Contact Fg Off Michael Quinn, RAF VR(T) on 0141 401 3528, (1900-2200 Tues and Fri only), e-mail office@32fats.fsnet.co.uk or write to 32F (1 Glasgow) Sqn ATC, 155 Carmunnock Rd, Kingspark, Glasgow, G44 5SH.

Would **Mark Ormston**, ex-RA 1980s, contact old friend on simonehawke@hotmail.com

Phil Pike, RLC Catering Div, St Omer Barracks 1993, posted to Germany Feb 1994. Danny Robinson is keen to contact you before he emigrates to Australia. Call 07949 007809.

Viv and Ruth Turner, Chepstow early 1990s, sought by Sue and Richard Butland, who are organising a reunion. Phone 01291 630804.

Sgt Frank Payne (born July 25, 1911), served BAOR (Fischbeck-Hamburg) with Recce Corps (mid-1940s), asked to contact Margaret

Maj Bob Potter 01206 573498, e-mail bobandkathleen@hotmail.com

264 Signal Sqn: Real Millennium Reunion for serving and ex-members, Aug 10-12. Ring 01432 357311 extns 2253, 2459 or 2302.

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

Manchester Regiment, Malaya (1951-54): 50th anniversary reunion weekend, Oct 6-7, Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne. SAE to RHQ(I) The King's Regiment, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HD or e-mail: rhq@rhqkings.force9.co.uk

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA NWE 1944-48: AGM and dinner, Oct 23, Hotel Adelphi, Liverpool. Details K V G Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton, NR12 0JP, tel/fax 01692 651086.

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

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)): 25th anniversary on Nov 11 at Bulford Camp. Ex-sqn members invited to contact WO2 (SSM) Ken Marsh 01980 672193 for booking form.

Hennigs, Ochmanns-bruchsiedlung 29, 21279 Hollenstedt, Germany.

First World War soldier's bible inscribed: **Lt Hy C Lovell** (or Lorell) **2/20th London Regiment, Palestine 1917** currently in the possession of a lady who would love to return it to a family member. Contact Mrs P Horne, 11 Hamilton Close, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4QP.

Mouse Witherington, 2 LI, Tidworth early 1990s would like to be heard from any old mates. 987 LCpl C Witherington, Tpr Tp, LSS, Murphy Lines, Op Agricola 5, BFPO 559 or e-mail mousewitherington@hotmail.com

26 RA Wksps Stores Sect Jajce (Bosnia Jan – Jul 98) – Alan Clark seeking others from tour. LCpl Clark, 249 Maindy Bks, Cardiff, S Wales or e-mail bigalc69@hotmail.com

952205 Cpl William (Bill) Henry Margetts (ACC WW2) Ex-comrades sought by his daughter, Mrs E Johns, 1 Chalcot Gardens, Long Ditton, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5HJ.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association (0900-1700) 01482

833812; 24-hour helpline 01482 808730

Regular Forces Employment Association

0207 321 2011

Operations worldwide Paradigm Home-link Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

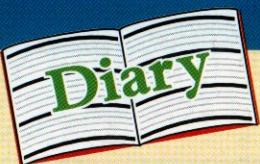
St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: J R B Cook to be Director Human Resources, Jan 8; G L Kerr to be Comd BMM Kuwait, Jan 10; P E O'R-B Davidson-Houston, S G Hughes, M Huntley, D R Jeffrey and A S Ritchie to attend RCDS, Jan 8.

J M J Balfour to be Dep Comd BRITFOR Op Palatine, Mar 16; I A Johnstone to be Comd HQ Trg Sp Comd (Germany), Mar 12; G P Sheldon to be Dir Land Digitization, Mar 12; R W Brummitt to be Comd 43 (Wessex) Bde, Mar 27.

Colonels: R P M Austin to be Col Advisory DALS, Jan 8; N Q W Beer to be Comd HQ Armour Centre, Jan 10; P F Everson to attend RCDS, Jan 8; T J Gregson to attend RCDS, Jan 8; N St J Hall to attend RCDS, Jan 8; R I Harrison to be DCOS HQ UKSC(G) HQ UK Sp Comd, Jan 8; T G Inshaw to attend



DATES

MAY
 5: Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas in concert with Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir, Dudley, W Midlands for Gurkha Welfare Trust (01384 812812).
 10: With 1st Para Bde in North Africa, 1942-43, personal memoir by Lewis Golden, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).
 13: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, Hyde Park.
 20: Modelling and painting military figures, British Model Soldier Society special event, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire.
 26-27: London Tattoo, Wembley Arena (020 8902 0902).
26-28: Overlord 2001 historic military vehicle show, Denmead, near Portsmouth.
30: Summer concert, Kneller Hall, starts 2000.

JUNE
2: Major General's Review.
6-7: Household Division Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade.
9: Colonel's Review.
13: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
16: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards.
27: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.

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

25: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
AUGUST
3-25: Edinburgh Tattoo.
8: Summer concert, Kneller Hall.
24-27: International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth

SEPTEMBER
8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.
OCTOBER
14: Duxford Autumn Air Show.
26: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Margate (tickets from D Stokes, 01843 292882).
NOVEMBER
2: Suez, an evening lecture by Maj M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).
10: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.
11: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

Have bikes will ride

INTREPID cyclists from the Royal Military Police Training School in Chichester are hoping that cancer and leukemia research will benefit by up to £3,000 from their 850-mile John o'Groat's to Land's End marathon. They have already collected more than £1,000.

The foursome on the right – from left, SSgt Paul Thompson, Cpl Mike Richardson, Cpl Richard Keightley and Cpl Mick Holmes – are among seven Chichester-based soldiers who will be setting out early in the morning on May 14.

Picture: Steve Dock



A blooming great hole in anyone's language

FOLLOWING Len Davies's appeal (Update extra, April) for more information on the word "camouflet", John Bushell of Chesham, Bucks, writes to tell us that a camouflet is, in the bomb disposal sense of the word, the underground cavity left by a bomb which has exploded far enough below ground not to have disturbed the surface.

A camouflet is also, apparently, a means of cratering roads as a defensive or delaying technique in the face of an advancing enemy.

So now you know.

Doors open on redesigned Warwickshire museum

THE Midlands boasts a new-look military museum following the re-opening of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum (Royal Warwickshire) in Warwick. A £450,000 revamp has produced a stunning "new" museum with a third more space in which to tell the story of "The Warwickshire Soldier" over 300 years.

It was reopened on April 7 by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, son of one of the regiment's most famous soldiers.

Work was paid for with the help of a Lottery grant of £214,000 and a massive £260,000 raised by the museum itself. The Henry VIII Trust in Warwick made a generous contribution towards the new medal room.

The National Army Museum was responsible for the design, which occupies the top floor of St John's House, a splendid Jacobean building close to the centre of Warwick.

● The museum is open daily Tues to Sat (1000 to 1700, closed 1230 to 1330). Admission free.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The Royal British Legion is to celebrate 80 years of supporting the ex-Service community with a birthday ball at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on May 17. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Legion's annual Poppy Appeal.

Blue tribute to Rorke's hero

A BLUE plaque now proudly identifies the Bromley home of Col Sgt Frank Bourne, who won a DCM at Rorke's Drift, Natal, in January 1879 while serving with B Company, 24th Regiment. Frank, who retired from the Army as a colonel in 1919, lived in King's Hall Road, Beckenham from 1909 to 1930.

Among those who watched the plaque being secured were representatives of The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) and Douglas Bourne, Col Bourne's grandson.

WET, WET, WET: Fingringhoe Ranges in Colchester have won an English Nature conservation award. Range superintendent Chico Duncan has transformed the area as a wildlife haven by encouraging wetland areas which have attracted teal, widgeon and mallard and reed and sedge warblers.

Hartlepool launch of trust to help North-East's cadet forces

THE second phase of a £500,000 appeal to help cadets in the North-East has been launched at Hartlepool by the North of England Cadet Forces

Trust. Although the MoD provides some funding for clothing and building, many cadet activities have to be paid for by the units themselves. The trust will

help by meeting, for example, the £35 it costs a cadet to attend a camp or training course. A tent or Tall Ships course might cost £150, a kayak £400.



