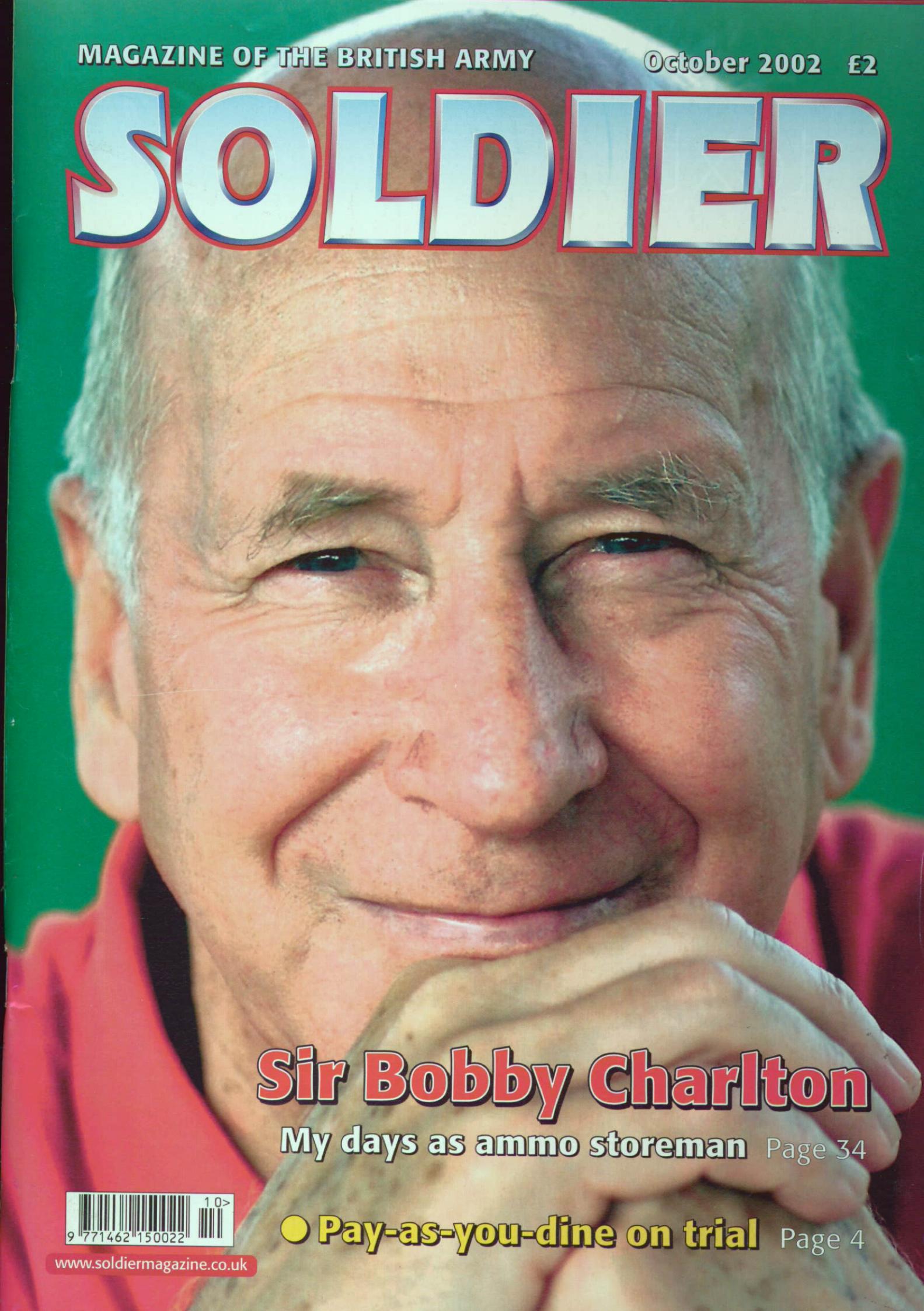


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

October 2002 £2

SOLDIER



Sir Bobby Charlton

My days as ammo storeman Page 34



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● Pay-as-you-dine on trial Page 4

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Cover picture

Football knight: Sir Bobby Charlton reckons the Army team he played in could have held its own with any side in today's Premiership. Read what he thought of his days as an ammunition storeman. — Pages 34-35.

Picture: Mike Weston

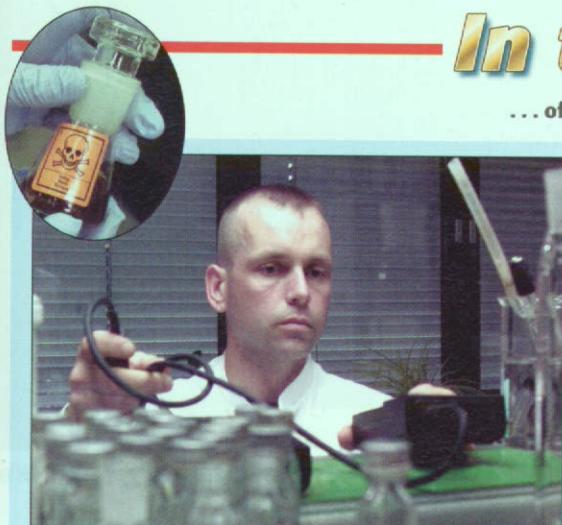


"In this unit, son, you pay before you dine . . . cash!"

● The long-awaited Pay-As-You-Dine scheme is being trialled at an Army barracks in London — Pages 4-5

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



Former Royal Engineer Peter Hudson has a job most people would pay to avoid. He destroys Germany's legacy of chemical nasties — Page 37

Military historians make fresh appraisal of Alamein, battle that turned the tide — Page 68

Why can't I have eye surgery at my own risk?

'Could you explain to me and your glasses-wearing readership why the Army will not allow soldiers to have corrective laser surgery to improve their vision. . . surely it would have better soldiers as a result.' — Talkback, Page 74

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Ex-soldiers show their disability is no bar to speeding

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Images from the world's favourite military tattoo

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Mountaineering body is bigger than some corps

Has the cookhouse had its chips?

Soldiers serving with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment become the first to trial the long-awaited Pay-As-You-Dine scheme

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

ANY fears and concerns that Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) will leave soldiers out of pocket or underfed evaporate the minute you walk into the junior ranks club and dining area at Hyde Park Barracks.

Home to the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the London barracks became the first Army location to trial the long-awaited tri-Service initiative at the beginning of last month, and the transformation has been nothing short of dramatic.

A customer attitude survey conducted in 1999 showed that the current dining system is failing to meet the lifestyle aspirations of younger and more junior mili-

tary personnel, and if Hyde Park Barracks is anything to go by then the PAYD team has certainly sat and up taken note.

A once bleak eating station with formica tables and plastic chairs has been converted into a facility befitting its Knightsbridge surroundings. The food hall now resembles an upmarket American diner, complemented by a cafe and bar area, well-stocked Spar shop, pool tables, televisions, fruit machines and pay-as-you-go internet stations.

"There is a real misunderstanding of what PAYD is all about," explained Lt Col Philip Lewis, DWR, a member of the PAYD project team. "The whole rationale of the scheme is about improving the quality of life for soldiers – it is not just about sticking a till at the end of the food counter.

"It is about what we now have at Hyde Park Barracks – the bringing together of a shop, bar, coffee area and leisure area into one facility. At present there is nothing like this anywhere else in the Army, but this is what we hope will become the future. All soldiers deserve facilities like these."

Aside from the cosmetic differences at Hyde Park Barracks, the biggest change for the soldiers based there has been the way in which they pay for their food.

During the trial, which will be evaluated over a 12-month period, they will be exempt from paying the fixed daily food rate, usually deducted from their pay at source, and will instead pay only for the meals they consume. Under the current system there are no refunds for missed meals or absences of less than 48 hours, and inevitably many soldiers find themselves paying for meals they have never eaten.

Under PAYD, soldiers can choose when and what to eat, and how to pay for it. The scheme offers soldiers the choice of using cash, credit card, or a special smart card which can be loaded with as much, or as little,



PAYD in action: Tpr Stuart Bowyer hands his smart card in to be swiped after selecting his meal in the food hall at Hyde Park Barracks

money as the owner wishes and used to pay for produce in the cafe, bar or shop.

The PAYD concept is designed to create greater fairness and freedom of choice for Service personnel and that is certainly true at Hyde Park Barracks.



"Improving quality of life": Lt Col Philip Lewis

on offer in terms of nutritional content and quality, is available at the three main mealtimes. This menu is priced at the level of the current daily food charge to ensure that even those who did benefit from the previous service at all meal times are not disadvantaged.

Soldiers entitled to duty meals still receive these core meals free of charge and vegetarians and those with other special dietary needs continue to be accommodated. In addition, they can now buy a wide range of culinary dishes and hot

snacks between 0700 and 2300.

"The fundamental difference between what we have with PAYD and what we had before is that we used to pay the contractor a subsidy. They were paid whether soldiers used the facility or not," said Lt Col Lewis.

"That has all changed and the incentive now lies with the contractor to provide a service that soldiers will use. They have to give their customers what they want and offer real value for money or they will just go elsewhere."

For Sodexho – the contractors at Hyde Park Barracks – keeping their customers happy has included putting a competitive £1.40 price tag on a pint of beer and offering a budget pizza take-away service.

When PAYD was first mooted many officers and senior NCOs expressed concern over the welfare and nutrition of

junior ranks, and as a consequence safeguards have been put in place.

"One of the fears was that soldiers would starve under the PAYD concept," HCMR's quartermaster, Capt Vincent Maher, told *Soldier*. "It is true that many soldiers live for the day and don't worry about tomorrow, and there was a real worry that these people would struggle to budget their money correctly."

"Financially this trial is an education process for us all but so far I am very impressed with the way soldiers have taken to using the smart cards."

"There is also a system in place whereby soldiers who have no money left just have to report to the pay office and have their smart cards topped up to allow them access to the core meals for the remainder of that month. That money will then be deducted at source from their next pay."

Setting the record straight . . .

PAYD is about:

- Improving the quality of life for Service personnel, particularly the junior ranks
- Introducing a fairer payment and funding system, allowing Service personnel to pay only for what they choose to eat
- Integrating catering, retail and leisure
- Introducing a more flexible and consumer-focused approach that is open to the whole defence community

. . . and dispelling the myths

PAYD is NOT about:

- Changing the way Service personnel are supported on operations and exercises
- Charging duty personnel for food.
- Making Service personnel pay more for their food, unless they wish to do so
- Turning Service personnel away from the hotplate
- Making cost savings and reducing the number of military chefs
- Changing the three-mess system
- Changing the way recruits are fed at Phase 1 training establishments

As far as the trial process goes it is still early days, but PAYD liaison officer Maj David Smith (RLC) believes that the scheme will prove an overwhelming success.

"I have been in the Army for more than 30 years and PAYD represents the biggest cultural change I have ever seen," he said.

"We have moved soldiers around, we have changed what they do and where they do if from, but at no time before now have we actually given them the ability to run their own background."

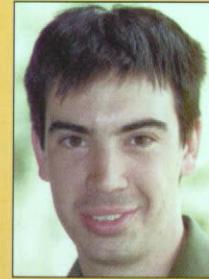
"We are giving back to soldiers an improved quality of life. PAYD will give soldiers options and choices of what they do in their own time and how they spend their own money."

NEXT UP: The PAYD spotlight is about to fall on Wattisham, where two AAC regiments and a REME battalion will begin trials early next month.

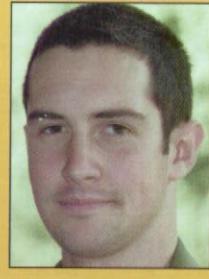
For a bigger serving of information about Pay-As-You-Dine, have a look at the special www.payd.mod.uk site on the internet or access the PAYD pages on the ModWEB

What you think of it

Tpr Alex Cawley
If you stick to the core meal then food costs you no more than it did before. The new facilities are a lot cleaner, people use them more and want to look after them more. It is basically like going through the gates.



Tpr Stuart Bowyer
I think I will be better off under PAYD. I often skip breakfast, rarely eat my evening meals and miss the odd meal at weekends, so I will definitely make a saving. The facilities here now are excellent. It is just like being in a bar in civvy street.



Lcpl Jonathan Crawford
The smart cards are a good idea for people who struggle with their finances – they represent an easy way to budget. The new facilities are first class. We now have somewhere to relax away from an Army environment.



Thanks to the ABF a soldier's 3 year survival course came to an end.



Even if you've left the Army you can still count on the ABF for help. An ex-soldier had been living rough for 3 years in Bristol. When he was eventually allocated a small flat he had no belongings or furnishings. Our grant helped to buy the essentials and get him back on his feet.

Whether the problems are emotional, physical or financial we have the expertise and the resources to offer comfort and support. But to carry on our work we need your help.

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e-mail: enquiries@armybenevolentfund.com

Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR

The ABF is the Army's national charity and is committed to the welfare of Army and ex-Army personnel and their families. (Registered Charity No. 211645)

Drop-in unit to help AWOL soldiers

A CONFIDENTIAL source of advice for soldiers who have gone absent without leave is being offered by St Martin's In The Fields Social Care Unit in London and SSAFA-Forces Help.

The initiative is being piloted in the St Martin's SCU drop-in centre in Trafalgar Square. Visitors can speak in confidence to an adviser who will act as a go-between with the military and lay out options enabling them to reclaim their lives.

