

SOLDIER



**Signallers
soak up
Lion Sun**

**Captive in Africa:
exclusive pictures**

**Poachers in Sierra Leone
Hackles up in Pristina
What's on in Banja Luka**





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'The boys sent me a plastic blow-up sword in case I needed to fight my way out, a tin of Barbie spaghetti and a tie ... also a plastic aeroplane and some hangover tablets.' – Maj Andy Harrison
– Pages 4-5

'After tax and National Insurance, my allowance amounted to £544. It wasn't quite the £1,000 mentioned in various documents relating to retention initiatives.'

Letter from a warrant officer
– Page 70



40-41 Cover story

Early riser: LCpl Jayne Robinson of 2 Pln, 255 Signal Squadron, 16 Signal Regiment watches the sun come up while on Exercise Lion Sun in Cyprus

Picture: Mike Weston

How to contact Soldier
– see Page 70



"Right lads, one for every year ... just for me!"

• APTC marks its 60th anniversary – Pages 24-25

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... of your award-winning magazine

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SOLDIER to soldier

Job that demands so much

HE was in mortal danger ... so his mates sent him a blow-up sword with which to fight his way out of the jungle.

Who says our spirit of adventure is on the wane?

Maj Andy Harrison, who tells his story on the next two pages, spent weeks as a captive of Sierra Leone's drug-fuelled Revolutionary United Front. Undaunted, he has returned to West Africa to finish the job he started.

Sweating under the same sun are soldiers of The Royal Anglian Regiment trying very hard to instil discipline and backbone into Sierra Leone's official army. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, meanwhile, is on patrol in Pristina's mean streets, separating Serb from revenge-seeking Albanian.



These are not situations faced by your average citizen.

The demands on our soldiers are radically different from most other occupations. In addition to competence, they require high discipline, selfless commitment, courage, loyalty and respect for others.

"... being a force for good does not just mean cuddling orphans and giving aspirins and cups of tea to old ladies. It also entails producing a highly effective, well-equipped, trained fighting force," the Chief of the Defence Staff said in an interview recently.



He also revealed that £8 million had been allocated to be spent on complying with the European Court of Human Rights.

Next month the Human Rights Act 1998 becomes law, challenging in ways yet to be tested (perhaps yet to be recognised) the requirement for this hugely effective culture of discipline and obedience to value the rights of its individuals.

Pass the blow-up sword ...

Special interview

Return to the war zone

Maj Andy Harrison's escape from Sierra Leone put him in headlines. Now he has returned to complete the job he started

Interview: Ray Routledge

THE dramatic rescue of Maj Andy Harrison and several dozen UN colleagues from the jungles of West Africa caught the media's imagination and made international headlines.

Yet a couple of weeks after being reunited with his wife Carolyn and daughters Philippa and Isabel at RAF Northolt, Maj Harrison quietly slipped out of Britain and returned to Sierra Leone.

Two days before he left, the officer from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment told *Soldier* about his time as a prisoner. "My job was to facilitate the Lome Peace Accord, which requires the rebels to decommission weapons," he explained. "I was part of a team that deployed into Kailahun, a town in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) heartland.

"There was an Indian UN garrison in the town. We had been there for several weeks, the signs were good and there was a feeling of optimism." Maj Harrison met and worked with the rebels daily. Then the 11 observers were called to a meeting with the RUF commander at Kailahun.

"We were told there was to be a peaceful protest and that we would be held by the RUF for a while because the UN had allegedly held some people in the town of Makeni the previous night."

He and his fellow observers were paraded through Kailahun before being taken to a small rebel base in a village about half an hour away, close to the Liberian border. All he had were his clothes, a compass, some malaria tablets and his passport.

The prisoners were

put in a house with cells and barred windows. It was dark, had concrete floors, a leaking roof and was riddled with rats. After a few days of living on mangoes and paw-paw they started to get food brought in from the Indian UN company at Kailahun. Using a smuggled camera, Maj Harrison took photographs of his surroundings.

"The third day was bad because two RUF soldiers were killed in Makeni. That afternoon our captors threatened to kill a Russian peacekeeper, Andrea, and myself. We negotiated hard and things stabilised. It was not an experience I would like to go through every day."

The rebel soldiers made it clear that if any of their prisoners escaped, they would kill the same num-

ber from those left behind. After 11 days, by which time some members of the group had become badly traumatised, the captives were returned to their house in Kailahun. It had been looted.

With the team leader ill, Maj Harrison took command and with Andrea and a Pakistani officer decided to seize the initiative. The three walked past their guards and down the road to meet the rebel colonel.

"I saw him and casually asked if we could pop into the Indian location and he agreed. I rushed to the Indian compound, scrounged a vehicle, got all the others from the house and drove back to join the 200 soldiers at the Indian garrison. From that

moment we were no longer hostages and still not free to leave, but we were armed."

Although the Indian compound was deep in rebel territory, food convoys were allowed in. "Despite the routine looting, one convoy contained a package addressed to me that amazingly got through.

"Inside was a sat-phone," he laughed. "It was the first time I was able to speak properly to my chain of command."

The sat-phone was to prove vital in Harrison's eventual escape.

He chuckled as he recalled a second parcel. "One convoy brought a bag which British observer mates had packed. There was a change of clothes, washing kit, beer and biscuits. And there was the

British sense of humour, too. The boys sent me things like a tin of chicken curry because they knew I was eating curry three times a day, a plastic blow-up sword in case I needed to fight my way out, a tin of Barbie spaghetti and a tie."

"I asked for a helicopter and they sent me a plastic aeroplane and some hangover tablets.

"Most welcome were the clothing and rations. The whole British support system was fantastic right through, from my observer colleagues to the massive operation that was going on in the background."

But an increase in tension resulted in food supplies being cut off.

"One Friday night I got an indication that something was happening. It was surreal because I was told a guy wanted to

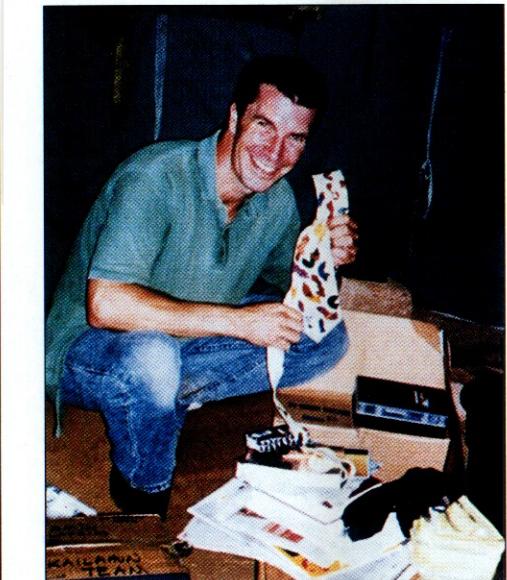
Meanwhile, at home

Carolyn Harrison, pictured with Andy, endured an anxious few weeks before her husband's return, but can see one funny side to his adventure. "Once he had the sat-

phone he'd call me at the most obscure places," she explained. "Here's my husband trapped thousands of miles away in the jungle and phoning me

while I'm at the check-out at Sainsbury's. It didn't seem real.

"I know he wants to go back to finish the job and I think it's the right thing to do."



Goodie box: Maj Andy Harrison, above, gets a little light relief from a parcel he received

Ready: Maj Harrison on guard in a bunker, left, in the Indian compound at Kailahun

Cell mate: This was Maj Harrison's "home" for 11 days, inset. The photograph was taken on a camera smuggled into the rebel base

play chess on the sat-phone and his opening move was D-1. I knew a rescue was coming."

The captives prepared kit ready for the operation, which was to be a simultaneous helicopter extraction and a breakout on the ground.

"It rained that night but I was in constant touch so knew what was happening.

"I heard the helicopters at 0600 but there was driving rain and visibility of only about 50 metres so I thought they would abort. When I saw the two Chinooks coming towards me it was like something out of a movie.

"I got the observers and injured troops on to the first helicopter and more Indian troops on the second. The other Indians fought their way out, losing one soldier and seven injured."

Next stop for Andy Harrison was home and the prospect of two years at Shrewsbury. But not before one final trip to Sierra Leone.

"There is a peace process developing and things are slowly improving and although I could have stayed at home, it would mean leaving a job half done."



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SOL09/00



People, places, events

SA80 shoots British Army to top of the world

A 20-strong British Army combat shooting team firing SA80 took on and beat some of the world's best military sharpshooters in an international competition in Canada last month.

They won ten out of 12 individual rifle matches and five out of six team events against Canada, the US Army, US Marines and the Royal Netherlands Army. Sgt Lalitbahadur

Gurung of The Royal Gurkha Rifles won the open individual rifle championship using a standard SA80, while WO2 David Delaney, RE, pictured right, took the international individual sniper competition firing the Army's standard L96 sniper rifle.

In the light machine-gun competition, the British light-support weapon (LSW), a much-criticised version of the SA80, swept the

board, winning all individual and pairs matches against teams using American and Canadian weapons.

The team won the international four-man-team rifle match for the Deimaco Trophy for the fourth time running and also the tough nine-man Soldiers' Cup Match, which involves a two-mile march-and-shoot, firing rifles and LSW. The team also won the four-man Soldiers' Cup.



Discipline reforms hit Rights balance

CHANGES to the Army Act 1955 which will take effect on October 2 will ensure that the needs of a disciplined fighting Service are balanced against the needs of individuals.

The implementation date coincides with the coming into force of the Human Rights Act 1998. The changes, which focus on summary dealing and custody, are being introduced under the Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000 and apply also to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The Act upholds the authority of commanding officers to exercise disciplinary powers needed to ensure that units can work effectively in peace and on operations.

Summary discipline, military custody and the court-martial will remain, but will be changed to reflect the need

to safeguard the rights of individuals.

There are three principal changes:

- Summary discipline will include the right to elect for trial by court-martial on any charge before the start of the summary hearing;
- There will be a right of appeal against summary findings and punishments;
- Military custody of more than 48 hours will require the authorisation of a judicial officer.

Since July, commanders and key staff have been attending courses to prepare for the changes.

A considerable amount of detailed work has also been done to ensure other rules and regulations affecting wider aspects of military life and of the Army's work are compatible with the Human Rights Act.

Gen Irwin to take over in Northern Ireland

MAJ Gen Alistair Irwin, late BW, is to succeed Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike as GOC Northern Ireland in the rank of lieutenant general. Currently Military Secretary, he will take over in December.

Other recent senior appointments include Maj Gen Cedric Delves, late D and D and currently Chief Joint Force Operational Readiness and Training, Permanent Joint Headquarters, who will be promoted lieutenant general

before taking over from Lt Gen Sir John Deverell as Deputy C-in-C Land Command in March.

Gen Irwin is to be replaced by Maj Gen Peter Grant Peterkin, late QOH, currently commanding 5th Division, and Brig (Acting Maj Gen) Graham Messervy-Whiting, late Int Corps and currently Head of Interim Military Staff, European Union, is to be promoted major general.

IN BRIEF

● The Training Accident Investigation Team (Army) moved from Upavon to Netheravon last month. Its new address is Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9SF. TAIT(A) can also be contacted on 01980 678593 or (mil) 94321 8593.

● Soldiers from RAF Akrotiri-based Cyprus

Engineering Unit and two REME soldiers from London District are travelling to Zambia next month to help wildlife artist David Shepherd save rhino and other endangered species. The 20-strong Army team of specialists will work with volunteers from the Shepherd Foundation and members of the Zambian Wildlife Authority in the country's national parks.

● A team from the Gurkha Demonstration Company, RMA Sandhurst finished the 100-mile Trailwalker UK 2000 in 10hr 33min, 62 minutes inside the previous record. The non-stop challenge across the South Downs Way attracted 230 military and civilian teams of four. Proceeds go towards school building projects in Nepal.

Knights of the pageant

MAJ Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter and Maj Michael Parker have been knighted for the part they played in the pageant put on to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday.

Gen Webb-Carter, GOC London District and Major General Household Division, was chairman of the committee behind the pageant. Maj Parker, who produced the show on Horse Guards Parade, has earned a formidable reputation as the man behind many of Britain's most successful military spectacles.

Both men were appointed Knight Commanders of the Royal Victorian Order in a special honours list issued by the Queen to mark the anniversary.

Col William Toby Browne was appointed Lieutenant of the Victorian Order for his work as pageant organiser while Capt William de Rouet, IG, the Queen Mother's equerry, and WO Alan Mason, Coldrm Gds, the pageant parade sergeant major, have been appointed Members.

Prince in the jungle

PRINCE William learned of his A level grades while on exercise with the Welsh Guards in Belize. The 18-year-old prince, second-in-line to the throne, was in the jungle early in the morning when an officer told him that London was trying to contact him. At base camp he was able to read an e-mail from Eton informing him his grades were sufficient to win him a place at St Andrews University.

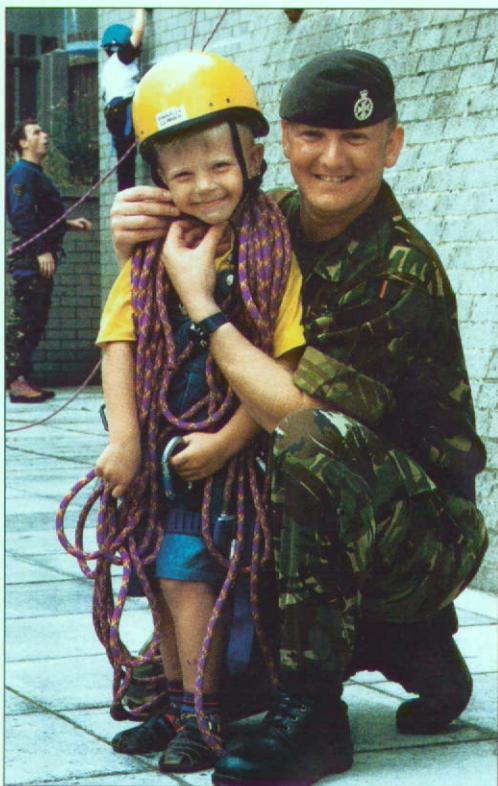
● Two days before the prince arrived, 15 Welsh Guardsmen were hurt, two seriously, when their four-tonner left a jungle track.

Troops back on patrol in Belfast

TWO companies of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets returned to the streets of Belfast last month after a loyalist feud sparked gun battles and arson attacks in the Shankhill. It was the first time since December 1998, with the exception of Drumcree, that troops have patrolled in the city.

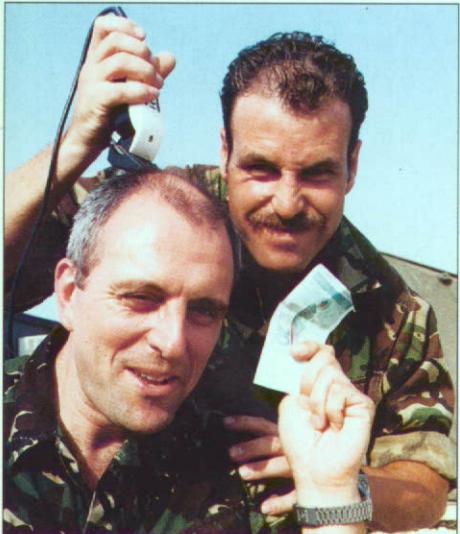
People, places, events

Climbing partners



Going up: Rfn Lee Woodcock, RGJ, checks out Dima Sergeeva, 4, from Belarus, before the little boy had a go on a climbing wall at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland. Dima, one of 50 children sponsored by a Belarus-Chernobyl charity and staying with families in the Province, was entertained by the Army at the barracks on the outskirts of Belfast. Picture: Army News Team, HQ NI

Cheap at the price



A cut above the rest: Bdr Phil Stallard trims the hair of his battery commander, Maj Steve Long, and donates his DM10 charge to local charities. Both men are members of the Highland Gunners – 19 Regiment RA – which returned to Colchester last month at the end of a six-month pan-Balkans tour during which its units were deployed in both Kosovo and Bosnia. It was 19 Regiment's first operational deployment with the AS90 since it was converted from the light gun last November.

Battles on Plain to enter a new era of realism

CONSTRUCTION of what is being hailed as the world's most sophisticated battlefield training system has begun at Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain Training Area.

The Area Weapons Effects Simulator (AWES) will revolutionise and enhance training on the Plain, creating a more realistic battlefield environment by simulating the effects of area weapons, including artillery, mines and nuclear, biological and chemical attack.

With every soldier and vehicle linked to a global positioning device, AWES will know exactly where all the "players" are, allowing the introduction of simulated artillery barrages and minefields. Casualties and other knock-on effects will be automatically applied.

AWES is capable of supporting exercises at battle-group scale up to a maximum of about 300 vehicles and 1,200 dismounted soldiers. Data captured

during the battle can be reviewed later in minute detail.

The £40 million system is similar to one being built at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada. Supplied by California-based Cubic Defense Systems, they are the next generation of the highly sophisticated simulators currently in service with the US Army.

Since 1994, the British Army's simulator training has been carried out with a direct-fire laser system (DFWES), which mimics line-of-site weapons such as machine-guns, missile launchers and rifles and allows force-on-force freeplay battles.

Building work is scheduled to finish in April next year and the simulator should be in operation by April 2002. Three of the four masts which will serve the AWES system have already been erected on the Plain.

Czech mates

That's where we're going: Members of the new British Military Advisory and Training Team for Central Europe (BMATT CEE) point to the Czech Republic, where they will be based. From left to right are Sgt Dave Wakley RM, CSgt Klaus Blake, 2 Para, Sgt Chris Hollender, 1 QLR, Sgt Greg



Broadstock, 1 Kings and Sgt Dave Garside, 2 LI, who will be part of the new Outreach team pro-

moting democratically accountable armed forces throughout central and eastern Europe.

IN BRIEF

- The UK has dropped the multi-national MR Trigat anti-tank guided weapon project, already ten years behind schedule, in favour of a national programme. MR Trigat, developed at a cost of £100 million, was to have replaced Milan.

- Greece's senior soldier, Gen Para-

gioudakis, has laid a wreath at the grave of **Brig Stephen Saunders** at Melbury Osmond, near Yeovil. Brig Saunders, the military attaché, was murdered in Athens.

- Three-quarters of the **Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA)** is to be turned into a private-sector company.

Royal chorus

More than 600 pipers, drummers and bandsmen packed the famous Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle to take part in Scotland's tribute to the Queen Mother on her 100th birthday.

Produced by Brig Mel Jameson, the event was the largest single gathering of military musicians ever assembled on the Esplanade.

Picture: Mark Owens



Sierra Leone findings: 82 affected by malaria

FOLLOWING the exposure of some troops to malaria in Sierra Leone, an Armed Forces' board of inquiry found that there were areas in which existing procedures and responsibilities should be more rigorously enforced and other procedures which would need to be reviewed.

The board, which looked into the medical preparedness of British troops deployed to West Africa, found some 200 troops arrived in theatre without anti-malaria tablets because of the speed of the deployment. Supplies were quickly issued in theatre.

Other units on a higher state of readiness were adequately prepared.

Out of a peak deployment of 4,500 troops, 82 were affected by malaria as at July 19. This represented 1.8 per cent of the total force, "which is well within the numbers to be expected given that no

anti-malarial drugs can provide 100 per cent guaranteed protection, particularly under the operational conditions of the deployment", said the report.

The findings confirmed that troops were ordered to start anti-malaria treatment as soon as reasonably practical.

The board also identified an encouraging "but perhaps misguided" desire for individuals to volunteer for the operation, despite their being medically unprepared. Some commanders, after making a risk assessment, decided to deploy with unprepared personnel.

Immunisations were out of date in only two per cent of Army personnel, 19 per cent of Royal Navy and 15 per cent of Royal Air Force personnel.

C-in-Cs are taking immediate steps to action the recommendations of the board of inquiry, co-ordinated by the Surgeon General.



● The Duke of Edinburgh, left, spoke to Kohima veterans after taking the salute at what is likely to be their final parade at York Minster. A Kohima reunion has been held every year at Imphal Barracks in York to commemorate the pivotal battle which, in 1944, halted the Japanese advance in Asia. Prince Philip laid a wreath for those who fell.

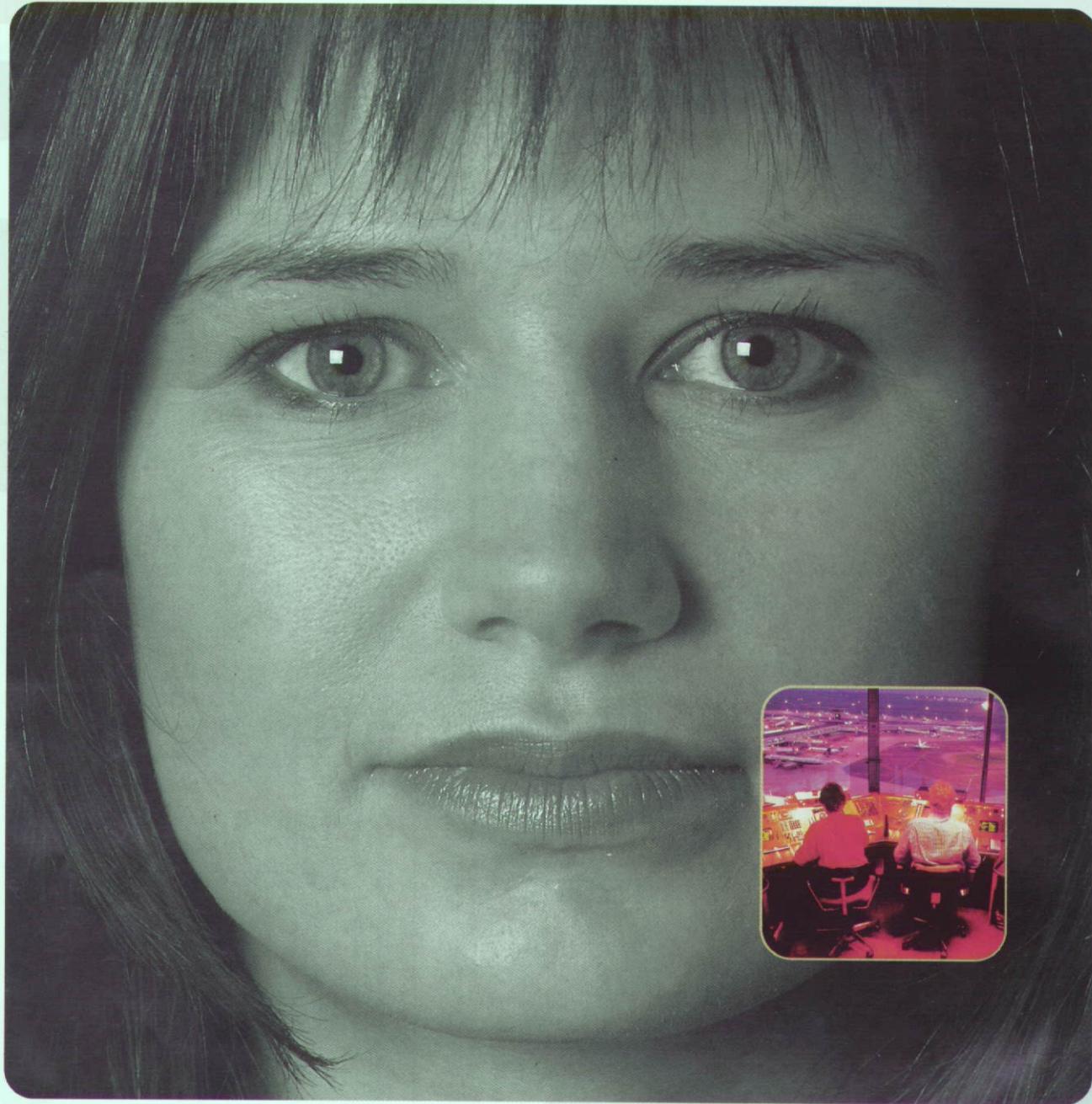


Farewell Borucki
Demolition job: Royal Engineers manoeuvre plant into position as work begins to demolish Borucki sangar, a heavily protected and frequently attacked observation tower overlooking Crossmaglen's main square, Northern Ireland. The post was named in memory of 19-year-old Pte James Borucki, killed by a bicycle bomb nearby in 1976. The sixth member of the security forces to be murdered in the area in seven years, his death led to the construction of the sangar. In the next 24 years, three soldiers were killed in the area.

Over the years the sangar was home to small, hand-picked teams of soldiers working six-month tours of continuous duty, interrupted by just nine days of leave. Mortars and bombs were frequently used in attempts to destroy the post, and twice it was engulfed by improvised flame-throwers.

The demolition marks the latest stage in the process of normalisation. Borucki sangar is the 41st Army installation in Northern Ireland to be removed since 1995.

Picture: HQ Northern Ireland



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People, places, events

Do you want to be a sub-webmaster?

THE Army's award-winning website is looking for IT-literate soldiers to become sub-webmasters. As more units create or update sites on the web the need for people to keep everything up-to-date is becoming greater.