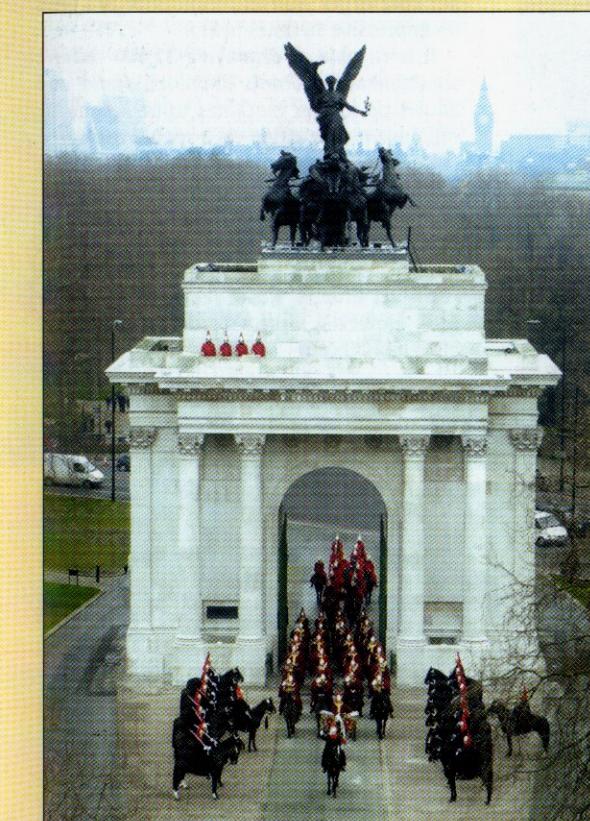
Family business: Lt Col David Steele, left, A and SH, takes the passing-out parade for Normandy and Alamein Platoons, B Company, ATR Glencorse, escorted by his son, Lt Alisdair Steel, centre, A and SH, who has been a platoon commander at Glencorse since January. It was Alisdair's first passing-out parade. His father, who was there in his capacity as Commander Regional Recruiting, Lowlands, served as the regimental 2iC at Glencorse from 1988 to 1991, when the barracks was the Scottish Division Depot. Picture: Al Anderson

It's a wrap for film man Gerd

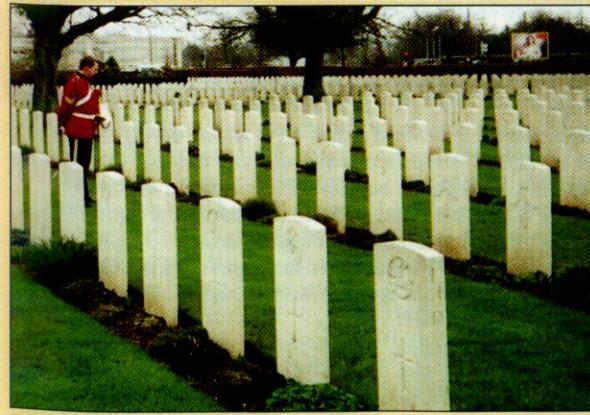
GERD Medoch, right, the best-known video cameraman in British Forces Germany, has retired after almost 40 years of dedicated service. From his base at Rheydahnen (first as HQ BAOR and later HQ UKSC(G)) Gerd has travelled the world to film British units and Service personnel at work and play.

To mark his retirement, Gerd was presented with a lifetime achievement certificate by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Mike Walker.

He was so widely respected by the media, both in Germany and the UK, that his material was accepted without question, and often without further editing.



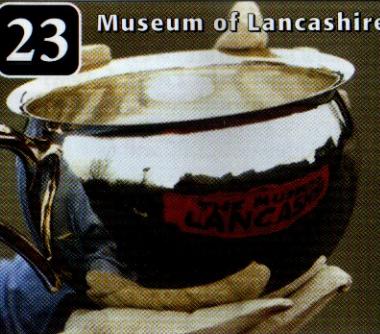
Overarching ceremony: Flanked by the Blues and Royals (the Iron Duke's former regiment), The Band of The Household Cavalry leads a detachment of The Life Guards to mark the formal reopening of the Wellington Arch at Hyde Corner, London. The arch, a Grade 1 listed building, has been renovated by English Heritage. Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot



Sgt Dave Evans, pictured left in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Bayeux, France, was one of six members of the ceremonial guard of 1st The Queen's Dragoons Guards to represent the Army at a national tribute to Welsh soldiers who fell during the Normandy landings.

He and his colleagues laid a cross of daffodils on Sword beach and at the memorial bunker behind the beach. They also laid a daffodil cross in the cemetery.

Legends of the regiments and corps



Going potty: A replica of Joseph Bonaparte's chamber-pot, seized in 1813. The original is a prized piece of silver in the KRH officers' mess

Prize that left 14th flushed with success

SOLDIERS of the 14th Light Dragoons walked away from one of the bloodiest battles of the Peninsular Wars with a special prize... a magnificent silver chamber-pot belonging to Joseph, brother of Napoleon and technically King of Spain.

During the fighting at Vittoria in Spain on June 21, 1813 the dragoons seized Joseph Napoleon's coach and "liberated" his potty. The 14th Dragoons subsequently became the 14th/20th King's Hussars, today amalgamated into The King's Own Hussars, which has inherited its predecessors' rather striking nickname, The Emperor's Chambermaids.

BONAPARTE'S ARMS

The receptacle is fashioned from silver and bears the arms of Joseph Bonaparte. It is believed to have been a gift (along with the coach in which it was being transported) from Napoleon himself.

A replica of the chamber-pot is on display at the Museum of Lancashire in Preston. The original is still much in use, although not for the purpose for which it was originally crafted.

A highly-prized possession of the officers' mess of the KRH, it is pressed into service on regimental nights when champagne, traditionally, is supped from it. Perhaps the imbibers may be forgiven if they become a little flushed...

Memorabilia of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, can be seen at the Museum of Lancashire, Stanley Street, Preston. Open Mon to Wed, Friday to Saturday, 1030-1700. It is closed on Thursdays, Sundays and on bank holidays.



Dream on . . .



Good things come in small packages . . .

HAVING sold more than 100 million units worldwide the Game Boy Color is a hard act to follow – but that has not stopped Nintendo from unveiling a new hand-held games console.

The Game Boy Advance (GBA) is due to hit our shores this summer and is set to redefine the hand-held market. Powered by a 32-bit processor, the Advance has a screen size 50 per cent larger than its predecessor and runs an impressive 16 times faster.

It is capable of displaying 32,000 colours simultaneously, boasts improved audio and allows up to four machines to be linked for full, four-player action via a special cable.

Designed to work alongside Nintendo's Gamecube (as featured in last month's *Soldier*), the GBA is also fully compatible with all existing Game Boy and Game Boy Color titles.

① Launched in Japan last month, the GBA retails at around 9,800 yen (approximately £55). However, British pricing has not yet been announced.

Switched on . . .

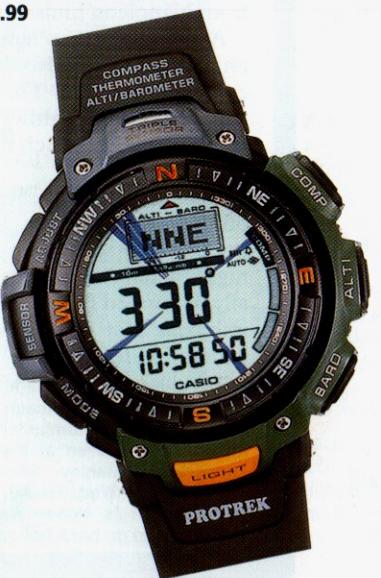
A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

THE Protrek digital compass-watch can be used to take readings continually for 30 seconds, for real-time directional read-outs on the move.

Its functions also include an altimeter, which can measure up to an impressive 10,000m, and a barometer that displays readings on a bar graph.

An auto electro-luminescent backlight illuminates the display whenever the watch is angled towards the wearer's face.