Figures suggest that most who go AWOL are young men, who find permanent jobs are impossible because they cannot use a national insurance number, have no permanent home, health or benefits access and often live under assumed names for fear of being picked up by the military police.

Recently Jason, a 20-year-old who joined the Army two years ago, went on the run when he was posted from Catterick to Colchester and a relationship broke up.

"The longer I left it the harder it was to go back," he said. He approached the unit, gave himself up and got 14 days' detention at his battalion HQ. He is now determined to make progress in the Army.

A man who deserted 40 years ago and had been living in fear ever since also approached the unit and received an administrative discharge earlier this year, lifting a huge burden from his shoulders.

To find out more ring 020 7930 4137.

Curtain up for Theatre Troops



Picture: Mike Weston

Supporting role: Gen Sir Mike Jackson, left, C-in-C Land Command, meets soldiers of the newly-formed Theatre Troops organisation, which draws together the Army's battlefield combat support and combat services support under the command of Maj Gen James Shaw, back right.

To mark the event, soldiers from each of the 11 brigades which make up the command took part in a parade at Airfield Camp, Netheravon. HQ Theatre Troops was

formed last September as part of a wider reorganisation at Wilton.

It comprises 1 Artillery, 7 Air Defence, 1 (ACE Rapid Reaction) Signal, 2nd (National Communications) Signal, 11 Signal, 101 and 102 Logistic, 104 Logistic Support, 2 Medical and 1 Military Intelligence Brigades, and HQ Royal Engineers Theatre Troops.

Training of elements of all 11 formations has been integrated in Log Viper, the large exercise currently under way (see Page 11).

Army ready to cover fire strike

AN estimated 19,000 personnel from all three Services, including thousands of troops based in Germany, are on standby in case the first national Fire Service strike since 1977 goes ahead.

Under a contingency plan code-named Operation Fresco, soldiers, sailors and airmen are completing a five-week training packages at RAF Manston in Kent.

In the event of a strike, they will provide firefighting crews, breathing apparatus

rescue teams, drivers and administrative command-and-control functions. Troops will also provide security at their bases.

Contingency plans drawn up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister could result in Service personnel manning 827 Bedford Green Goddesses. The trucks, introduced in 1953 and decommissioned in 1968, are kept for civil emergencies and were used by the Army during the 1977 strike.

Tankie cited for bravery after crash

SGT Gary Hearn's actions in the immediate aftermath of a helicopter crash on top of a mountain on the Macedonian border has earned him a Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

Serving with the Fallingbostel-based 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, Sgt Hearn, right, and his team were based in a tent on the top of the mountain while conducting border patrols. They had just lifted off to fly to a patrol location when the aircraft was engulfed in cloud.

There was virtually no visibility until tree tops appeared below the helicopter, which crashed.

Although concussed, Sgt Hearn found a radio and reported the accident and its grid reference before running to the nearest road, where he was found by a Kfor convoy.

First aid was given on the spot and Badger Squadron, 2 RTR arrived to cordon off the site and take the injured to the nearest camp.



Staffords prepare for six months in Kosovo

SOLDIERS from the Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment under the command of Lt Col Barney Haugh are flying to Kosovo for a six-month operational tour. They will relieve the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Pristina and Podujevo.

● Soldiers of the 104th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) marched through Newport in Wales to exercise their Freedom of the city. A new flag was presented to the re-titled HQ Battery.

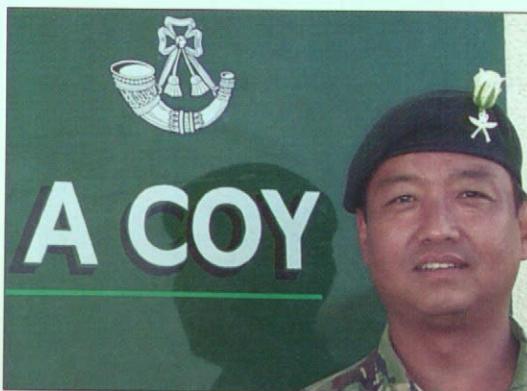
Derby's county



Picture: Graeme Main

Walkies: Pte Derby, ram mascot of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, enjoys a stroll with handlers Pte Shane Thomson, left, and Cpl Stephen Davis during a KAPE – keeping the Army in the public eye – tour to Halesowen, near Birmingham

Gurkha command



First in post: Maj Sankar Gurung RGR, above, has become the first Gurkha officer to take over a company of Light Infantry soldiers. He is officer commanding A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, which is on duty at the Salt Lake Site at Akrotiri in Cyprus. Maj Gurung's father served 32 years in the Army and his brother, in his 29th year of service, is currently the quartermaster of a Territorial Army regiment in London.

Join the Army's web crew

WANT to work on the Army's award-winning website? Contact Maj Peter Boxell on 94621 2451 or SSgt Paul Griffiths on 94621 2461 or armywebmaster@dgics.mod.uk. Applicants will need to have the rank of sergeant or staff sergeant.



Sea horses take the plunge

Horsey holiday: Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment horses enjoy a paddle at the seaside during their two-week holiday in rural Norfolk.

Their away-day to Holkam Beach gave the riders and mounts a chance to gallop happily in the surf as part of the regiment's annual break from its high-profile ceremonial duties on London's busy streets.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

If the bearskin fits



Suits you, Ma'am: A musician with the Band of the Welsh Guards lets a fan in Prijedor, Bosnia, try on his headgear. The band, whose free concerts in the grounds of Banja Luka castle and Mrkonjic Grad were enjoyed by huge crowds, also played at a medal parade for the divisional headquarters, at opening ceremonies for civil aid projects and at local schools. Its rock group, a side-line for a few of the band members, received incredible receptions for its two gigs. Dressed in home service clothing, the musicians attracted considerable attention wherever they appeared.

The lady's a Red Devil

THERE can be no more appropriate way for a new member of the Red Devils to receive their prized maroon beret than while jumping from a great height.

Lcpl Adele Murray, R Signals, was presented with hers by team president Lt Col Simon Barry, the Director of Air Operations, as the pair were freefalling from 8,000ft above the Services' parachute centre at Netheravon in Wiltshire. Adele, who has completed



Lcpl Adele Murray Picture: Steve Dock

320 jumps since she took up the sport just over two years ago, is the fifth woman to join The Parachute Regiment's famous freefall specialists and the first since 1996.

She made her first public appearance with the Red Devils at a naval families' day at RN Air Station Yeovilton, jumping from a Sea King helicopter.

Adele, who will serve with the team for the next three years, was introduced



Over to you: Lcpl Adele Murray gets her beret from Lt Col Simon Barry Picture: Cpl Chris Good

to freefall parachuting by her boyfriend, Jason Thompson, a former member of the Pathfinders. She has been in the

Army for seven years and her last unit before joining the Red Devils was 228 Signal Squadron based in Aldershot.

IN BRIEF

- Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force played host to honeymoon couple UO Matthew and Sgt Caroline Hoe, right, who chose to attend the camp at Otterburn rather than take a more traditional holiday.



- A new burnished gold cap badge design now in production has been approved by the Royal Logistic Corps. Every RLC soldier, both Regular and TA, will be issued with one by April 4, in time for the corps' tenth anniversary.

- Two officers from the French 7th Armoured Brigade, based in the mountainous Jura region, paid a goodwill visit to their British counterparts at Hohne to learn how the UK runs a brigade headquarters and to promote links with the Desert Rats.

- Duty personnel at Baker Barracks,

Thorney Island, home of 47th Regiment RA, called a naval EOD team out after bait-diggers reported finding aircraft wreckage and live .303 link rounds in the mud just off the base. The ammunition, found to be in an unstable condition, was destroyed on site in a controlled explosion, and the unidentified wreckage has been reported to the RAF.

Iron Duke make-over

A £250,000 joint military and civilian project to restore the Iron Duke to his former glory has been launched by the Army in Aldershot.

The town's towering statue of the Duke of Wellington, originally sited in 1846 on top of the Hyde Park Corner Memorial Arch opposite the Duke's famous "No 1, London" address, will be repaired, cleaned, floodlit and landscaped.

The statue was moved to Hampshire in the 1880s to allow for road-widening in London.

Footballers in Kosovo

PORTRUSH footballer and ex-soldier Lee Bradbury flew to Kosovo with the high-flying First Division club's goalkeeping coach, Alan Knight, to run clinics for local children and pass on their skills to players in his former unit, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The 1st Battalion is based in Pristina as part of the Kfor peacekeeping force.

A key task facing troops in the country is to reunite Serb and Albanian communities and encourage them to work together. Sport is seen as an effective tool to encourage both sides to forget their differences.

While in Kosovo the footballers ran mixed coaching sessions for Albanian and Serbian children. They also planned to join 1 PWRR troops on patrol and work with the battalion's football squad.

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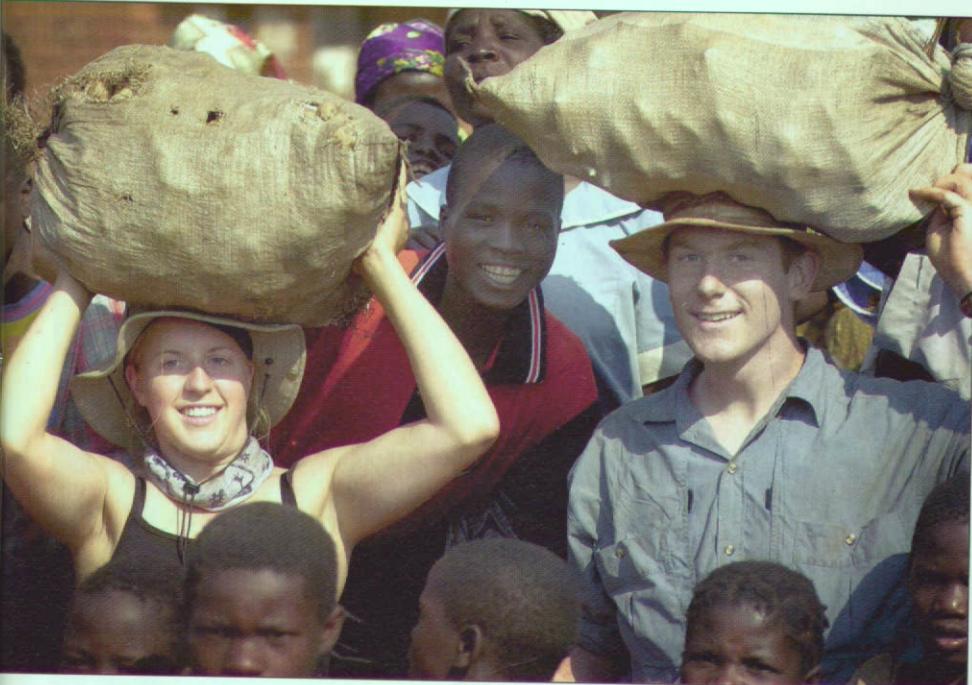


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Using their heads: OCdts Ceri Jackson, left, and Iain Ross from Tayforth University Officers' Training Corps help villagers carry sweet potatoes to their village in Malawi. They are among a group of UOTC students spending eight weeks in the small settlement of Wisikoti to construct an irrigation scheme to boost the inhabitants' annual maize yield from one crop to three. Their first task was to build a dam to channel water to the fields. Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne

Loggies rehearse ship supply skills

THOUSANDS of Royal Logistic Corps soldiers have been taking part in one of the biggest UK exercises for several years, transporting tonnes of equipment to Royal Air Force stations and the military port at Marchwood, near Southampton.

The four-week long exercise Log Viper, which began on September 15 and runs until October 12, was designed to test the skills of soldiers from 101 Logistic Brigade as well as Territorial Army RLC troops, medical units and military engineers.

Supplies were disembarked at Harwich and transported to Marchwood in an exercise which will ensure the Army's ability to feed, clothe and maintain supplies, vehicles and weaponry by sea for a major overseas deployment.

Fuel supply specialists constructed a

ship-to-shore pipeline in Portland Harbour while postal couriers, laundry staff and catering units worked alongside transport units. To avoid congestion on public roads, military police coordinated Army convoys of up to ten vehicles and liaised with civilian forces along the routes from Harwich.

Log Viper began with 101 Brigade personnel boarding two roll-on, roll-off ferries at Marchwood for passage to Harwich. From there several hundred vehicles laden with tonnes of stores and equipment were moved across East Anglia to destinations including RAF Honington, RAF Watton and Waterbeach Barracks.

The exercise was widely interpreted in the media as being the first move by the British Army to station materiel in place for a possible move against Iraq.

Jocks on Somme

SOLDIERS from the Fallingbostel-based 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, travelled to northern France for a weekend commemorating the First World War battles of the Somme in which their predecessors were involved.

Hereford concert

ACCLAIMED organist Jennifer Bate, right, is to play at an organ and military band concert in Hereford Cathedral on October 11 to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. She will be joined by the Band and Bugles of the Light Division. Tickets (£10 and £5) on 01432 275063.



Long-haul cheque

SIX soldiers from the catering department of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC at Colchester delivered a cheque for £2,500 to the Pinderfield Burns Unit at Wakefield Hospital at the end of a 225-mile bicycle ride from their barracks.

London Soldier digs in on Horse Guards

A MAJOR initiative to recruit 1,000 soldiers into the Regular and Territorial Army swung into action on Horse Guards Parade as this edition went to press.

Hundreds of soldiers manning an impressive array of military hardware, including Warrior, Sabre, Saxon and Fuchs NBC vehicles, launched a month-long recruitment surge in London.