The Directorate of Corporate Communications (Army) is offering software help and the

chance for soldiers of any rank to join DCC(A)'s staff on attachment. LCpl Colin Eastham of 1 QLR recently returned to his battalion fully web-literate after a stint at DCC(A).

Contact Maj Peter Boxell on (9621) 87908 or (civil) 020 7218 7908 or e-mail military-webmaster@dcmt.demon.co.uk

Joined-up: If you want to walk along the banks of the Thames from its source near Cirencester to London you can do so... thanks to a tri-Service team from the Joint Aircraft Transport Evaluation Unit helicopter and engineering sections. They used a Chinook helicopter to lift the last link - a bridge at Bloomers Hole, near Faringdon in Oxfordshire - into place. The two eight-tonne curved steel beams were dropped precisely into place in an operation lasting just 40 minutes.

Picture: JATEU Photographic Section



'Dynamic' Phoenix is Kosovo star turn

PHOENIX, the Army's pilotless "spy-in-the-sky" aircraft (pictured right) has completed more than 170 flights over Kosovo, rapidly proving itself to be one of the most exciting pieces of equipment currently in service.

High-quality video and stills images provided by the tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) have become a vital tool in gathering intelligence in an area previously described as "an information vacuum".

Phoenix is operated by 19 Regiment RA's 22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery, which began its second tour in Kosovo in May as part of the Offensive Support Group (OSG).

The UAV's target acquisition capability



is said to be only one of its uses. As a surveillance, intelligence and reconnaissance asset, it is said to be one of the most dynamic developments in the Army's inventory.

Phoenix primarily flew on the Kosovo-Serb border but was switched to monitor inter-ethnic tension between Serb and Albanian populations within the British brigade area. It came up trumps when an OSG mission led to the discovery of a heavy machine-gun in a small hamlet.

Brig Jonathan Bailey, Director Royal Artillery, has been given the Army lead for tactical UAVs and his staff will involve other arms in developing doctrine and creating awareness of Phoenix's potential.

IN BRIEF

• Bright ideas from civilian and military staff will save an estimated £22 million this year. The saving is the highest since the MoD launched its **Gems scheme** five years ago. Among more than 2,500 ideas submitted was one by a sergeant who modified the wipers on Warrior vehicles and saved the MoD £137,000.

• The Army Benevolent Fund was given nearly £4,000 at the Mersea Island charity run when Colchester-based 216 Signal Squadron

handed over a cheque for £1,400 and £2,350, raised at the Colchester Garrison country day, was also presented. More than 100 Colchester soldiers took part in the 14-mile run around the island's coastal footpath to raise funds for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

• The 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment has replaced 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot. The Paras have moved to Dover.

Nijmegen marchers out in force

MORE than 1,000 British Servicemen and women and cadets, the biggest ever UK contingent, took part in the Nijmegen Marches to mark the 50th anniversary of the event.

Among them was a team from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, just back from Sierra Leone. Lt Dan Matthews said before the start: "We have done no training because we were all in West Africa and all of us are quite new to this, but there won't be a problem."

But the best team in the strong British military contingent turned out to be a 16-strong squad of caterers, including 11 recruits, from the RLC Training Centre at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot. The chefs-to-be were led by Sgt Andy Powney.

HVM's prairie debut



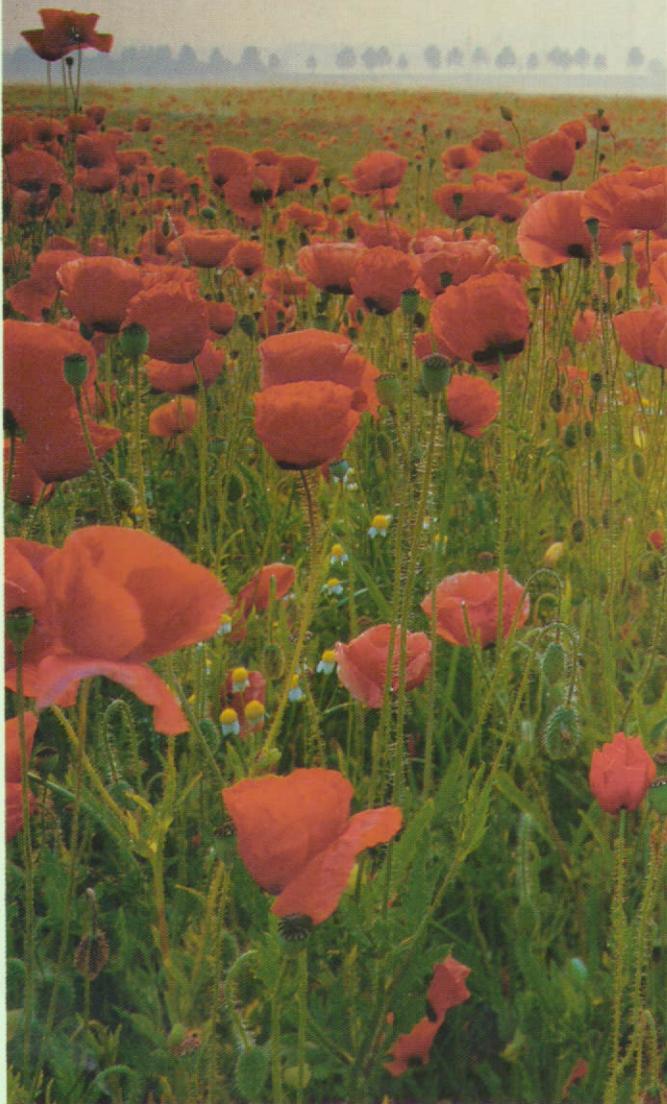
Alberta prairie watch: A HVM (hyper-velocity missile) vehicle provides close air defence to the QRH battle-group during Exercise Medicine Man 1 at BATUS, Canada. Lt Jane Harrop RA made history when her troop fired the first live HVM round at Suffield. Another "first" was the group of wives taken on to the prairie to watch their husbands at work. The exercise prepared the way for Iron Hawk later this month, which will involve the new Lead Aviation Task Force and Lead Recce Task Force, and culminates in October in a major tactical exercise for 3 Division.

Picture: Edward Fursdon

• Seven nations and 11 different types of aircraft took part in the third annual **International Military Helicopter Meeting (Helimeet)**, organized by 1 Regiment AAC at Gütersloh. Overall winners, for the second year, were a Danish team, followed by a 1 Regt Lynx crew from Celle and a Bundeswehr team.

• The 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots have left Colchester to spend two years as the resident battalion at Ballykelly, near Londonderry.

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There are 6 million ex-Service men and women alive today – 1 million more than were called up during World War II. For many, the Poppy is the only symbol of hope.

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The Royal British Legion is always on active service – offering advice, care and practical support to all ex-Service men, women and their dependants.

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The memory of those who died lives on in those who need us today

People, places, events



Going strong: Six soldiers, above, from Equipment Support Company, 3 Battalion REME in Kosovo ran 240km for Tommy's Campaign, a UK-based charity which funds research into still-born babies, miscarriages and premature deaths. So far the event has raised about DM5,000 (nearly £1,600), according to organiser Sgt Maj John McFarlane, of 3 Bn REME, Barker Barracks, Paderborn, BFPO 22. Pictured on the road are, from left, SSgt Colin Orbell, LCpl Stuart Kitchin, WO2 John McFarlane, 2nd Lt Emil Bernal, Cfn David Maxwell and Cfn Keith Terry

Fusiliers secure hazard smelter

FOUR members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were slightly injured when a force including Danish and French troops secured a Serb-run lead smelter in Zvecan, Kosovo. When stones were thrown by a hostile crowd, the troops responded with plastic bullets.

The smelter had become health hazard in the Mitrovica area because Serbs managing it had not replaced crucial filters. After repairs the facility will be taken over by an international management team.

A, C and D Companies and the Recce Platoon of 2 RRF spent five days on the operation and, in the words of one officer, "took a fair bit of flak from local Serbs".

● A multi-national search operation led by Lt Col David Allfrey, CO of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, uncovered the biggest arms cache in Kosovo since Nato troops arrived last year. Maj Simon Marr and Sgt Wayne Toon of 2 RRF spotted four bunkers in the Drenica Valley, southwest of Pristina, which held tons of weapons, ammunition and explosive.

● HQ 3 Commando Brigade assumed command of the British-led sector from HQ 7th Armoured Brigade on August 20. The 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment relieved the Scots DG battle-group in Podujevo at the same time.

● 2 RRF in Pristina – Pages 30-31.

Cavalry expedition heads for Tashkent

TWENTY-FIVE members of The Household Cavalry Regiment left London in eight Land Rovers on September 22 on an expedition to central Asia, visiting 14 countries and carrying out several humanitarian projects on the way.

Led by Maj Sacha Tomes, Exercise Burnaby Blue – named after Victorian adventurer Frederick Burnaby – aims to reach Tashkent in Uzbekistan in October, where a rendezvous has been arranged with Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff and Colonel of The Life Guards, who will be in the area.

IN BRIEF

● Soldiers from Canterbury-based 1 R Irish deployed to Canada last month to take part in Iron Hawk, the first overseas exercise for 16 Air Assault Brigade.

● A short-term training team drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment will replace the 1 R Anglian team in Sierra Leone (see Pages 14-15).



● A combat engineer tractor driven by Sgt Dave Ashmore, left, of A (The Dorset Yeomanry) Armour Replacement Squadron struck the first blow to outbuildings and a former MoD fire station before work could begin on a £1.9 million TA centre at Bovington Camp.

Bugler Ben calls tune

CPL Ben Budd, RGJ, a member of the Divisional Bugle Platoon, won the title of Colonel Commandant's Bugler at the Light Division's annual bugle competition. He took the senior class ahead of Cpl Sean Held from 2 LI.

Thirty-nine bugle calls are still used by The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets. Such is the importance given to the bugle that the Light Division has just produced a CD of calls as a learning aid for musicians, soldiers and officers. Bugle calls are used instead of voice commands on parade in the division, which marches at 140 paces to the minute.

Of the 48 LI and RGJ buglers and six bugle majors serving with 1 LI, 2 LI, 1 RGJ, the Rifle Volunteers and the Royal Rifle Volunteers, 27 were selected to take part in the annual competition, which is a rigorous test of uniform and equipment, drill and bugle skills.

A panel led by Lt Gen Sir John Devereall, Colonel Commandant of the Light Division, heard the contestants selected at random.

The junior winner, Pte John Wilkinson, LI, of the Divisional Bugle Platoon, earned the title of Divisional Lieutenant Colonel's Bugler. Pte Jim Buchan, 1 LI, was runner-up.



Winner: Cpl Ben Budd receives his prizes from Gen Devereall. Looking on is Divisional Bugle Major WO2 Tony Wells

Join the Kids' Army

AN initiative to promote Army careers among youngsters succeeded in registering nearly 4,000 names before the official launch date on September 1.

People who sign up to the Camouflage programme, aimed at the 12-to-16 age group, will receive a letter of welcome, a free copy of a new 64-page magazine called *Army*, a code to get into the Army's new internet site and a pack containing deals with sponsors, posters and stickers.

They will also get four other mailings each year as well as opportunities to take part in military-type activities.

Telephone 0845 603 8000 until Christmas or go on-line to www.mycamouflage.co.uk to join Camouflage.

● The Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help have pledged to collaborate more closely and share a vision "in which a new joint organisation would bring together much if not all of the present Legion and SSAFA Forces Help".

● Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott met Maj Gen Angus Ramsay, Commander British Forces, and men of 1 KOSB in Cyprus after a holiday on the island.

Anglians in Africa

With virtually no notice, the Poachers found themselves instructing a new army in a hot and hostile environment

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon and John Skillen

TWO hundred men of the Poachers were airlifted into troubled Sierra Leone to train 1,000 soldiers of the fragile Sierra Leone Army (SLA) as rebel attacks continued throughout the West African country.

The Operation Basilica deployment came as a complete surprise to soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. They were told of their mission only a few days before flying to Africa and it was a measure of their high level of training that they were able to cope.

Their task was to train recruits of the SLA for six weeks in basic soldiering and infantry skills. Their "pupils" will form the core of a new, effective and democratically accountable army for Sierra Leone.

The Short Term Training Team (STT) buckled down and did what it does best... got on with it. "It was a test and a challenge to everybody involved," said commanding officer Lt Col Alisdair White.

Forty-five instructors were selected from within the battalion while a company secured the camp and surrounding area. Once in theatre, the Poachers quickly established a secure tented camp within the perimeter of the SLA's Benguema Camp, 25 miles south of Freetown.

"SLA personnel we first encountered were not very soldierly, to be truthful," said Cpl Nigel Mackness. "But the difference after six weeks was excellent."

The training team initially instilled discipline among the enthusiastic recruits and gradually introduced them to the concept of working as a team, giving them pride in themselves and their units. Lt Musar of the SLA was pleased. "Many of the men were disheartened and had lost all discipline. Now, because of the Poach-



Master class: Cpl Paul McColm, left, an instructor serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglians, shows an enthusiastic recruit to the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) at Benguema camp how to set up a mortar



In town and country, the soldiers' welcome has been assured

"They are keen to learn and see British soldiers as professionals," said Cpl Anthony Harris. The Royal Anglians were surprised at how quickly the African soldiers picked up skills.

The first three weeks of the package centred on basic drills and identifying natural leaders. After this the men were split into battalions and the best were given specialist training in recce and weapons. The rest were given in-depth training to improve their basic infantry skills.

Sgt Wayne Heeley, who gave drill instruction, said: "I noticed that one of the recruits could not move his arms correctly even though he was trying. When I investigated, he lifted his shirt and showed me machete scars across his ribs, inflicted by the RUF."

There have been lighter moments. Cpl Paul Pulfrey revealed some of the difficulties he faced while training a squad. "I used one section as the enemy to lay an ambush in long grass," he said. "But almost every time they give themselves away to the patrol by jumping up and shouting 'Snake! Snake!'"

The SLA has been equipped with uniforms and weapons donated by the



On patrol: A Land Rover of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglians, above, approaches a checkpoint outside the base at the Benguema training camp, Sierra Leone. The Poachers had been on a security patrol to reassure the war-damaged local people by their presence

ers, they are ready to take on the rebels," he said.

British troops trained the SLA on the use of general-purpose machine-guns and mortars and taught them patrol skills. They were impressed by the recruits' enthusiasm.

British and vehicle patrols provide reassurance as well as important intelligence about what is happening in the area. It has been, after all, a potentially hostile environment, with fighting going on only a few miles away.

"One of the difficulties on foot," recounted LCpl Sean O'Leary, "was that we were mobbed by cheering crowds wanting to shake the hand of a white man or clap us on the back." In town and country, the soldiers' welcome has been assured.

As part of the Poachers' own security arrangements, they continued to patrol by deploying from Chinook helicopters. Often flying below tree-level, the noisy Chinooks swept into clearings in which the Poachers could jump out and

form defensive positions. Seconds later the helicopters would lift off, leaving the men in an eerie silence.

The Royal Anglians' "home" has been a tented camp within a barbed wire-secure base which houses communications and washing facilities. The complete force comprised 250 soldiers to guard, feed and provide a secure environment in which the training team could do its job.

The camp was well equipped with electricity, telephones, internet access and televisions. Soldiers existed on field rations and bottled water. In the intensely hot and humid conditions, men were being encouraged to drink nine litres of water a day.

When the recruits passed out at the end of July, the mission was complete. "We have done an excellent job and the Poachers have shown just how adaptable they are," said Capt Nick Faint.

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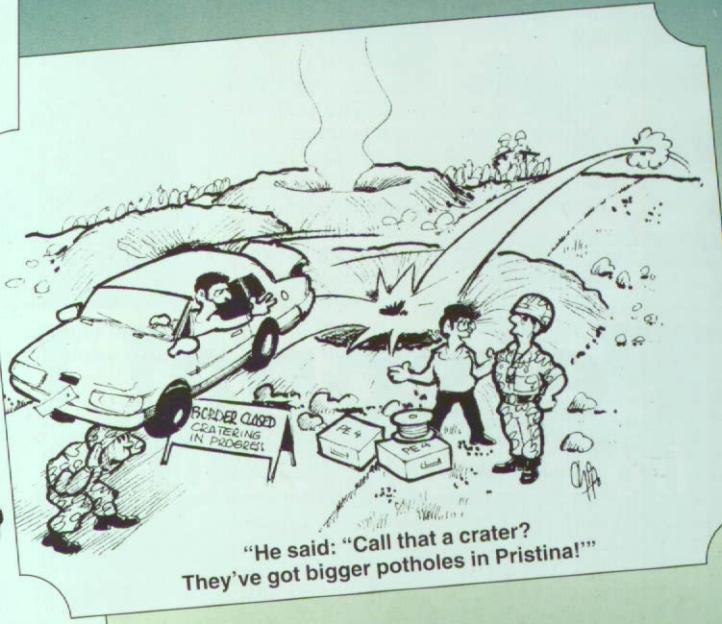


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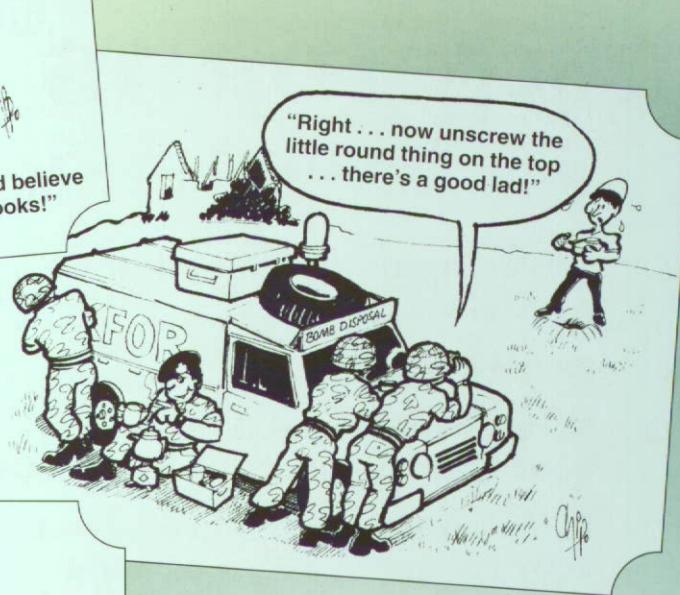
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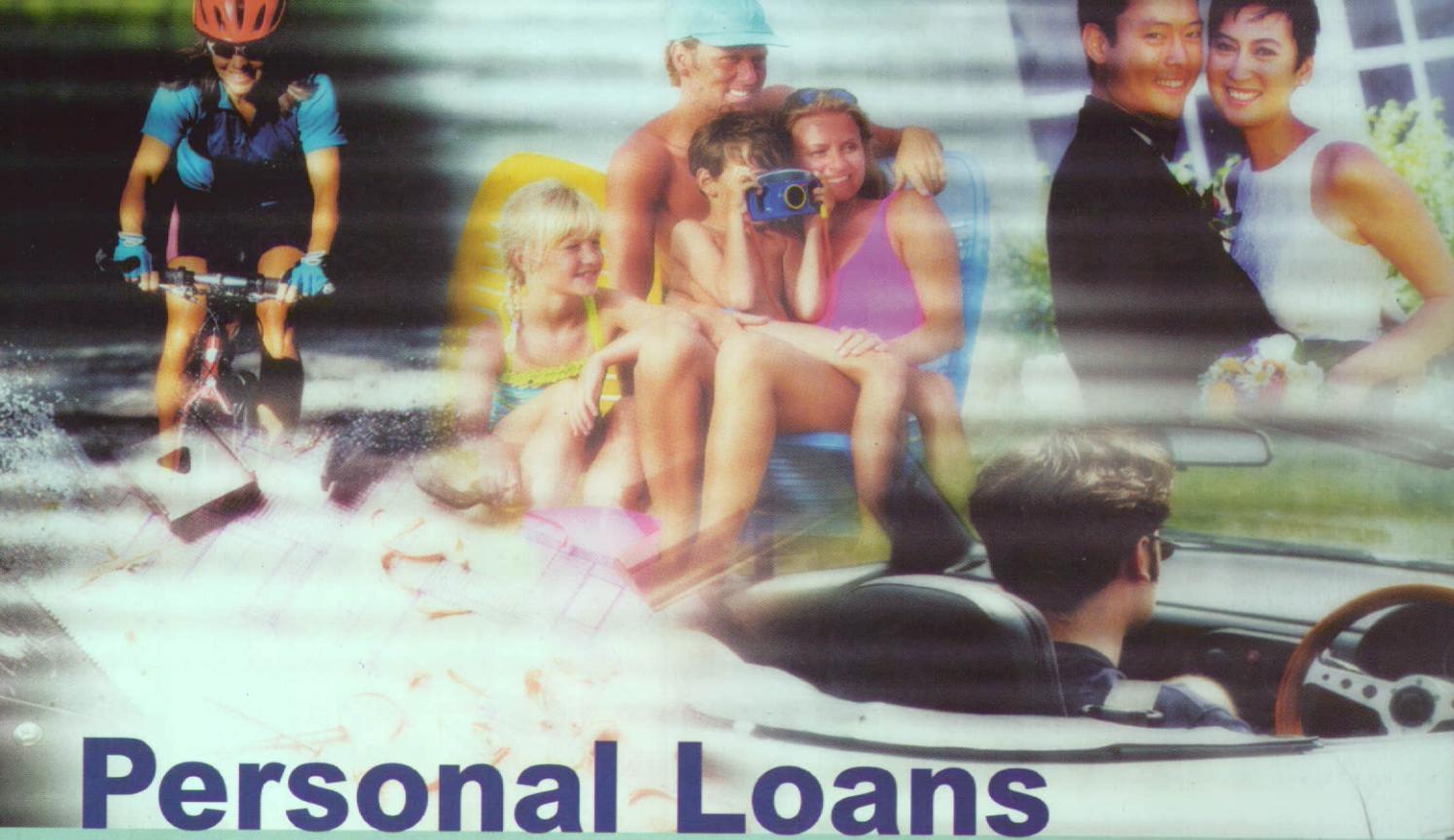


"He said: 'Call that a crater?
They've got bigger potholes in Pristina!'"



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Feature

Pictures: Steve Dock



Fallout: LCpl John Pickthall of G Squadron waits for the next vehicle, a Challenger tank of the King's Royal Hussars, to be decontaminated during London Pride on Salisbury Plain

NBC troops fall in on the Plain

MORE than 100 soldiers from the 490th Chemical Battalion in Alabama joined British nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) specialists on Salisbury Plain for a two-week exercise which significantly advanced combined US-UK procedures and practices.

They were also able to trial a new protective suit.

London Pride, the annual exercise of RHQ, A Squadron (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) and W Squadron (Westminster Dragoons) of the Royal Yeomanry, doubled as the UK leg of a reciprocal NBC reserve forces exchange. It was supported by the Defence NBC Headquarters and sponsored by Strike Command.

Elements of the US Reserve Chemical Corps exercised on the Plain with the Royal Yeomanry, other units of the Joint

NBC Regiment and a plant section from 39 Engineer Regiment. A key phase of the exercise was a through-contamination site, in which vehicles including Challenger tanks of the King's Royal Hussars were "washed down".

In all, about 320 troops took part.

Skill levels on both sides improved dramatically and, with much know-how being exchanged, operating procedures were developed and improved. The Americans, most of whom were single-discipline experts with years of specialised NBC training, quickly integrated with their British counterparts and were able to pass on a depth of experience difficult to obtain in the UK.

London Pride also established that the Royal Yeomanry has a relevant role and that reserves are useable as decontamination troops and reinforcements for the Joint NBC Regiment. It was the first chance for formed decontamination troops from both the regiment and the RY to work together.

• Thorneycroft House, the new £7 million Defence Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Centre at Winterbourne Gunner, near Salisbury, was opened by Lt Gen Tony Pigott, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments).

The building will house headquarters staff, MoD NBC technical policy staff from the Directorate of Joint Warfare and the NBC Defence School.



Sign language: LCpl Miranda Underwood controls armoured vehicles entering the washdown area

On-line photo gallery will keep families in the picture

A NEW way for soldiers serving abroad to keep in touch with their families is being pioneered by the Army and Fotango, the UK's first on-line photographic service.

The company will develop normal 35mm or APS film at no cost and put the photos into a secure, password-protected private gallery on its website. Users can visit the gallery to see their photos, organise them in on-line albums and share them instantly via the internet with friends and family anywhere in the world.

With free developing, sharing and storage, it is an extraordinarily inexpensive way for families to stay in touch, even when separated by great distances. Best of all, there is no need to buy an expensive digital camera.

POST PICTURES

It means a soldier can "post" pictures of himself taken in, say, Kosovo via the internet for his wife and children to see, while they can keep him up-to-date with current photos of their activities. They can also share them with other members of the family and friends, complete with personalised messages, via e-mail.

There will be a cost if prints are required.

Brig Sebastian Roberts, Director of Corporate Communications (Army), said: "The internet offers fantastic new methods of communication and it is our duty to make them accessible to British soldiers. This initiative with Fotango will be an important communication channel for soldiers, easing the difficulty caused by separation.