① £349.99



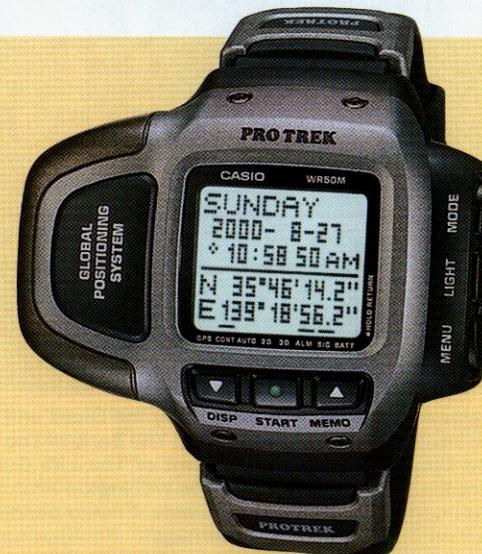
SECOND TIME AROUND

THIS second-generation Global Positioning System (GPS) watch from Casio represents the cutting edge of navigational technology.

Casio launched the world's first GPS watch during the summer of 1999. The watch allowed users to find out their exact location by using a built-in GPS navigation feature, which made it possible to tap into the wealth of information being transmitted by satellites orbiting the earth.

Whereas the first GPS watch tuned into eight satellites, this model can produce a more accurate measurement position by using data from up to 12.

① £349.99



Game on . . .

Sisters in arms

EIDOS Interactive clearly have few qualms about letting women fight in the front line.

After experiencing phenomenal success with *Lara Croft* and the *Tomb Raider* series, Eidos once again puts the fairer sex in the line-of-fire in *Fear Effect 2: Retro Helix*.

Tasked with saving the world from the most prolific disease known to man, mercenaries Hana Tsu-Vachel and Rain Qin take lead roles in this well-presented prequel.

In *Fear Effect 2* (FE2) the player must delve into the colourful histories of the original cast and explore the extraordinary circumstances that brought them together.

The game features locations as diverse as Hell's Kitchen in New York City, a military base in Afghanistan and the lost tomb of the first emperor of China.

Each new environment tests the skills of the characters in differing ways with some situations requiring stealth and others demanding carnage.

There are more than 60 types of enemy to out-smart or out-shoot and improved artificial intelligence ensures that fingers rarely stray far from the trigger.

True to its predecessor, this action adventure offers stunning graphics and compelling



FEAR EFFECT 2, PSX OUT NOW

gameplay. The intense story-driven action boasts seamless integration of player interaction and in-game cinematics and throws up some taxing puzzles.

The gameplay is not dissimilar to the *Resident Evil* series but FE2 has distanced itself from some of the annoying features that blighted the Capcom titles.

There are no tedious door-opening animations, players do not continually have to retrace their footsteps, health is replenished automatically, and, most importantly, you do not have to worry about conserving ammunition when faced with a gun-wielding bad-guy.

VERDICT: It's hard to find fault with *Fear Effect 2*. Eidos's latest release proves that presentation does not have to come at the expense of gameplay.

The control interface is easy to adopt and, although the difficulty level of the game and its puzzles is high from the start, players will soon be en route to restoring world peace.

A well-scripted storyline ensures that the player's interest is maintained throughout. One of the best PlayStation games to hit the stores this year. 9/10



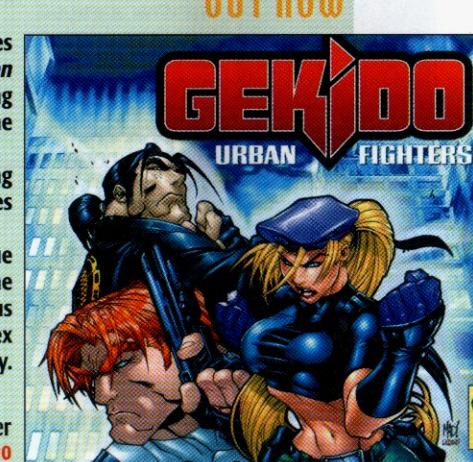
GEKIDO, PSX OUT NOW

INSPIRED by classic arcade titles such as *Double Dragon* and *Golden Axe*, *Gekido* is the latest in a long line of games trying to revive the side-scrolling beat-'em-up genre.

And after five minutes of playing *Gekido* you'll wish that Infogrames had not bothered.

With an infiltrate-and-rescue story-line, *Gekido* highlights all the failings of this genre – monotonous gameplay, infuriatingly complex moves and limited playability. Instantly forgettable stuff.

VERDICT: The game's multi-player option is its only saving grace. 2/10



STAR TREK AWAY TEAM, PC OUT NOW

PLAYERS take control of a special team of Starfleet officers as they explore strange alien planets in this excellent strategy adventure.

The action in *Star Trek Away Team* is controlled in a top-down, $\frac{3}{4}$ perspective that allows a bird's-eye-view of the movements of the team and the interactive environment.

Stealthy incursions into enemy bases and ships are recurring themes in the game's detailed

missions. And true to the cult sci-fi show, the away team have a wide variety of weapons in their arsenal, including the familiar phaser guns.

The gameplay offers a unique blend of strategy and action, with some missions requiring plenty of thought and others good old-fashioned reflexes.

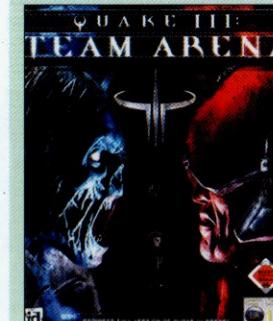
VERDICT: More than just a movie spin-off – this game will live long and prosper. 8/10

QUAKE III: TEAM ARENA, PC OUT NOW

ACTIVISION'S *Quake III: Arena* was a ground-breaking release, boasting a game engine that could support advanced graphical effects.

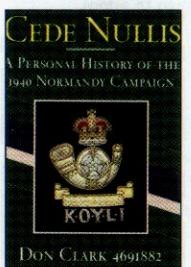
The first-person shoot-'em-up had it all except for a multi-player option. *Cue Team Arena* which, as the name suggests, provides the opportunity to play with and against other human opponents.

Team Arena offers four new game modes, the best of which is the immensely enjoyable but somewhat unoriginal *Capture the Flag*. The game requires the full version of *Quake III*. 7/10



KOYLI rifleman's Normandy story

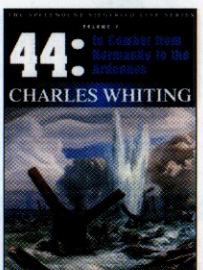
DON Clark has chosen *Cede Nullis* (Yield to None) – the motto of his regiment, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry – as the title if his down-to-earth personal history of the 1940 Normandy campaign (Pentland Press, £17.50). It is a story of bravery against the odds. The Territorial rifleman's battalion suffered reversals at Abbeville and Rouen. Unable to be evacuated via St Nazaire due to the sinking of the Lancastria, the author and his comrades moved south until they found a small coaster and undertook a hazardous, six-day voyage to Plymouth.



DON CLARK 4691882

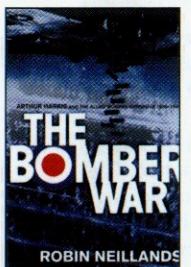
Triumph and tragedy in the front line

POPULAR and prolific military writer Charles Whiting has come up with the second title in his nine-volume account of the bloody battles to breach the West Wall, Germany's last line of defence in the closing stages of the Second World War. This is a true front-line soldier's story of heroism and tragedy, with plenty of detail about their personal weapons, what they ate, and so on. The armoured recce regiment veteran calls it '44: In Combat from Normandy to the Ardennes' and it is published in the Spellmount Siegfried Line Series at £16.95.



Bomb campaign book counters claptrap

AT first sight an RAF-oriented book, *The Bomber War: Arthur Harris and the Allied Bomber Offensive 1939-45* (John Murray, £25) inevitably contains so many Army allusions that a recommendation is not out of place here. Gifted historian Robin Neillands has written a balanced and thorough account endorsed by such luminaries as Burma veteran George MacDonald Fraser. Another writer, Maj Gen Julian Thompson RM, says in his cover notes: "... in a crystal clear and reasoned way, [this book] counters some of the claptrap uttered over the years about this aspect of the Second World War".



Julian Thompson RM, says in his cover notes: "... in a crystal clear and reasoned way, [this book] counters some of the claptrap uttered over the years about this aspect of the Second World War".

Long may his hero rein

Brig Allan Mallinson explains how he breathed life into his historical creation Matthew Hervey

Interview: Anthony Stone

IF you're going to write about an old-fashioned hero, Brig Allan Mallinson suggests, it helps to set the story in heroic times. It's an approach that has worked well for the creator of Matthew Hervey, the fictional character who canters out for his third outing in *A Regimental Affair*.