Soldiers from more than 30 regiments and corps took part, showing off equipment such as armoured recovery vehicles, FSC Rapier, the 105mm light gun and communications systems.

GUARDSMEN

Grenadier, Coldstream, Irish and Scots Guardsmen were joined by paratroopers, fusiliers, Royal Anglians and Royal Green Jackets, gunners from 16 Regiment RA, signallers, Army aviators, nurses, dentists and military police.

The event, codenamed London Soldier, showcased the Army's new approach to dividing its job offerings into nine career groups to help job-seekers evaluate civilian posts against their military equivalent.

Focus of the new strategy, which involves talking to youngsters about career options in the Army, is in response to an increasingly competitive recruiting environment created by high employment and expanding further education.

● More details from local careers offices, www.army.mod.uk or www.reserve-forces-london.org.uk

Plain sailing for cadets

REGULAR soldiers from 1 PWRR, KRH, 1 RGJ, REME and the AAC supported more than 250 PWRR-badged Army cadets from Surrey during their annual two-week camp on Salisbury Plain. Many were former cadets who had given up their leave to assist. Cadets flew in Gazelle and travelled in Warrior.

Premier effort



Nice one, my son: Cpl Terry Twining, AGC, serving at HQ Northern Ireland, has completed a marathon run which took in every English Premiership football ground. He covered 600 miles in 21 days and hopes to raise more than £20,000 for the Twin Towers' Orphans Fund. Terry's amazing effort meant he had to average 28 miles a day for three weeks and he now hopes to have his achievement recorded in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Picture: Sgt Paul Brownbridge RLC

Tania's golden mile



Bedside manners included: Soldiers from Germany-based 12th Regiment RA – the Lancashire and Cumbrian Gunners – wheeled Tania Robinson, the reigning Miss Blackpool, along the Lancashire resort's Golden Mile during a 50-mile bed-push to raise funds for a children's ward in Blackpool's Victoria Hospital. Tania is no stranger to the Army... her father, Maj Steve Robinson RLC, is serving with 8 Regiment at Marne Barracks in Catterick.

Picture: Chris Barker

Air assault brigade checks its logistics

UP to 2,000 soldiers, 600 vehicles and 36 helicopters were taking part in 16 Air Brigade's largest logistical exercise of the year as this edition went to press.

Eagle's Lift was ranging across training areas on Salisbury Plain, Otterburn in Northumberland and Dishforth in Yorkshire.

In addition to heavy-lift Chinook helicopters used for aerial deliveries, the Royal Air Force had committed eight

C130 transport aircraft as well as Harrier, Tornado and Jaguar fast jets.

Designed to develop brigade combat service support, the exercise was involving elements of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, 3 Regiment AAC, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, the Household Cavalry Regiment, 13 Air Assault Regiment RLC, 7 Air Assault Battalion REME and 16 Close Support Medical Regiment.

Troops called to Elbe flood

THREE hundred British soldiers responded rapidly to a request from the German authorities to help with flood prevention measures in the north-east of the country. Within a few hours, the troops were working against the clock on the River Elbe in the Lüchow-Dannenberg area.

The soldiers, from four units of the 7th Armoured Brigade, were accommodated by the German authorities but were otherwise entirely self-contained, taking with them food, cooking facilities, and transport. They were asked to remain until the flood tide had passed.

Units involved were The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, from Fallingbostel, and 32 Engineer Regiment RE and 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, based at Hohne.

It was initially planned to use the soldiers in the Schnackenburg area, southwest of Hamburg, but a more urgent need arose at the village of Soven, south of Dannenberg, when water forced back up drainage canals from the rising Elbe threatened to break down a dyke.

British troops, under Maj Chris McGarrell, OC HQ Coy, Scots DG, built a sandbag barrier and contained the danger. Later, they handed the task



Stemming the flood: LCpl Paul O'Brien, front right, of 1 BW, and LBdr Michael Coxon, left, of 3 RHA, at Schnackenburg on the Elbe

Picture: Sgt Teresa Pickin

in the Soven area to a German infantry battalion and moved to Schnackenburg, under the Elbe dyke, against which a mass of water was pressing.

Neighbours drop by to assist Cheshires on West Tyrone tour

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment deployed in Kosovo volunteered to assist their Tidworth and Bulford Garrison neighbours, the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, on operations in West Tyrone.

With three years of armoured infantry experience as part of 1



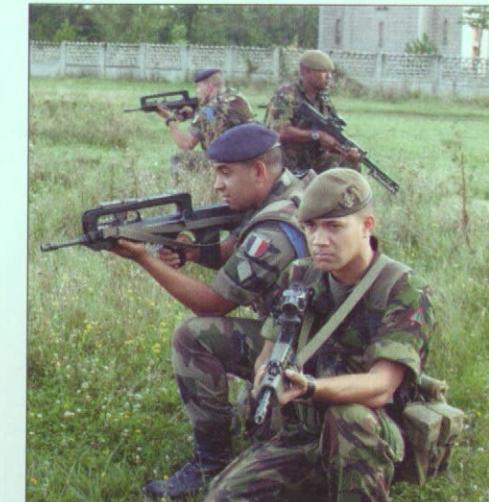
Big boys' toys: You might not have to bend it like Beckham to beat this goalkeeper, but you do have to know how to drive a rather large JCB heavy crawler excavator. Then again, the guys who play plant football can very gently close a matchbox using the large bucket.

The penalty shoot-out was part of a plant Olympics which rounded off a concentration day at Caravicia quarry near Pristina, Kosovo. Run by Ssgt Nobby Naish and 6 HQ Squadron Plant Section for 22 Engineer Regiment, it involved Czech, Norwegian, Finnish and Swedish

sappers from the Multi-National Brigade (Centre) as well as US engineers based in the east of the country.

Purpose of the event was to demonstrate equipment used by British sappers working the massive quarry and to compare notes on plant and machinery brought in by the different nationalities deployed with Kfor units in Kosovo.

Tiger Tirailleurs



Entente cordiale: Soldiers from A Company, 1 PWRR based north of Pristina on patrol with troops from the 1st Regiment of Tirailleurs during an exchange. The French unit is on a four-month tour centred on northern Mitrovica

IN BRIEF

● Maj Steve Williams, WFR, right, is strapped into the cockpit of a Tornado by old school friend Sqn Ldr Mark Sheldon, who was commanding the RAF fighter force at Mount Pleasant Airfield in the Falkland Islands where the two men met for the first time since leaving Bishop Wordsworth School in Salisbury 22 years ago. Mark took



October 2002 SOLDIER

Steve, then a staff officer in the Joint Headquarters, on a 2½-hour sortie in his F3.

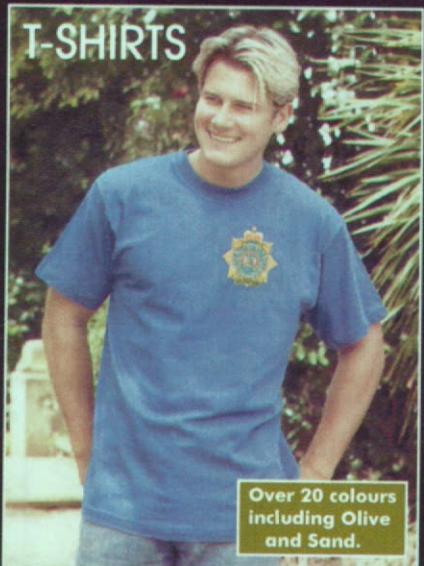
● The Munster-based Royal Dragoon Guards hosted cadets from Northern Ireland for a week of training, the highlight of which was an exercise on Dorbaum training area. The youngsters were set a series of challenges and given the chance to drive a Challenger 2 tank and look over a Scimitar. The cadets were accommodated with the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.

● Twenty-two soldiers and civilians from 2 Infantry Brigade HQ at Shorncliffe raised more than £1,800 for the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury by carrying two wheelchair-bound MS sufferers for six miles through rugged terrain in Snowdonia.

● Sixteen members of 209 Manchester and St Helens Battery RA (Volunteers) spent eight days walking and climbing in the fells of Norway.

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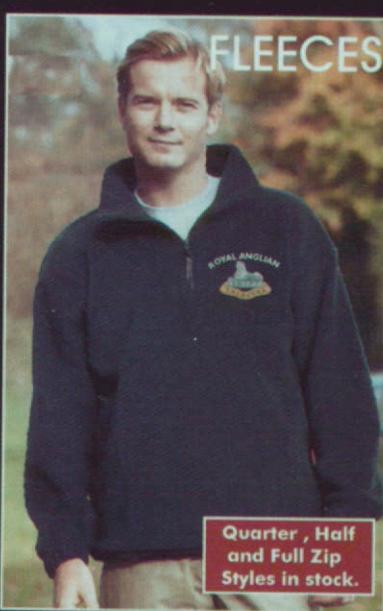


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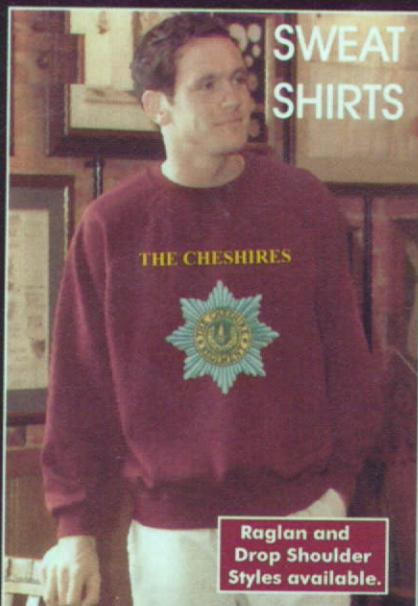
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International reserves turn out at Bisley

MORE than 100 reserves from 12 countries competed in the two-day 2002 skill-at-arms meeting at Bisley last month, with one of five Belgian teams taking the title for having the best overall shooting skills.

Best home competitor at the event, which was run by the UK Reserve Forces Association (UKRFA), was LCpl William Dowling, a member of 160 Transport Regiment RLC (V).

Farnham lawyer Capt Chris Curtis RLC

(V), taking part for the first time, won individual gold in the light-support weapon class.

UKRFA shooting officer Maj Bruce Snelling said: "We'd like to see more reservists participate in the skill-at-arms events. It's a great opportunity to meet reservists from other countries in a spirit of friendly competition. With an increasing number of reservists deployed on operations around the world, this kind of interaction with other armed forces is invaluable."



View from above:
Computerised top-down graphics of Type-Z junior, left, and senior single-soldier en-suite flats

Shape of flats to come

DEBUT, the Bovis-led consortium named as preferred bidder for the first five years of work to improve single soldiers' accommodation, has unveiled its model of the *en-suite* flat designed to be standard across the Army.

Under the £1-billion single-living accommodation modernisation project (SLAM), soldiers' quarters are to be upgraded in a massive building programme.

In the first two years of SLAM, work will start on 16 bases in the UK to deliver a total of 1,945 Z-type flats for junior soldiers.

They are Helles, Barry and Bourlon Barracks at Catterick, Alexander (Pirbright), Sandhurst, Middle Wallop, Bovington, Rapier (Lincs), Albermarle (Harlow Hill), Fulwood (Preston), St David's (Bicester), Gamecock (Nuneaton), Dalton (Abingdon), Invicta Park (Maidstone), Beachley (Chepstow) and RAF Odiham.

PTE Andy Corne, right, and Billy, one of the new Malinois breed recently procured by the Army, walked away with the main title when they entered the inaugural Military Provost Guard Service dog trials.

The event, which attracted seven teams from around the UK, was hosted by 29 Regiment RLC at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney.



• TWO hundred and fifty Territorial Army soldiers were processed at Donnington in Shropshire last month in the biggest mobilisation exercise of its kind in the Midlands for ten years. All were members of The West Midlands Regiment (Volunteers).

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

• Commanders of US special forces want to end the hunt for al-Qaeda in Afghanistan because they believe that Osama bin Laden is dead. — Times

• Firemen raced to an Army barracks only to find alarms had been set off by steam from soldiers ironing their kilts for a parade in Berwick-upon-Tweed. — Sun

• The Army is to carry out secret tests on its SA80-A2 rifle in a last-ditch bid to restore confidence in the weapon. Trials in Oman will compare Britain's favoured assault rifle with the American M16. — Daily Express

• Former TA medic Shaun Rusling, chairman of the National Gulf War Veterans and Families Association, has won a landmark victory in his legal fight to force the Government to recognise Gulf War Syndrome as a medical condition. The Government was refused leave to appeal to the High Court against its findings that Mr Rusling's condition was directly caused by his service in the 1991 conflict. — Daily Mail

• The SAS has been put on standby to help British citizens flee Zimbabwe if it descends into bloodshed. — Daily Mail

• "The toughest part was five days in an Army training ground at Aldershot... I have never experienced anything like it. Going to camp was about being forced to go beyond our limits. I learned more about my team mates in five days than in the previous two years — and I have far greater belief in the power of the British Army." — France and Saracens rugby star Thomas Castaignede writing in the Guardian

• Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British commander in the Gulf war, told the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague that Slobodan Milosevic must have been aware of crimes committed by the Yugoslav army during ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. — Daily Telegraph

• Singer Holly Valance caused a stir by sporting the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment's badge when she appeared on stage in Leicester during a Radio 1 show. — Daily Star

• Cold steel, a favourite with generations of troops, is being scrapped because it can't be attached to the latest weapons. The bayonet is a victim of modern warfare. — Sunday Telegraph

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Both sides now

Royal Irish soldiers have been attacked and injured during violent confrontations in east Belfast

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN the latest outbreak of sectarian violence kicked off in the Short Strand area of east Belfast, it was the Royal Irish who bore the brunt of it. In one night, 16 soldiers from D Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment were hospitalised, most suffering from lower-limb injuries.