COMPETITIVE

"Offering a free on-line service in which users pay only for the prints they want, Fotango has come up with a very competitive proposition for soldiers."

Fotango, a sister company of IDS, which has been managing the Army photo library for the past three years, has offices in France and Germany, and plans to open more across Europe.

The company, in co-operation with DCC(A) will open a special military category on its public gallery, broken down to regimental level. Soldiers and retired personnel will be able to share photos from past and present events.

To use the Fotango on-line photo service, register on www.fotango.com to receive a starter pack and Freepost envelopes, or call Fotango Customer Support on 0800 169 7467. See also the Fotango insert in this issue.

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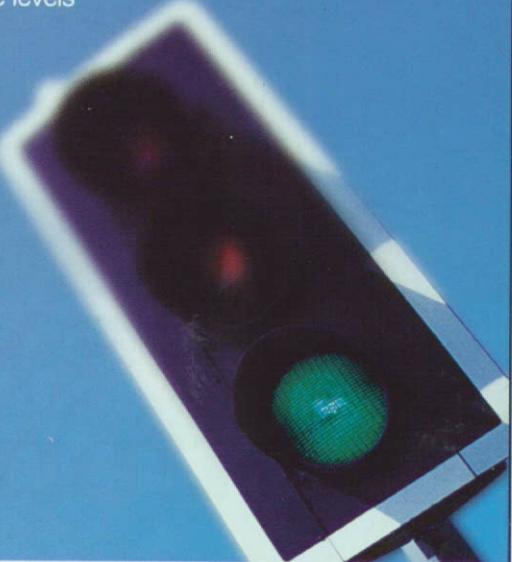
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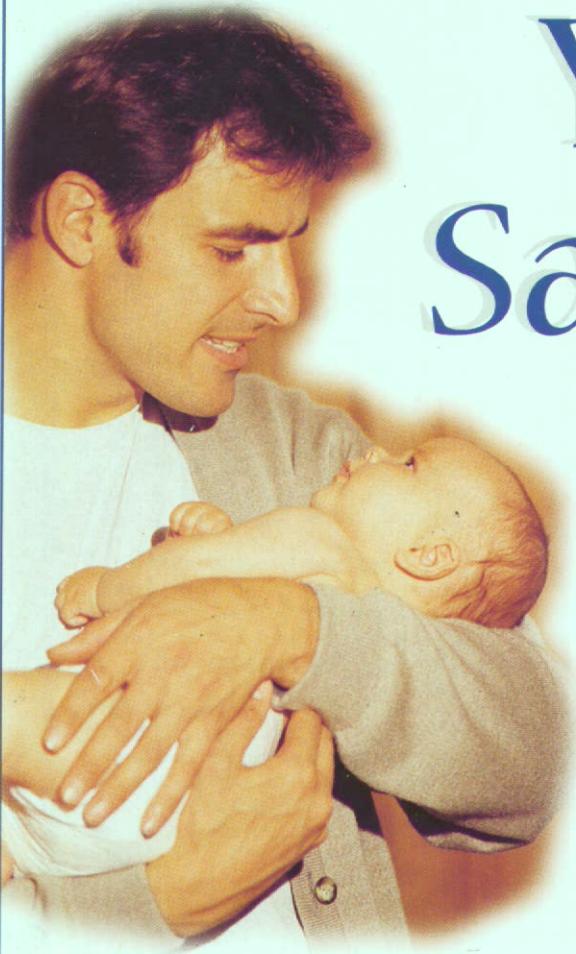
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Ready for battle



Open fire: A soldier from 2 PWRR takes an active part in Wessex Warrior

Wessex Warrior – if the exercise sounds warlike, it's meant to. We watched the staff of the Battle Group Training Unit at work

Report: Ray Routledge

Picture: Steve Dock

TWO BLUEFOR soldiers lie dead in their trench, killed by the effects of an NBC attack ... and oversleeping.

Exhausted after a long night digging in, they slept through advance warning of the attack. The roar of the aircraft delivering its deadly cargo roused them, far too late to don their NBC kit. A fleeting glimpse of the vanishing jet was the last thing they saw.

For these two soldiers it was an exercise from which they would take valuable lessons. The NBC attack was one element of Wessex Warrior, a tactical engagement simulation (TES) exercise run by the Battle Group Training Unit (BGTU) at Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain.

Part of the Warminster-based Land Warfare Training Centre, the 25-strong BGTU team is led by Lt Col James Pollock, IG. His unit does what its title says it does – prepares battle-groups for operations.

Its tailor-made exercises are the fruit of long-term planning. "That starts about nine months before a unit comes here," said Lt Col Pollock.

"We work out what resources they have and what their objectives are and we can offer defensive and offensive missions as well as specialist training areas such

as fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA)."

Armoured, armoured infantry, mechanised and airborne formations are put through their battlefield paces by BGTU.

Artillery controller Maj Byron Drage, RA, said: "The use of TES, with high-tech lasers, has transformed our ability to conduct realistic collective training."

Each Wessex Warrior lasts three weeks. Units are trained on Direct Fire Weapons Effects Simulators (DFWES), which use two-way, eye-safe lasers to match ballistics and lethality with amazing accuracy. Platoon-level, company and squadron training follows, culminating in a six-day,

• We can offer defensive and offensive options •

battle-group force-on-force exercise. Welcome to Wessex Warrior.

It is run as a continuous battle against an opposition force (Opfor), which has the lethality and vulnerability of former Warsaw Pact assets.

The unit under training (when *Soldier* dropped in it was the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment) is known as Bluefor.

At the end of each mission commanders are put through an after-action

review (AAR), during which strengths and weaknesses are analysed, and methods for improving performance are agreed. A key element is the input of a team of observer-controllers (OC).

Maj Charlie Mayo, LD, one of the core OCs, stressed that he and his colleagues were not there to umpire. "We are not there to mess them about and the unit has to trust that we will not tell anybody what it is going to do," he said.

Maj Alistair Keith, AAC, an observer-controller with a Bluefor company guarding a bridge, said: "I made a number of visits to the company commander to chat through the way preparations were made. I tried to ascertain how confident he was with his position, and what his specific concerns were."

While observers have a major input into the AAR, nothing is ever used for which there is no objective evidence. This can come from several sources, including the memory card on the central computer and recorded radio transmissions. Data can reveal how often a weapon was fired, and how accurately. Polaroid pictures taken by observer patrols and video evidence are also used.

Soldiers describe TES-driven exercises as the most enjoyable and challenging training on offer, but for BTGU staff going to war is a monthly occurrence.

Coming soon
to a training
area near you

WHILE there has been a quantum leap forward in the quality of combined arms training with TES, realistic representation of aerial weapons effects lags behind. The Army's training regime will not be

complete until those effects can be represented in near real-time.

Plans are in hand to introduce an Area Weapons Effects Simulator (AWES) developed in California. Expected to be in service in the UK

by March 2002 and at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) a few months later, AWES will simulate the effects of indirect fire, mines and NBC contamination as well as air attack.



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SOLIDER 09/00 PR1241

Aldershot battery learns the American way of doing things

Report: Gordon Skilling
Picture: Stuart Bingham

BRITAIN'S Airborne Gunners became the first foreign formed unit to jump from the massive American C17 aircraft during a visit to the home of the US Airborne at Fort Bragg.

It was a feather in the maroon berets of soldiers of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery, 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery who spent a month in North Carolina as guests of 1/319th Field Artillery, 82nd American Airborne Division.

"I know some soldiers have jumped from the C17 individually, but we were the first British formed unit to do so," said battery commander Maj Dick Hewitt. "The aircraft has been in service only about two years now and quite a lot of the 82nd haven't jumped from it yet."

As well as gaining American wings, the Aldershot-based gunners enjoyed traditional Southern hospitality. "If there is one thing the Americans are good at, it is making people feel welcome," said Maj Hewitt. "From the minute we arrived, the boys were required to bond with their American colleagues. From the word go we made good friends and contacts."

Purpose of the visit was simply to gain a greater understanding by experiencing the life of American soldiers. The British delegation of 59 included two jump instructors, an Australian sergeant on detachment and personnel from the REME Light Aid Detachment.

"We would have brought members from 2 Para's mortar platoon, extra medics from 16 Air Assault Brigade and some Royal Military Police, but the operation in Sierra Leone prevented that," said Maj Hewitt.

While the Brits were in South Carolina, a US Army battery was visiting Aldershot. A close relationship already exists between the units – four years ago a massive exercise in the USA, Purple Star, involved the whole British Airborne Brigade as well as the Royal Marines.



Dixie

gunners

On target: British gunners quickly mastered the US Army's 105mm field gun, which is slightly different to the UK version

This time the gunners were spared the frenetic activity of a major exercise. F Battery had been through the mill of normal tactical equipment simulation and regimental exercises, and on return to the UK were due to be taking part in the first exercise of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

"Because we visited during their support cycle, we had the advantage of seeing the 82nd Airborne as normal and not joining them on exercise when there was something special happening," said Maj Hewitt. "We carried out parachuting, live-firing and normal barrack activities, and learned something of their ethos."

For younger soldiers the visit was an eye-opener. They found that the way their

US cousins carried out their duties differed from the aggressive approach of British paras. "The Americans are more laid back than us . . . but so would I be in the hot weather they have," said Gnr Richard Johnson.

Maj Hewitt asked his men if any of them wanted to take part in a ten-mile run which the Americans had organised. "We weren't a running team," he said, "but I think we proved something by coming third out of nearly 5,000 taking part, behind two special forces teams."

The gunners got involved in barrack activities but drew the line at one thing. "We took part in the early-morning PT sessions and made our mark in our maroon T-shirts, jogging past groups of chanting soldiers carrying unit flags," said Maj Hewitt. "Early-morning runs, fine, but chanting and carrying flags . . . no way."

The visit was simply to gain a greater understanding by experiencing the life of American soldiers

Fit for anything

Selection for the Army Physical Training Corps is tough: more than half the soldiers fail the course. But there is no shortage of candidates

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

THREE times a year the Army Physical Training Corps holds selection courses for soldiers hoping to join its élite band of instructors.

If they are successful they will be posted to units across the Army, and will play a vital role in keeping soldiers at their physical peak.

Which means the instructors have to be as fit as, if not fitter than, everyone else. "Sorry lads, I'll catch you up at the top of the hill" won't wash when they are out training Special Forces.

Maj Jim Wood, APTC, officer commanding training, explained the qualities required to succeed at selection. "We are not just looking for purely physical animals; we are looking for thinking people with an interest in physical development."

These are the twin key themes of the APTC, summed up in the corps motto, *Mens sana in corpore sano* – a healthy mind in a healthy body.

In 1860 the Army sent 12 NCOs to Oxford University to study physical training. Later known as the Apostles, they were so fired-up on their return that they convinced the Army it should embrace this new religion. The Army Gymnastic Staff was formed.

The Apostles' fervour soon caught on. Two years later every garrison was instructed to build its own gymnasium to be run by an officer and physical trainers. Then as now, there was no shortage of recruits who wanted to concentrate on physical training.

"The most obvious attraction is that you are doing something that most other



Apostles

AFTER the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny it slowly dawned upon the great British public that all was not well with the administration and training of the Army.

It became apparent that drill and complicated manoeuvres carried out in elegant but unsuitable uniforms were not the best preparation for long and

arduous campaigns in the great heat and severe cold. Alarm and despondency were also caused by the deterioration in the physique of the recruit. When one looks at the photograph of this first Army Gymnastic Class, taken at Oxford in September 1860, one cannot refrain

from thinking that these splendidly dressed, handsome and be-whiskered men... were a body of apostles, worthy to spread the gospel of physical training, which has blossomed into the creation of the Army Physical Training Corps of today. – extract from *History of the Army Physical Training Corps* by Lt Col E A L Oldfield (late RA).

people only get to do once or twice a day, if they are lucky," said Maj Wood.

The corps takes a holistic approach to health and fitness, looking at the whole picture rather than individual elements.

As a consequence, instructors have an array of skills and specialist knowledge on which they can call, from the physiological and psychological to the nutritional.

Typically soldiers hoping to join the corps will already have completed PTI courses and may already be regimental

PTIs. If they have the right experience and are recommended, they have the chance to shine at a selection course run by the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot.

Selection is tough, with a 50 to 60 per cent failure-rate.

The programme is designed to test not just physical skills but also leadership and academic ability.

"It is no longer enough for instructors to say 'do ten press-ups,'" said Maj Wood.

'Sorry lads, I'll catch you up at the top of the hill' won't wash when they're training Special Forces

● Soldiers aspiring to join the APTC or members of the public wishing to know more about its history can visit the corps museum at Fox Lines, Queens Avenue, Aldershot. To check opening times, telephone 01252 347168.

● A series of APTC millennium events is being staged this month.

September 15: Millennium Assault at Arms, History of Sport, Recreation and Adventurous Training.

September 16: Festival of Sport.

September 17: APTC parade through Aldershot.

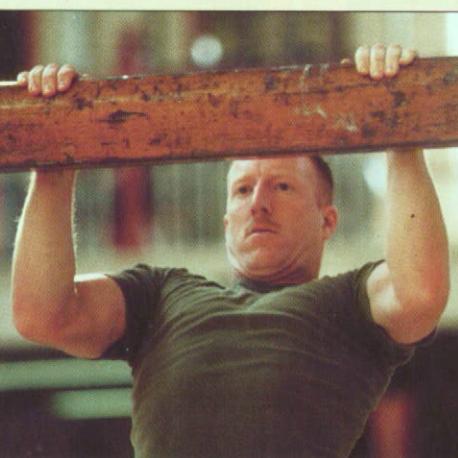
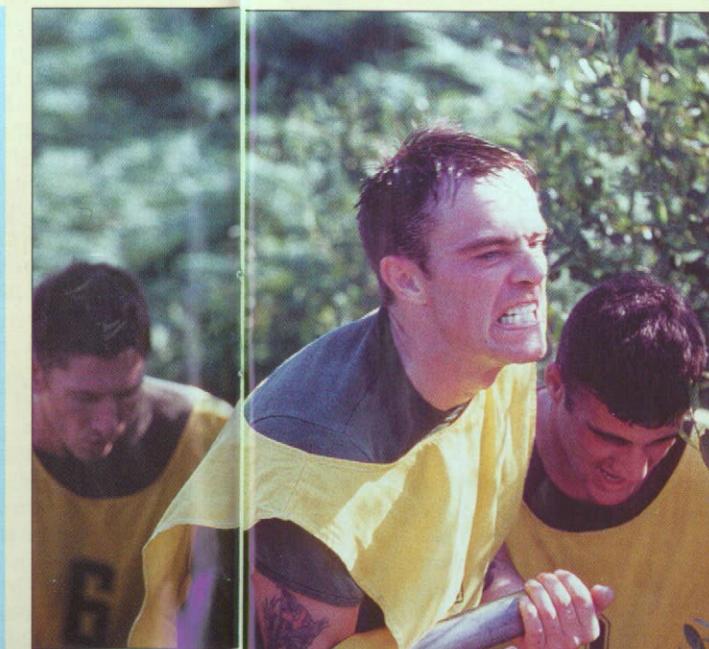
Details from Bob Smith 01252 347131.

"They need to know which muscle groups are being used."

Although the gym continues to play an important role within the corps, the



Fitting the bill: Capt Sharkey Phinn, left, and WO1 Ian Jennings observe potential recruits at a selection course



Up for it: LCpl Dryland, above, attempts another pull-up during the selection tests

Grin and bear it: Cpl Bailey, left, drives himself on during an exhausting uphill task

mic excellence is encouraged throughout the corps.

At some stage in their careers all instructors will be exposed to adventurous training, while others may concentrate on remedial physical training or helping soldiers recover from injury.

"One of the pleasures for instructors is the development of physical fitness and

adventurous training," said Maj Wood. "These are the things that soldiers sign up to and if you are the person leading, coaching and teaching them, then you have the best job."

The corps is one of the most egalitarian in the Army. The 365 instructors and 48 officers have all been through the ranks. Anyone wishing to join must first have served in another regiment or corps, so by the time they appear before a selection board, soldiers hold a minimum rank of lance corporal.

"I sometimes liken us to poachers as we poach what we consider the best that units have to offer," said Maj Wood.

Women are welcomed and make up about eight per cent of the corps, which reflects the composition of the Army as a whole. But the demanding standards remain as high.

"We make no distinction," said Maj Wood. "A PTI is a PTI is a PTI."

A tough corps to crack, but those who earn their places are rewarded with immense job satisfaction and, it has to be said, a fair degree of popularity.

As Maj Wood puts it: "They say that in any unit the three people you need to make friends with straight away are the cook, the quartermaster and, last but not least, the PTI."

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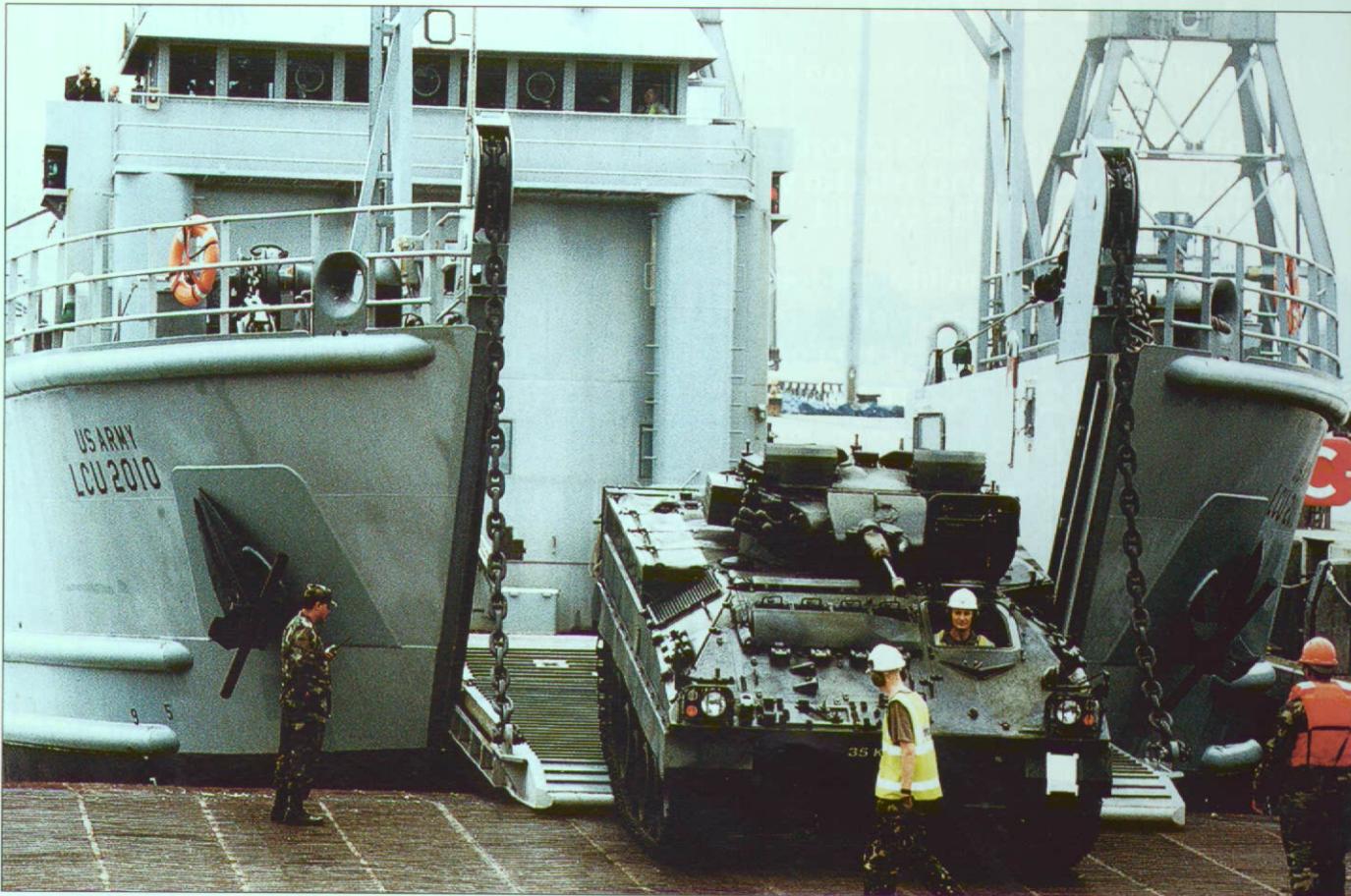
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Soft landing: British Army maritime specialists get a close-up view of an American LCU 2000 at the dockside at Marchwood Military Port

Nifty little mover

US Army landing craft impresses maritime experts at Marchwood

Pictures: Steve Dock

IF you are looking for something smallish, quick, armed, lightly crewed, responsive enough to turn on a 2p piece and capable of delivering four Challenger 2 main battle tanks to a hostile beach, read on, writes John Elliott.

Envious British eyes followed the US Army's LCU 2000-class utility landing craft *Cedar Run* as she sailed out of town at the end of a short but highly informative familiarisation trip to the Army's Marchwood Military Port on Southampton Water.

The compact vessel has been in service with American forces since 1992.

With the loss of the Army's LCLs (landing craft logistic) – HMAVs *Ardennes* and *Arakan* – as a conse-

quence of the Strategic Defence Review, British Army maritime specialists from Marchwood-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC evaluated the American vessel as a potential amphibious logistic asset.

After giving the craft a thorough going-over, the Marchwood mariners reckoned it cut the mustard.

Features which commended it to them included confirmation that it:

- is capable of carrying four main battle tanks onto a hostile beach in one "hit";

- is capable of running with a speed and duration that surpasses the LCL;

- boasts fixed external NBC spray wash-down systems;

- is small enough to be carried as deck cargo on a suitable heavy-lift vessel yet has an ocean-going capability of its own;

- is powered by British-built main engines and generators, allowing for localised stores and spares support;

- is tried and tested . . . and available;

- is capable of self-defence up to .50-calibre heavy machine-guns.

WO2 Dave Woodhams, squadron engineer with 79 Port Clearance Squadron, part of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, told *Soldier* that should the British Army require a maritime amphibious logistic capability in the future beyond that provided by the Mexeflote, LCVP (landing craft, vehicles and personnel) and RCL (ramped craft logistic), the LCU 2000 was, in the opinion of the soldiers who had taken part in the appraisal, well suited to the task.



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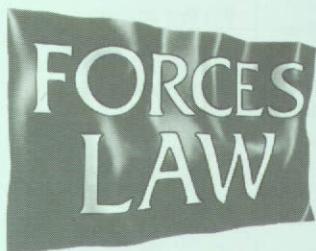
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Who's going where

THE big picture of which units will be based where in the UK has been set out by Armed Forces Minister John Spellar.

In a written answer published before the summer recess he confirmed future basing plans following the Strategic Defence Review.

A summary of who's going to end up where looks like this:

ALDERSHOT – Headquarters of 12 Mechanised Brigade, including two infantry battalions (from **Colchester**); enhancements to 101 Logistic Brigade, including 10 Transport Regiment RLC (from **Colchester**) and the lighter elements of 12 Mech Bde. The overall position of the garrison is to be kept under review as Project Connaught, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project, develops.

COLCHESTER – HQ and main garrison of 16 Air Assault Brigade, although the aviation regiments and one of its infantry battalions will be based elsewhere and the engineer regiment will be located at Woodbridge. Two parachute regiments (from **Aldershot**) and a parachute artillery regiment will be based in Colchester, replacing existing airmobile units.

TIDWORTH – To house an additional armoured regiment, armoured infantry battalion and engineer regiment for 12 Mech Bde.

CATTERICK – To have additional units and enhancements, including 3 CS Medical Regiment, incorporating 16 Close Support Medical Squadron (moving from **Tidworth**), 24 CS Med Sqn (already based in **Catterick**), a new CS squadron and an evacuation squadron; an additional field workshop (part of 5 Bn REME); 8 Transport Regiment RLC to be enhanced and its fuel-handling capabilities rationalised.



RIPON – 38 Engineer Regiment (Claro Barracks) will be enhanced by the addition of a close support squadron. The squadron's nine tracked bridge-laying vehicles will be located at Cambrai/Megiddo Barracks in **Catterick** to cut traffic congestion and environmental damage.

BOVINGTON – The fourth armoured reconnaissance unit will be based in Stanley Barracks. Dalton Barracks, **ABINGDON** will house additional sub-units for both 3 CS Regiment RLC and 4 General Support Regiment RLC.

Still under consideration is the most appropriate location for the additional artillery regiment, originally planned for **Larkhill**. Project Allenby, a PPP project, is currently scoping the potential for this regiment to be based in **Tidworth** or **Bulford Garrison** instead.

Most unit moves will have to await the preparation and refurbishment of barracks, which will be spread over a number of years.

Other pre-recess points from Parliament:
British food is best: In a written answer, Defence Minister Lewis Moonie said the MoD and its food contractors were making every effort to ensure its Servicemen and women can eat value-for-money British food.

Almost 1,000 of the 1,300 products supplied to the Armed Forces were made or grown in Britain. All pork was British-supplied and from July the gammon and bacon produced in the UK had increased from 50 per cent to 100 per cent.