In the Napoleonic wars patriotic duty bred a lot of heroes. They might be as rough-hewn as Sharpe or as refined as Hervey, but I think it was the period that made them'

many, culminating in command of his regiment.

He started writing when the 13th/18th merged with 15th/19th Hussars in 1992 to become the Light Dragoons and he was asked to write a combined history of the regiments. It was during his research for this book that the

son of a country parson, Mallinson was not always destined to be a soldier. Originally he trained to

be an Anglican priest, but his vocation took an-about-face when he took a short service commission in the infantry. A Regular commission followed and transfer to the 13th/18th Hussars. A succession of appointments took him to Staff College, Whitehall, Norway, Cyprus and Ger-

many. He is fastidious about using contemporaneous vocabulary. "If the word was not current at the time you simply can't use it – an anachronism in historical fiction would be a major howler and jars badly."

"In many ways Hervey is the best of people I have seen in the Army over many years. I do not believe historical fiction is about taking a modern

"I snatch time where I can," he said. "I remember I once wrote 25 good words during a ten-minute Tube journey from Paddington to Charing Cross. Once you start stitching them all together they add up. When I travel by air I take out my notebook rather than watch the in-flight movie. I prefer to sit down for three or four hours, which I do at weekends, and sometimes in the evenings, but it is not always like that."

man and dressing him in historical costume. He has got to be true to the time, he has got to think in the way in which he was shaped.

"The things that shaped men in those days were rather different. Hervey is flesh and blood with all the same emotions and impulses, and phys-

ical feelings, but his mental approach would have been shaped by very different things and I think if you forget that, you start writing unhistorical fiction. One or two people may have difficulties about the way he behaves in certain circumstances. But I think that a person such as

Mallinson muses that the Duke of Wellington would be wholly surprised about the need for a debate over the future of hunting. As for Hervey, he'd probably resign his commission.

Tim scales publishing heights

ANOTHER serving officer to have entered the realms of commercial authorship is Maj Tim Saunders, D and D, whose "day job" is second-in-command of the Army Training Regiment at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield.

His first book, *Hill 112*, about one of the battles of the Odon in Normandy in the summer of 1944, was published last month at £9.95 in the Leo Cooper Battleground Europe paperback series.

Maj Saunders, an experienced battlefield tour guide,

Soldier has a signed copy of *A Regimental Affair* by Allan Mallinson to give away. To win, answer the following: **Who was the British monarch in 1817?** The winner will be drawn at random from the correct postcards received by June 1. Normal *Soldier* competition rules apply.

him, with that particular background, at that particular time, would act in that way."

Mallinson, like Hervey, is a keen horseman and one of his early company commanders encouraged his men to follow hounds, either on foot or horse, because it would give them a good eye for ground.

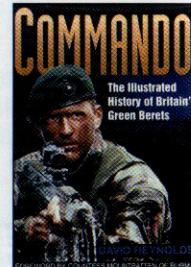
"To me it's an activity that develops boldness and courage, qualities which are not exactly the same. The British cavalry right up until the Second World War were absolutely clear that if you wanted to develop your officers' skills you sent them out hunting.

"Lord Deedes (the journalist and former *Daily Telegraph* editor) who won an MC with the Green Jackets at Normandy, observed that those officers who had hunted a lot were very often the ones who were quickest at sizing up a situation and deciding how best to use the ground."

Mallinson muses that the Duke of Wellington would be wholly surprised about the need for a debate over the future of hunting. As for Hervey, he'd probably resign his commission.

'Unique' picture of the Commandos

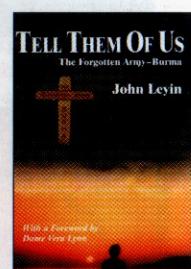
FIRST thing you notice about *Commando: The Illustrated History of Britain's Green Berets* (Sutton, £25) is the excellent use of photographs. The striking cover compels you to open it and you are treated to a feast of pictures, many in colour. They complement a comprehensive narrative crafted by TA officer David Reynolds which tells the story of this crack force from Dieppe via Palestine, Suez, Malaya, Cyprus, the Falklands, Northern Ireland and northern Iraq to Sierra Leone – plus the bonus of a "unique" insight into the Green Beret training course at Lymington.



Conscript tankie's war in the jungle

AS John Leyin reminds us in *Tell Them Of Us*, fighting a formidable foe in the jungles of Burma with the "Forgotten 14th" was physically and mentally daunting for a British conscript like himself. His grim experiences in the Far East with the 25th Dragoons, a tank regiment – particularly in the desperate

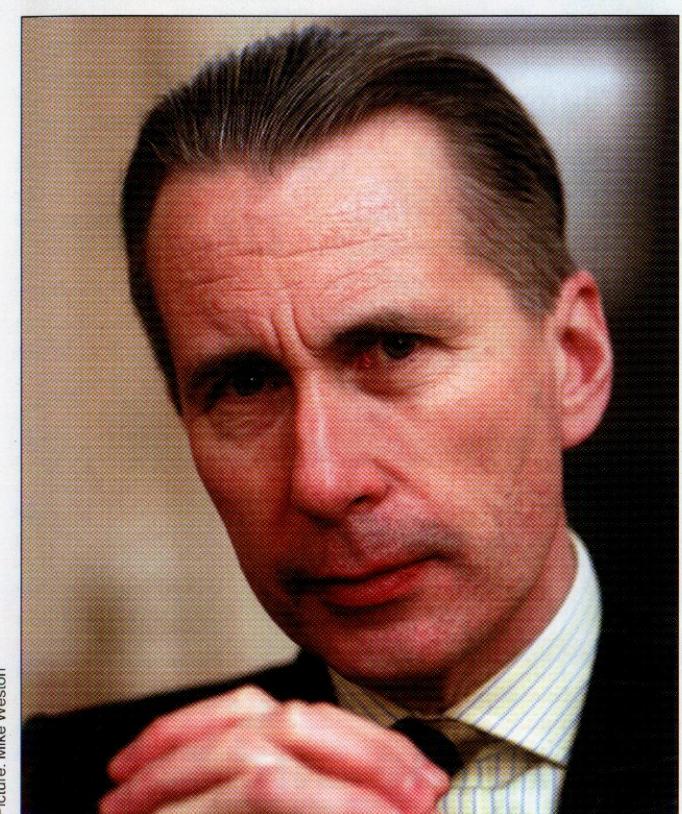
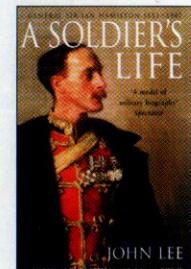
Defence of the Admin Box – are told starkly from a personal perspective. The book, which contains 44 photographs and 11 maps, can be obtained from Lejins Publishing, 98 Victoria Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 0HY, priced £14.99 plus £1.50 p&p (two or more copies, post-free).



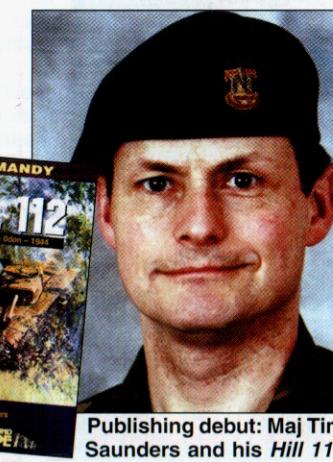
Biographer seeks to redeem Hamilton

THE "blame culture" is seen by many as a phenomenon of our times. Not exclusively, of course, and Gallipoli stands out in history as one of the prime examples.

Though he had until then proved himself a brilliant officer, this ill-fated campaign brought the downfall of Gen Sir Ian Hamilton, the commander-in-chief. In the well-told biography *A Soldier's Life* (Pan paperback, £6.99) John Lee seeks to salvage Hamilton's reputation by arguing it was unfair to point the finger at him or indeed any particular individual.

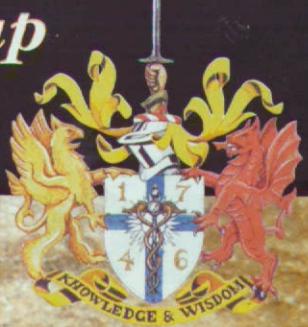


Picture: Mike Weston

Publishing debut: Maj Tim Saunders and his *Hill 112*

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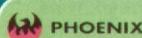
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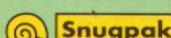
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SOLDIER to soldier

Can we fix it? – Yes, we can . . .