The night of disorder reinforced what many soldiers have long believed. More robust boots, including steel toecaps, might have prevented some of the nastier injuries, such as broken toes, fractured feet, broken ankles and gouging and bruising to the backs of legs.

Along with the usual public order protection kit, soldiers deployed in east Belfast were equipped with 4ft shields, which are ideal for running at a mob but do not always offer sufficient protection on a defensive static line.

The mob soon realised this and hurled masonry at the soldiers' feet.

If the injuries had been sustained in any other theatre of operations, there might have been more press coverage. As it was, the incident hardly managed a blip on the national media radar.

The Royal Irish Regiment soldiers are usually to be found in the thick of the action, but rarely receive public credit – a result of natural modesty and the need to keep a low profile in their communities.

Maj Andy Nye, officer commanding C Company, 2 R Irish, said: "It is particularly difficult for the Royal Irish to carry out public order duties, but also particularly relevant because the soldiers come from the same communities."

Increasingly, R Irish troops are being targeted by both sides of the sectarian divide. "There is a danger of being recognised when you are out shopping or having a meal," said Maj Nye. "One of my sergeants, a strong man both morally and physically, was forced out of his home – either that or be burnt out."

While other battalions pass through the province on six-month or two-year tours, the Royal Irish are a fixture. This hugely



Night fall: Cpl Stevie McMullan and Pte Stephen Spence of C Coy, 2 R Irish, above, begin another patrol in east Belfast

Man down: Troops go through robust public order drills at Palace Barracks, right, before going out



enhances their operational capability but increases the risks.

"The men don't need to be told who that person is or why a particular road is dangerous – they have that experience," said Maj Nye.

Underlying it all is the immense professionalism of men and women who put themselves in the front line to protect their fellow countrymen.

Maj Nye said: "The modern infantry

soldier deployed to Northern Ireland has traditionally been brought up on a terrorist threat where they are going to get shot or blown up. Today the more significant threat is public disorder. But the troops don't mind doing it because they are simply doing their job."

Pte Alan Lowry, C Coy, checked his kit one last time, as he prepared for another night on the streets of east Belfast. "It's a very tense atmosphere out there," he said.

Pushing the boat out

Soldiers in Northern Ireland have some of the best welfare facilities in the British Army. Here's how 8 Infantry Brigade is setting the standard

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

WORK hard, play hard. The first part of that old chestnut is easy and unavoidable in Northern Ireland.

From day one soldiers know long hours and tense situations on the streets are the norm. But when it comes to playing hard, that's altogether more problematic. Especially if you are west of the River Bann – in 8 Infantry Brigade's area of responsibility.

In the north-west of the Province the threat from dissident republican groups remains very real. So far this year, attacks have maimed a MoD civilian at Magilligan Training Centre and claimed the life of David Caldwell, a civilian contractor in a TA centre in Londonderry.

"The bottom line is a significant percentage of the population this side of the Bann do not want us," said Maj Paul Tilley, 8 Brigade's Deputy Chief of Staff. "Many do not see us as their army. They see us as the British Army rather than an army which will support them and that makes a difference as to how our families are received by the local community."

Restrictions placed on soldiers limit how and where they can safely socialise. In County Tyrone for example, soldiers of

the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire are advised to restrict their visits to a small number of pubs and clubs. That doesn't compare too well with their previous mainland base at Chester, which boasted 32 pubs and 18 clubs.

But the difficulties are not limited to socialising outside. Six families living inside the wire at Omagh have had to be re-housed because of missiles thrown over the perimeter fence.

The problems are magnified by the

The welfare package is constantly evolving and is refined with direct input from soldiers?

sheer size of the brigade's operational area. Belfast, a city centre that offers comparative anonymity along with great shopping and social life, is more than 1½ hour's drive away.

The three residential infantry units – 1 PWO, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards – and the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, which make up the brigade, could easily feel isolated, both physically and emotionally. Potentially all

these things added together could create a problem. The fact they don't is testament to the way Brig Paul Newton has made welfare a top priority.

The secret lies in the breadth and depth of the brigade's welfare package. Success can be measured in the retention figures and the higher-than-average number of soldiers fit for active duty.

Elsewhere in the province battalions tend to be on six-month roulement tours, and their welfare packages vary according to operational circumstances.

Keeping people happy is more than just about money, although the increased allowances and benefits certainly help.

The welfare package is constantly evolving and is refined with direct input from soldiers. Good ideas, if practical and affordable, are implemented quickly. Operational capability rises in step with soldiers' improved quality of life.

Brig Newton, wants the activity facilities to be used by his men and their families, so red tape is kept to a minimum. His philosophy is "Phone and Go."

If soldiers have the free time, within hours they can be enjoying outstanding adventure and fun activities.

There are opportunities for soldiers to take part in overseas training. This year troops have exercised in Brunei, Turkey and South Africa.

Ten ways 8 Brigade is making life more enjoyable for its soldiers

1 Hot ideas

Soldiers from the brigade man five border police stations 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Improvements to the facilities include internet access, PlayStations, gyms and dishwashers. But the really hot idea was to install saunas.

"Soldiers can now come in from a long rural patrol, put their kit in the washing machine and then dive into the sauna. By the time they come out their stuff is ready to go in the drier," said Maj Paul Tilley.

2 Red letter days

This is an innovation to reward different types of achievement, not necessarily operational successes.

The scheme, operated by a commercial company, gives a nominated person a choice of dream activities to experience, from freefall parachuting to pampering themselves at a health spa.



Going places: Army wives Annette Morris and Kirsty Sims try one of the welfare cars

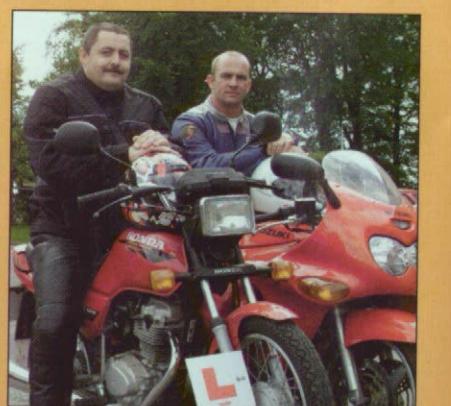
3 Driving home

Because of difficulty travelling around the province, battalions have the use of dedicated welfare cars. Any soldier can request the car, free of charge, to use for driving friends and family around. The car even comes with a full tank of fuel.

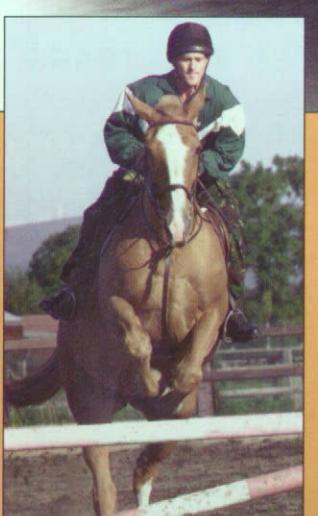
4 Wheel meet again

Soldiers and their spouses can take advantage of driving lessons at half the cost of the mainland.

5 For the L of it
Soldiers can also take advantage of the free motor-cycling courses using their standard learning credits.



Easy, riders: WO2 Taff Price, left, before taking his motorcycle test, and Sgt Chris Ryder, who has already been successful



Up and over: Cpl Vincent Carling tackles a jump at the Ballykelly horse riding centre
6 It's reining again
At Ballykelly Horse Riding Centre the courses are free to soldiers and their families.



High life: LCpl Russ Parks is checked over before take-off by parachute instructor Cpl Andy Goodall at Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly



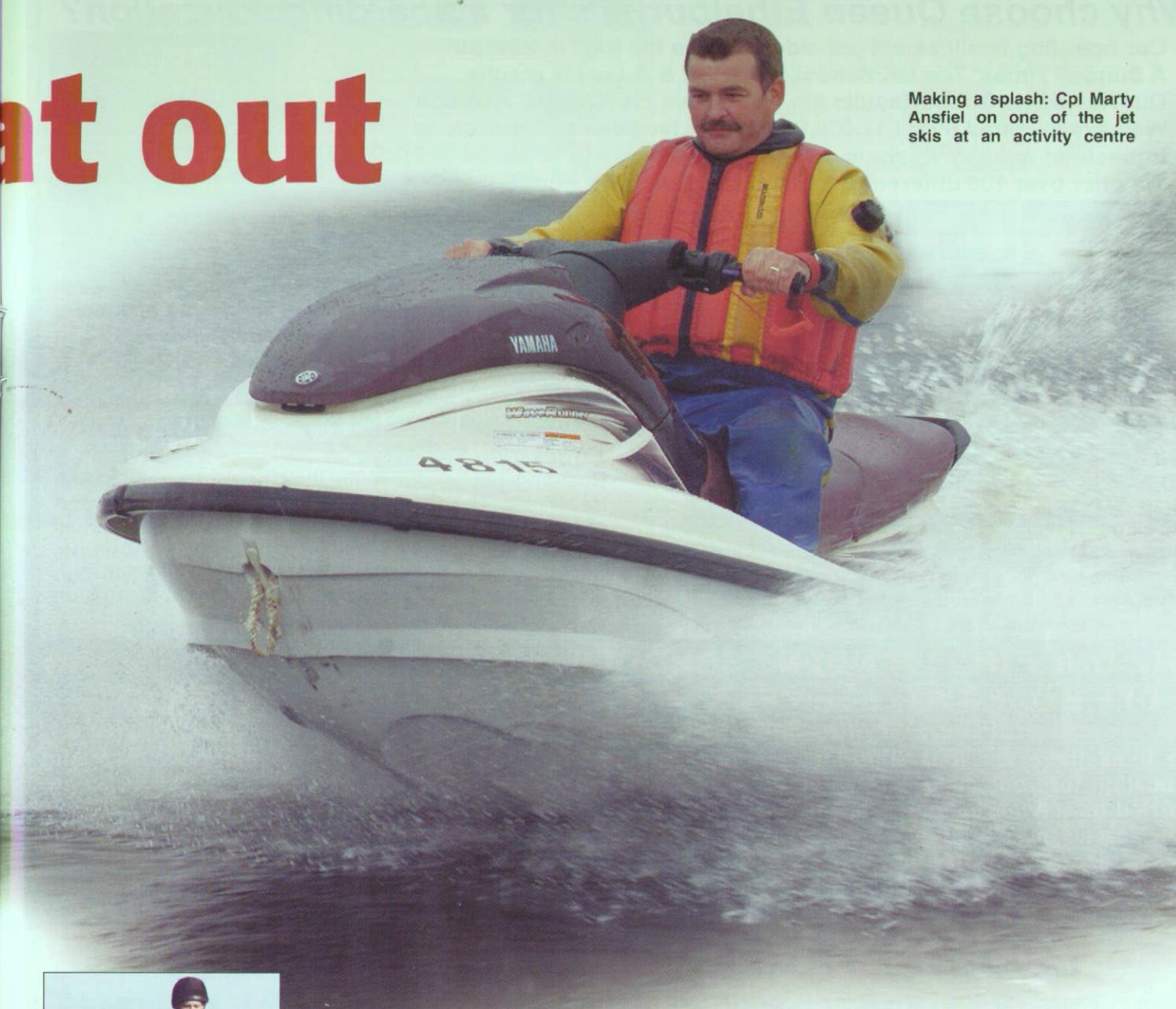
Getting away from it all: The brigade motor launch

9 Pushing the boat out

To just get away from it all you can rent the brigade cruiser for a week for the cost of a hire car for the day. This seven-berth launch is fully-equipped and is a superb way to see the beautiful waterways of the north. A guaranteed method to beat stress.

10 Water relief

Activity centres offer water-ski and jet-ski opportunities run by a commercial company at discounted rates.



Making a splash: Cpl Marty Ansfield on one of the jet skis at an activity centre

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"You knew my old man was in the Army? Is it the way he walks?"

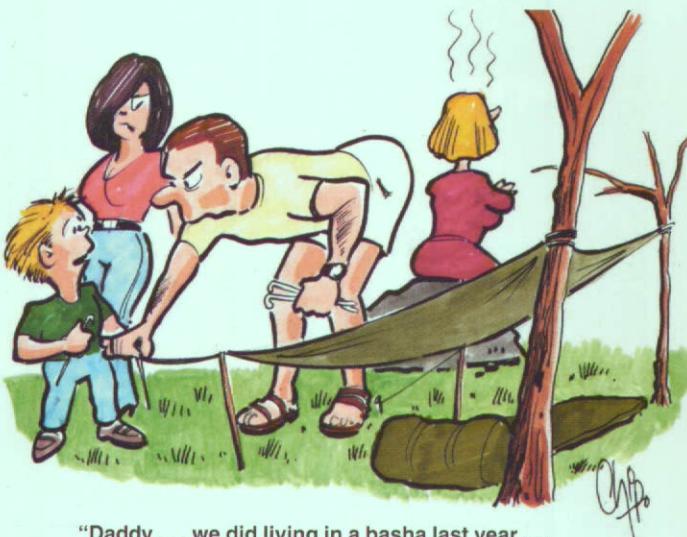
Chuckle with Chip



"Of course Mum can cope . . . she's a roughie toughie soldier!"