● Feeding the Armed Forces is to be the responsibility of the new **Defence Catering Group**, part of the Defence Logistics Organisation, based at Ensleigh, Bath.

Kosovo troops: Britain has agreed to a Nato request to send an extra battalion of troops to Kosovo in mid-September to cover the municipal election period. The 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry will be deployed there for two months, subject to the election date, and will be in addition to the 3,300 troops already there.

Complaints delays: According to recent figures the average time taken between an individual soldier's complaint to the Army Board via his commanding officer and the eventual decision being made is 82 weeks.

Where the complainant decided to take the matter higher and petition the Queen, the submission took a further period of between eight and 30 months, according to Dr Moonie in a written reply. The chain of command has been given clear guidance explaining that every effort must be made to resolve complaints as swiftly as possible and at the lowest possible level in the interests of good management, efficiency and justice.

Pension victory: In future, war widows who remarry will retain the attributable benefits they receive from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, the MoD and DSS announced. **Pension payout:** More than £2.2 billion was paid out to about 335,000 Service pensioners in the last financial year.

SA80 refit: Although the bulk of modifications to the SA80 weapon will be carried out at Heckler and Koch's facility at Obendorf, Germany for time and cost reasons, it was deemed more sensible for the preparatory work of stripping and refurbishment to be carried out in the UK, said Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon.

● The Army will not be fully manned for another five years as thousands of soldiers continue to leave early because of what they perceive as poor career prospects and a demanding schedule of commitments, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, said in an interview. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The MoD has sparked competition between military radio companies after sacking its preferred supplier for the delayed £1.7 billion Bowman communications project. – *Financial Times*



● Soldiers in Cyprus are on night patrol to catch thieves stealing watermelons on farming land within the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area. – *The Times*

● The Army's most senior infantry officer has called for the immediate replacement of the light machine-gun version of the SA80 assault rifle after criticism of its performance in the Kosovo campaign. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Cpl Lee Clegg, Para who was cleared of shooting two joyriders in Belfast, has

been repaid more than £25,000 for pay lost during his two years in jail. – *Independent*

● The Army is smaller than at any time since the Napoleonic era, says the Head of War Studies at Sandhurst. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Defence chiefs are examining Heckler and Koch's Objective Individual Combat Weapon, an infantry rifle with two barrels that can hit targets hidden behind obstacles, to replace the SA80. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● The Forces would have to employ disabled people under legislation being considered by the Government. – *Daily Telegraph*

Hackle patrol

Presence of Royal Regiment of Fusiliers helps bring confidence to Pristina's troubled streets

Pictures: Mike Weston

MORE than a year after Nato troops, led by British forces, entered Kosovo to stop a murderous and one-sided ethnic war troops are still keeping the peace on the streets of Pristina and other towns.

For the past six months the red-and-white hackled soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, commanded by Lt Col James Murray-Playfair, have been in the hot seat. This month they were handing over to the Royal Marines.

Much of the Fusiliers' time has been taken up with highly-visible patrolling, designed to reassure the more nervous sections of the community, although this aspect of the task has been taken over increasingly by the police. There is still a long way to go.

The Fusiliers have been supported by sappers from 32 Engineer Regiment as well as 65 ex-Regular and Territorial

Army reservists wearing the cap-badges of the London Scottish, RRF, PWRR, Cheshires, Welsh Guards, Highlanders, A and SH and WFR.

Among the civil projects undertaken by the battalion have been the reconstruction of a school in a Serb area, the building of a community centre for Serb minorities in Pristina, and the refurbishing of children's play areas. A "Music Makes Friends" roadshow put on by the drums' platoon went down well wherever it appeared.

A reminder of the serious nature of 2 RRF's operational role was the 67 tonnes of weapons and ammunition discovered by Sgt Wayne Toon of A Company during Operation Leatherman. The huge cache of ordnance, belonging to the Kosovo Liberation Army, was one of a number of significant finds.

The regiment has been involved in two previous tours in the Balkans, both to Bosnia.



Out of circulation: LCpl Andy Tutty, above left, and Cpl Tony Waugh with weapons handed in under Operation Doorknock

Where are we? Search team Fus Leigh Walker, left, and Fus Chris Roberts check on their next location in Pristina



On guard: Fus Woza Warren mans a permanent post in Pristina's Ulpana area, right, which is home to many vulnerable people



Fire section: Fus Will McCallum, Gdsm Dag Hamilton, Fus Jocky Walter and LCpl Anthony Garrett, above, patrol past a Serb church in central Pristina

Open house: With the co-operation of the family, left, Sgt Chris Sunner searches a cupboard in the house of Merita Fazliu, kneeling right. Behind them, her mother talks to Capt Gareth Boyd



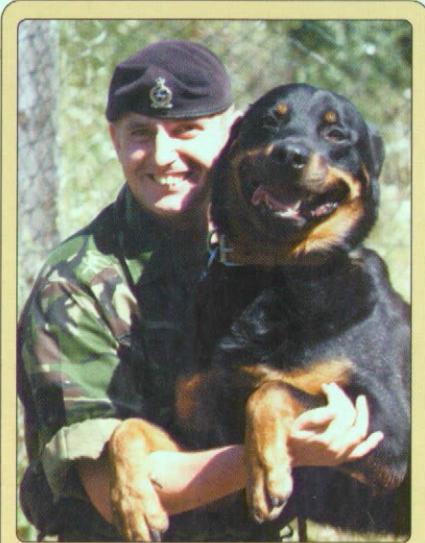
SOLDIER September 2000



31

Banja Luka snapshot

Thousands of British soldiers have served in Banja Luka, home to the HQ Multi-National Division (South West). Here's how things look now



On guard: Sgt Tam Nicholl with Boss

Don't mess with Boss

AMONG the lesser-known members of the British military community in Bosnia are some who wear no uniform.

Twenty-three Rottweilers and German shepherds play a vital role on search and patrol duties. While most are trained to target an intruder's arm, four (including Boss, pictured) have no such scruples.

Reaching the parts others dare not bite, they guard ammunition sites and will latch on to any part of the body. Trespassers be warned.

Sgt Tam Nicholl of the RAVC sees to their health, welfare and training needs. Although based in Banja Luka, he spends at least one week every month visiting dogs and handlers at sites all over MND (SW)'s area of responsibility. He ensures dogs and handlers are working well and lays on regular top-up training sessions.

The animals come from the UK, mostly given to the Army by families who can no longer control them. For many, the Army is their last chance. They can expect to be in service in Bosnia for several years, getting a new handler every six months or so as units rotate.

A veterinary nurse looks out for all the usual doggy ailments, as well as vaccinating for rabies, a real threat in Bosnia. When their tours end, the dogs go to Germany, some to become involved in the training of new handlers.

Reports: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

Terriers on tour

WITH ever more Territorial Army and reserve soldiers on operational tours, someone in theatre has to keep an eye on them... and that someone in Banja Luka is Capt Mike Keighley, Kings (V).

He also anticipates future requirements for TA and reserve personnel. "If there's an urgent need in theatre that has not been picked up at home, I see if an individual can be re-allocated," he explained.

There were 275 TA and reserve soldiers in Bosnia, representing about ten per cent of the force, when *Soldier* visited. "With the British commitment reducing this year, we envisage that number will shrink in line."

Capt Keighley acknowledges the fine job done by the part-timers. "The Army would have difficulty functioning here without them," he said. "They're very much part of the establishment and units deploying rely on them for reinforcements."

TA soldiers get pretty much the same pay and allowances as Regulars and their welfare issues are the same.



Capt Mike Keighley



Keeping fit: There are hopes for a new gym



Measuring up: Spr Steve Hodges, left, and Sgt Windy Gale

Sappers of 518 Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment have spent the summer constructing a new heliport facility at Banja Luka.

They were involved in every aspect of the operation from planning and costing to construction. The new helipads were conceived in their design office in Banja Luka.

Refuelling facilities have also been improved to incorporate a system which protects the environment by dealing quickly with leaks.

Happy eaters

PROVIDING three meals a day for between 300 and 400 people of different nationalities can be a daunting task, but the size of the queue at the multi-national combined mess in Banja Luka suggests that customers are happy.

Chef LCpl Martin Dalton RLC, serving with Grantham-based 161 Field Ambulance RLC (V), has been in Banja Luka for eight months. "People tell us how good the food is and the Dutch contingent presented us with certificates of appreciation," he said.

Catering for different national tastes can throw up the odd challenge.

With a selection of dishes to choose from, British soldiers are used to opting for one item; troops from other nationalities, not familiar with the system, often don't.

"We have to tell them it is a selection they make, not a collection," said LCpl



Frying tonight: From front, Cpl Kevin Kearney, LCpl Martin Dalton and LCPL Kat McVittie are kept busy in the cookhouse

Dalton. That's easier said than done when a typical lunch offers a salad bar as well as a choice of nine hot dishes, and the evening meal includes seven options.

Looking after the body beautiful

SOLDIERS in Banja Luka are not over-impressed by the gymnasium facilities at their Metal Factory base. And since they are expected to keep fit, that's a potential problem for the PTIs.

But with a little imagination the job gets done, and there are hopes for new arrangements, according to Sgt Robert McClusky, APTC. "The gym in the Metal Factory is temporary but we are hoping for a purpose-built facility in the autumn," he said.

Until then, Sgt McClusky and his colleague, WO1 Keith McDonald, will keep their soldiers fit by using a variety of exercise techniques.

"We do circuits in a commonsense fashion," said WO1 McDonald. "Troops have got to retain a level of operational fitness."

Sgt McClusky added: "Most soldiers enjoy the training and I have found the overall level of fitness to be good. Some work harder than others but we are here to make it fun and enjoyable, as well as beneficial."



All together: Working in theatre and relishing the opportunity, women serving with the Support Squadron gather in Banja Luka. Capt Clare Darby, adjutant of the multi-national squadron, said the ten women in the unit carry out tasks ranging from chef to working in the stores and driving. "There is excellent camaraderie and we try to have fun," she added

Mag with a mission

LOCAL people reading a copy of *Mostovi* is a common enough sight in MND(SW), but what's it all about?

The not always easy job of ensuring the local population get the real story about SFOR's role in their country is down to Maj Nigel Jones, AGC, and his Information Support Operations team. *Mostovi* is one of his main tools.

Distributed by soldiers as they patrol towns and villages, the weekly magazine is primarily aimed at the young because Maj Jones and his team are trying to capture hearts and minds before another generation of hatred is spawned.

Mostovi is produced in four alphabets

and writing the magazine in English and getting it translated has had its problems

when the message has occasionally been lost in translation. They plan to use local journalist in future. The unit is also involved in the broadcast work of Radio Oksigen and with NRTV, the regional TV station based in Banja Luka.

Using local presenters and production crews, they make a weekly TV programme, *Dayton In Focus*, which examines aspects of the Dayton Agreement.

Mostovi's mission, ultimately, is to help Bosnia in its pursuit of a future underpinned by multi-ethnic tolerance.

● Spreading the news – Page 35





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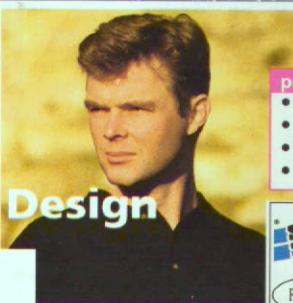
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Bosnia briefing

Spreading the news

The Light Dragoons back in the Balkans... again

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

B SQUADRON, The Light Dragoons is back in Bosnia. "So what?" we hear you ask. Well, it's actually the regiment's 13th squadron tour since 1993, so you have to admire their resilience.

Next year comes number 14, before a break of 18 months and another tour in 2002.

Yet many of B Sqn's soldiers are new to the Balkans. Most have fewer than 18 months' service, so squadron commander Maj Gordon Judd knows the pressure is on. "Because we have done so many tours and have a wealth of experience at NCO level, the youngsters can call on their seniors for help," he said.

While their role in theatre is not as challenging as it once was (a lack of edge felt by some NCOs), for the younger members of the squadron Bosnia remains a genuine challenge.

From its German base at Hohne, the 170-strong squadron is deployed as part of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment battle-group. The Light Dragoons patrol the northern edge of the re-defined Multi-national Division (SouthWest) territory, the boundaries of which were altered last April. The battle-group is now located entirely within the Republika Srpska.

Based in the Metal Factory at Banja Luka, B Sqn has an area of responsibility about the size of that enclosed by the M25. It is mostly "benign": operational focus is on ensuring compliance with the peace accord, deterring gangsters and terrorism (enforcement is a police task), and public order.

Maj Judd keeps his finger on the pulse through regular contact with local politicians and administrators. "It's important I understand their positions," he said. "The powers of the mayor, for example, are significant, much more than ours at home."

On the ground, his soldiers have the chance to meet local people on *Mostovi* patrols, during which they deliver the free weekly news magazine of that name.

Twenty-five miles north of Banja Luka, 2nd Lt Ashley Amos and his patrol distributed the

We've done so many tours and have a wealth of experience at NCO level!

Watchful eyes: Light Dragoon soldiers maintain their presence in northern Bosnia

magazine in the village of Maglajani. "*Mostovi* means 'building bridges', which speaks for itself," he said.

As well as Banja Luka, LD soldiers are based at two key outposts located at Prnjavor and Gradiska, where they live in large rented houses.

At Prnjavor, Lt Will McAdam said his squad of 15 would operate from the house for their whole six months, allowing them to build up a rapport with local people. They are resupplied from Banja Luka.

The stability that SFOR has brought to the area has resulted in ethnically-cleansed Muslims returning to find Serbs living in their homes. With hard-line elements in the area, the Light Dragoons have to be on their toes to face a growing problem.



Read all about it: Tpr Andy Clifton hands out copies of *Mostovi* to local residents in Gradiska



No end to the misery

HALF a mile from the Light Dragoons' base in Gradiska, innocent victims of ethnic cleansing cling to an existence of sorts. Here are people with nothing but the clothes on their backs, a look of desperation in the eyes, and little in their bellies.

The inhabitants, mostly Muslim, live in huts that in Britain would be considered inadequate for dogs. Their former houses, yards away, are occupied by Serbs.

The peace accord allows them to live on the land, but not to reclaim their homes until ownership has been resolved. They scratch an existence in what used to be their gardens. Intimidation is ever-present and the Light Dragoons patrol several times a day to keep a lid on trouble.

A man rides past on a bicycle, his body contorted. He is recovering from a broken collar bone and is grateful to an Army medic for giving him painkillers after the local Serb hospital refused to treat him. A pin repairing his shoulder protrudes through the skin, tearing his shirt.

A little girl stands outside her slum and cheers soldiers who brought her a teddy bear a few days earlier.

The war may be over in Bosnia, but the suffering goes on.

Picture parade

Centenary serenade: Hyde Park fills with smoke as The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery fires a 41-gun salute to mark the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother. A 62-gun salute was fired at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company.

Picture: Steve Docks



Seals of approval: Maj Stephen Harvey, R Irish, keeps an eye on two orphaned seal pups given a new home at the Army's base in Ballykinler. Finn and Tinkerbell, as they have been named, were hand-reared after being found lost near Minerstown in June. Now they have been released by marine biologists at Ballykinler, where, since the turn of the last century, small-arms firing on the ranges of the South Down complex has made the area a no-go for humans but very hospitable to wildlife and seals in particular.

Picture: Army News Team, HQNI

We're all off to Africa – in a double-decker

SOLDIERS serving with 16 Regiment RA have left their base at Woolwich to escort a London double-decker bus on a 4,500-mile journey to the village of Ekumfi Atakwa in Ghana.

From left to right are Bdr John Norfolk, 16 Regt RA, and SSgt Brett Richardson and Cpl Kev Bell of 16 Regt's Workshop REME section, who modified and rebuilt a Land Rover to accompany the bus. They are helping with the logistics of the expedition, which will take in the sand dunes of Mauritania and the wide open spaces of the Sahara.

Their OC, Maj Dominic Moorhouse, REME, will be waiting for them in Ghana, where the bus is to be handed over to villagers as a means of transport for children.

The project is the brainchild of John Knapton, Professor of Structural Engineering at Newcastle University, who has built a library and sunk a borehole in the village, where he is known as Chief Nana Odapagyan Ekumfi I.

Picture: Graeme Main

Trench veteran

When the Staffordshire Regiment Museum in Lichfield opened its latest exhibit, a recreation of a First World War trench, they asked Jack Staley, left, to open it. He joined the North Staffords in 1916 and served in the trenches before being sent home for being under-age.

Picture: Stuart Bingham



The history man

Richard Holmes, 36 years in the Territorial Army, is Director of Military and Security Studies at Shrivenham. But he is best known for his TV series and books about military history

Interview: Ray Routledge
Picture: Mike Weston

TO say that Prof Richard Holmes is a military history enthusiast is akin to firing a shot that falls way short of the mark.

He acknowledges that he is lucky in that his passion for history has not only been his hobby and all-consuming interest, it has also been his career.

And his enthusiasm is evident for all to see, for Brig Holmes, to give him his military title, lives, breathes and thinks military strategy, history and defence-related studies at home and at work.

When he is not writing or broadcasting he is Professor of Military and Security Studies and Director of the Security Studies Institute at Shrivenham.

This academic group is engaged in lecturing, research and publication and has a major input into an international global security course attended by high-ranking civilians and senior military officers looking at the problems of security and international law.

"The students come from all over the world," said Brig Holmes. "They visit places like Ireland and for operational history I take them off to Normandy and even to Russia. There is nothing else like it."

For Brig Holmes, who joined the TA as a private in 1964, it is the perfect environment.

The man who finished his doctorate with a thesis on the French Army 1866-70 has been a Territorial part-timer for most of his life, slipping in some full-time service in mid-career.

He lectured in war studies for 16 years at Sandhurst, where he looked at other issues, including what makes people fight and the

'It is difficult to keep control of one's emotions in a place like Verdun'



Fact file

Career

1946 - Born Staffordshire
1964 - Joined TA
1966 - Commissioned
1969-85 Department of War Studies, RMA Sandhurst
1985 - Lt Col (full time, non-Regular), 2nd Battalion, The Wessex Regiment
1986 - Colonel
1989 - Director Cranfield University Security Studies Institute; Brigadier TA 1994 - HQ Land
1995 - Professor Military and Security Studies
1997 - Director Reserve Forces and Cadets
1999 - Colonel, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Publications

The English Civil War (with Paul Young), 1974; *The Little Field Marshal: Sir John French*, 1984; *Firing Line*, 1985; *Soldiers*, 1985; *Riding the Retreat*, 1995; *War Walks*, 1996; *War Walks 2*, 1997; *The Western Front*, 1999.

Broadcasting

War Walks, 1996; *War Walks 2*, 1997; *The Western Front*, 1999.

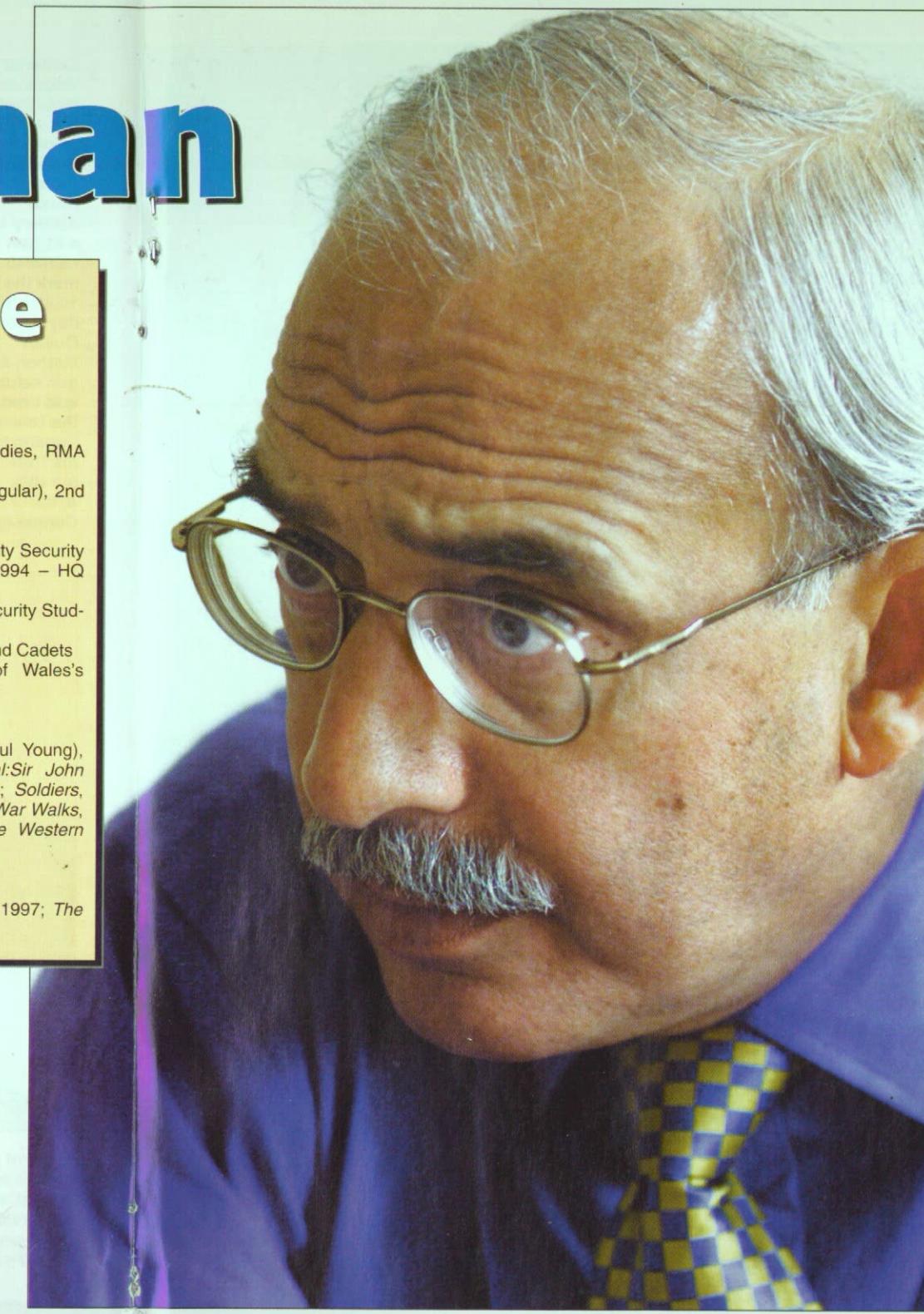
are more in the pipeline. "The next project is a terrific Imperial War Museum book called *The Second World War in Photographs*, due out in September," he said. "I worked with a team of researchers and ransacked the museum archives of Second World War photographs, including British, Allied and captured pictures.

"The book goes through the war year by year. We have tried to get a feel for all the facets of the war and I am delighted with the results. The staff at the IWM were terrific."

Another book scheduled for next February, *The Oxford Companion to Military History*, is the result of six years' work and runs to almost a million words. Brig Holmes was the general editor and main contributor.

Then there is a so far untitled new four-part TV series on the Second World War, planned for early next year on BBC2.

I have involved veterans who are a tremendous asset as we try to tell the story of four aspects of the war, including



Cassino and Anzio and the Western Desert," he revealed.

While his work at Shrivenham and on his books and television goes some way to quenching an almost inexhaustible thirst for knowledge and experience, he is affected by emotions, too.

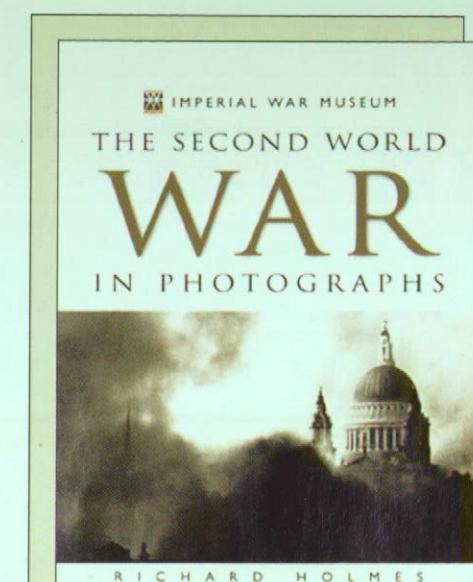
"I am not the sort of historian who lectures at the camera. There is no script, so a lot of what you see is me reacting with the landscape and it does depend on emotion. To better understand a battle you should visit the battlefield. Sometimes it

is difficult to keep control of one's emotions in a place like Verdun.

"At the end of that sequence in the *Western Front* I did two takes but I was getting serious problems with the back of my throat and I'm glad I didn't have to do a third. I go there every year but I find it an emotional strain every time."

He still gets a sense of excitement visiting more ancient battle sites but he is concerned about preservation.

"I have a beef about the way we treat battlefields in Britain. We have done some



WIN THE BOOK

We are giving away a copy of Richard Holmes's new book, *The Second World War in Pictures*, worth £25, to one lucky reader.

Answer the following question:

When is Battle of Britain Day?