NEWS that a massive injection of funds will allow the Army to put to rights the large chunk of less-than-adequate accommodation in which many single soldiers are forced to live was met with a huge sigh of relief.

Senior commanders have acknowledged for years that something had to be done, but lacked the bullets (hard cash) to fire at the problem.

This great news comes, however, with a caution to every soldier currently living in a draughty, poorly-heated tip of a barracks: *be patient, it ain't going to happen overnight.*



Brig Tom Foulkes, Director of the newly-formed Army Estate Organisation, told *Soldier* that even though the worst accommodation will be blitzed first under the £17-million Project Reader, it may be months before workmen appear over the horizon. It is an enormous task.

He assures us that action plans – both in the short and long terms – are being finalised as you read this, so (without wishing to be flippant) Bob the Builder really is on his way.

Brig Foulkes summed up what we have heard many times in recent years from the Army's most senior officers: "... some soldiers may have thought we don't care. But we do and we're going to do something about it."



Following the conflict in Kosovo, we carried in our correspondence pages several letters from soldiers unhappy that they were being unfairly "taxed" while on operations.

The rules meant that for troops based in Germany, their Local Overseas Allowance (LOA) was cut while they were in the Balkans (the cost of living there being cheaper than it was back in Germany). Many saw it, understandably, as a pay cut imposed while they were risking their lives.

More good news: the abatements are to be dropped altogether for the first 17 days and reduced thereafter.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

We're moving with the times

I DID my last march-out four years ago (OK, OK, I know it's called a move-out now, but this is an old dog and a rose by any other name . . .). I still remember parts of it in vivid, horrendous detail, especially how long it took and how tired I was.

It's amazing how dirty a clean house is once you remove the furniture and start pulling out cookers and fridges. I also remember driving away with a car full of cleaning kit and plants, heading for the motorway and another house which had to be blitzed before the removers arrived, chanting to myself "never again, never again, never again".

And I haven't done it again, because we moved into our own house. But NONE of us need to do it again, because (praise be and about time, too) there are such things as the Defence Housing Executive's cleaning scheme, the Paderborn cleaning scheme and the Northern Ireland cleaning trial.

At last all we have to do is write a cheque, leave the place clean and tidy, get in the car and follow the van to the next quarter. Definitely moving rather than



Sue Bonney is Editor of the AFF Families Journal

marching. There may still be some spouses out there who prefer to do it themselves, slaving away with toothbrushes and bleach and sleeping on the floor when the furniture has gone, but – thank the MoD – the rest of us should have a choice at last.

But a word of warning. If there is a scheme available to you on your next move, make the most of it and USE it before they turn round and say "too few people took it up, too many complained, it was all too difficult, problems with contractors, no one wanted to pay . . ." and take it away from us again.

Cleaning schemes are one of the Army Family Federation's current target issues, together with schools admissions in the UK. We need your feedback, comments and experiences so that we have evidence and statistics of your views to give to the chain of command and the Service Families' Task Force.

If you have had difficulty getting your child into a school in the UK, or recent experience of one of the new cleaning schemes – good, bad or indifferent – let AFF know.

Most of us are 'reasonably happy'

... that's what we told the Changing Attitudes Survey about life in the Army

ACCORDING to the AFF/SSAFA-Forces Help's recent Changing Attitudes Survey, hassle-free move-outs are the third most important factor in accompanied service, after full dental and medical services and good-quality housing.

It may be a surprise that dental and medical services come in just ahead of housing, but probably indicative of the lack of confidence families have in being able to find a dentist on posting, and getting any necessary medical treatment in time before moving on. Accessible medical care is of great importance to families.

The survey went to 2,000 spouses to find out what they think of their

lives with the Army, and how they would like to see it change in the future. More than 700 responded, 67 per cent of whom – believe it or not – said they were reasonably happy with Army life.

Accompanied service is still popular – 24 per cent would always move with partners even on short tours, 13 per cent like it the way things are and a further 29 per cent agreed but would prefer postings of about three years. That's 66 per cent happy to move around – indeed, a significant 64 per cent felt the strain of separation was worse than the moving around. Other interesting figures include: 79 per cent of spouses wanted careers of their own; 81

per cent felt training for spouses should be an option in all postings; 76 per cent would like a welcome visit from the local Army community when they arrive in a new posting; and 53 per cent were in favour of acknowledging unmarried partners.

AFF will be publishing a full report on the survey. Make sure you get your free copy of the May issue of the *Families Journal*, coming soon to a unit near you.

You can write to AFF Central Office at Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 6BE.



Out soon: May issue



I was unpaid super-sub for my sick colleague

IN October a colleague of mine (a staff sergeant) was told by a medical review not to return to work pending being "struck off strength/Y-listed". I believe the reason was because of MoD liability (ie the possibility of his injury/condition being made worse while in barracks). He was sent home on full pay and others had to pick up his workload.

I was required to fulfil his duties as well as my own and applied for substitution pay. I was told by my pay office that I could not claim substitution pay for his post between October and December because he was not actually then "struck off strength".

Although I will receive substitution pay from December onwards, I find it bewildering that a soldier can claim substitution pay for a superior's post (when that post-holder is, for example, deployed on operations) yet can't claim when the holder is lying at home with his feet up because he hasn't been "struck off strength". – **Sgt S Bell, DMSTC, Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.**

▲ Paragraph 455Aa(2) of the Pay Warrant confirms that substitution pay can be granted to personnel required to carry out the duties and responsibilities of an individual of higher rank absent due to illness, DPS(A) tell us. In Sgt Bell's case, so long as he was carrying out the full duties and responsibilities of the staff sergeant who was absent on sick leave and, as the staff sergeant was filling an established post, there is no reason why Sgt Bell should not receive substitution pay for the period of absence starting from October 2000. His unit should reconsider and apply retrospectively if he satisfies these criteria. – **Editor**

EOD job on a par with chef

AS a soldier who has just transferred to ammunition technician (class 2) after serving five years in a previous job I feel all the hard work that went into the course is no longer justified.

I didn't just transfer because of the money, although it was a factor in my decision. But now, much to my astonishment, I'm being told that a chef is on the same pay rate as a technician. I appreciate that chefs work hard, long hours, but how can Pay 2000 place a chef on the same pay scale as an operator working in Northern Ireland?

Does a staff sergeant in charge of a cookhouse face the same stresses as a technician approaching and dealing with

PAY 2000

an improvised explosive device? I would say not.

I don't mean to offend any chefs but I'm sure even they would see my point.

I would appreciate it if you would print this letter as I feel very strongly about this. – **LCpl T Rowlands, 921 Sqn, 11 EOD Regt, Bielefeld.**

▲ We have received several unsigned letters on Pay 2000. Although all of them are heartfelt and well-reasoned we, regrettably, are unable to publish them because they are anonymous. While we will respect requests to withhold name and address, we need to be satisfied that the correspondence is genuine.

– **Editor**

Crash left me out-of-pocket

I AM serving in Cyprus and am writing to alert you to tell you of my experiences of insuring a vehicle with Norwich Union through Warrior/Naafi.

I bought a nearly new UK-spec, tax-free Porsche Boxster with 5,000 miles on the clock in September 1999. Norwich Union advised me to insure it for its UK tax-paid market value of £28,000, at an annual premium of £900.

A year later I crashed the car. Porsche UK and Porsche Nicosia advised me that it would need repairs estimated at £17,000 before labour charges and clearly more than 60 per cent of the car's value, which should have made it a write-off.

Norwich Union, however, insisted on having the car seen by a Cypriot assessor.

Anyone who has lived here will know MOTs are non-existent. He said my car could be repaired at a cost of £12,000, but to what standard? Norwich Union told me that even if the car had been written-off, the most they would pay out was £22,000. Where did they get this figure?

I had to settle for a pay-out of £12,000, plus my banged-up car. Norwich Union took three months to settle, I ran up costs of £600 for a hire car and spent more than £60 in phone calls to the Norwich. And they continued to collect premiums from my account after I got rid of the car. – **Sgt Paul Grady, CJPU, BFPO 53.**

▲ We asked Norwich Union to respond to Sgt Grady's letter, but they failed to do so. – **Editor**

Demand for proof of travel questions my integrity

YOUR article on key allowances (March 2000) highlighted the chain of command's desire for soldiers to claim their entitlements.