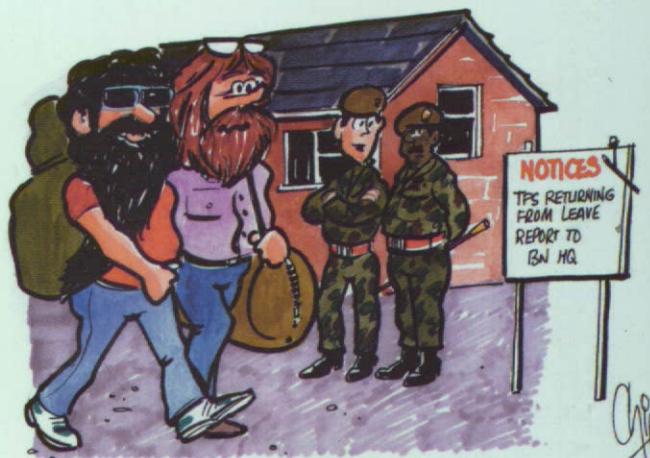
"Enjoy your time in Cannes, Miss July?"



"Daddy . . . we did living in a basha last year . . . couldn't we go to Butlins for a change?"

Memories are made of this

The Army returns from leave



"Am I alone in wondering whether the summer leave is a little too long?"

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Manage your money



David Mapes is Assistant Director of Credit Action and will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. These will be treated in confidence.

Here are some ideas to help on those rainy days

OK, so you've got an umbrella and a raincoat for rainy days. But, what about those unexpected events that cost money? The washing machine or car breaks down. Or, worse, if you have children, the TV goes phut.

Then there are those annual, six-monthly and quarterly bills such as car tax, MOT and insurance. You can also factor in holidays and Christmas. (I'm not the first to mention it – stores are gearing up already.)

Longer-term saving goals may include school costs, weddings and other special one-off events.

Saving incentives

Many people don't save. It's easy not to and what's the incentive? What do they do in an emergency? Put it on the plastic card, write a cheque and go (further) overdrawn or borrow from family or friends. Or rob Peter to pay Paul by putting off a bill to cover the immediate need.

We know borrowing costs money (interest). And if we're struggling to repay borrowings, we add to the cost of living. It's harder to make good decisions when stressed and it is very hard to think about saving when fighting to make ends meet.

So here are a few ideas:

Open a separate current account for priority and regular outgoings

Work out priority costs (rent/mortgage, council tax, utilities) and regular outgoings (insurance, car tax, MOT) and put money into the account each month by standing order. Arrange all the payments you can by monthly direct debit or standing order. The money left in your main account (the one your pay goes into) is there to spend. But don't dip into the "bills" account if you are running short.

Open a savings account for those special projects

This category includes holidays and Christmas. Put money away each month in a building society or consider the savings "buckets" attached to current accounts.

Budget, budget, budget

I've said it before and I'll say it again... sit down as a family and make a real effort to balance income and outgoings.

Did you learn about compound interest at school? I did, although no one pointed out to me its relevance in real life. If you want to see how savings can grow, call the HelpLine below and ask for an information sheet. The examples will astonish you.

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Soldier-matelots 'join' Navy



Picture: Steve Dock

SEVEN RLC soldiers are moving in with the Royal Navy for a year as part of a new training initiative. Home for them will be HMS *Sultan* at Gosport, Hants.

The loggies, wearing blue shirts, are studying to become marine engineers and will complete phase two training at the naval establishment. All are members of Marchwood-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC.

Commodore Neil Latham, centre, welcomed his "green" students last month at the start of an academic year in which

they will enjoy *Sultan's* superb marine engineering training facilities. Their time there is as a result of the Policy for People initiative announced in the Strategic Defence Review and driven forward in the Defence Training Review.

On the left is WO1 Stuart Jenkinson RLC, Marchwood's engineering warrant officer, who will move to *Sultan* next year. The naval personnel on the right of the group are training officer Lt Jules Stevenson and CPO Barney Barnes, the artificer clerk responsible for admin.

Welcome to the electronic Army

THE Army's encyclopedic collection of reference books, which touch every aspect of military life, has been made available online via military intranets.

Among publications stored in the Army Electronic Library (AEL) are Army General Administrative Instructions, the leave and personnel administration manuals, rights of a soldier arrested or charged with an offence under the Army Act (1955), military honours and awards, Queen's Regulations, PoW handling instructions, casualty procedures, financial counselling guidance and many more.

Regulations for allowances and charges are about to be added.

Units can access the library through <http://ael.asei.mod.uk/armylib> and <http://www.cash.mod.uk/ael> as well as through Unicom, the Army's pay and documentation system, via "A – Functional Softwear" under the main index.

Detachments unable to access the main Army networks can dip into the

electronic library on DC ROM. Point of contact for this is Jeremy Hardacre at dinloadscontentc2@defence.mod.uk and on tel (mil) 94631 2454 and (civ) 020 7340 9454.

Soldiers who are required to fill in routine paperwork are being urged to ditch hard versions when possible in favour of the Army Electronic Form (AEF), which is now the preferred method for Service personnel using the 48 currently in daily circulation and ranging from applications for passes to transport requests.

Completed on screen, the forms can be forwarded by e-mail or printed if an authorising signature is required.

Enquiries about AEFs, which can be saved on unit systems to be used repeatedly, should also be directed to Jeremy Hardacre. Electronic forms are available on the intranet at <http://armyforms.asei.mod.uk/army> or <http://armyportal.defence.mod.uk/army>

New home, new challenge

Military community in a former RAF base aims to be the envy of the British Army

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

A LONG-held perception that the Royal Air Force enjoys superior accommodation, working and leisure facilities was challenged when more than 2,500 soldiers and their families moved into the former RAF Bruggen in Germany.

"Some of the accommodation standards are very high, others not so," said Lt Col Jim Richardson, whose 7 Signal Regiment made the move from Krefeld to the site now known as Elmpt Station.

It comprises Javelin Barracks on the main site and married quarters at Wildenrath and Bracht.

"Single accommodation ranges from grade two to grade four, which rather flies in the face of the perception that RAF housing for both married and single personnel is of the highest standard," said Col Richardson.

While there is room for improvement, every single soldier on camp now has his or her own room. As an added bonus, every married quarter is a house

Help yourself: Daniel and Leah Lloyd, whose father serves with 16 Signal Regiment, right, in the refurbished Naafi shop



Popular venue: The Javelin swimming pool is among well-used facilities



Very good move: Lt Col Jim Richardson

(60 per cent in Krefeld were flats) although standards vary and all are on the smallish side.

Lt Col Richardson feels Elmpt's advantages more than outweigh any drawbacks.

Station commander Lt Col Jake Thackray, CO 16 Signal Regiment, agrees and is keen to nurture a community, not just in Javelin Barracks but in the Wildenrath and Bracht residential outstations a few miles away.

He is already addressing the upgrade of accommodation for married and single soldiers. "We have kept some MQs unoccupied because the onset of Project Puma [a major housing improvement initiative] will involve movement of people.

Not all single soldiers' rooms were perfect, he conceded. "Some could do with redecoration and some could be bigger, but we are not going to knock them down before the big programme of single-living accommodation kicks in."

When the RAF was in residence, more than 5,000 lived on the Javelin Barracks site alone, while the Army has 2,500 spread across the whole station.

"We've not had any big problems since we arrived and credit for that must go to the team who planned the move, and to the RAF. They anticipated all the major issues," said Lt

Col Thackray. He felt the station's working environment was an improvement on his regiment's previous home at JHQ Rheindahlen. Its vast hangers and storage areas mean mission-essential equipment can be stored in dry, safe conditions.

Elmpt Station is very much a Royal Signals base. As well as 16 and 7 Signal Regiments, it is home to 280 (UK) Signal Squadron, which supplies communications for HQ Afzorth and is the only British unit under the operational command of Nato.

Since most of the soldiers are signallers there is more opportunity to post people from one unit to another on the same site – crucial for those with families.

"Families can stay in the same house and children at the same school, even though the soldier in the family may



Issues anticipated: Lt Col Jake Thackray

have changed unit," explained Lt Col Thackray. "That's a big plus."

Elmpt's range of attractions is improving all the time. In addition to a community centre and school, efforts are being made to develop Javelin "village". So far it is just a sign and a few shops, but the intention is to turn it into the hub of the station, with more shops,

coffee bars, and a centre for family and welfare organisations. A similar centre is planned at Wildenrath.

"People are working hard in their own time to make these things work at Wildenrath – everything from planning meetings to gardening – to generate a real community spirit."

The Javelin swimming pool is already popular. Plans for a gliding club are in hand, the bowling alley is being refurbished and there is an 18-hole golf course. A fishing lake and many other facilities are up-and-running, while a range at the back of the 960-hectare camp is home to a clay pigeon shoot as well as being ideal for local exercises.

Elmpt's biggest immediate problem is that there are not enough dependants to fill all job vacancies on the site. Naafi and club staff, lifeguards, cleaners and people for a whole range of services are in short supply.

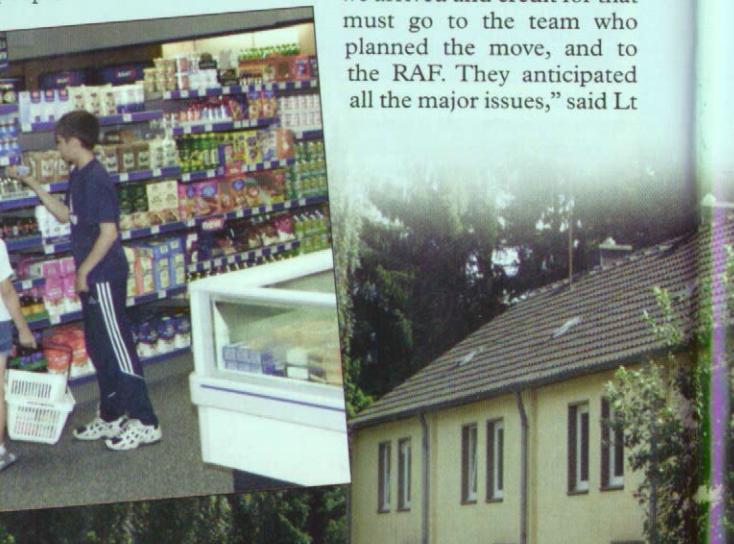
"We are trying to build the best community in the British Army and if people can give some time we will put them in contact with an agency that needs help," said Lt Col Thackray.

Lt Col Richardson's regiment moved from Krefeld, a British Army site since 1949. The six-month freeze on taskings which many units enjoy when they relocate was not an option for him and his troops. "During the move we did not stand down as we were supporting the ARRC high-readiness certification exercise.

"We are responsible for providing all communications services to the field HQ, so we were a major part of the certification process," he said. "All the military capability was moved to Elmpt in a week, yet the readiness state of the unit did not drop."

Because the RAF presence was drawn down gradually, Army families trickled in as quarters became vacant.

The narrow roads meant only one removal truck could be in a street at a time, so moving families became a precise military organisation. Fortunately, Lt Col Richardson had just the people to do it.



Home base: Married quarters amid trees at the Elmpt Station

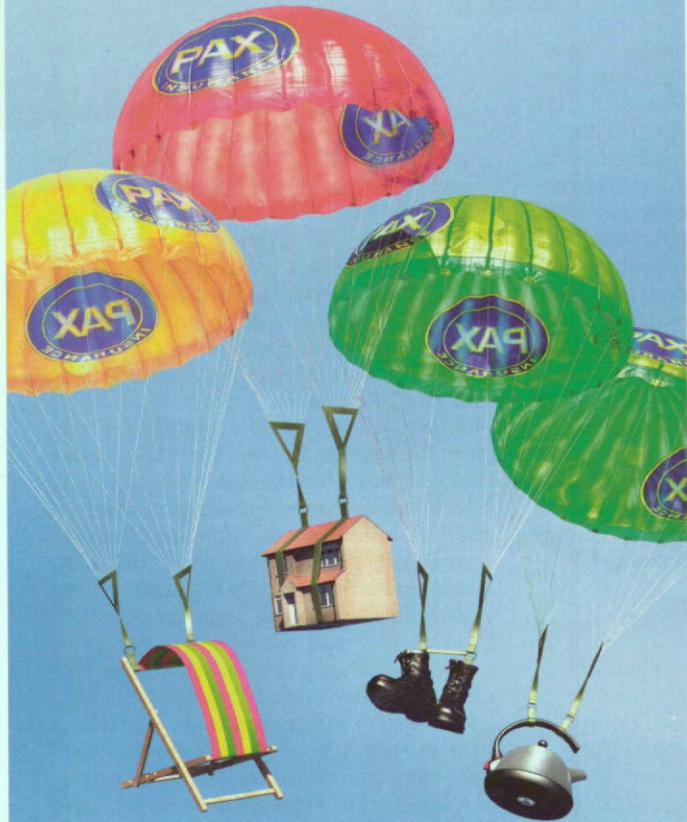


Kids' corner: One of two supervised kindergartens, above, which make the many facilities available at Elmpt Station second to none



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Territorials on guard in Kabul

Platoon of volunteers protects British forces in the Afghan capital

FORTY soldiers drawn from the Territorial Army's Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers are providing force protection for the 400 or so British troops on Operation Fingal in Kabul.