Send your entry on a postcard to Soldier Magazine, *The Second World War in Pictures*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU (don't forget your own name and address) to arrive no later than September 29, 2000. The first correct entry drawn will be adjudged the winner. Normal competition rules apply.

savage things to them, including building motorways across them and slinging supermarkets on them. Until relatively recently we have not been good at interpreting them and making them user-friendly.

"Somewhere like Bosworth is an exception because there is a good interpretation of the battlefield for visitors. I would like to see the same thing done at Naseby."

Brig Holmes admires the way foreign battlefields are often preserved and cites the American Civil War site at Gettysburg as an example.

"Gettysburg was the climactic battle of the war and is a hugely impressive site. Yet even there it is a question of getting the balance right as it runs the risk of being crushed by the weight of commemoration that is imposed upon it."

Isn't his fascination with places of death and destruction macabre?

"I look at battlefields not for the glorification of war, but to try to understand what our forefathers did and experienced when called to do their duty as they saw it."

His new books and TV documentaries are eagerly anticipated.

Dawn raiders

It's not only the infantry which trains hard to keep combat skills up to scratch. Signallers in Cyprus on Exercise Lion Sun took it just as seriously

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

ALL is quiet on the beach as the first light of a new day creeps colourfully and magically across the retreating black Mediterranean night sky.

From the sea the low hum of a motor grows louder until a landing-craft bursts into view and heads for the beach. Its ramp slams down, disgorging dozens of soldiers ready to attack their objectives.

Smoke and gunfire greet the attackers as they storm the beach. Another Lion Sun exercise is under way.

For once the soldiers taking part are not from the infantry but from 255 Squadron, 16 Signal Regiment, normally found supporting the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen.

Under the watchful, occasionally critical and always encouraging gaze of their officers, the soldiers give no quarter while attacking their objectives. Hours later, mission completed, they make their way back to base camp to be debriefed on what went right... and wrong.

Maj Tony Burgin, squadron commander,

For many, it was their first beach landing

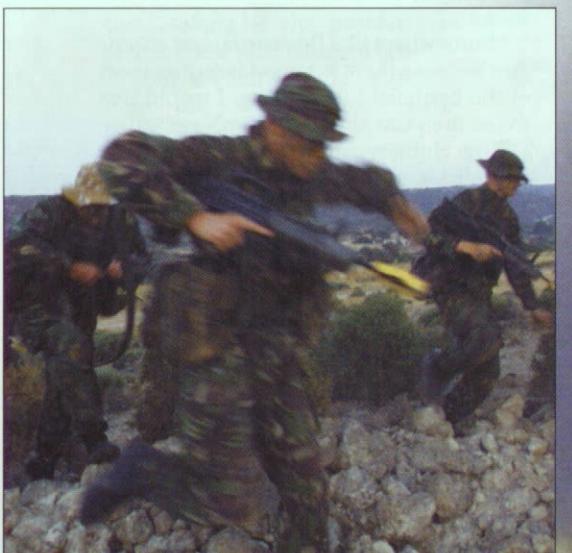
said the five-week exercise for his 88 soldiers was a far cry from their usual role of supporting Allied Command Europe's Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Speaking at the base camp at Radio Sonde, a couple of miles from Episkopi, Maj Burgin said: "We wanted to have an exercise based around a purely military training environment and this area gives us greater freedom of movement than our training areas in Germany."

It was the first time many of the specialist soldiers had attempted a beach landing.

"We see it as part of their continuous development and when the junior NCOs actually give orders in the field they learn how the battlefield orders process works," said Maj Burgin.

"The soldiers have completed a mixture of theoretical lessons, range packages including navigation skills, and they are cracking on with it very well."



Attack: 255 Sqn, above, storms the beach while, right, Sig Anthony Beardsley and LCpl Steve Buckingham make an advance



Beach landing: Soldiers of 255 Squadron, 16 Signal Regiment go ashore, courtesy of landing craft operated by 417 Port and Maritime Troop. LCpl Glen Armitage, Cpl Kevin Smith and Lt John Lyons lead the way

Night watch: Cpl Kev Parkes, below left, and LCpl Chris Savage



On guard: Sig Mac McRoberts, left, keeps an eye on his prisoner, Cpl Barney Revell



Lull: LCpl Jayne Robinson, left, and Capt Mark Crinnion wait for orders to advance



Civvy CO at the Duke of York's

FOR the first time in its 197-year history the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover has a non-military headmaster and chief executive.

John Cummings comes from an educational background, but his sole military experience was with the Combined Cadet Force.

"It's a marvellous school and I feel very proud to have been appointed," he said of the Duke of York's, which was founded in 1803.

"The most daunting task so far has undoubtedly been being the inspecting officer on our weekly parades, where 500 boys and girls are immaculately turned out in their ceremonial uniforms.

"There is a march-past accompanied by the school's 90-piece military band. It gives us all an immense feeling of pride, but I do feel somewhat inadequate in my pinstriped suit."

Gurkha drivers told: You can't work in the UK

PERMISSION for former Gurkha drivers to work in the UK after their time with the British Army is over has been refused by the Department of Education and Employment.

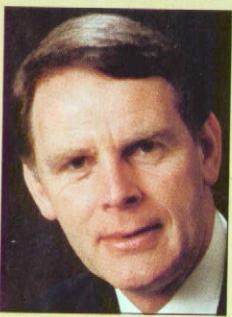
Under the scheme, which had the support of the Regular Forces Employment Association, former soldiers from 10 Gurkha Transport Regiment would have been offered the chance to return to the UK as contracted drivers for major distribution companies.

The initiative, negotiated by Driving Force Logistics Ltd with the British and Nepalese Governments, would have encouraged highly-skilled, Army-trained Gurkha drivers to return to Britain to take up contracts for two- to three-year periods.

The former Gurkhas would have been employed, on permits assigned to DFL, mainly by supermarket and petrochemical companies.

Despite a shortage of UK workers wanting to drive trucks, the Overseas Labour Service said it did not consider the posts on offer required specialised knowledge or experience not readily available in the resident (UK and Europe) workforce.

DFL is to appeal against the decision.



Civilian head:
John Cummings

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
Joint Service Housing Advice

Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association 01482 833812

Regular Forces Employment Association

0207 321 2011

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442940

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
(Combat Stress) 020 8543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 9249;
Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Welfare pulls out the stops for Maria

WHEN Maria Barker was told Social Services would take at least two years to supply her with a desperately needed but very expensive "adjustomatic" bed she started saving up.

Then a friend told her about the Army Welfare Service (AWS).

Because Maria is disabled, she had had to wake her husband, Sgt Clive "Ronnie" Barker AGC, attached to 22 Field Hospital in Aldershot, several times a night to help her in and out of bed. Now, thanks to SSgt Gaynor Jones of the Aldershot Garrison AWS team, Maria can get out of bed by herself, leaving Ronnie to his well-deserved sleep.

Just a week after Maria contacted the AWS, SSgt Jones was on the phone to tell her SSAFA Forces Help and Aldershot's St Andrew's Church Fund would provide cheques to make up the £500 she still



Good nights:
Maria, left,
with SSgt
Gaynor
Jones
Picture:
Graeme Main

needed to buy the £700 bed. "To say I was gobsmacked would be an understatement," said a delighted Maria. "Please help me say, through the magazine, a big thank-you to Gaynor, Maj Martin Timmis [the area welfare support officer], SSAFA Forces Help, who gave £300, and the church fund, which gave £200. It has made a huge difference."

It's our pleasure, Maria.

Naafi, SSAFA and BFPO announce internet shopping opportunities

● Naafi has launched a revamped website to promote its new corporate identity and branding. Shops, clubs, financial services and the a new commercial section can be accessed by visiting www.naafi.co.uk

● SSAFA Forces Help has formed a partnership with the new on-line shopping village free2give.co.uk, which includes leading retailers such as WH Smith, HMV, Vauxhall

and Great Universal Stores. SSAFA Forces Help will receive a percentage of the retail price of goods ordered, at no extra cost to the consumer. To access the site, go to SSAFA's www.ssafa.org.uk and click on the free2give logo to go straight to the shopping village.

● The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) has signed up to an exclusive deal with internet shopping venture expatshopping.com to

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Why your say is so important to Army

JUST as there is no shortage of letters for *Soldier's Mailbag* pages, we never have enough space to print all the correspondence we receive for Postbag in the Army Families Federation's *Families Journal*. People have a lot to say about their way of life – and quite right too. We all need to hear their points ... and we might even have an answer.

It is fairly essential these days for employers who want to hang on to their employees to have a reasonably sound idea of their opinions about the job – and for those employees to feel their views are valued.

Given the demands these days on soldiers and their families, such internal communication is even more vital for the Army, but not something that appears to come very easily. The main means for conveying messages is the chain of command – in other words, via the boss. In an organisation which relies on rank to maintain discipline, such messages can be perceived as orders or edicts rather than friendly missives.

As for sending messages back up the chain (even if soldiers feel able to express their opinions or grievances to their immediate superiors without fear of comeback), it is debatable whether their views would be passed on by an unsympathetic boss.

Which is why letters to *Soldier* and the *Journal* provide a necessary additional channel of communication, particularly as both reach generals and ministers.

The Army recognises that it has to improve its internal communications and has initiated attitude surveys and, more recently, CGS's Briefing Team to enable soldiers and their families to express their views directly to the top with no comeback.

Sadly, however, cynicism is still rife on the ground as to whether the Army really wants to communicate with its people. Many do not feel particularly well communicated with.

This is not surprising, given the experiences some have when trying to get answers



Sue Bonney is
editor of the
Families Journal

This is not encouraged when some of our readers do not receive the latest issue until months after it has been sent out to units. Or worse, do not receive it at all.

A great means of communication is left unread simply because some units give low priority to their families being informed and feeling more valued as a result.

And if families don't read the *Journal*, they can't respond to the articles, information or issues – or even the reader offers. They won't write letters to Postbag, so we won't know about their particular concern or grievance, and nor will the Army or other families.

We all lose out. It's no good you not bothering to say anything when asked – an apparently apathetic silent majority is no help to internal communications.

Feedback, and response to feedback, is vital, and needs encouragement. If you are canvassed for your opinion, give it. You may have switched off after years of trying to say something and being ignored, but give it another go.

It may be, because of poor communications, you don't know that your input is needed. Well, you do now. You may be perfectly happy with your lot – and the Army needs to know that too.

So respond to that survey, talk to CGS's Briefing Team and the AFF, write to *Soldier* and the *Journal*. Communicate.

The summer issue of the *Families Journal* was sent to all units in early August for onward delivery to families. Have you received your copy yet? Visit the new AFF website at www.aff.org.uk or e-mail us at us@aff.org.uk

Cyprus joins list of 'pet passport' countries

SERVICE families are among those who will most benefit from the Government's decision to extend the "pet passport" scheme to 15 more countries, including Cyprus.

From January, pets entering the UK from Ascension Island, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Cyprus, the Falklands, Hawaii, Japan, Malta, Monserrat, New Caledonia, New Zealand, St Helena, Singapore and Vanuatu will be allowed in without undergoing six months in quarantine, provided they are fitted with the appropriate microchip and vaccinated against rabies.

They must also have had a recent blood test to insure the treatment has been effective and been treated against ticks and other parasites. Documentary proof that all is in order has to be produced before Customs officers will allow a pet into Britain.

Twenty-two counties in western Europe are already covered by the scheme. Animals travelling from the United States, where rabies is endemic, are still subject to the UK's strict quarantine rules.

Pilgrimage scheme deadline extended

THE Government's grant-in-aid scheme for widows who want to visit their husband's grave overseas has been extended for another two years. It was due to end in March.

According to the Royal British Legion, which has run the scheme for the past 15 years, many war widows have yet to benefit from the assisted pilgrimages. Anyone may join the trips but only war widows are eligible for subsidies.

To find out more, contact Remembrance Travel, Royal British Legion, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel 01622 716729 or 716182).

Jobs on the line

A MAJOR development to the Regular Forces Employment Association website, www.rfea.org.uk, is the addition of new facilities which allow candidates to view nationwide vacancies and employers to view a sample of quality candidates. The site already allows Service leavers to register on-line for job-finding support. The RFEA offers ex-Service personnel a life-long job-finding service at no cost.

SHORTS

Army's Olympic hopeful

CAPT Guy Fordham (RAMC), who has been selected for the Great Britain Olympic hockey team, will be alone in carrying the Army's hopes for a medal in Sydney.

The talented midfielder, pictured left, who plays for Guildford, just missed out on a team place at the Atlanta Olympics four years ago.

"We have a good chance of making the semis and once we are there, well . . . I'm hoping to bring back a medal," he said.

Former Army sergeant Kelly Holmes was selected to represent Great Britain in the 800m.

Swimming triumph

A RECORD number of swimmers competed in the 25th Inter-Services long distance championships at Lake Bala, Gwynedd, Wales.

Using freestyle, Army swimmers SSgt Ian Coles (QDG), Lt Vanessa Galloway and Lt Catherine Jardine (both RMAS) took the first three places in the 1,500m short course event. In the breaststroke category the first three home were Spr Jonathon Wright (RE), SSgt Bruce Davidson (RLC) and CSgt Jay Shaw (ITC Wales).

In the 5,000m long course breaststroke event, Maj Hamish Robson (REME) came second and Cpl Clare Slocum (AGC, attached to 1 RGJ) was second in the women's event.

The first three Army swimmers in the 5,000m were Sgt Shaun Bailey (RLC), 2nd Lt Ryan Thomas (RMAS) and Lt Col David Hayes (AAC Australia).

Accountants on the run



Down's Syndrome Association were each presented with cheques for £1,150.

MIDDLESEX SEVENS



Pictures: Roger Thompson

SHORTS

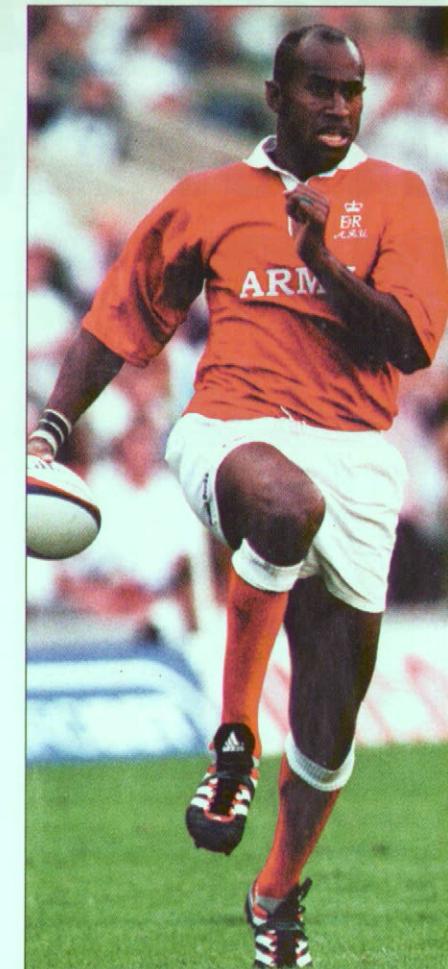
Warriors' anxious start

THE Army's senior basketball squad, the Warriors, took on the Thames Valley Tigers, the Bracknell-based professionals, in an exhibition match at Maida Gym, Aldershot and contained them 82-54, even though at one point it looked like they might be overwhelmed. The sides are familiar with the other's tactics since they joined forces two years ago for training purposes.

The Warriors have won both the Wessex League (Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey) outright, and also the Karl Taylor Shield, the league's open knockout competition. The two trophies were presented to the team shortly before play began.



Slamming: Warriors captain SSgt Neil Tolson (REME) tries his luck



Charging forward: Bull Bulumakaj, above Grace and fervour: Emosi Naisaramaki, left, does his best to shake off a challenge as Andy Dawling shadows him in support

High-life for skydivers



THE British Army Four-Way Formation Skydiving Team got together with the US Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, for a combined training camp at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The team of Maj Dave Tyler (RLC), Capt Brad Reader (ACF), Lt Alastair Macartney (RLC), Sgt Ian Cashman (PWRR) and Cpl Jim O'Kane (RE) attempted to build as many different formations in the time limit of 35 seconds.

On returning to the UK the team finished fourth in the British skydiving championships at Hibaldstow, South Humberside.

Anyone interested in learning to skydive can contact the team through the web page - Quisksilva.com - or Maj Dave Tyler on 0468 683 329.

Tales of the unexpected

Crowd mystified over referee's try decision

MANY of the world's greatest rugby players were at Twickenham last month for the Middlesex Sevens, writes Roger Thompson. The Penguins fielded Serevi and Satala while Thomas Castaignede made his debut for Saracens. Home internationals were almost two-a-penny.

Ten premiership teams participated and the ludicrous situation of the Army playing against one of its own, OCdt Josh Lewsey (RMAS) in Wasps colours, was narrowly avoided when the Wasps limped out of the plate semi-final.

The Army lost narrowly in the opening rounds to the professionals of Sale Sharks and then faced Leeds Tykes in a powerful plate competition. Leeds' joint union-league approach had been hyped in the national media, with dual code Welsh international Iestyn Harris drawing yards of column inches.

One national Sunday paper headlined its story "Army ambush Harris", but Leeds were more realistically put to the sword 33-10 in open battle by an Army team which produced a seamless mixture of Fijian "smoke and mirrors" and British confrontation.

In the forwards Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA), Bull Bulumakaj (1 RS) and Alfred

Vakacokavanua (Scots Guards) foraged, tackled in defence and contributed to launching attacks.

In the semi-finals, London Welsh were blown apart in an Army exhibition of sevens play that even the Penguins were hard-pressed to emulate. At its best, sevens is an art - a mix of ballet and sumo wrestling, each player being able to show both skills.

Switch, counter-switch, dummy switch and dummy runs between Emosi Naisaramaki, Ken Kainoco and Epili Qolikibua (all 1 RS) left the Welshmen gasping for oxygen as the Army ran in seven superb tries and drew huge applause for their 40-0 victory.

By comparison the plate final was an anticlimax. London Irish, professionals to a man, and in full training, somehow managed to retain sufficient ball to deny the Army try-scoring opportunities.

Referees are wise old birds with hindsight-quality vision. With seconds to go and with the Army trailing 14-9, the Reds split the Irish defence and, to tumultuous cheers, crashed in under the posts for almost certain victory. Unfortunately for the Army, this meticulous official had spotted an infringement unseen by the other 30,000 at Twickenham.

Such is sevens. Out of such injustices are great empires made. Like McArthur, the Army will return.

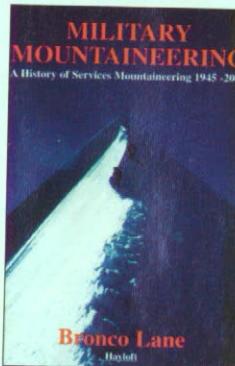
SHORTS

Heights of adventure

WHO better to write the first history of British military mountaineering than Maj (Retd) Bronco Lane? In 1976, he and fellow soldier Brummie Stokes made it to the top of Mount Everest – becoming the third and fourth Britons to do so.

Military Mountaineering (Hayloft Publishing, paperback, £17.95) explores the elements of the Armed Forces which engage in climbing as part of their mission.

It examines how military mountaineers have helped evolve climbing knowledge and expertise, sometimes in difficult operational areas, and also covers the philosophy and importance of adventurous training. This is a soldier's straightforward account of some quite exceptional men in exceptional circumstances. It is illustrated with 50 mostly colour photographs.



TA football call-up

FOOTBALLERS who want to be considered for the 2000-01 Territorial Army squad should write giving details to the Secretary, Territorial Army Sports Board, Association Football, c/o G3 Trg, HQ Land Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0AG.

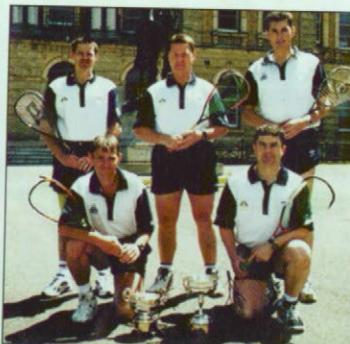
Trials of youth

THE Army Rugby Union is conducting trials and selection for its youth squad for the new season. Those selected will represent the Army in the Inter-Services and the U20 county championships. For more information contact Gavin Williams via email at youtharmy@RFU.btinternet.com or telephone 01962 888243.

RSME sweeps up

AFTER a disappointing spell last year, squash players from 1 RSME went away and re-grouped and have just completed

a storming season, winning everything they entered including the Kent Summer Cup, the Inter-Corps championships, the Army championships and the 4 Division league and cup.



ATHLETICS

No doubting Thomas twins

Brothers' blistering pace secures victory

A SCORCHING sprinting display by the Thomas twins set the seal on victory for 3 Close Support Regiment RLC in the major unit athletics finals at Aldershot Military Stadium.

Ptes Josephus and Joselyn, both former Sierra Leone internationals, helped their regiment rack up a 24-point margin over nearest rivals 1 Cheshire and 11 Signal Regiment. Josephus took the 100m crown and Joselyn the 200m.

Twenty-three men's and women's team's from Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Germany went through elimination rounds to reach the finals.

In the minor units' event, three teams were always in contention, with HQ 4 Div (APTC) finishing just four points ahead of their nearest rivals, ATR Bassingbourn. The women's team contest was also closely fought, with the lead changing throughout the day before 11 Signal Regiment triumphed.

Hammer man: Sgt Simon Haraway (1 Cheshire) was second in the hammer

ing just four points ahead of their nearest rivals, ATR Bassingbourn. The women's team contest was also closely fought, with the lead changing throughout the day before 11 Signal Regiment triumphed.



Picture: Steve Dock

Fast track: Pte Joselyn Thomas (3 (CS) Regt RLC) runs a blinder on the 200m bend

LETTER

Yachting coverage went a bit overboard

AS the RLC offshore racing manager I noted your report on the Army Sailing Association Regatta with interest (Page 49, August). I have no idea who penned the article but thought you might be interested in some supporting information.

Your article noted SSgt Anderson's lead in the Victoria 3 Division but failed to mention his remarkable result of winning every inshore race and the Passage Race in that division during the regatta.

I understand this achievement is unprecedented and won him the Sabre

Bowl for the best yacht in the ASA regatta. It is the first time this prestigious trophy has been won by a Victoria 34.

Your article also failed to mention the Inter-Corps trophy (the Dolphin Trophy) which is hotly contested by teams consisting of one yacht owned by a Service yacht club and a Victoria 34.

The RLCYC team, consisting of SSgt Anderson's Victoria 34 and *Thunderflash* won this trophy from the REMEYC by a clear margin on nine points. The REYC came third in the team competition.

TENNIS

Electric Watts too powerful

Name goes on trophy for record 13th time

IT was business as usual for Maj Nigel Watts (AAC) in the Army tennis championships at Aldershot.

He served up another sparky performance to claim his 13th crown, overcoming Capt Austin Coventry (RE) in the final.

SSgt Heather McNair (R Signals) added a second championship to her tally by beating Lt Anna Fox (RA).

In the Inter-Services at Wimbledon the Army's men's team made it four victories in a row. The Army fielded a strong team with Coventry as the top seed and SSgt Eric Simpson (APTC) and Capt Alastair Mills (REME) the second and third strings.

In the women's matches, the Army narrowly missed out on victory when the RAF pipped them by one rubber.

The women's top seeds were McNair, fresh from her string of victories at Aldershot, Fox and Lt Karen Banks (RLC).

■ There has never been a better time to improve your tennis. Outdoor courts at the Army Tennis Centre, Aldershot, are free to military personnel and the indoor courts are available at reduced prices (telephone 94222 2830 for bookings).

For details of competitions telephone Maj Erskine-Tulloch on 94271 2932.



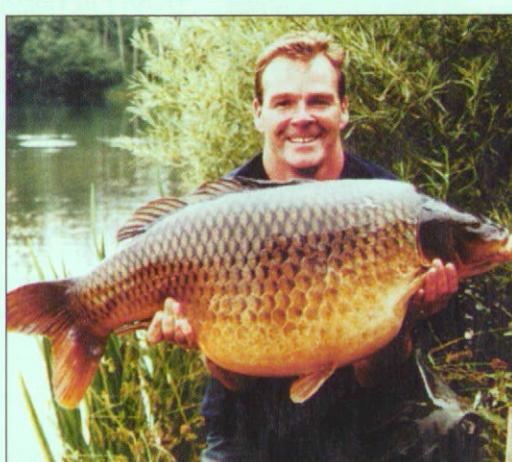
Net profit: SSgt Heather McNair on her way to the singles crown at the Army championships. She also claimed the doubles and mixed doubles' titles

Picture: Steve Dock

SHORTS

Record-breaking haul

CPL Dave Ostapuk (1 PWO) has given his rivals something to carp about. In a two-week period he caught the largest common specimen in England, weighing in at 50lb 8oz, pictured below, and then followed it up by landing the largest carp taken in Yorkshire. That was a mere tidler by comparison, weighing a mere 40lb 2oz. It was the first time Dave had fished either of the lakes.