As I'm serving in Bosnia, my wife is entitled to claim two separation warrants, which for UK-based Service personnel comes in the form of motor mileage allowance (MMA) to a next-of-kin address.

Having submitted a claim to the pay office in Banja Luka, I was informed that due to the regimental admin officer's policy, I must provide proof that my wife actually completed the journey I was claiming for.

I was also advised to obtain receipts from my wife for any purchases she may have made while at her mother's address for the weekend. Without this

evidence, my claim would not be processed.

In view of your article, I was surprised to find such an obstructive practice is in use.

I was also disturbed that my integrity and that of my wife was questioned. Should I ask my in-laws to provide evidence for a £30 claim or should I just not bother to claim, contrary to HQ Land advice? – **Sgt M J H Batten, RMP (SIB).**

▲ The request for proof of travel should not be seen by Sgt Batten or his wife as questioning their integrity, HQ Land tells us. Payments made from unit Imprest accounts are held for six years and the Defence Internal Auditors can check accounts throughout that period.

In addition, each unit undergoes an annual SPS inspection during which time Imprest payments are scrutinised. It is prudent, therefore, to have as much supporting evidence as possible attached to payments made from the public purse.

The request made of Sgt Batten is not unique. It is fairly common for COs and admin offices throughout Land Command to ask for some proof of journey undertaken before payment of a claim. – **Editor**

PISCATOR



Question time: What is the correct name for a guardsman's ceremonial head-dress?

A) Busby; B)熊皮帽; C) Shako.

Answers on a postcard please to ABF Soldier Competition, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR. First ten correct entries picked out of the hat will win a Piscator Bugler Boy keyring and a Tommy Atkins fridge magnet (no name and address, no prize). All entries will be placed in the ABF Grand Prize Draw.



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Ask us... we're using the equipment already

I READ the article (March) about trials on the CamelBak personal hydration system by the Trials and Development Team at Warminster. CamelBaks have been available on the civilian market for some time and many of my men have bought their own to use on marches and during arduous training activities.

Again it is a case of soldiers buying their own equipment to make life easier in the field that has brought this to the attention of the Armed Forces. I, like many others, have spent a small fortune on kit and equipment, only to see the US Army, for example, being issued with it – and getting allowances to buy items as necessary.

Although it is good to see things such as CamelBak on trial, a survey (of the Teeth Arms especially) would show what we prefer to use in the field. I, like others,

deploy with a bergen full of equipment I have bought, not to mention kit I'm wearing.

The stuff does eventually come into circulation: Gore-Tex waterproofs and boots, Maglite torches, bivi bags, DPM bergens and webbing, chest rigs, and Aussie ponchos to name a few.

A better-equipped soldier makes for a more effective operative in both combat and field conditions, with a bit more to spend in his or her back pocket. – **Sgt Paul Mockridge, 1 D and D, G Company, ITC Catterick.**

▲ Instead of the usual prize from Soldier's gift collection, we will be sending Sgt Mockridge his very own hydration system, donated by CamelBak. What bit of kit would you buy with £250? Turn to Page 78 to find out how Catterick-based soldiers responded to that question. – **Editor**

Prize letter

PS...

Mountain men

I SEE 1 RHF soldiers are training for mountain warfare, (Jan). You will remember that 2 HLI, now amalgamated with 1 RSF to form 1 RHF, were trained in the Lebanon to be ski troops and, with Lovats Scouts, were our "men of the mountains". In 1946 both units were in Greece and their private soldiers were known as "mountaineers".

A coincidence that 1 RHF should again be chosen as mountain troops. – **R G Rennie, Dumbarton.**

Privates at risk

I would like to reply to R J Blackie's comments (March) on drug abuse. All ranks take the compulsory drugs test (CDT), not just private soldiers. From experience I can confirm that when the CDT team calls, everyone in our battalion is tested, regardless of rank.

I accept young people socialise more and that spiking of drinks goes on. However, within the military we have standard operating procedures for most tasks. Should we not introduce Drink Watch, whereby a friend looks after the drinks while calls of nature are made, for example? It could prolong the military careers of the younger element, to which I once belonged.

I'd like to endorse the Editor's comment that overall it seems it is the younger element who just cannot say no. – **WO2 (RQMS) M Gamblin, 1 LI.**

Proud to be Rangers

AS a member of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment currently serving on a posting to The Royal Irish Rangers, I would like to clarify the point raised by R H Weir ("Confused identity", Feb).

He said he was concerned about the Fijians joining the regiment calling themselves Rangers. The terminology used in your January edition was, on the whole, accurate. Private soldiers of 1 R Irish are still called rangers throughout the Army.

As your article ("Fijians follow in fathers' footsteps", Jan) clearly stated that the soldiers' journey began in Fiji and ended in Canterbury, we can safely assume that they are rangers of 1 R Irish. They have every right to call themselves "Rangers" . . . and to be proud of it. Sadly, we in 1 R Irish are no longer known as Irish Rangers. – **WO2 M S Newell, B Coy, The Royal Irish Rangers.**

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy... Soldier welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the our gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Mail us!



Excuse me, but I don't want to dine

I'M a private soldier living in single barrack room accommodation. My complaint is simple: I am forced to pay £3.23 a day for food which I never eat.

I'm told the food in the main kitchen is generally of a high standard, but I prefer a light breakfast in front of the TV, my lunch is usually a sandwich at work and, because dinner is early evening, it is the wrong time for me. I train in the early evening, so prefer to make my own meal later or go out for dinner.

I understand the rules regarding food

charges (RAAC, Chapter 20) but it makes me cross to think that I pay more than £1,000 a year (taking leave into account) for food I don't eat. Administration costs of stopping a soldier's food are nil and simple to administer. I know because I work in the pay office.

During the independent Bett Review in 1995, a Pay As You Dine scheme was suggested. Six years on (during which time personnel like me have spent more than £6,000 on food) we still have to pay a blanket charge.

I don't want to Pay As I Dine . . . I don't want to dine at all. I would like to be able to spend the money I earn on what I would like to spend it on, and not be forced to pay another tax called a food charge. – **Pte N Kelly, RAO, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne.**

▲ As reported in the April issue, Pay As You Dine is "back on the menu" under a new project team. Send you views to the PAYD Project Team, DLO Andover, Room 9, Building 209, Monxton Road, Andover SP11 8HT or call 01264 348051. – **Editor**

Poor quality of food is doing nothing to help retention at my son's training camp

IN the current climate of poor retention, I was pleased to hear my serving son tell me he is enjoying every aspect of Army life 15 months into his career. Every aspect except one . . . the food.

I found this hard to believe as I have fond memories of the same training establishment, which, when I was there, had a brand new cookhouse offering a wide choice of professionally-

cooked food. As a single soldier it was certainly better than the two choices at home (take it or leave it!).

Then he explained that all the chefs are non-military. My son spends a large amount of his wage on junk food to subsidise the poor-quality meals provided in his establishment, where retention is supposed to be a big issue.

He realises this will change once he finishes his

trade training and moves to an operational unit. However, others may feel this is the norm and vote with their feet. While it is understood that RLC chefs are also difficult to recruit and retain, the haemorrhaging of personnel from the Army may reduce if new intakes are fed by chefs whose watchword is "We Sustain", not "Who Cares". – **WO2 (AQMS) M K Dance, HQ 107 (Ulster) Brigade, Northern Ireland.**

Drug users jeopardise lives

I COULDN'T believe an RMP even suggested rehabilitating someone who failed a compulsory drugs test (Vox pop, April). People know the rules regarding drugs and their misuse in the Armed Forces. A policy of zero tolerance should be employed within society as a whole, with the Services setting the standard. Kick out drug users . . . they jeopardise all our lives. – **Cpl KJ McCauley.**

Why National Servicemen want a medal

MAY I enter the debate on the subject of an award for National Servicemen? It is not that we wish to emulate the Regulars or Reservists – we would just like some recognition of the fact that we "gave" two years (or more) for our country. That

meant disruption to jobs, studies, promotion prospects and families.