Commanded by Capt Graham Heap, a fitness instructor from Barrow-in-Furness, the TA platoon is based at Camp Souter, close to Kabul airport. As well as mounting patrols, the part-time soldiers are providing security for the headquarters element, Royal Engineers and other units working around the city.

Capt Heap said: "The main body of the platoon arrived on September 7 after a three-day trip. But as this included a stay in a five-star hotel in Oman there were not too many complaints from the lads."

They have found Kabul to be hot and dusty during the day but pleasantly cool at night. Until they move into a brick block scheduled for completion by the end of this month they are living in tents.

The platoon has been busy with the security of the base and local foot patrols, with other occasional patrols into Kabul, particularly on the route to the British Embassy.

"Tensions were high during the period around September 11 and after a recent car bomb in the city centre," said Capt Heap. "There have been several scares involving suspect vehicles around the base, but no serious threats to our lads. One foot patrol discovered an unexploded mortar bomb close to a nearby school and called in the Italian EOD detachment to dispose of it."

"Despite 18-hour days the boys are in great spirits, and the quality of the food provided by the RLC chefs helps to maintain morale. The chefs even put on a barbecue every Saturday night."

"Some of the welfare facilities are a bit



Home sweet home for the LCV platoon is a warm tent, above. But not for long... they are due to move into a newly-constructed brick block. Inset - Troops on patrol in Kabul

Fus Adam Gagan, community support worker Pte Jack Owens and binman Pte Glenn Stewart.

They and their colleagues will spend three months in Kabul before returning home in time for Christmas.

Lt Col Matt Perkin, commanding officer of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers, said: "They are well trained and entirely capable of the tasks they will be called on to perform."

- One member of the platoon had an anxious few days waiting to hear news of the birth of his first child.

Fus Rob Sutterby, who comes from Radcliffe near Bury, was delighted to learn that his new daughter had arrived safely and that proud mum Philippa was safe and well. The appropriate means to toast the health of the new arrival were soon found.



Dad: Fus Rob Sutterby

Helping up, not handing out

Whenever soldiers or former soldiers and their families are in real need, the Army Benevolent Fund is there to help

FOR nearly 60 years, the Army Benevolent Fund has been advising, helping and, above all, giving to soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in situations of real need, **writes Anthony Stone**.

This assistance covers everything from infirmity, disability, unemployment and homelessness to family support.

The ABF believes in giving a hand up rather than a hand out and last year it gave approximately £2 million to individuals – from children to First World War veterans.

Here are three very different ways the ABF is making a difference.

Shane Hartop

WHEN Gnr Dean Hartop's ten-year-old son, Shane, needed a new electronically-powered wheelchair, the ABF was there.

Shane's mum, Sharon, said: "We have been posted at Larkhill for the past eight years. In that time Shane's been through four wheelchairs.

"As you can imagine, he is a growing boy who wants a to be playing outside like his friends. The new wheelchair is much bigger and more comfortable than previous ones and, as it is electronically powered, it gives him the chance to have fun like any other kid."

"You should see the way he whizzes around in it – he's a complete road hog."

Earlier this year Gnr Hartop approached Maj Doug Naylor, the welfare officer with 14 Regiment RA,

to alert him about Shane's need for a replacement wheelchair.

Maj Naylor requested a grant from the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund on the family's behalf and, with the help of contributions from the ABF and the British Legion, this request was promptly assessed and administered. Shane received his new wheels three months later.

Gnr Hartop said: "Before this vehicle my wife and I had to be with Shane constantly."

"He was not able to manoeuvre the wheelchair by himself for very long as he is quite small for his age."

"This meant that if he wanted to go somewhere with his friends we would have to make time to accompany him. We have so much freedom now and so does Shane."



THE Army Benevolent Fund can help if you are:

- A member, or former member, of the British Regular Army.
- A spouse, former spouse, widow or widower of a member, or former member, of the British Regular Army.
- A child or other dependant of a member, or former member, of the British Regular Army.
- A current or former member of the Reserve Army (and their dependants) if they have completed one year's satisfactory service, or, former members three years

The fund carries out this role on behalf of the regiments and corps last year helping more than 80 charities with grants totalling £2million.

Picture: Steve Dock

Getting along nicely: Shane powers past dad Dean in his new set of wheels. Mum, Sharon, says he's a road hog

Martin Newman

MARTIN Newman joined The Queen's Regiment in 1985. Five years later he was involved in a serious road accident. He was lucky to survive. He sustained serious head injuries which limited his mobility and severely restricted his ability to communicate. He was discharged from the Army in 1992 and eventually moved to Dolphin Court in Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Dolphin Court is an independent living centre for 15 severely disabled people run by the John Grooms charity. Each resident has their own flat so, if they wish, they can be self-sufficient.

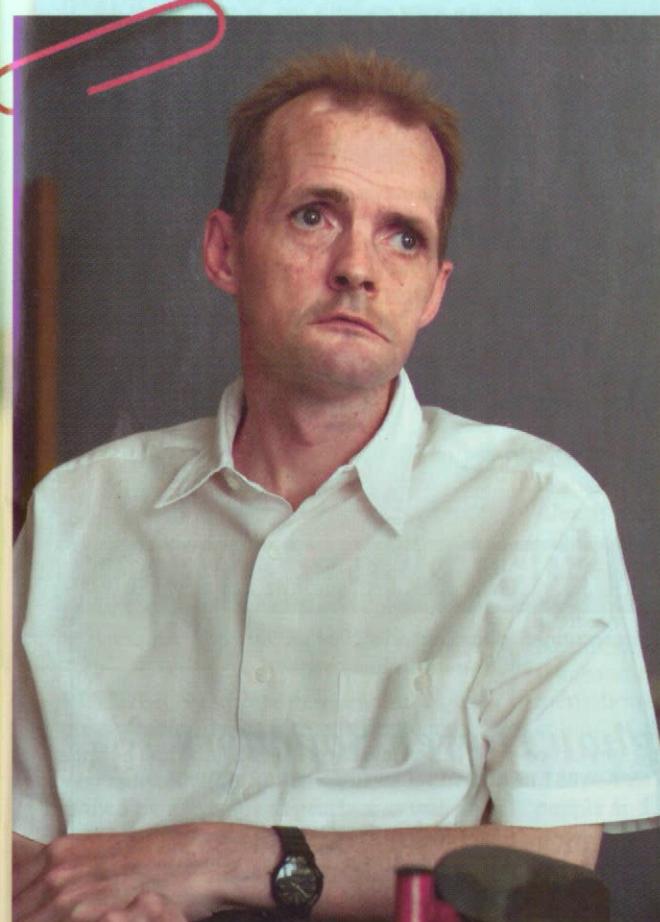
Picture: Mike Weston

Moving on: Martin is gaining greater independence through the John Grooms charity and ABF grants

safe in the knowledge that help is at hand if they need it.

With The Queen's Regiment, the ABF has helped to upgrade Martin's facilities, measures which have had a significant effect on his quality of life. One of these improvements means Martin now has access to a combination microwave and grill so can decide when and what to eat.

Grants have also allowed Dolphin Court to buy a specialist electric bed into which Martin can move himself and reach for the light, a drink or a book without being dependent on a carer.



Jack Davis

JACK Davis, 107, is the oldest survivor of the First World War in England. In 1914, aged 19, Jack joined the 6th Battalion, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, fighting in some of the bloodiest battles of the campaign.

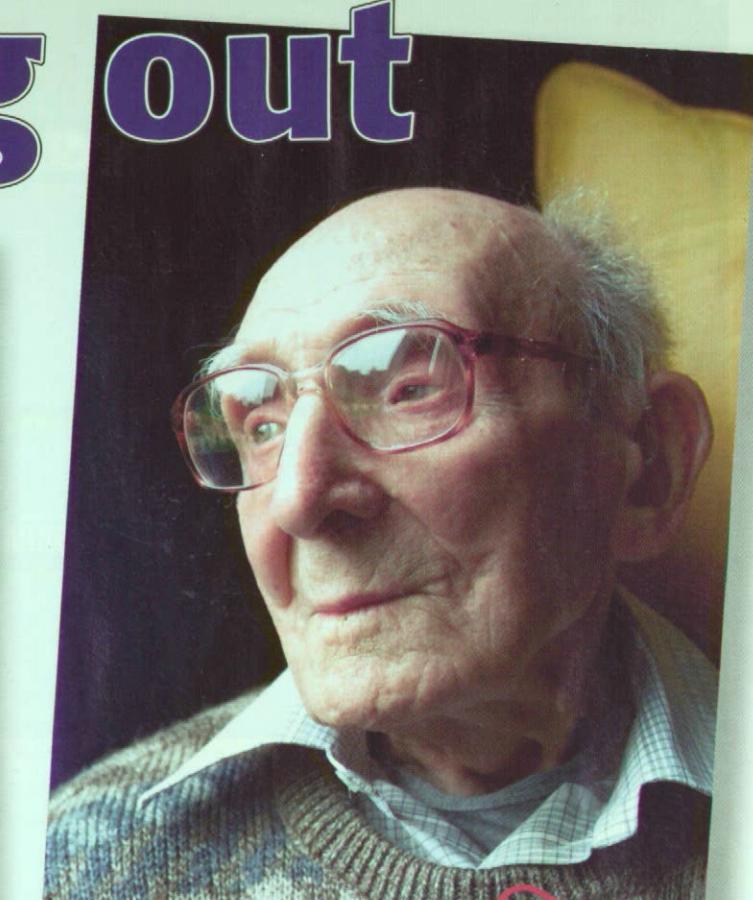
Despite his great age, Jack's mind is firm and his memory sharp. Sitting by the window in the nursing home in Buckinghamshire, partly paid for by the ABF, he looks out over the garden at the fading summer flowers.

With a voice steady and clear, he spoke of the desperate days in the trenches, sometimes pausing halfway through a sentence for a long moment only to pick up the thread and continue.

"I am a fatalist," he said. "I believe whatever will be, will be. Your future is all mapped out for you. I realised this right through the campaign."

Picture: Mike Weston

Survivor: Jack remembers Queen Victoria's funeral and troops returning from the Boer War the next year in 1902



from the time I first went into the trenches. I knew I had a charmed life.

"I have come out of the stickiest places where you either get killed, taken prisoner or whatever."

"With all this in mind I have to carry out my vow to all those who never came back. Some were never found, they were boys of my own battalion."

"There are 16,000 names on the Menin Gate memorial of those who never came back. I often say to myself I should be there."

Next month Jack will recite Laurence Binyon's eulogy *For The Fallen* at the Menin Gate in Belgium. As the interview drew to a close, Jack leant forward, and looking out at the flowers in the garden, he said: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning" – he paused for a long moment – "we will remember them."



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Kitbits

Gunners to get Mamba

ROYAL Artillery regiments are to be equipped with a shell and mortar-locating radar system trialled by the Royal Marines in Afghanistan.

Mamba (Mobile Artillery Monitoring Battlefield Radar), based on Ericsson's Arthur artillery weapon-locating system, is so advanced it can detect shells masked by ground terrain.

A contract has been placed with Ericsson Microwave Systems, with the equipment due to enter service in 2004. It will be used by Royal Artillery regiments supporting 16 Air Assault Brigade and 3 Commando Brigade, the key rapid reaction forces. Mamba will be issued to 5 Regiment RA, attached to 16 Brigade, and made available to 29 Commando Regiment RA, attached to 3 Brigade.

Typhoon by name ...

TYPHOON is the Royal Air Force's official name for Eurofighter, the fast jet due to replace its Tornado F3 and Jaguar aircraft in air defence, offensive air support and tactical reconnaissance roles. Being developed by the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain, the Typhoon is expected to be operational by the end of the decade.

Falcon bidders selected

BAE Systems and Marconi Mobile have been chosen by the MoD as preferred bidders for the assessment phase of the first stage of the Falcon (Formation Communications System) programme. This is the first phase of a £430-million competition to provide a secure comms system for senior commanders directing operations on the battlefield.

Falcon will play a key role in connecting systems like Skynet and Bowman.

Duro set to make a splash



BUCHER'S Duro all-terrain, multi-purpose vehicle, above, is due to come into service with the Royal Signals later this year. Its full-time, all-wheel drive is controlled by a five-speed gearbox as well as a two-range transfer case. Power comes courtesy of a six-cylinder direct injection diesel engine.

Picture: Steve Dock



Lt Col Alex Boyd demonstrates his brainchild, an orange ballistic blanket

Picture: Alan Lewis

Bomb blanket smothers blast

A BOMB blanket – the latest device in the fight against terrorist weapons in Northern Ireland – has been unveiled.

The ballistic blanket, to give it its proper title, was the brainchild of Lt Col Alex Boyd, Chief Ammunition Technical Office (CATO) in the province.

Made of layers of bright orange ballistic sheeting and measuring approximately 1.5m by 1.5m, the blanket is designed to be thrown over unexploded pipe bombs. It substantially reduces the blast and fragmentation effects of an explosion. The colour of the fabric is intended to warn others of the danger.

Pipe-bomb attacks have killed five people and injured 47 during the past five years in Northern Ireland. In the first seven months of this year there were 236 incidents involving 309 pipe bombs.

Flying office on way to ops near you ...

A NEW generation of air-portable offices have been ordered for units in the field on overseas deployments.

The new operational portable offices (OPOs), which will provide facilities for a range of administrative and logistic tasks, are to be built by G3 Systems of Cambridgeshire under an £8-million contract. In all, 324 steel-base units will be in service by 2004.

Unlike the ageing equipment they will replace, the OPOs will include standard comms and power connections and an adaptable internal layout. They can be delivered anywhere in the world by Hercules C130, ship, road or rail.