Picture: Steve Dock

Cadets' help harnessed

CITY of London NE sector Army cadets from 26 Troop, The Life Guards, Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment got a taste of country life when they helped out at the Stanford Rivers Horse Trials at Ongar, Essex by assisting in the show jumping and dressage events.

One point in it

THE Army U21 rugby squad lost out to the RAF development side 15-14 in the cup final of the RAF Akritori international floodlit tens in Cyprus.

Clay shooters on target

AN Army Clay Target Shooting Association project to give every recruit the chance to fire and handle a shotgun during basic training has moved a step closer.

Two one-day safety officer courses at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, were held for the permanent staff instructors, who train infantry recruits in specialist weapon skills. The ACTSA hopes they will sow the seed of interest so that young soldiers will take up the sport in the future date.

For more information about clay target shooting contact Capt Paul Rabbidge on 01722 433736.

Royal Scots set pace

A TEAM from The Royal Scots presented a cheque for £2,500 to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland after successfully completing the London Flora Marathon.

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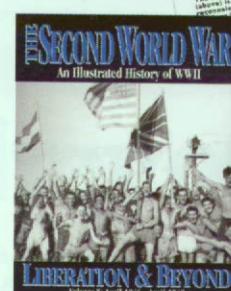
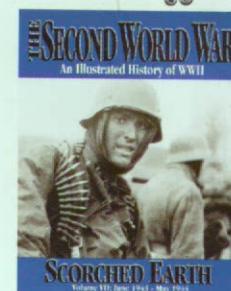
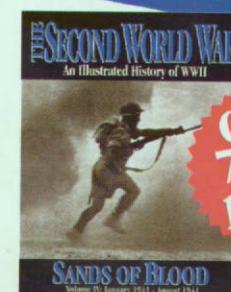
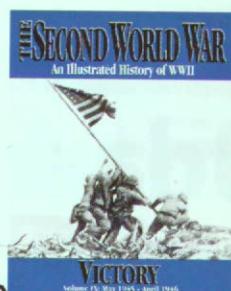
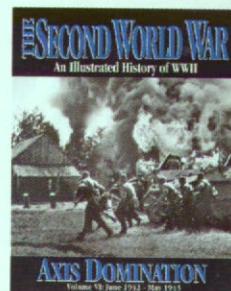
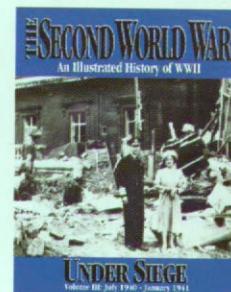
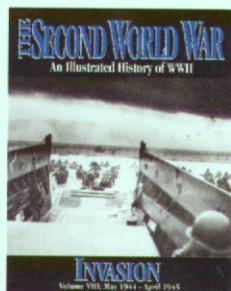
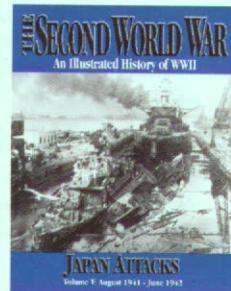
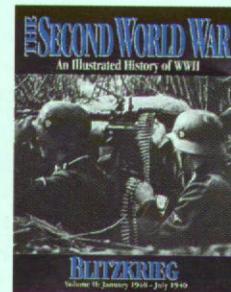
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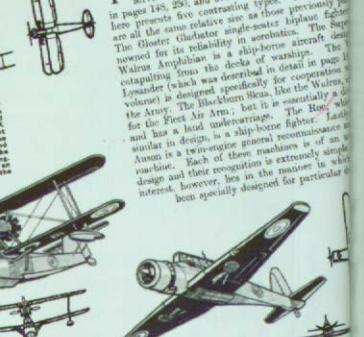
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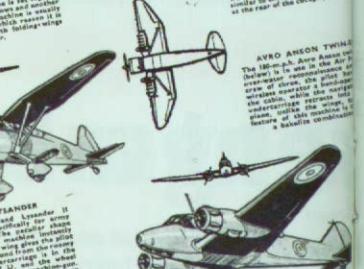
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British Aeroplanes in Flight



These drawings are taken by permission from the 'Aero Identification Chart of 1940' published by Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.



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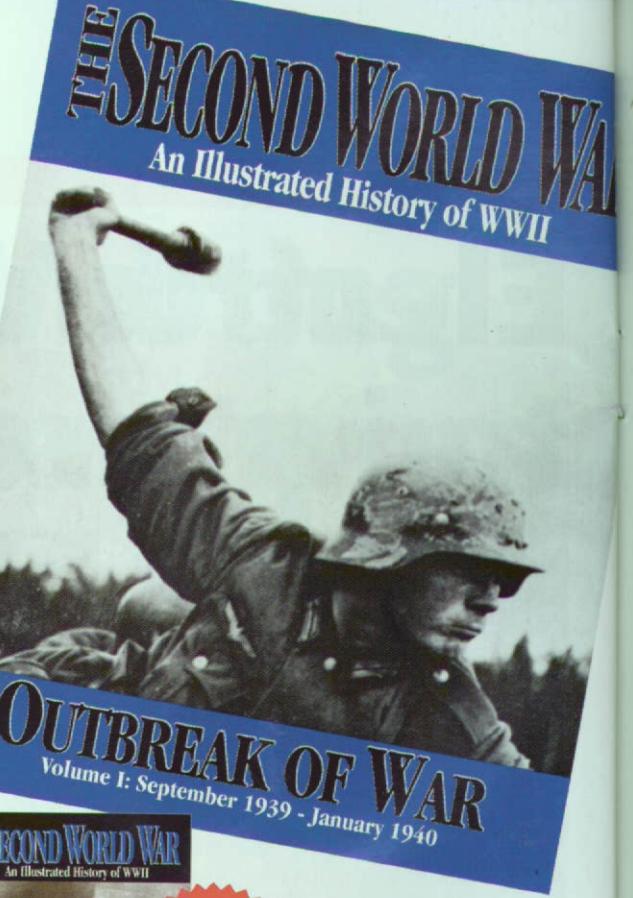
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Sport

TUG OF WAR



Picture: Dick Field

Heave-ho: 40 Regt RA coach SSgt Ronnie Barker exhorts the 640kg side to give their all

Buoyant maritime loggies pull titles

THOUSANDS of spectators watched 17 Port and Maritime Regiment pull their way into the record books at the Army tug of war finals at Larkhill.

The maritime loggies became the first team to win all four weight categories two years running.

But it was by no means a foregone conclusion. Before the start, the competition was felt to be wide open, especially after last year's champions, with a new coach and several new pullers, only managed to win one silver medal at the Land Command championships.

In the 600kg class, 40 Regiment RA did their utmost but were unable to match 17 Port's tight rope pressure.

It was the turn of the improving Royal

School of Signals to upset the applecart in the 680kg class. But despite a strong effort, 17 Port added to their gold haul.

Gunner champions 40 Regiment took up the challenge in the 560kg class, but again to no avail.

The final weight, the prestigious 640kg, involved the main medal hopes, 17 Port, 40 Regt RA, 1 RHA and 4 R Irish, drawn in the same group. After a titanic final struggle by 1 RHA, the loggies took their fourth gold . . . and their place in the record books.

■ Plans are under way for a celebration of 50 years of Army tug of war, to take place in 2002 at Aldershot, the home of the first finals. For details contact Maj (Retd) Dick Field on 07899 898092.

CRICKET

SUSSEX and Middlesex 2nd XIs provided tough tests for Army as they prepared for the Inter-Services at Aldershot (report in October issue). Both counties included first-teamers who made their mark.

Wasim Khan's 64 helped Sussex to a seven-wicket win at Aldershot, while Middlesex, despite struggling in the championship, included several players trying to establish themselves and made a strong Army XI look second rate. A third defeat was inflicted by the British Police.

The three-match losing streak ended with a morale-boosting five-wicket win over Wiltshire at Tidworth in a match played for a trophy donated by the RLC.

Army 158 (32 overs). **Sussex** 159-3 (30). Sussex won by 7 wickets. **Middlesex** 249-6 (50) (Cpl S Cornhill 3-47). **Army** 89 (21). Middlesex won by 160 runs. **Army** 117 (48). **British Police** 118-6 (40) (Sgt D Thompson 3-20). Police won by 4 wickets. **Wiltshire** 115 (LCpl I Smith 5-25, Cpl S Cornhill 3-16, Lt C Phillips 2-11). **Army** 118-5 (Sgt N Palmer 36 not out). Army won by 5 wickets.

SHORTS

Army wins over 25 laps

SGT Rod Leach (APTC) won the inaugural Inter-Services 10,000m championships at Aldershot in a time of 31min 33.1sec. He was followed home by SSgt Colin Palmer and SSgt Kenny Butler. That solid performance won the Army the team prize ahead of the RAF. But the RAF got their revenge in the Inter-Services decathlon and heptathlon championships, also held at Aldershot, when they beat the Army and Royal Navy into second and third respectively.

Enter the Supergames

SUPERGAMES 2001 take place in Christchurch, New Zealand next year from March 30 to April 8. Serving or retired personnel are eligible to take part in events, including some traditional track and field and some not, such as orienteering, scuba and paintball. Further information on www.supergames2001.co.nz

Sappers' peak of fitness

FIVE soldiers from 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, based at Ripon, North Yorkshire beat 40 teams to win the Three Mountain Challenge. The sappers went up and down Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in the fastest time.

The winning team was made up of SSgt Billy Hardwick, Cpl John Varadinek-Skelton, LCpl Brian Keen, Spr Gunny Gunshon and Spr Gaz Williams.

History made in Holland

FOOTBALLERS from B Company, Royal Irish Rangers made history by becoming the first TA team to take part in the John De Jonre Memorial World Cup tournament in Holland.

The competition has been running since 1970 and is contested by more than 40 teams from around the world. The Rangers' best moments were the 3-0 win over the Czech Republic and a 3-1 victory over Bulgaria.

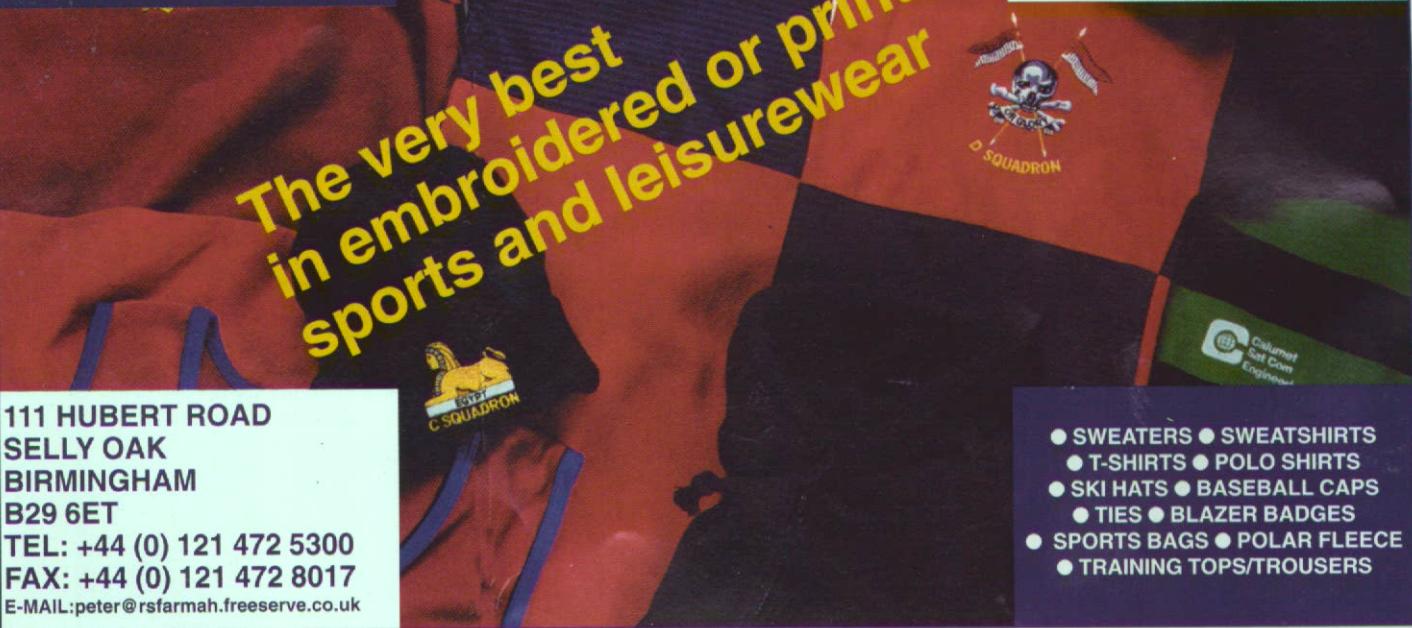
Sail to the Canaries

NEWCOMERS to sailing are being encouraged to take part in unit expeditions in the Canary Islands over the winter. Departing Gosport on November 20, there will be a two-week feeder leg to Lisbon in Portugal and then another to Las Palmas. This will be followed by seven two-week periods over which the yacht can be hired.

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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 November issue.

July competition (No 704):
First correct entry drawn was from WO2 D Winship, 135 Indep Topo Sqn RE (V), of Ewell, Surrey, who wins £100. Runners-up Miss J Osler, APT, Camberley and Mr R D Johnson, DASD, MoD, Whitehall, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: roof tiles; window; G in "building"; nail in wall; arm on diagram; cat's tail; left-hand medic's lapel and toe; patient's left arm; stretcher rod.



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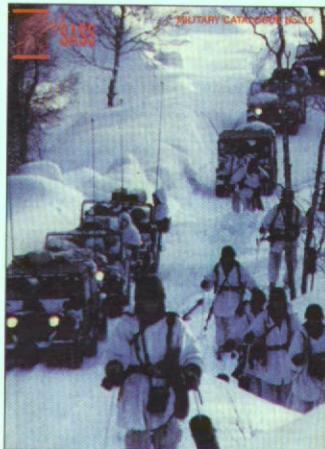
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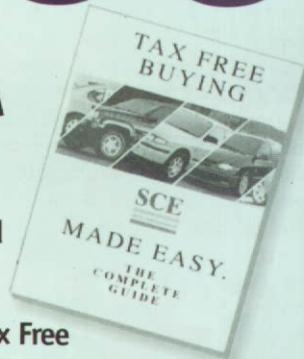
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WHILE normal car-mad kids doodled Jaguars and Ferraris on their school exercise books, I always drew Lotus Elites and Elans, hoping that some day I might drive cars of the marque. Over the years such days have come and gone all too quickly, but every time the appeal of Lotus has intensified, writes Syd Taylor.

Now here is the Elise 111S; its paint lustrous, its purity of line unparalleled.

A composite fibre body clothes a remarkable chassis of a space-frame tube design constructed of extruded anodised aluminium sections. The Lotus philosophy that "light is right" is in evidence everywhere just as it has always been since the days of Colin Chapman.

A word of warning: getting into the Elise is hard when the hood is up. The sills – clad in aluminium with part vinyl covering – are broad and to get behind the wheel you must first step over onto the ribbed cross member in front of the seat cushion, hold onto the windscreens pillar and bring in your other leg, sliding yourself into the thinly-padded seat.

Once settled, you're surprised by the amount of room. The seat, with its high back, is supportive and wings wrap around the squab to check your movement during hard cornering. You sit fairly upright with legs splayed either side of the small leather-covered steering wheel. The trim is basic in the extreme: this is not for someone just "looking for a little sports car". An Elise is radical and it shows.

Instrumentation is sparse with just a speedo and rev-counter set into a carbon-fibre effect fascia, plus a multifunction LCD readout for fuel and coolant gauges – but then what more does a racer-on-the-road need? There's nothing spare in the cabin – it's a car built for a job: but it's also a precision-tool and everything is beautifully made.

Once under way, initial miles must be slow if the Elise is to be learnt properly. The engine is less highly-strung than you'd believe and the idea that it should be inflexible and "cammy" – fluffing and spluttering unless you're at the top of the rev range – is soon dispelled.

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go as you head for the car's top speed of about 135 mph – such perfect spirit! This little car has the heart of a lion. Of course, it's noisy – but if, like me, you love these things and your blood runs hot, then you'll be deaf to the mechanical cacophony ringing in your ears. With the hood down the noise is lost and you experience the sort of exhilaration that goes with being free as the wind, enjoying the vital and captivating spirit of the Elise – the pleasure of being in a "real" sports car.

The lowness of the Elise is quite amazing. As you overtake other cars and glance sideways you realise that your eyes are below door-handle height on most saloons. You're eyeball-to-eyeball with

This is not for someone just looking for a little sports car

large dogs on the pavement, and don't people – and even dogs – stare!

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is pointed with kart-like dynamics. A racetrack is the only place you could explore the handling limits.

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In any other car it would have been a heart-in-mouth affair, but the car was so composed and not even exerting itself to do anything demanded of it.

So next time an Elise rockets past you, don't think that the driver is reckless: just watch how gracefully it disappears across the horizon and think of Lotus's extraordinary genius.

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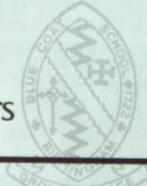
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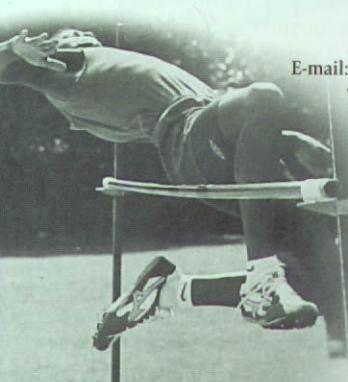
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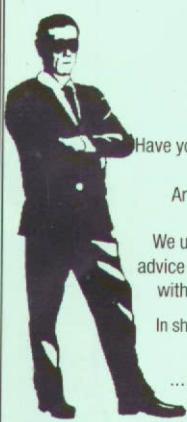
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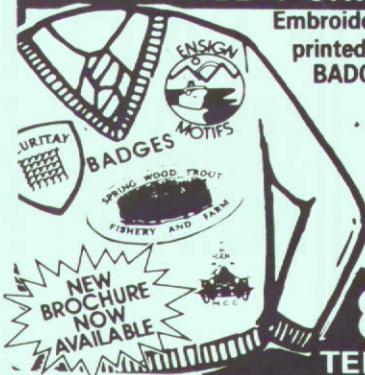


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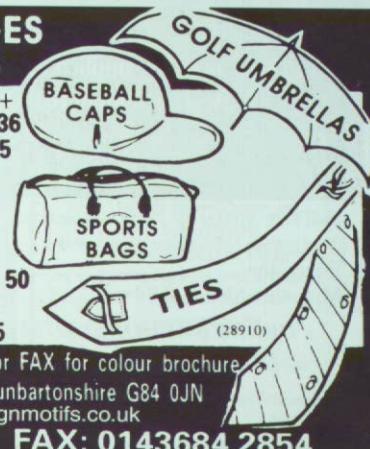
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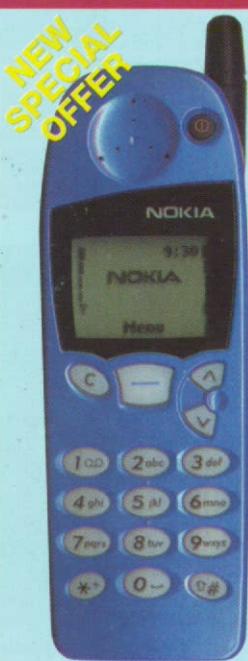
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PEN PALS

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to *Soldier Magazine* at the address below. When replying to more than one pen pal please place all the letters in one envelope and send it to *Soldier Magazine*. The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies. Replies should consist only of a letter, and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Lisa, 31, 5'7", single and slim with fair hair. Interests include the cinema, travel, reading, animals, eating out, music and clubs. Seeks honest, non-smoking pen friend, 26-36, with GSOH. P735

Jane, 41, 5'4", single, attractive brunette with VGSOH. Enjoys writing, reading, keep fit, dancing and music. Would like to write to genuine, lonely, male soldiers, 40+. Will reply to all letters. P736

Sophia, 5'10", 24-year-old blonde. Likes swimming, walking, music, reading, writing and going to pubs and clubs. Would like to hear from pen pals, 19-34, and will reply without fail to all letters. P737

Sue, 35, 5'5", slim blonde whose main hobby is showing dogs. Also enjoys driving, TV, writing letters and painting. Would like to hear from male pen pals, 35+, who like dogs and are reliable and kind. P738

Diane, 37, 5', dark hair and hazel eyes. Single mother of one son, aged 17, and whose interests include music, walking and writing. Seeking pen pals, 32+, with GSOH. P739

Briget, petite brunette with blue eyes. Looking for pen pals, 25-35, who enjoy writing letters, music (dance and Indie), cult TV and cinema, comics and books. Must have sense of humour and sunny nature. P740

Leisha, 29-year-old, recently qualified healthcare assistant. Slender blonde with copper brown skin and enjoys socialising, clubbing and all the good things in life. Will reply to all letters regardless of rank, race or regiment. Preferred age, 20-30+. P741

Melissa, 26, 5'2", petite with brown hair and caring and friendly personality. Enjoys socialising and keeping fit and works in the fitness industry. Seeking replies from age group 26-40. P742

Cherie, 30-year-old, honest and caring green-eyed blonde. A home owner and paramedic student who loves swimming, football, pubs, eating in/out, pets and children. Letters sought from servicemen, 26-40. Photo appreciated. P743

April, 46, 5'4", bubbly blonde with green eyes. Likes travel, walking, home decorating, gardening and all kinds of food and wine. Would like to hear from pen pals, 45-50. P744

Helen, 23, 4'11", (short), flame-haired (ginger). One dependant - a tattered cross with inferiority complex!

Enjoys watching all sports especially rugby and football, supporting Wales and Wrexham respectively. Seeking pen pals, 23-35. P745

Sue, 45, 5'2", slim with blue eyes and brown hair. Likes music, pubs, cross-stitching and writing and is waiting to hear from pen pals, 38-50, with GSOH. P746

Thomas, 51, 5'8", with light brown hair. Interests include sports, horse-riding, films, meals out, golf and football. Seeking replies from pen pals, 40-55, and will answer all letters received. P747

Alison, 36, slim, curvy, strawberry blonde with green eyes. Widowed mother of two children and a mature student of sports therapy and English. Enjoys horse-riding, swimming, the cinema and wine and would like to hear from pen pals, 30-50ish. P748

Debbie, 32-year-old red-headed, fun-loving career girl. Has varied interests and would like pen friends to rescue her from her current state of boredom. Must be honest and genuine with a GSOH. Photo appreciated. P749

Linda, 45, attractive, blonde company director with no ties who finds it lonely at the top. Would like to hear from sincere guys, 38-48, with GSOH. Photo appreciated. P750

Kathy, 35, 5'7" with GSOH. Enjoys spur of the moment things and socialising with family and friends. Interests include the cinema, night clubs and martial arts and is seeking pen pals, 28-30s. P751

Alison, 35, 5'1", blonde hair and blue eyes. Likes swimming, holidaying, sightseeing and socialising and is seeking male pen pals, 24-45. P752

Gillian, 38, 5'4", attractive, warm blonde. Wheelchair user who enjoys the theatre, swimming, concerts and eating out. Seeks outgoing male pen pals, 35-45, with GSOH. P753

Lucy, 23, vivacious, educated redhead. Hobbies include scuba diving, canoeing, running, reading and wine and dining. Seeks intelligent, light-hearted banter with easy-going male or female officers, 21-30, at home or overseas. P754

Kyla, 27-year-old who likes good food, good music, good men, clubbing and travelling. Looking for pen pals from all over. P755

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Fifth (394 runs, £900): SSgt DJ Milton, ITC Catterick.
Sixth (390 runs, £600): LCpl D Thomas, RDG, Münster.
Seventh (385 runs, £400): Sgt D McLaughlin, 5 R Irish.
Eighth (384 runs, £300): Pte SG Candlish, Red Devils FFT, Netheravon.
Ninth (382 runs, £200): Sgt JD Dempsey, 69 MC Sqn RLC, Hohne.
Tenth (381 runs, £100): Maj PSP Worsley, PJHQ, Northwood.

JULY 29, 2000

First (395 runs, £4,400): WO2 L Skuse, JACIG, RAF Henlow.
Second (393 runs, £2,200): Cpl SJ Gilkinson, QRL, Osnabrück.

Third (384 runs, £1,700): Maj LJ Nelson, 25 Engr Regt.
Fourth (381 runs, £1,200): Gdsm PG Joyce, 1 IG, Münster.
Fifth (378 runs, £900): Tpr RS Fraser, SCOTS DG, Fallingsbostel.
Sixth (373 runs, £600): SSgt AD Jones, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford.
Seventh (361 runs, £400): Cpl SS Angel, 25 Engr Regt.

Eighth (359 runs, £300): Lt Col KB Tarr, 3 RSME Regt, Minley.
Ninth (354 runs, £200): Cpl SC Coldwell, 251 Signal Sqn, Aldershot.
Tenth (352 runs, £100): Lt NP Harrison, HCR, Windsor.