For those who served in the Canal Zone, the Africa Medal was not discontinued until the 1960s, wasn't it? – **Leonard Maryon, Ash Vale, Aldershot.**

Over-37 rules don't work for me

I WRITE to highlight the inequality of single soldiers and question the validity and application of the Services' Over-37 provision.

As a single 38-year-old warrant officer, it grieved me to have my leave travel entitlement removed (RAAC Chap 05.052) while my neighbour, who is over 37 and voluntarily unaccompanied, receives the Get You Home (Posted) allowance to help him visit his family.

His payment equates to two journeys a month and is paid while he is on annual leave. In addition, he is waived accommodation charges even though he occupies the same standard of accommodation as me.

He also pays a reduced rate of food charges (a 27 per cent subsidy) and, although paying less for food, is allowed to make the same rate of claim for subsistence . . . a case of having your cake and eating it.

Most single soldiers have a life outside

the Services that takes them away at weekends. I believe this absence at the weekend was a factor in abating food charges for married unaccompanied personnel.

Long-serving single soldiers like myself need to prepare for the future by buying property. Many mature single soldiers will probably have stable relationships with partners, often with children involved.

I believe this attractive financial benefit should apply to all personnel over 37 years of age who are in their last three years of service. It is time the needs of single soldiers were included in a less discriminatory system.

To quote the equal opportunities policy issued by the Chief of the General Staff: "We aim to provide genuine equality of opportunity for all Servicemen and women irrespective of their ethnic origin, marital status or religious belief". – **WO1 C Jones, RLC, DASC, Tewkesbury.**

▲ Personal Services has reminded us that the Army's housing policy is based on the concept of accompanied service whenever it is possible.

All married personnel are entitled to choose to serve unaccompanied. Until they are eligible to serve on the Over 37 package, they are required to pay food and accommodation charges.

As WO1 Jones will be aware, this provision was introduced to assist a soldier and his family prepare for the transition into civilian life when nearing the end of military service in the area they wish to settle and, importantly, settling children into schools.

The Get-You-Home (Posted) allowance is part of the financial equation for not moving a family on posting, so not all personnel on the Over 37 package can necessarily claim it. It is linked to the average cost of the relocation package.

It is likely that the difference in food charges mentioned, say PS10(A), would be removed in the event of a Pay As You Dine scheme being introduced. Under PAYD, all personnel would pay for what they eat, rather than the subsidised rate used at the moment. – **Editor**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1976: An Army career that spanned half a century and two major conflicts in the history of a man was at an end. From "Monty – November 1887 to March 1976", a tribute to Fd Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, who died on March 24.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1951: Against the background of a burning village in Korea, a Centurion engages the enemy in one of the first actions by this class of tank, above. Although it is still an infantryman's war, the Centurion has fired in anger... and very accurately, too.

Medals – did honour reforms get it wrong?

AWARDS in the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours show the reforms to the system a few years ago are having exactly the effect that was feared.

To re-cap, before the reforms, the award of CBE was rank-ranged brigadier and colonel, OBE lieutenant colonels only, MBE major to WO2, and BEM staff sergeant to private.

The introduction of more flexibility was sensible, particularly with the MBE and OBE, because an officer or warrant officer who was already MBE could not be recognised further unless he reached the rank of lieutenant colonel.

More flexibility was promised, but inexplicably the BEM was discontinued with the promise that appointments to MBE for junior ranks would increase to make up for the BEMs that "might have been".

"That'll be the day" was the general reaction at the time. Anyway, had no one explained to the powers-that-be that the BEM was a medal and, therefore, a bar could be awarded, while a MBE can only be "advanced" to OBE, unlikely below

commissioned rank, even with all the flexibility in the world?

Looking at the military list, the parameters for CBE and OBE appear to remain unchanged. Of the 58 MBEs appointed in the New Year, 29 are officers (21 majors), 20 are WOs, seven are SNCOs and two are junior ranks.

As predicted, it is the junior ranks who have lost out and there is no way of knowing how many MBEs below the rank of lieutenant colonel who were worthy of further recognition were not recommended because there is no honour for which they can be recommended.

A case in point is a staff sergeant BEM appointed MBE. Under the new rules he would have been appointed MBE previously in lieu of the BEM and so could not be recognised again as a staff sergeant. Under the old system he would have been awarded a bar to his BEM and been eligible for MBE after promotion to WO2, or further bars to his BEM if not promoted.

A real effort should be made to get it right with the Jubilee Medal. – **Lt Col (Retd) Jeremy N Alford, Camberley, Surrey.**

PS . . .

Jubilee Medal

COULD you tell me why the Military Provost Guard Service is eligible for the Golden Jubilee Medal and the Army Fire Service and MoD Police are not? It seems unfair that services which go on active service around the world (including Bosnia and Kosovo) are not eligible, but a civil service unit that remains within the UK is. – R M Ellis, Harlow, Essex.

IT looks like veterans have been stuffed again. Why has our service to Her Majesty been ignored? Why no recognition for ex-Servicemen and women? It is possible that men and women who have served during the reign of Queen Elizabeth have been involved in more conflicts since the time of Victoria, when the last Jubilee Medal was awarded. – **John Madill** (e-mail).

I HOPE that when the criteria for the eligibility for the Golden Jubilee Medal are formulated they don't repeat the fiasco of the Silver Jubilee Medal, which was only given to a select few. – **Craig Stewart**, Capt, OC Army Section, CCF, Clackmannanshire.

I hope a fairer way of awarding this medal than previous such awards can be found. I was on parade in Hamburg for the coronation and was still serving for the Silver Jubilee, but only the CO, adjutant, RSM, ASM and bandmaster received the Coronation Medal – and a similar system was practised for the Silver Jubilee Medal. With 38 years of service I would have been very proud to wear either award. – **W Fox**, Peterlee, Co Durham.

WHY can't cadet adult instructors be considered for the Jubilee Medal, say with ten years service? Adult instructors do a lot of unpaid evening work, with little or no thanks, for the good of the youth of this country. – **Lt Peter Wade**, Brightlingsea Det, D Coy, Essex ACF.

I remember the controversy surrounding the limited distribution of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, when most were eligible but few actually received it. Give one to every Serviceman and woman. – **Maj G Thomas**, DCSA Blandford, Dorset.

Front-line women

I KNOW there are physically fit women out there and women who will disagree with me, but for hundreds of years men have been fighting and winning on their own. I don't think they need the extra burden of women making a bad situation worse. – **LCpl Kelly Quinn, AGC (SPS), 3 CS Regiment RLC, Abingdon.**

Chipping away . . .

WITH regard to "Has the old ID card had its chips?" (April), who would change the battery? For administration purposes the new microchip could become a real pain in the neck. Keep it up. – **Maj (Retd) Ron Goodwin, 22nd (Cheshire) Regt, Chester.**

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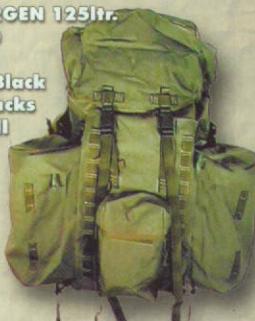


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MORE OF YOUR REACTIONS TO THE TV LICENCE DECISION

Congratulations . . . I don't think

In the April issue we carried on these pages a formal response from PS4(Army) setting out the reasons for the licensing authority's decision on TV licences. But it hasn't stopped you writing in. Here are two more strongly-held views on the subject

HAVING recently compiled a data-capturing exercise for the Television Licensing Authority (TVLA), I must congratulate all those involved at the wonderful result achieved on behalf of every individual having the unenviable duty of occupying Single Living Accommodation (SLA).

The fact that only one licence is to be purchased per multi-occupancy room is a real bonus, especially in the light of future plans for single occupancy rooms wherever possible.

This can only be good news for anyone wishing to join the Forces, proving the MoD really does care about morale and welfare.

The advice given by one bright spark

I AM currently serving at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick as a living-in training corporal. I am shocked at the news that all soldiers with a TV require a licence.

Why can't one licence cover all the televisions at a particular address? A household in civvy street needs only one licence but may have several sets under the same roof.

Asking soldiers in grade three accom-

modation, or new recruits, to fork out more than £100 so they can relax after work is suspect. I think getting soldiers to pay for such a trivial thing when they deploy to Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone and Kosovo in the name of Britain is appalling.