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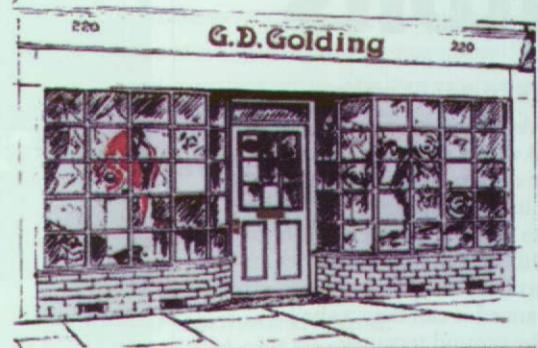





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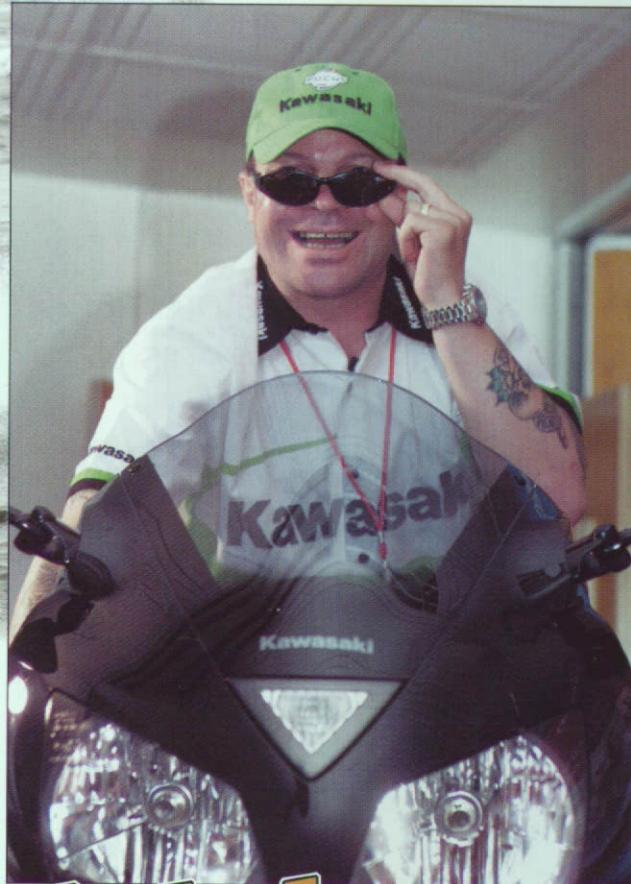
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No stopping them: Mark, inset, in the yellow and black top, at the controls of the rib which he raced around the Isle of Wight, above, and Billy, right, who is keen to break the blind land speed record



Blind ambition

Ex-soldiers Mark and Billy show blindness is no bar to speed on land or water

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main
and Steve Dock

FORMER soldier Mark Threadgold has broken the world endurance record for a blind person driving a powerboat. He drove the rigid inflatable, known as a rib, around the Isle of Wight – a distance of 57.7 nautical miles – in an hour and 50 minutes.

Mark, who hit a top speed of 37 knots (51mph), was in sole charge of the boat during the attempt. Navigator Spr Steve Board, of 39 Engineer Regiment, stood next to him throughout, shouting instructions over the din of the engines.

It was a perfect performance, with only two slight hiccups. The first was when the rib went over a large wake and Mark's knee hit the control console, turning the

engine off. Power was quickly restored. Ironically, the other incident occurred when the driver of a pleasure boat wasn't looking where he was going and Mark had to take rapid evasive action.

"The challenge was absolutely superb and when I finished I didn't hear the cheering. I just gritted my teeth and hung on for dear life. It was fantastic."

Before losing his sight following a serious head injury in 1999, Mark was a Regular soldier for 15 years, achieving the rank of sergeant in the Royal Corps of Signals.

After leaving hospital, he was referred to St Dunstan's, which provides lifelong care for ex-Service men and women, for retraining. It is hoped Mark's record bid will help raise £100,000 so more blind ex-Servicemen can achieve their ambitions.

Another St Dunstan's realising a dream is former SSgt Billy Baxter of the Royal Horse Artillery. He spent 20 years in the Army but lost his sight after returning from Bosnia. Doctors diagnosed a rare eye disease and he is now totally blind.

Billy plans an attempt to break the blind solo world land speed record next summer, a challenge in which he plans to achieve speeds of more than 150mph on an unmodified high-performance Kawasaki ZX-12R motor cycle.

The project began when Billy met fellow St Dunstan's and blind solo world land speed record holder Ken Moss. Eager to learn how Ken had achieved his aim, Billy hooked up with old mate Paul Gower, a former Flying Gunner in the Royal Artillery motor-cycle display team. The Billy Whizz Challenge was born.

During the summer Billy toured the country with the Flying Gunners as part of the Blind Ambition Campaign. More than 86p in every £1 raised by the campaign goes to help blind ex-Service men and women achieve their remarkable ambitions.

Billy said: "I have always dreamed of being part of the motor-cycle display team. It has taken me 21 years and cost me my eyesight, and now as a civilian I am a Flying Gunner – it's absolutely terrific."

Bobby-dazzler

Former ammo storeman 23312133 LCpl Charlton B recalls his National Service days

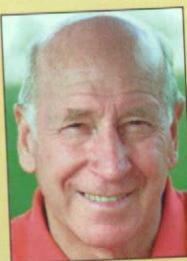
Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

ASK football legend Sir Bobby Charlton about his National Service in the Army and the chances are he will quip: "One of the happiest days of my life was when I got demobbed."

The comment is typical of the honest outlook on life of one of Britain's greatest sporting ambassadors. But although the former Manchester United and England captain was glad to leave the khaki behind him, he retains some happy memories of his time in the Royal Army Service Corps during the mid-1950s.

"The problem with the Army was that it was somewhere where I couldn't play football every day," he told *Soldier* during an exclusive interview at a golf club near Manchester.

Already a schoolboy international, the future World Cup winner had just embarked on his glittering football career when the call-up came. But the Army authorities knew a good thing when they saw it and made use of his football skills. It meant a busy schedule, playing for the Army on Wednesdays and turning out for



Charlton fact file

Born: October 11, 1937, Ashington, Northumberland
International appearances: 106
International goals: 49 (all-time record)

Appearances: 752 (league and cup) including 38 for Preston North End.
Goals 247: (8 for Preston)

Football Writers' Player of the Year: 1966
European Footballer of the Year: 1966

PFA Merit Award: 1974

Manager of Preston North End (1974-75)

Named in the EuroCard/MasterCard All-Time European Championship Team selected by journalists and announced on June 24, 1992 - the only Englishman in the team.

HONOURS

World Cup 1966, European Cup 1968, First Division Champions 1957, 1965, 1967.

FA Cup 1963

United at weekends, with his Service duties in between.

"I was an ammunition storeman based near Shrewsbury," he recalled. "I think the club had pulled a few strings to get me posted reasonably close to Manchester and, to be fair, the Army wanted to help professional footballers get home at weekends to play if they could. So we got away every Friday."

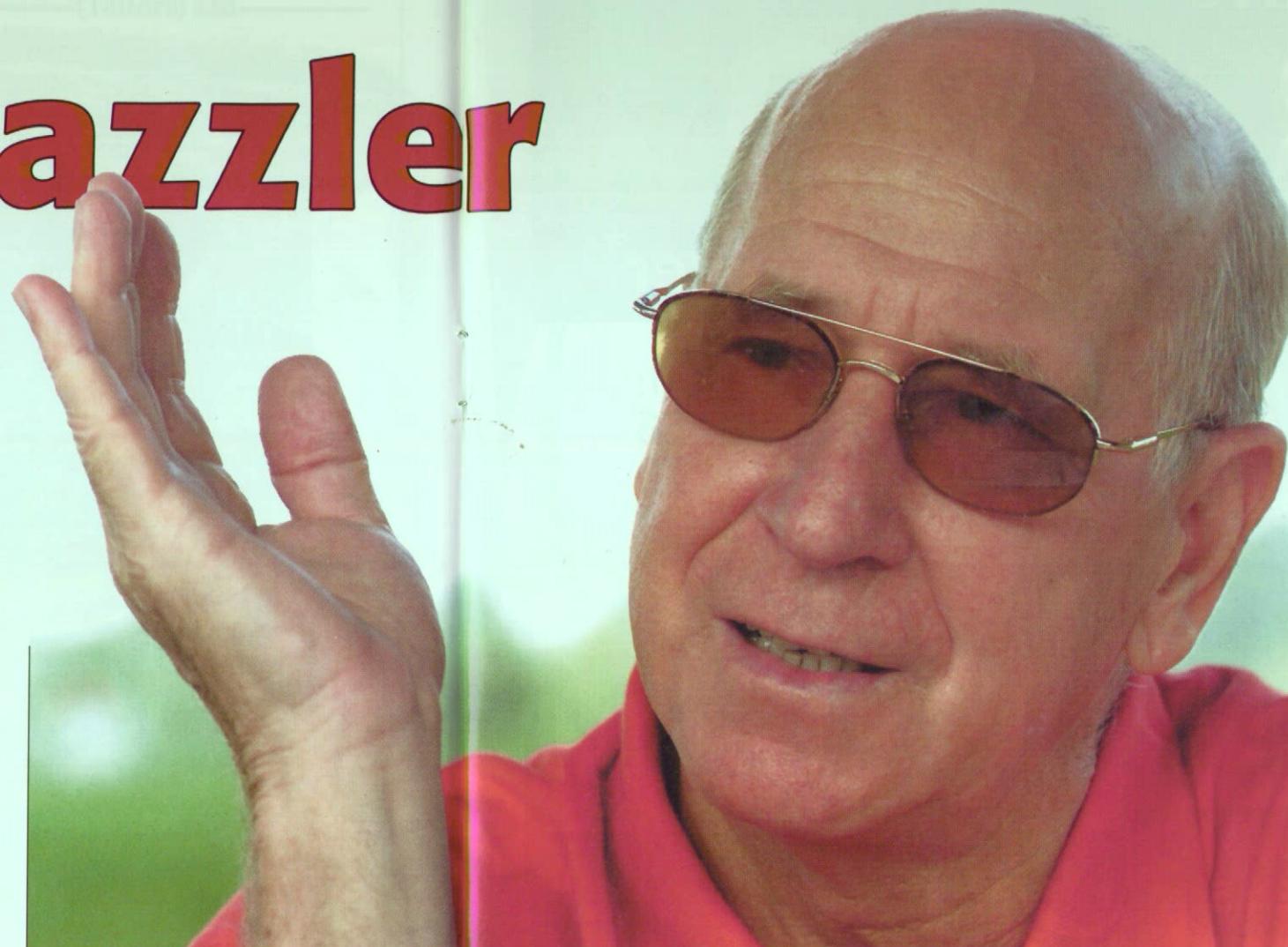
He was in the same company as Duncan Edwards, another United and England international. The finest English player of his generation, Edwards would almost certainly have captained England during the 1966 World Cup had he not tragically died from his injuries after the Munich Air Crash in 1958, aged just 21. Charlton survived the crash with minor injuries. But that was in the future.

"We travelled home together on the train every Friday night for the Saturday match and on Sunday morning we went back to the Army. A couple of times we finished up in Ludlow after we missed the stop because we were knackered and asleep."

Sir Bobby reckons the Army team of the mid-Fifties was as good as any team in the Premiership today. Just about every one of them was an international or future international. Teams included Alan Hodgkinson, the Sheffield United and England goalkeeper, Bill Foulkes, Duncan Edwards and Eddie Coleman (Man Utd and England), Stan Anderson, (Newcastle, Sunderland and England), Jim Baxter (Rangers and Scotland), Dave Mackay (Hearts, Spurs, Derby and Scotland), Cliff Jones (Spurs and Wales) and Charlton himself.

"It was a fantastic team," he said. "We played every Wednesday night and we won almost everywhere we went." Games included fixtures against Everton, Spurs and Glasgow Rangers.

"The kingpin was big Duncan. He was magical. When I first arrived at



Sir Bobby: "The Army taught me a great deal; I learned about discipline, time-keeping, how to work with people, and it gave me independence"

Shrewsbury he had already been there a year and must have known I was coming. I didn't have a mattress. Off he went and after some noise sounding like items being thrown on the floor, he came back with the mattress, obviously someone else's."

Despite the major inconvenience to his life that National Service represented, Sir Bobby says the Army taught him a great deal.

"I learned about discipline, time-keeping, how to work with people, and it gave me independence."

"I had never really been on my own before and like a lot of people, I did not want to go into National Service, but many of us left as better people."

"I am grateful for what I learned in the Army. I made some good pals who I keep in contact with even today."

He tried other sports during his service, including boxing, which he didn't like.

"My arms were too weak," he recalled with a smile. "I can't understand how boxers can fight for 15 rounds."

And there was a potential problem just around the corner when the Suez Crisis erupted during his stint in uniform. The young Charlton was nervous, not about

the possibility of going to war, but that he might miss a weekend's football. Fortunately war was averted and his football continued and thrived.

It was during his time in the Army that he made his first-team debut for United in October 1956, scoring twice in a 4-2 home win over Charlton.

The following year in Madrid he saw the man he regards as the best player he has ever seen.

"I agree with Sir Tom Finney (Soldier July 2002)," he said. "Alfredo di Stefano was the greatest I ever saw."