AUGUST 5, 2000

First (236 runs, £3,300): Sgt MW Leck, ATR Pirbright; Maj LS Wassell, 156 Pro Coy RMP, Colchester.
Third (231 runs, £1,450): Sgt CA Mills, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; Cpl N Roberts, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley.
Fifth (229 runs, £750): LSgt EC Pickersgill, ATR Pirbright.
Fifth (229 runs, £750): Cpl AR Rashbrooke, RMA, Sandhurst.

Seventh (228 runs, £350): Sgt P Almond, 2 RRF, Celle; Sgt A Brown, Royal School of Signals, Blandford.
Ninth (354 runs, £200): Sgt JA McGookin, 240 Tpt Sqn RLC (V), Barnet.
Tenth (352 runs, £100): LCpl MP Shaw, 2 CS Regt RLC, Guterslöh.

AUGUST 12, 2000

First (230 runs, £3,300): WO1 P Carrar, DLSA, Didcot; Cpl DM Inglis, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn.
Third (227 runs, £1,450): LCpl JG Ross, 7 R Irish; Pte BS Webb, 3 RHA, Hohne.
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NOTICES

ALDERSHOT MILITARIA SOCIETY

Exhibition & Fair

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September 24, 2000

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PATHFINDER PLATOON. Reunion December 2, 2000 in Aldershot. All ex-Pathfinders since 1985 invited, with wives/girlfriends. Please contact WO11 Wardle (Wag). Tel. 01449 728545 (nil returns requested). 09/00

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DATES

SEPTEMBER
2-3: Special exhibition of weapons of war through the ages, National Army Museum, Chelsea, 1000-1730. Free.

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show (tickets 0115 912 9196; www.mwias.com)

10: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500.

12-16: Royal Hospital, Chelsea Son et Lumière 2000 - Men in Scarlet (020 7881 5308/9).

22-24: North Wales Millennium Youth Services Tattoo, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay. Standard bearers please fax 01745 583794.

OCTOBER

22: Army Benevolent Fund (NE Region) grand militaria fair and auction, Catterick Garrison, 1000-1530. Admission £2.50, soldiers and their families free. Details: 01904 662868.

27: Isle of Thanet RBL Festival of Remembrance, Winter Gardens, Margate. Tickets, enquiries: Dennis Stokes, 01843 292882.

NOVEMBER

18: Bugle Call 2000 model show, Pavilion North, Parade Road, Bath, presented by Bristol Area Branch of British Model Soldier Society.

25-26: Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena.

Vikings lay a wreath for Le Paradis victims

SOLDIERS from the Londonderry-based Vikings have paid tribute to predecessors of the Royal Norfolk Regiment murdered by the SS at Le Paradis in France 60 years ago.

Eighteen-year-old Pte Chris Kelly, the youngest serving soldier from Norfolk serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, laid a wreath in memory of 80 soldiers of A Company, 2nd Royal Norfolks, who surrendered after bitter fighting at Le Paradis, 75km south of Dunkirk, during the epic evacuation.

The 80 were marched by the SS to a barn and machine-gunned. Only two survived.

Lt Col Richard Kemp, CO 1 R Anglian, led the memorial visit, accompanied by Pte Kelly, two officers, a warrant officer and seven junior NCOs and privates.

Iron Duke's heroes honoured

MEMORIALS have been unveiled in the British Cemetery at Elvas, Portugal to commemorate the role of the British and Portuguese Armies in Spain against Napoleon nearly 200 years ago.

Plaques recording the names of those who fell in the Battles of Albuera and Badajoz in 1811 and 1812 were unveiled by the head of the Portuguese Army and the British ambassador.

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment was represented by Peter Donnelly, regimental curator, and bugler Cpl Conrad Craven. Soldiers of the 4th King's Own Regiment were heavily involved in the storming of the French-held fortress at Badajoz, while soldiers of the 34th, later the Border Regiment, fought at Albuera.

The storming of Badajoz allowed the Duke of Wellington to drive northwards from Portugal, forcing the French to retreat and leading to the eventual defeat of Napoleon.

Arboretum memorial

BRITISH veterans of the Korean War have dedicated their memorial garden in the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire to their 1,078 British Service colleagues who lost their lives in the service of the United Nations. Nearly 700 veterans, led by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley and Maj Gen Sir Peter Downard, attended the ceremony on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

French connections

Commanding presence: Former COs of Leicester's 222 Field Ambulance gathered to mark its renaming as C (222 East Midlands) Medical Squadron, 4 GS Medical Regiment. Clockwise from front left are Col Norman Nichol (1962-65); Lt Col David Myles (72-75); Lt Col Malcolm Pendlebury (86-89); Lt Col Phil Baker (96-99); current CO 4 GS MR, Lt Col Mark Pemberton; Lt Col Brook Bailey (89-92); Lt Col Andrew Scott (83-86); Lt Col Alastair Fraser-Darling (67-71) and OC Sqn Maj Simon Richardson. Picture: Gareth Griffiths



Riding group logs 25 years

In the saddle: Six-year-old Thomas Robson, pictured with his dad, Sgt Graham Robson, has been on horseback since the age of 2½, thanks to Aldershot's Riding for the Disabled Association.

Thomas, who suffers from autism and other disabilities, has been helped enormously by his riding, says his mother, Patricia. It has strengthened his lower back and acts as a form of physiotherapy.

Graham, serving with the Household Cavalry, completed two half-marathons to raise £1,200 for the Aldershot association, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It was started by LBdr Chris Livett of 7 Para RHA, who used his own pony and one belonging to the padre, with help from colleagues, wives, nurses from the Cambridge Hospital and civilians.

If you want to find out more about the self-supporting group, contact organiser Rachel Plumble on 01252 850282. Picture: Steve Dock



Young musicians sound off

ARMY musicians from 24 military bands have been involved in the Army's Youth in Concert millennium project, which comes to a head during the autumn at a series of venues throughout the country. First of the concerts is a high-profile launch at London's Royal Festival Hall on September 24.

Ten more are planned throughout October. The dates are: 7, St David's Hall, Cardiff; 14, Derwent Theatre, Northampton; 15, Futurist Theatre, Scarborough; 21 Wessex Concert Hall, Poole, and Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent; 22, Regent Theatre, Ipswich; 27 City Hall, Newcastle; 29, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, the Victoria Hall in Leeds and Prince William Theatre, Glasgow.

Rifle Brigade's 200 years

A SPECIAL exhibition at The Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester (it closes on Sept 4) has marked the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Experimental Corps of Riflemen, later to be known as the Rifle Brigade, and the introduction of the rifle to the British Army.

The museum has also produced a 32-page booklet, *The Rifle Brigade*, on the occasion of the bicentenary. It's available in hardback (£10) or softback (£5), plus £1 p&p, from the museum at Peninsular Barracks, Winchester SO23 8TS.

A commemorative medal is also being struck to mark the milestone.

The Experimental Corps was formed to exploit the potential of the Baker rifle, successor to the musket and accurate up to 300 yards. The corps soon proved its worth in the Peninsular War.

Thanks for 'stunning' show

GEN Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, has sent a signal of congratulations to every Serviceman and woman who took part in the "outstandingly successful" Royal Military Tattoo 2000 millennium spectacular on Horse Guards Parade. "I would like, most sincerely, to thank all those who contributed to the event and to pass on congratulations from the Secretary of State for Defence. Your hard work and professionalism resulted in a stunning show that has received wide acclaim."

Legends of the regiments and corps

15 The Royal Irish Regiment Museum



Unique bow is tribute to UDR's slain

UNIQUE to The Royal Irish Regiment Museum at Ballymena is the proof of the Ulster Defence Regiment Memorial Medallion commissioned by the trustees of the UDR Benevolent Fund.

It was specially minted in 1986 for presentation to the next-of-kin of those killed as a direct result of terrorist attack while serving or having retired from the regiment.

The medallion, normally presented to a female next-of-kin, is mounted on ribbon in the regimental colours and tied in a bow.

INSCRIPTION

The inscription on the front of the medallion reads *Ulster Defence Regiment in Proud Memory*, while the soldier's rank, initials, name and decorations are engraved on the reverse. The medallion must remain on the bow and must not be worn from a single ribbon in the manner of a campaign medal.

It has to be worn pinned to the right breast and is not worn in uniform.

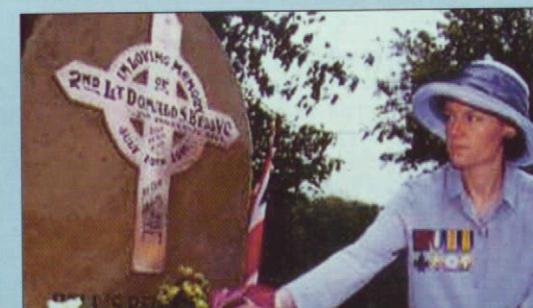
The framed proof, presented by Col C J G Shillington, who served from 1970 to 1989, bears the inscription *In Memory of All Ranks Killed By Terrorist Action*. In all, 193 men and four women were killed while serving, and a further 52 were murdered after they had left the UDR.

The museum is situated at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, County Antrim and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1400 to 1700, and at other times by appointment. Tel 028 2566 1355 or 028 2566 1383.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor



Donald Bell, footballing VC, above, and his great niece, Joanna Umpleby, below, at the new plinth



Somme tribute to footballing VC

Bell, one of the Howards' 18 VC holders. The Professional Footballers Association (PFA), the Football Association and the Football League contributed to the cost of the project.

Among those at the dedication of the memorial were Mick McGuire of the PFA and Donald Bell's great niece, Joanna Umpleby, who wore his VC and three other medals and laid a posy with two French children from the village.

Later, the Green Howards party paid tribute to two more of the regiment's VCs, Pte William Short, buried near Bell's grave in Gordon Dump Cemetery, a mile from Contalmaison, and Maj Stewart Loudoun-Shand, whose remains lie in the cemetery at nearby Fricourt, where 88 Green Howards are buried close to the only regimental memorial on the Somme.

He was killed while leading a bombing party that drove off a German counter-attack.

A wooden cross placed at the spot - known as Bell's Redoubt - was later removed. Now, with the permission of the Contalmaison council, the Friends of the Green Howards Regimental Museum have erected a metal replica on a stone plinth as a permanent memorial to

Bulletin board

Commando gunners win

SEVENTEEN soldiers from 29 Commando Regiment RA won the **Spean Bridge Commando March**, a seven-mile slog up hill and down dale in Western Scotland, and raised £850 for the Commando Benevolent Fund and Airborne Forces charities. They beat 40 and 45 Commandos RM into second and third places. Individual winner was Sgt John Porter of 29 Cdo. Anyone interested in entering next year's event should contact Graeme Taylor on 01575 58224.



Picture: Steve Dock

SOLDIERS from 86 Squadron RLC, pictured above, who have raised more than £62,000 by selling poppies at the Clacket Lane services on the M25 during the past seven years, have received a Poppy Appeal Certificate of Appreciation. The presentation was made by Maj Gen Tim Sullivan, GOC 4 Division, to the squadron at Princess Anne Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey.

Forces Radio BFBS in Catterick Garrison has made it easier for its listeners to ring in by making calls free. The station is now available to soldiers at work following the installation of a military line. Now they can dial Catterick Mil 2424 to get on air (the civvy number is 01748 872424).

Want to fly? The Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators (GAPAN) is again inviting applications for its J N Somers Award, an airline transport pilot's licence scholarship. You must be 18 to 28, hold a valid PPL and Class 1 CAA medical, have at least five GCSE passes and A levels in relevant subjects (for example, English, maths, science), and have strong motivation for a career in aviation. For an application form, send a sae to GAPAN, Cobham House, 9 Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5DJ, marking your letter "Scholarship". Closing date is October 30.

A Crimean War cannon and a barrel dating from the Peninsular War have been given to the **National Army Museum** in Chelsea by the Royal Artillery Historical Trust and will be displayed outside the main door. A third piece, a 3.7-in howitzer designed during the First World War but still used in Burma in 1944, was also handed over by the trust for a NAM exhibition on Second World War equipment.



Over to you: LCpl Kevin Mullin, left, of 1 RGJ, hands over the role and responsibilities of CO's Bugler to Rfn Paul Monteith after a two-day competition to find a suitable successor. Cpl Mullin has held the position for the past six years. The battalion is based at Palace Barracks at Holywood in Northern Ireland.

Picture: Shane Wilkinson, 1 RGJ

REUNIONS

Middlesex Regiment (DCO) Korean Club: Annual reunion, Sept 9, Victory Services Club, London. Details: Tony Lofts, 55 Westhurst Drive, Chislehurst, Kent (020 8467 4014).

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): PWRR annual reunion on Sept 10 at Maidstone. Details from Veronica Joel Newton on 020 8888 9739.

Battle of Britain: 60th anniversary ball, Royal Lancaster Hotel, Hyde Park, London, on Sept 15. Enquiries to 020 7798 5519; fax 020 7798 6711; e-mail 60thbob-ball@virgin.net.co.uk

British Korean Veterans Association (Northampton): Standard dedication service at St Mary's Church, Road, Northants, on Sept

MESS CLOSURE

The 5th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment: is to disband on Dec 31. Past members who presented items to their respective messes and wish them returned should contact the battalion as soon as possible. Details of the unveiling of the **battalion memorial** to fallen comrades and presentation of new Colours in early October from the ceremonial events office on 028777 21662.

24, followed by march-past and reception. Details from R J Fuller, 25 Jubilee Road, Daventry, Northants NN11 5HB (01372 872964).

ATS Dinner Club: Annual luncheon, Sept 30, at Hotel Leofric, Broadgate, Coventry. Ex-ATS tickets from Mrs M Rogers, 103 Lion House Road, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 2SE.

Band of Grenadier Guards: Reunion in central London on Oct 7 for all past and present members. Details from Band Office on 020 7414 3267 or write to Sgt Nigel Turner, Band of the Grenadier Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.

7 UDR, 10 UDR, 7/10 UDR and 7 R Irish former officers' reunion: Reunion for former officers to be held in Belfast in October. Contact Senior Major, 7 R Irish, BFPO 801 on Lisburn Mil 44435 or 028 9068 4435 (evenings) or fax Lisburn Mil 44468 (028 9068 4468).

6th Somerset LI (1955-59): All-ranks reunion on Oct 7 at Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton. Attached personnel, wives and partners welcome. Still seeking ex-Ptes (Reg) Hathaway, Knight, Walters (RAEC Plymouth 1956), ex-LCpl "Skin" Williams ACC (from Liverpool, serving Cyprus 1956). Con-

HSF vets get fell in, again

IF you served with the **Home Service Force (HSF)** formed in 1982 and disbanded in 1993, you may be interested in the National Home Service Force Association, established to maintain links with the 50 or so units that answered the call.

Intended as a home defence organisation to be used to guard key points throughout the UK against sabotage, particularly by the *Spetsnaz*, the Soviet special forces, the HSF quickly attracted 5,000 former Regular and experienced reserve Service personnel, many with experience of the world's trouble spots.

Members of the association have an annual meeting and organise events such as an annual Bisley reunion, adventure weekends and the West Mendip Way charity walk, which takes place on September 22-24. The association is also compiling a history of the HSF, with each unit telling its own story. Proceeds will be used to start a benevolent fund for ex-HSF personnel.

E-mail chairman Peter Rowe on HSF@studio44.co.uk or visit the website at www.studio44.co.uk/HSF

Behind the scenes of a great military spectacle

Win a video of the Royal Tournament

The Last Run put out by DD.

It is available from all good retailers or direct from DD Video, Unit 1, Pool Bank Business Park, High Street, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JH (include £1.75 p&p), or credit-card hotline on 01829 741490.

To have a chance of winning one of five copies of **The History of the Royal Tournament**, tell us on a postcard or the back of an envelope when the tournament started.

Was it 1879, 1880 or 1881?

Include your name and address and send your entry to reach us by September 29. Usual rules apply and the Editor's decision is final.

fought with the 25-pounder during the Second World War.

The Army Benevolent Fund will benefit from every video sold. **Bang on Time**, which is narrated by Tom Fleming, can be ordered from Sports Business and Leisure Ltd, Burnfield Road, Giffnock, Glasgow G46 7FH. The price is £12.99 including p&p.



Jolie joins Oldbury crew

Outstanding: **Jolie Clarke**, the only woman in a record group of 15 new recruits to join Oldbury-based 225 Plant Squadron, pops out of line for a photo-call. Local interest in the unit was sparked by the national Territorial Army Day and a locally-organised unit open day. With Jolie are fellow recruits (from front) **Paul Lampon, Andrew Hall, Gary Clarke, John Simcox and Charles Wall**.

Picture: Shane Wilkinson, 1 RGJ

PRIZE-WINNERS

Malcolm Greensmith print (June): Sgt Nelson, HQ AFSOUTH, Naples. Answer, Firmin and Sons.

Chris Moon book (June): WO2 A Moutray, 49 (HQ) Sqn RLC, BFPO 39. Answer, Halo Trust.

Owl Scope (June): SSgt Dwyer, NCISS Latina, HQ AFSOUTH, Naples. Answer, Mercury.

Nine Finger-lite torches (July): Miss Grant,

PRCCA, MoD Chaplains, Upavon; Sgt P Oldfield, ACIO Wakefield; S Joicey, Def Estates, Sutton Coldfield; L Matthews, Essex; LCpl J Clement, North Coleraine; Capt A Booton, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Sgt R Hall, ACIO Luton; Maj J Chair, UK CS Med Coy, Op Palestine; Maj M Rai, Camberley. Answer, light-emitting diode.

Lucido Lightwave torch (July): LCpl P Rendall, 39 Signal Regt, Bristol. Answer, 14 days.

11. Former members should contact Capt G E Aldridge, 6 Goodwood Drive, Toton, Nottingham NG9 6HX (tel 0115 972 5909).

33 Indep Fd Sqn (1974-92): Reunion at 1 RSME Regt, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Nov 25. Contact Chris Sturdy on 01634 822279 or Lyndon Davies on 01634 822669.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London Branch): Christmas social, Dec 1, Victory Services Club, London. Details from Veronica Joel Newton on 020 8888 9739.

2001

Cyprus Police UK Unit (1955-60): Reunion on April 24, 2001. Enquiries to 01372 720938.

DSMRC Headley Court: Past and present reunion to mark 50th anniversary of DSMRC Headley Court, home of Armed Forces rehabilitation, on May 19, 2001.

Those who served there or at JSMRU Chessington should contact Flt Lt Bob Jones, c/o Physiotherapy Sept, DSMRC Headley Court, Epsom, Surrey KT18 6JN or at robejone@dsca.gov.uk

SEARCHLINE

Reunion of **Coldstream Guards** past and present drummers to be held at Windsor. Contact Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, Southgate, London N14 6DS.

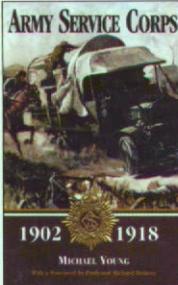
Former members of **19th Air Formation Signal Regt**, formed Kirkburton Oct 1943 and disbanded in Singapore, Nov 1971, invited to contact regimental association for details of reunions, publication. Write to Lt Col (Retd) P F Soward, Shipton, The Hollow, Child Okeford, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8EX.

Where are you now? Sgt Peacock's squad, July 1950, **Coldstream Guards**. D Mitchell, W Wright, R Gray, J Robson, F Douglas and B Tinsley. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull, HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

Researcher seeks details of military involvement in **Hastings** area, including units which trained for Boer War, First and Second World Wars, commandos at Rye planning for D-Day and 10 Cdo at Cooden, near Bexhill. Also hospital

Army Service Corps seen in new light

MICHAEL Young's *Army Service Corps 1902-1918* (Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, £25) is a quite monumental achievement. So



eventful were the 16 or so years it covers that to tell this hitherto unsung story takes more than 400 large-format pages, half of them comprising informative annexes. Vital though it was, the work of this early forerunner of the RLC was inevitably unglamorous, but the author has applied a lightness of touch which makes this book a joy to dip into – and the 120 engrossing photographs and cartoons are almost worth the cover price in their own right.

Tribute marks 60th anniversary

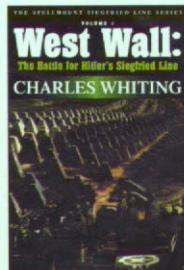
ON September 15 – the day on which the largest number of German aircraft were shot down –



the nation marks the 60th anniversary of the greatest air battle in history. Aviation expert Roy Conyers Nesbit's superbly-illustrated *The Battle of Britain* (Sutton, large-format hardback, £25) goes much further than describing the pivotal duel between the RAF and the Luftwaffe during the hot summer of 1940 – it tells how the whole country became involved and outlines the parts played by the Army, Navy, RAF Bomber and Coastal Commands, and the British aircraft industry.

White elephant outlasted them

IT was supposed to be Hitler's great white elephant and they sang about it in a famous Second World War song. The Allies were going to hang out their washing on the Siegfried Line... if it was still there when they got there. When they did get there, it was still there – to their cost – and it is there to this day. Like the Great Wall of



China, it can still be seen from the stratosphere. *West Wall*, by Charles Whiting (£16.95), is the first of a nine-volume Spellmount Siegfried Line series.

'Jack's rule' adds to Irish VC score

IN compiling a record of Irishmen awarded the Victoria Cross since the medal's inception in 1856, Richard Doherty and David Truesdale had difficulty in defining "Irish".

Eventually they chose the "Jack Charlton rule" – the English manager of the Irish national football team held that being Irish meant one parent was Irish-born.

However, those born in Ireland of non-Irish parents have not been excluded from *Irish Winners of the Victoria Cross* but it is made clear they were not, perhaps, as Irish as some born outside the island.

Hitherto, the accepted number was 166 individuals, 12 per cent of all VCs.

By using their terms of reference the authors have raised this number to 200, beginning with Charles Davis Lucas, proto-winner of the award in the Crimean War in 1854.

Many of those awarded Britain's highest medal "for valour" rose from obscurity to win the decoration, only to return to the same oblivion.

Others became military legends such as Lt Frederick

Irish Winners of the Victoria Cross by Richard Doherty and David Truesdale (Four Courts Press, £30; paperback £12.50).

Sleigh Roberts of the Bengal Artillery, who won his Indian Mutiny VC in 1858. Roberts became Army C-in-C and "Bobs" to Boer War soldiers.

Sadly, some men performed VC-worthy deeds never to receive it because they were overlooked or the recommendations rejected through prejudice. Others awarded the medal were buried in unmarked paupers' graves.

The authors also note that although a handful of chaplains have received the medal,

no Catholic padré of any nationality has won it.

One example was Father Willie Doyle MC, killed in August 1917 at Langemarck while helping wounded on the battlefield. Although recommended no award was made.

Doyle's biographer suggested it was a result of "the triple disqualification of being an Irishman, a Catholic and a Jesuit". The authors do not support this view but leave it as an open question.

This is a remarkably well-researched book both as regards each award to an Irish recipient as well as military history in general, regimental lineage included. – BJ

Where medals were presented

QUEEN Victoria made the first VC presentations in Hyde Park on June 26, 1856 and since then 923 of the 1,354 awards, including three bars, have been presented by the sovereign or the heir to the throne. Civic and military leaders have presented others.

Military historians Dennis Pillinger and Anthony Staunton have updated their 1991 and 1997 editions of *The Victoria Cross Locator* to add a new list of presentation details to their guide to where the medals currently are to be found.

Victoria Cross Presentations and Locations is available for £9 including postage in UK or Europe (£10 inc elsewhere overseas) from Dennis Pillinger, Ringinglow, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QR; or from Anthony Staunton, PO Box 354, Woden ACT 2606, Australia.

IN BRIEF

Soldier Sahibs: The Men Who Made the North-West Frontier by Charles Allen. Acclaimed story of the brotherhood of young men – one a forebear of the author – who in the mid-1800s laid claim to what is now the boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan. (John Murray, £22.50.)

The Regiments of Wales by David J Hunter. Ninth in the 56-page paperback series on famous regiments of the British Army as illustrated on cigarette and trade cards. (Available at £7.95 plus 65p p&p from the author at 11 Sunnindale Drive, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4ES.)

Two new titles in the "Images of England" photographic history series published by Tempus in paperback at £9.99 each: *The Cheshire Regiment* compiled by

Dr Ronald Barr and *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry* compiled by Hugo White for the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum.

Gallipoli Then and Now by Steve Newman. The author spent a sweltering ten days in June 1999 avoiding thorns and even snakes re-photographing precise spots shown in contemporary pictures. (After the Battle, £24.95.)

Churchill's Secret Weapons by Patrick Delaforce. Enthralling story of the tank-based devices, including "Hobart's Funnies" which helped win the war in NW Europe in 1944-45. (Robert Hale, paperback, £12.99.)

In Rommel's Backyard: A Memoir of the Long Range Desert Group by Alastair

Timpson with Andrew Gibson-Watt. Personal account of the LRDG, modestly told. Edited by Gibson-Watt, formerly Welsh Guards, from a detailed typescript left by the former Scots Guards officer when he died in 1997. (Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, £19.95.)

Wellington at War in the Peninsula by Ian C Robertson. Well illustrated overview of the 1808-14 land campaign has good advice for the would-be battlefield visitor. (Leo Cooper Pen & Sword, hardback £19.95, paperback £14.95.)