Can the quartermaster in each unit not produce one licence to cover all TVs at that address? – **Cpl Robert Loudon, section commander, ITC Catterick.**

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Can the quartermaster in each unit not produce one licence to cover all TVs at that address? – **Cpl Robert Loudon, section commander, ITC Catterick.**

instructors because their hands are tied. All the powers-that-be seem to care about is the numbers coming through. We need quality not quantity. Instead of accepting just anyone, it would be better to find a way to keep quality soldiers from signing off.

I'm sure I will be told I don't know all the facts, to which my answer would be: don't ask other officers, find out what's happening at grass-roots level.

This letter is not meant to offend and I hope it will provoke some good responses. – **LCpl Tunstill, 1 RRW.**

WE wrote to you (Sept 2000) on the question of retaining No 2 dress or replacing the current dress uniform. Many soldiers, it seems, thought the letter was a joke. It wasn't.

In case anyone reading this is unaware of our original question, it was "What is to become of No 2 dress?" We would be interested in an official response.

We cannot be expected to attend formal parades in working dress – Combat Soldier 95 – which is hardly able to withstand the rigours of daily wear without us having to use it for yet another purpose.

Our commanding officer keeps us informed at regular briefing, and at the last one he told us the No 2 dress question was being addressed, along with that of working dress.

We are a proud, professional and smart organisation with many traditions. Is there any need for us in this new millennium to look like a collection of Worzel Gummidgees and Aunt Sallies on official parades? – **Sgt R J Parsons and LCpl Beard, 5 GS Medical Regiment RAMC, Preston, Lancs.**

Help me help Podujevo kids

I AM serving with the Multi-National Military Police Company in Podujevo, Kosovo and take a keen interest in local schools. I have noticed very young children are in great danger when they walk to and from school so have started a campaign called Operation Safechild.

My aim is to teach the youngsters basic road safety . . . and this is where I need the help of your readers. I am looking for reflective armbands (or anything reflective that could be attached to a school bag or clothing) to help inconsiderate drivers see five-year-olds walking beside the road.

I will be visiting the schools to talk about road safety, so will hand out any items you are able to send me. – **Sgt Brendan McMahon, RMP, Podujevo Detachment, Multi-National Military Police Company, Multi-National Brigade (Centre), Op Agricola, BFPO 559.**

Softly-softly approach to training isn't the answer

I CAME across an article entitled "Goodbye to boasting" in a magazine for officers. It was focused on bullying and in-your-face shouting by training staff.

While I don't condone bullying and am glad to see the back of it, I can't see how this softly-softly approach is going to produce a better recruit. Instructors now have to pander to their every need.

I speak from experience when I say most recruits coming out of training now don't have a clue.

Recruits leave training camps that are a bit like Butlins, and it's no good blaming

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Cpl Steven Prendergast, 1 DWR

A Softie jacket is a must. It's a good piece of kit, folds up really small and is much better than the Army fleece. The fleece can give you a neck rash and it's not windproof. My Softie jacket is much warmer.



Pte Steve Martin, 2 LI

We need better sleeping bags. Although issue bags are good when they are dry, they are terrible when wet and put about another 10lb in the bergen. They take too long to dry and take up too much space. I have bought a Snugpak, which is good for temperatures down to minus 10C or 15C and about a quarter the size of the Army-issue ones. It cost me £90, but you do need that extra bit of comfort while on exercise. A lot of the lads have them. Most people spend their money on comfort kit.



Sgt John Hoskins, 1 RRF

Top of my list is GPS (Global Positioning System). Although a few junior NCOs have GPS, I see less need for the private soldier to have one. Aside from GPS, I'd consider different boots. The basic issue are all right but they don't have Gore-Tex linings and you need something to keep your feet warm and dry.



Cpl Dave Neye, 2 RGJ

We were trialling Combat 95 (clothing) a few years back and everyone said the material wears too easily. Yet that is what we have. It

could be made from a more hard-wearing material. I'd also consider spending money on GPS. I have bought one and am a map-reader on our training course. I find it invaluable.



Pte Andy Peddelty, 2 PWRR

A pair of Danner boots would be my choice. They are more comfortable than the issue boots and the guys that have them say they are good. And Combat 95 could be made more hard-wearing. It isn't up to the job in my opinion.



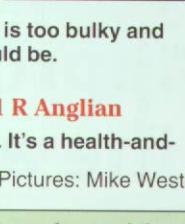
Pte Gary Howell, 1 D and D

Everyone buys a Softie jacket, which is an excellent bit of kit. It would be nice to be issued with them. The issue fleece is useless when it gets wet. It takes ages to dry and is bulky. And it gives me a rash around the neck.



Pte Solomone Tabanivesidrau, 1 RGBW

For me it would be GPS or a sleeping bag. The issued sleeping bag is good in cold weather but not so good in a hot climate. It is too bulky and not as efficient as it could be.



Pte Richard De Buc, 1 R Anglian

I'd get rid of the bergen. It's a health-and-

safety issue. We need one with a better frame like the civvy ones, which can adjust to your back to give proper lumbar support. Taller people suffer because Army bergens have no support. Civvy-style bergens would mean fewer back injuries.



Gdsm Damien McBride, 1 Gren Gds

Combat 95 kit, especially the trousers, should be looked at. They are all right for walking around barracks but out in the field they wear easily on the knees and on the legs. And they snag and tear too easily. They need to be more hard-wearing and made from better and tougher material.



Fus Andy Jones, 1 RWF

It would be handy to have GPS in each section. Map-reading would still be important but GPS could be used as a back-up and to check calculations.



Rfn Simon Topp, 2 RGJ

A new day sack would be useful. At present we don't get issued with one and have to adjust the bergen. There are many available and I bought my own and use it all the time. It's easily adjustable, less bulky and generally more efficient and comfortable.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston



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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355
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Editor John Elliott 347356 (Aldershot mil 2356)

Assistant Editors Anthony Stone 340462 (5462),
Ray Routledge 340753 (5753),
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Art Editor Les Gwyer 347169 (2169)

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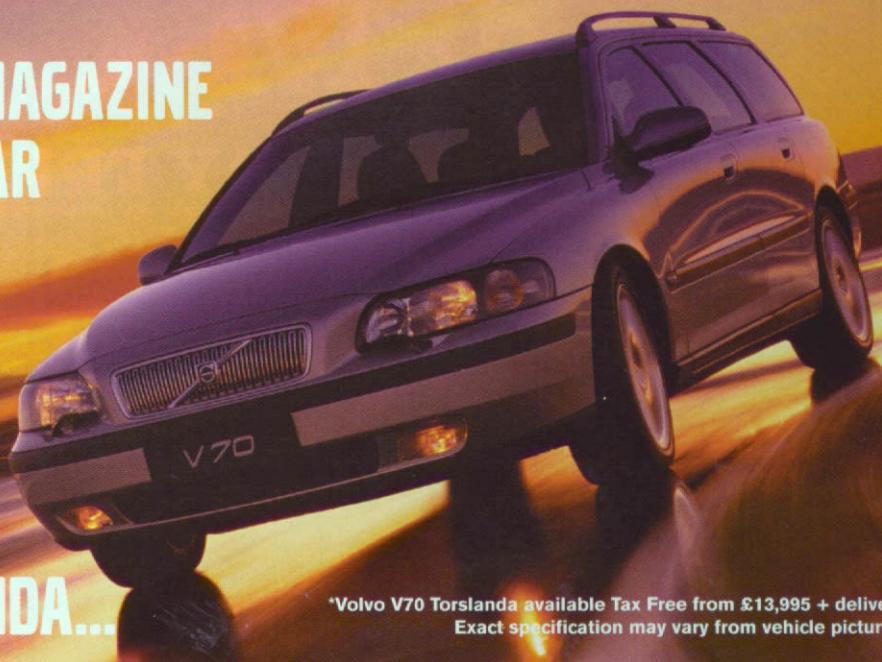
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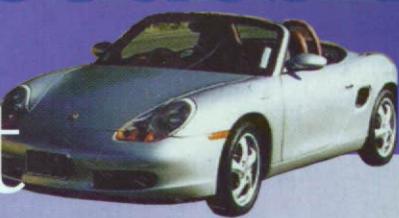
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