Larrey: Surgeon to Napoleon's Imperial Guard by Robert Richardson. Revised edition of the moving biography of a brave and pioneering medical hero once saluted in battle by Wellington. (Quiller Press, £16.95.)



Can you name this soldier and child?

HERE'S one to test the memories of some of the more senior *Soldier* readers.

The paperback version of *Finest Hour* (£12.99) comes with a challenge: can you name the soldier and child, left, featured on the cover?

Answers, please, to Kerry Hood at Hodder & Stoughton, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH (tel: 020 7873 6173).

No prizes promised, but the authors, Tim Clayton and Phil Craig, are hoping to add the identities to the new information already received since the book on the trials of Britain in 1940 was first published to coincide with the popular BBC TV series.

SAS: a schoolboy dream come true

MAN and boy, Jock Lewes had remarkable qualities. At school he shared with his younger brother David a fascination with chemistry which he later used to good effect in the development of the lethal "sticky" or Lewes Bomb.

In their school cadet corps the brothers foresaw the potential of small, highly-trained and lightly-armed undercover forces – the commandos.

Under Jock's captaincy, the Oxford University rowing eight won the 1937 boat race, so ending a Cambridge run of 13 victories.

But it was in 1941 that Jock, by now a lieutenant in the Welsh Guards, having a few years earlier flirted with Hitler's "socialism" before he saw the light, made his greatest impact on the world – and the anti-Nazi war effort – by helping to create the parachute-based

Jock Lewes, Co-Founder of the SAS by John Lewes. (Leo Cooper, £19.95.)

Special Air Service (SAS) in the Middle East.

In his foreword to *Jock Lewes*, Earl Jellicoe writes that David Stirling, the man traditionally credited with forming the unit, rightfully acknowledged his debt to three co-founders – the heroic Paddy Mayne, the Free French officer Georges Bergé, whose squadron bolstered the British unit after early reverses, and the visionary Lewes himself.

Earl Jellicoe tells us he joined the SAS after Lewes's tragically early death during a deep-penetration patrol on December 31, 1941 but had served with him in No 8 Commando earlier in the war.

He writes that although too many books have been written about the SAS, especially

about recent operations, this one is to be welcomed because it fills in gaps in our knowledge of the regiment and of the man.

The subject's nephew John reveals in this well-documented biography that Stirling himself admitted in a letter to Jock's father discovered during research for the book: "Jock Lewes could far more genuinely claim to be the founder of the SAS than I."

Just as significant in the telling of this absorbing tale are the extracts selected from 450 letters written by Jock Lewes himself.

The author has made good use of their "first-person" perspective to give the reader a sharper insight than might otherwise have been possible into the enthusiasm and organisational skills his uncle brought to bear on the regiment's early development.

If Jock Lewes – who at one time had aspirations to be a journalist – had lived long enough he might well have written a book similar to the one his nephew has produced 59 years after his death. – CH



Visionary: Jock Lewes

SOLDIER Top ten

In association with Helion & Company, *Soldier* presents an update of its occasional list of current best-selling military books, based on those reviewed or mentioned in the magazine.

- 1 **Brass, Blanco & Bull** by Tony Thorne (Robinson). Entertaining tales of National Service life. Despite its recent appearance it has sold more copies than any other book except the current number seven, which it has already equalled.
- 2 **Seek Glory, Now Keep Glory** by John Ashby (Helion). 1 Bn R Warwicks in the First World War.
- 3 **The Irish Regiments 1683-1999** by R G Harris (Spellmount).
- 4 **Jock Lewes: Co-Founder of the SAS** by John Lewes (Leo Cooper). Another recent publication enjoying early success through national publicity. See review (left).
- 5 **Timechart of Military History** (Worth Press). Good regular seller.
- 6 **Dunkirk** by Patrick Wilson (Leo Cooper Battleground Europe). Coinciding with 60th anniversary.
- 7 **Operation Deliberate Force** by Tim Ripley (CIDSS). The UN and Nato campaign in Bosnia, 1995.
- 8 **Calais 1940** (Battleground Europe).
- 9 **Hard to Believe – Too Old at Sixteen** by Peter Horsfall (Memoir Club). Amusing anecdotes, illustrated by Bill Tidy.
- 10 **Sandakan** by Lynette Ramsay Silver (Sally Milner Publishing). Story of botched attempt to rescue Japanese PoWs in 1945.

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Postal address: Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail: books@helion.co.uk
Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Postmaster confused by BFPO

I WAS amused by memories revived by Cpl Paddy Henderson's letter about BFPO problems in the July mailbag.

While in the USA from 1973 to 1975 my address was BDS Washington, BFPO 2, if I remember correctly. My mother-in-law and sister-in-law complained that postal staff in Salisbury were making them put full overseas airmail rates of postage on their mail to us. When I heard of this I wrote to the postmaster in Salisbury asking him to confirm that BFPO rates applied.

His reply confirming this situation was sent in an envelope with stamps at the full overseas rate ...

I replied, enclosing the envelope, and commented that I did not think he had convinced his staff. I got no reply from him but we heard of no more problems with the postage rates from Salisbury.

This would not rectify Cpl Henderson's problems, but could he not use the address "Mill Hill, London (BFPO ???) for mail order items? – Lt Col (Retd) A R Tinson, Fleet, Hants.

▲ The difficulties being experienced by Service personnel with BFPO addresses are being addressed following pressure by the Service Families Task Force. The desired outcome is for every BFPO address to be treated as an address in the UK. – Editor.

Not a lot to be in receipt of ...

ARE there any military financial wizards out there who can explain why the Army Official Receipt Book AB57 has a carbon copy annotated "DUPLICATE – NOT AN OFFICIAL RECEIPT". In my 30 plus years of military service I have yet to come across anyone wishing to receive a copy of a receipt which is obviously not a receipt. If someone pays money into an account, those checking the account wish to see an original signed copy of the AB57. Inevitably the person responsible for the account retains the original, leaving the payee without an official receipt. Is this Army logic ... or is it me? – Name and address supplied.

Tax-free incentive to re-enlist would be good idea

I AM a Regular soldier serving with 2 RTR in Bosnia and, having just passed my eight-year point, signed on again and received my £2,500 re-engagement bonus. I am not complaining about the size of it as I know many people are not fortunate enough to benefit from re-engagement

Taxing problem takes shine off reward pay

AS the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major I am heavily involved with recruiting and retention issues with the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Prior to this, as a regimental sergeant major, I was at the coalface of such issues.

I was fortunate (or otherwise) to be attached to a fairly operationally busy unit and when Longer Separated Service Allowance (Accumulated Turbulence) – LSSA(AT) – was first announced I was over the moon that we were in some way going to "reward" personnel being over-committed on operations and other periods of separation. I was aware that the bonus in question, £1,000 for 280 days (and £2,000 for 365 days), was taxable, but never fully anticipated the amount of tax and National Insurance to be debited – £456 was taken, leaving £544. This was

Prize letter

not quite the £1,000 mentioned in various documents regarding retention initiatives.

My soldiers are annoyed at having to give money back from such a "bonus" payment. Instead of building them up for a large amount such as £1,000 (with the small print saying less tax), would it not be prudent to inform soldiers of the approximate amount they will receive after tax. My only consolation is that I wasn't getting the higher rate of £2,000, incurring a tax bill of £800.

Now that my whinge has finished, on a closing note may I say keep up the good work. *Soldier* is a well-respected information network for the soldier of today. – WO1 (Royal Artillery Sergeant Major) Chass Broadfoot, HQ DRA, Larkhill, Wilts.

All monthly quotas ... and no trousers

I AM writing to you on a seemingly trivial matter. At 0900 on June 1 I doubled to the regimental clothing store in the hope of exchanging two pairs of worn-out CS 95 combat trousers.

It is common knowledge that the store has a monthly "quota", hence my inclusion of the date and time of my visit. I was the first soldier in the queue (and presumably the first soldier of the month) to exchange kit.

The store opened on time, but when I presented the two pairs of trousers to the friendly storeman he came over all funny and told me that he wouldn't be able to exchange the trousers because he had already used his monthly quota.

How could this be? It was the first of the month! He explained to me that a number of soldiers had been sent to Northern Ireland a couple of days previously and he

had had to exchange their trousers as a matter of priority. I can understand that a soldier on operations needs high standards of equipment to be efficient, but does that mean I can walk about the regiment with my knees hanging out of my trousers? My main gripe is that this is not the first time this has happened.

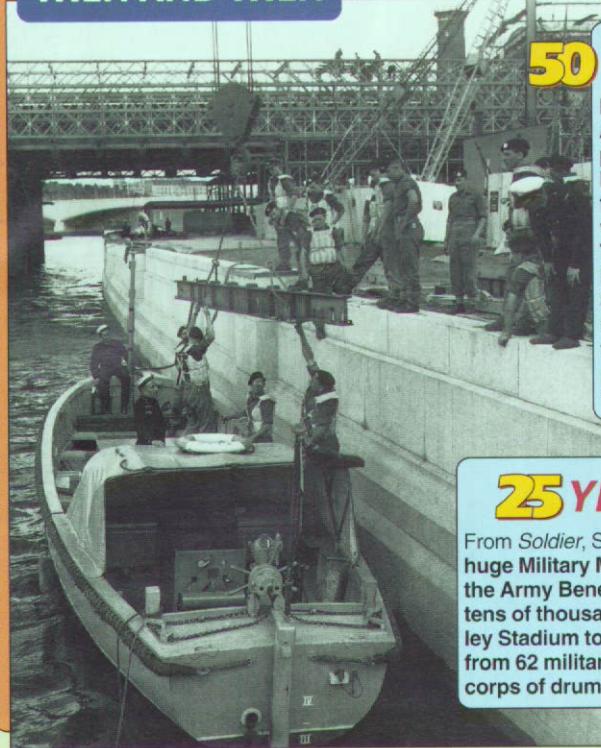
I am sure you have heard good and bad things about CS 95 clothing. My opinion is that the trousers need severe attention because they last about a month. With this in mind I also believe that quartermasters should have higher quotas, allowing every soldier to have his or her kit in good order at all times.

Thanks for listening. I must say how much I enjoy reading your magazine. – Pte Taff Harries, Radio Troop, 24 (HQ) Sqn, 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC, Colchester.

No 2s are best on parade

IS No 2 Service dress being retained by the Army? Recruits have been passing out in CS 95 or old pattern combat clothing, yet we've been told CS 95 was designed for field use and not to be worn on parade. Every soldier should have a best uniform, inspected regularly. – Cpl R Parsons, LCpl P Beard, 5 GS Medical Regiment, Preston.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Sept 1950: Another girder is dispatched by RASC launch, left, to sappers working on the north end of the Festival Bridge across the Thames for next year's Festival of Britain. Built by 36 Army Engineer Regiment, the 750-ton structure is taking shape parallel to Hungerford bridge.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Sept 1975: Once again the huge Military Musical Pageant, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, delighted the tens of thousands who flocked to Wembley Stadium to listen to 2,000 musicians from 62 military bands, pipes and drums, corps of drums and bugles.

In civvy street we'd be classed as wed

VOX pop (July) on the subject of "Living-in and let live" caught my eye. I'm not surprised that most of the soldiers interviewed by your reporter said that girlfriends should be allowed to stay in their rooms because I bet that at some point they've had their girlfriends stay already.

With regard to the "should single soldiers in long-term relationships be allowed to live in quarters" debate, me and my fellow have been together for nearly three years. I moved to Wiltshire to be with him and we decided to buy a house together because renting turned out to be very expensive and we weren't allowed a married quarter.

Now, a year on, he has been posted to Harrogate on promotion and I (I'm a civil servant) would like to transfer there to be with him. But I can't go with him because renting would again be a problem. He is paying not only food and accommodation but also for our mortgage . . . and we don't get an allowance because we're not married. Where's the fairness in that? We

live together and pay bills together and think we are being sensible by not rushing into marriage, but we are being penalised.

I believe that if you can prove you are in a long-term relationship you should be allowed to live in a quarter. In civvy street, after living with someone for six months you are classed as a married couple. — Lauren Donaldson, HQ AG, Upavon.

Medal 'deception'

SOLDIER is one of the worst offenders in peddling pseudo medals and giving them an 'official' stamp by allowing adverts to appear in such a prestigious magazine. Several Suez medal activists have drawn your attention to this deception but to no avail. — David Podd, Lowestoft.

▲ There is no deception. We have carried a number of stories over the years stating quite clearly that commercially-produced medals are unofficial and should be regarded as souvenirs. Our advertising pages also carry a disclaimer to that effect. — Editor

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Mail us!

PS . . .

Pandora's bin

If being reprimanded by the RSM for failing to comply with host nation regulations known by all is seen as harsh, I can see why it was one of Gnr Munn's reasons for leaving ("Lack of respect", Aug). The German system of separating rubbish saves millions each year by promoting recycling and we would be better off if more governments promoted this sort of efficiency.

The command structure of the British Army is becoming so swamped with all this in-house bickering about such trivial matters requiring networks of confidential advisers, hotline numbers and chunks of garrison budgets I'm surprised we can function at all.

Respect and tact is a two-way street, Gnr Munn. All I've seen in the past five years is a drastic increase in the "I want this and I want that" category. Man management is hammering home that we are not morally responsible for the wellbeing of our juniors, but legally culpable. I think we are opening Pandora's wheely bin a bit too much. — Sgt P Collinson, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford.

Welfare effort

G A Simmons ("Too much bitching about allowances", Aug) is wrong to say too much time and effort is spent on welfare to the detriment of the Service. The reason the Army is in the state it is is because not enough time has been spent on welfare, which is only of benefit to the Service and its personnel. — Cpl R Corlett, REME, QRL, Sennelager.

Life after Kosovo

MY brother and I are the only serving soldiers from Alcester, Worcestershire, the same town as Lt Col Winter, who tells us to stop moaning about life ("Get on with it", July). It's funny, but when we go home all we find is a load of old people moaning, mostly about youngsters drinking too much and making a noise. We have been on operations over the past year and would like to have a life, not work 24 hours a day in Kosovo. — LBdr S M Reilly, 19 Regt RA, Kosovo.

Undervalued CMTs

THE RAMC trade of Combat Medical Technician has long been undervalued. Basic trade training takes 12 months and, unlike many soldiers' additional trade qualifications such as APTI, radio operator and skill-at-arms instructor, does not warrant an increase in pay from the Army's lowest pay-band of 1:1.

Clearly this essential and at times highly technical trade has been consistently overlooked or deliberately ignored. If Pay 2001 doesn't redress this problem, retention will surely be affected. — LCpl Pawlak, E Bty, 1 RHA, Banja Luka.

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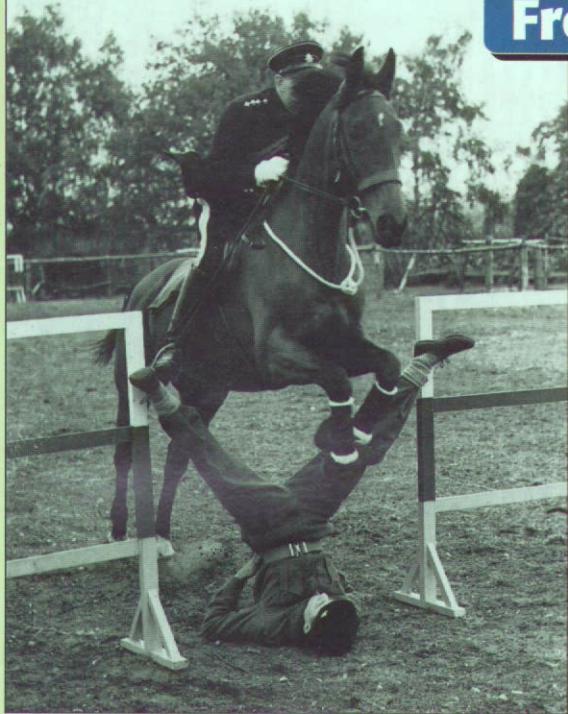
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Freeze-frame



Our July freeze-frame winner (see picture below) is Sgt Foster from the Medical Centre at Hullavington Barracks, Chippenham, Wilts. His eye-catching line was: "Major Smith, seen here winning the multinational 'statues' final held in Brussels". We also like his second attempt - "It might not look much, but it cost millions". Highly recommended was "This modern innovation is, gentlemen, a boon to the smaller infantryman" from ex-sapper Len Davies of Derbyshire.



"Too late I realised the captain could be an utter swine to anyone he caught misappropriating his copy of *Soldier* magazine"

Write your own funny caption for the photograph above left, first published in *Soldier* in July 1951. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a silver-plated book-clock bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply and entries should reach us by September 30.

Contracting-out costs soldiers more money

WHILE I understand the reasons behind the Army's policy of contracting-out, personal experience has led me to be wary of a practice which, while costing the Army less, is costing its soldiers more.

I refer to two occasions, the first involving the hire of vehicles. My place of work no longer has vehicles of its own and therefore they are leased from a contractor. This meant that when I ran an adventurous training trip I had to hire a vehicle at commercial rates, including having to have European cover at a cost of £150 for ten days.

This cost, of course, had to be passed on to the participants, mostly young sol-

diers. Secondly, I have just completed a course at which morning coffee was provided for 140 students at £1 a day. This meant the contractor was earning £140 to provide one urn of coffee, one of tea, milk and some Naafi biscuits. By my reckoning they must be making a huge profit.

Although I would be prepared to pay £1 for coffee in a café, I would expect it to be in a proper cup, be served to me and possibly be cappuccino.

If the service was better, I could probably accept the higher prices, but unfortunately this never seems to be the case. — **Capt J Sheldon, AGC(ETS), Winchester.**

Army Cadet Force needs YOUR support

AFTER 13 year service as an instructor and officer in the Army Cadet Force I find it hard to explain how we manage to operate. My unit has a regular income of very little and outgoings of very little, except for time. It infuriates me that equipment is sold off for contractors to make a profit while we beg, borrow or otherwise acquire.

We cannot expect top-of-the-range kit,

but can't we be offered something? As a second plea, how about some support? Come on all you "parent" units . . . we have a lot to offer. Do you even know our current addresses and names?

While I acknowledge that you are all very busy you cannot keep taking us for granted to pass you good-quality recruits. — **Name supplied, SW London ACF.**

PS . . .

Our Suez stalwart

I HAD just read Margaret Robinshaw's letter in *Soldier* (June) when I heard she had passed away on Sunday, June 4. I was shattered. Margaret was a stalwart campaigner for a general service medal for the Suez Emergency and always had ideas to keep the cause in the public eye. Personally I will miss our weekly chats, though we never met. She will be sadly missed by all the old delegates. — Charles Golder, Bolton, Lancs.

Women in maroon

REFERRING to the wearing of the maroon beret, neither Mrs Alison Swindles nor Cpl Jackie Smith (Mailbag, June) were the first women to wear it. In 1944 the four ATS members who operated the telephone exchange at HQ 4 Para Bde at Knossington Grange near Oakham, Rutland were given permission to wear the maroon beret. Permission was given to the brigade commander, Brig J W Hackett (later Gen Sir John Hackett). They wore it with the ATS badge.

Incidentally, the maroon beret was never the exclusive prerogative of The Parachute Regiment. All airborne soldiers, whether parachute or air landing, wore it with the badge of their own regiment or corps. — L F Edwards (formerly camp commandant's clerk, HQ 4th and 1st Para Bdes), Colchester, Essex.

Twin achievement

ON Page 62 of the July issue you mentioned the Checkley twin brothers from Hertfordshire ACF, who achieved master cadet status at the same time. My twin brother, Cadet SSgt Chris Betts and I attended the same master cadet course as them and also passed. — Cadet CSM Tim Betts, Essex ACF.

Thanks to QMs

WHILE working for the United Nations in Cyprus it has been my pleasure to work in the Quartermaster's Department and I feel recognition should be given to the following units: 39, 32, 5, 19, 22 16 and 47 Regiments RA, 1 RTR and 1 Staffords. While every quartermaster has his own unique style, the thread that has run through all of them is a great sense of commitment and humour.

I have especially enjoyed working alongside the men and women of the Royal Artillery's 32, 5 and 19 Regiments, who made me feel one of the team and not just a civvy working for them.

Given my husband Maj (Retd) John Casey RAMC was a quartermaster for 13 years, I had some idea of what they were about, so it was no great surprise to find myself working in a place full of hectic frivolity. Thank you . . . you are an élite band of fun characters and I'll never forget you. — Marie Casey, British High Commission, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

LBdr Thomas Beaton, 16 Regt RA, serving with the UN in Nicosia

Right now Britain does not need National Service. We live in a free country and I am serving to ensure the country remains free. People should be left with freedom of choice. But if it was reintroduced, the Army would adapt again. If it happens, it happens. We are not politicians, we are here to do a job.



Bdr Simon Williams, 16 Regt RA, serving with the UN, Nicosia

I don't think the British people would take to it at all. I'd rather work with a guy who wants to be a professional soldier than someone who is there because he is being forced to.

LCpl Lloyd Paterson, RMP, Cyprus Joint Police Unit, Episkopi

As a former Territorial Army soldier I know that you have to prove yourself to the Regulars. Some would look down on conscripts.



Sgt Katrina Wall, AGC, Cyprus Engineering Unit, Akrotiri

I think it would be an excellent idea for two years' service because of the type of youngsters we have today. It would broaden their horizons and



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston


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To press or not to press

It is 40 years since National Service ended. We asked soldiers serving in Cyprus if it should be reintroduced

Cpl Richard Clarke, RMP, Cyprus Joint Police Unit, Episkopi

It might teach the youngsters some respect and could give them the opportunity to come across into the Regular Army. But I would have reservations about the whole thing.



discipline them. But if the Government reintroduced it there would be an uproar and I don't think the British people would take to it.

LCpl Paul Parrott, RMP, Cyprus Joint Police Unit, Episkopi

It would benefit the regular soldiers because an increase in numbers would allow them more time off to be with their families. But I think there could be a problem with discipline and as a policeman it could mean more work for us.



Not conscription coercion, merely a demonstration: An armlock is put on a "guinea-pig" during RMP training in the days of National Service in 1954. But should it be reintroduced?

Cpl Steve Punter, 16 Regt RA, serving with the UN, Nicosia

I don't think it would be a good idea across the board, but it could be offered as an option for people who fall short in the justice system on certain offences. They could be given a choice of conscription or prison. It would give them another opportunity at life and could set them back on the straight and narrow.



Capt Fran Recchia, 16 Regt RA, serving with the UN, Nicosia

I don't agree with conscription in our society because the way we are brought up nowadays isn't conducive to it. It would be a draconian measure. The people we need in the Army should have a genuine

interest and want to serve their country and I would not like to try to make people serve if they didn't want to. It would cause more problems in the long-term than it would solve in terms of, say, recruitment.



LDr Ben Nott, 16 Regt RA, serving with the UN, Nicosia

I believe the country is going soft and National Service would offer young people the chance to experience life. My grandfather did it and I never heard a bad word about it from him. Yes, two years in the Army would do them good.

Cpl John Rose, RLC, Cyprus Engineering Unit, Akrotiri

National Service would put pride, discipline and respect for other people's property back into younger people. And it would give them a chance to learn a trade rather than walking around the streets doing nothing.



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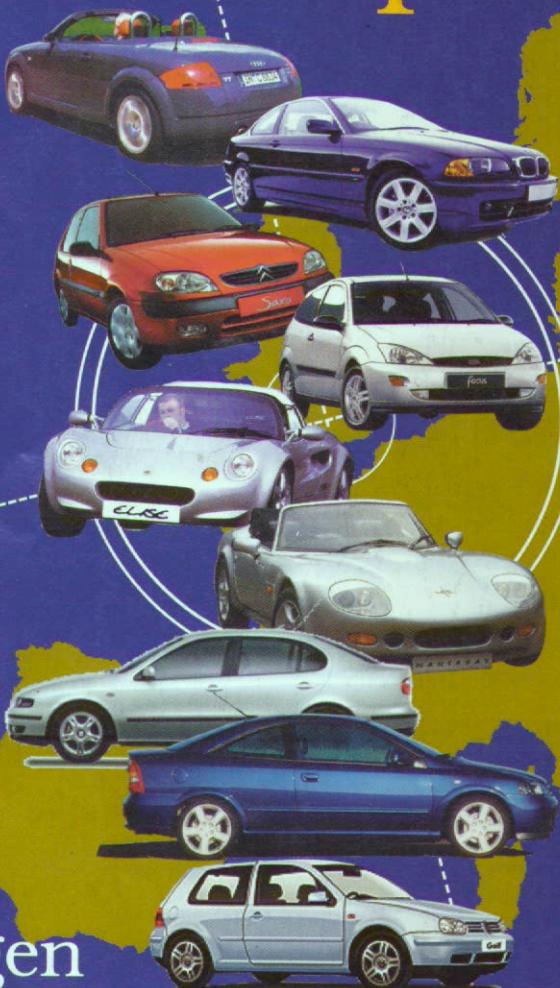
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