"I was still in the Army and United reached the semi-finals of the European Cup against Real Madrid, and I got time off to go. I was a reserve and because there were no substitutes in those days, I had to sit in the stands. I remember seeing this player and he tore us apart. It was di Stefano."

"Nothing has changed my mind. He was the most intelligent, tough and gifted player I have ever seen. He could score goals too and he read the game better than anyone."

Sir Bobby has admired many other

players past and present. "Maradona was phenomenal with his pace, his bravery and his skill; and Pele was probably the most naturally gifted player. Cruyff and Puskas were great, too."

Of today's crop, he likes David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, and Ryan Giggs from Man United, and Michael Owen and Stephen Gerrard of Liverpool.

'The Army team of the mid-Fifties was as good as any team in today's Premiership'

"And Roy Keane, for all his problems, is a wonderful player," he said. "It staggers me how much he can squeeze out of a game."

Now a director of Manchester United, Sir Bobby was a member of the team that made the unsuccessful bid for the 2006 World Cup to be held in England.

"It was a disappointment but not unexpected," he admitted. "It was politics and at the end of the day favours get called in. We didn't have enough people who owed us anything, yet we had easily the best bid."

"So I was really pleased about the success of the recent Commonwealth

THE MUNICH AIR CRASH

It was at 3.04pm on February 6, 1958 that a football team died.

Manchester United were returning from a 3-3 draw with Red Star Belgrade and were through to the semi-finals of the European Cup.

Their aircraft, an Elizabethan, had stopped at Munich to refuel but slush on the runway prevented the plane from leaving the ground on take-off and it crashed through the perimeter fence and burst into flames.

Twenty-one people died, including seven of the United team - Roger Byrne, Tommy Taylor, Mark Jones, David Pegg, Geoff Bent, Eddie Colman and Billy Whelan. Fifteen days later, Duncan Edwards, still regarded by many as United's greatest ever player, died from his injuries.

Aged just 20, Bobby Charlton had been thrown 40 yards clear of the wreckage and escaped with a cut head.

Two months later, Charlton made his England debut and a month after that, United reached the FA Cup Final with a scratch side and went down 2-1 to Bolton Wanderers.

Games; we showed the world we can organise these events standing on our heads."

While his proudest moments as a player came as a World Cup winner with England and European Cup victory with United (when he scored twice and was part of the legendary Best, Law and Charlton triumvirate) he said the most satisfying time was as a director when the club achieved the treble in 1999. "It took real character to win that."

Looking back on a distinguished career, he never regretted joining United in preference to his home town club of Newcastle, where his uncle, the legendary Jackie Milburn, had been such a hero.

"I knew I was good and found it easy to play and I wanted to travel. Manchester United were first to come and get me. Newcastle were the last. I have not regretted it."

And of his time in National Service?

"I have a lot to thank the Army for. I learned from the Army how to get the best out of myself and how to do things together. The Army is like a football team and I learned you can't do it all on your own."

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Hazardous job:
Peter Hudson,
above

Don't try this at home: Peter working with deadly mustard agent in the laboratory, left

Nasty work . . . but someone's got to do it

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TUCKED away in northern Germany is a factory complex with a sinister secret. Visitors are advised to tread carefully and touch nothing.

It is a destruction centre for chemical weapons and a key player on the site is Territorial Army soldier Peter Hudson, a former Regular sapper with 32 and later 33 Armoured Engineer Regiment.

Peter, who works for Geka, the company which owns the complex outside the small town of Münster Lager, analyses some of the nastiest weapons around, including, phosgene, chlorine and mustard gas. Although the samples he sees are often more than 80 years old, they are as lethal today as when they were made.

After leaving the Army in 1995 Peter settled in Germany to work for a bomb disposal company dealing with chemical weapon shells.

When he is not on TA duty with 412 Amphibious Engineer Troop, part of 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, 28 Engineer Regiment in Hameln, he disposes of the chemicals he helped unearth.

"I did a two-year college course in Germany to become an environmental protection technical assistant," said Peter, who became head of laboratory last year

TA sapper is steadily destroying Germany's First World War legacy of chemical weapons

and doubles up as 28 Regiment's assistant NBC instructor.

The company uses a conventional oil-burning incinerator to dispose of concentrated chemical warfare agents and heavily contaminated material.

A second plant on the site is used to wash up to 30 tonnes of contaminated soil a day. Concentrated waste from the soil-washing plant is vitrified (turned to glass) in a plasma reactor and disposed of by melting at around 1,400C.

"The soils contain a lot of arsenic as a result of German experiments up to the end of the Second World War," he said.

Shells containing chemical agents turn up all the time. Many failed to detonate and so contain active explosives. Most are corroded by age.

In each case the fuse has to be cut or milled off and explosives and agents separated. Peter, using state-of-the-art equipment, analyses what they are dealing with.

The most common chemical is sulphur

mustard, or mustard gas, which causes tissue disruption. Fist-sized blisters appear six hours after contact and inhalation has the same result on the lungs.

Mustard gas is actually a liquid and since tiny amounts can cause major damage, handling it is potentially dangerous, even in the safety-first environment of the laboratory.

Another "nasty" is phosgene. "It is a gas that reacts with the moisture in the lungs," said Peter. "This reaction produces hydrochloric acid, breaks down the tissue of the lungs and causes them to fill up with liquid. The victim drowns in his own body fluids."

Mustard agent is incinerated at 1,000C for six to eight hours and then at 1,200C. Nothing remains. Phosgene is vented out of the shell into a sealed container system and washed in a neutralising solution.

Safety in the lab is paramount, with staff keeping an eye on each other. A medical team and ambulance are on permanent standby, backed-up by a doctors in Münster trained in the treatment of chemical warfare injuries.

Although more than 150,000kg of chemical agents have been destroyed since the plant opened in 1982, the workload is not decreasing. Three bunkers are stacked with shells awaiting processing.

It's a nasty job, but someone's got to do it.

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High note: Massed Pipes and Drums march on to the Esplanade at the start of the evening performance



Exotic: A stunning drum, dancing and martial arts display was put on by performers from North-East India

Showtime

Edinburgh's unique military pageant thrills worldwide audience of millions

Pictures: Steve Dock

AN international television audience estimated at 100 million enjoyed this summer's Edinburgh Tattoo in the spectacular shadow of the battlements which dominate the city skyline atop the great castle rock.

During the three-week run of the military pageant, dedicated this year to the Queen's Golden Jubilee, more than 217,000 people packed into the stands which turn the Esplanade below the castle into a majestic auditorium.

Performing alongside musicians and dancers from all over the world, the massed bands and pipes-and-drums of the British Army, the vibrant heart of the tattoo, echoed into the evening sky.

In a riveting climax to each programme, the 1,200-strong cast, supported by a guard of honour provided by the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, paid a nightly tribute to the Queen.

The music was punctuated by an all-action display of military skills provided by men of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



Different: Members of the Band of the Mounted Arms, Royal Netherlands Army, wearing First World War uniforms and riding bicycles, provide a unique musical display

Kiwi tones: Musicians from the New Zealand Army Band perform on the Esplanade, below



Rhythm: The Albany Band of the US Marine Corps takes up the beat, above



Island influence: The Royal Corps of Musicians, Tonga, give it their all, above

In their pomp: Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment lend their ceremonial glamour to the show, right

On top of the world

Cliff-hanger: Lt Al Steel, A and SH, climbs Wedge Smear, Kananaski Valley, Canada



With around 2,000 members, the Army Mountaineering Association is bigger than some corps

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Army Mountaineering Association

SCALING the world's highest peaks in treacherous weather is not for the faint-hearted.

But it's all in a day's work for members of the Army Mountaineering Association (AMA), ordinary soldiers looking for adventure, excitement and comradeship. Their sport is a serious, often dangerous and occasionally fatal pastime.

Since its formation in 1957, the AMA has trained and helped thousands of climbers on hundreds of expeditions to virtually every substantial mountain range on the planet.

George Leigh Mallory, who perished on Everest in 1924, is supposed to have responded "Because it is there" when asked why he wanted to climb the mountain.

It remains as good as reason as any for people to take up climbing. That and, of course, the adrenalin rush and satisfaction that comes with achieving a difficult challenge while Mother Nature has her back turned.

Former members of this professional and well-prepared outfit include the leg-

High spots

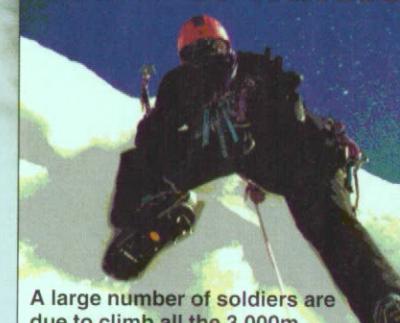
NINE of the world's highest peaks are found in the **Himalayas**. They include Everest at 8,848m (29,028ft) and Kanchenjunga, first climbed in 1955, at 8,586m (28,169ft).

The **Karakoram range** divides Pakistan from China and is home to the world's second highest peak, K2, also known as Godwin Austen. It stands at 8,611m (28,250ft).

Running down the western side of South America in an unbroken chain of 5,500 miles are the **Andes**. The highest peak is Aconcagua 6,949m (22,834ft) in Argentina.

North America's highest peak is Mount McKinley, 6,195m (20,320ft), part of the **Rocky Mountains** which stretch more than 3,000 miles on the western side.

Peaks of fitness



A large number of soldiers are due to climb all the 3,000m peaks during Exercise Canadian Rockies next summer. The AMA says it will require physical fitness, courage, self-reliance and determination... in other words, adventurous training at its best and most serious.

endary Sir Chris Bonington and Everest climber Bronco Lane, a corporal when he joined in 1968, who acknowledges a debt of gratitude to the association.

Its members, men and women, come from all ranks, regiments and corps and represent all levels of experience.

The AMA is not just about climbing technique, however. "It's also about the professional development of individuals," said publicity officer Maj Paul Fish RLC.

It encompasses administration, to establish the venture, as well as management and leadership requirements, which means frequent pressurised decision-making. Perhaps most important is *esprit de corps*, a group sense of common purpose and the establishment of cohesive teamwork.

In addition to its high-profile, headline-grabbing expeditions, the association organises several training exercises a year.

This year these will include the Alps, Spain and Canada for rock and ice climbing.

In his book, *Military Mountaineering*, Bronco Lane tells of climbs to Everest in 1976 and 1984, both AMA expeditions, and of the unselfishness of comrades.



High-rise: SSgt Gaz Davies, R Sigs, makes his way up Sinatra Falls on Mount Kidd in Canada

It is not just about climbing technique... it's also about the professional development of individuals

On the first of these, during which Sgt Brummie Stokes joined Bronco to reach the summit, their descent involved setting up an emergency bivouac at 28,000ft. They were in a bad way when 2nd Lt John Scott, Para, and Capt Pat Gunson, REME, reached them.

The team had already suffered the tragic loss of Capt Terry Thompson RM, who had fallen into a crevasse, and Scott and Gunson gave up their own chance of reaching the summit to help Bronco and Brummie survive.

Their spirit – and good rope – is what binds climbers together. So does their sense of humour.

Bronco presented to the National Army Museum in Chelsea the fingers and toes he lost to frostbite on Everest.

The AMA grew out of the Royal Engineers Ski and Mountaineering Club established by Gerry Finch and Jim Gavin in 1947, although the first recorded post-war Service expedition took place a year earlier when Jimmy Roberts and George Latimer, on leave from their Gurkha battalion, climbed above 25,000ft in the eastern



Maj Paul Fish

Karakoram. Army mountaineering enjoyed a high profile, no more so than in 1953 when Col John Hunt led the Everest party that famously made the first ascent through Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Since its inaugural expedition in 1959 to the Karakoram, the association has not looked back. It continues to thrive.

Indoor climbing, much used by those preparing for outdoor expeditions, was recently recognised as a sport by the Army Sports Control Board.

Those who take up the challenge of the mountains have to be as tough as nails. The contents of their bergens make the infantryman's equivalent look like a school sack. They carry huge amounts of kit, ranging from warm clothing, tents, ice axes and crampon to rope and all they need to eat. You have got to be supremely fit just to lug the gear.

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Definitive guide to regimental museums, ancestor tracing and 4,000 volume regimental bibliography
www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum
www.rememuseum.org.uk

REME Museum of Technology
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

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www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SHORTS

Adventurous training

THE Army Mountaineering Association (AMA) is holding an expedition-planning symposium at the Joint Service Mountain Training Wing in North Wales on November 1-3.

The event, which costs £5 per person, will cover everything from research to funding, and will be presented by relevant experts.

For more information write to: Capt S A Macdonald, Expedition Symposium, JSMTW(I), Plas Llanfair, Llanfair P-G, Anglesey LL61 6NT.

Scientists' grand effort

FIVE soldiers from Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham successfully completed the Scottish Islands Peak Race and raised more than £1,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The team of Maj Bill Fooks (9/12 L), Maj David Pestridge (REME), Maj Nigel Cribb (RE), Maj Leigh Tingey (RE) and Maj Ben Hughes (RE) were one of only 23 crews to complete the event, which included a 60-mile run and 160-nautical mile sail.

Football fundamentals

THE Army Football Association is running a series of UEFA-accredited coaching courses for Army personnel this month.

Course dates include: Level one – October 21-24; Level three – October 20-31. For further information contact Steve Stone on 01252 347962 or Mil 94222 2962.

Sting in the tail-end

A THIRTY-run last wicket stand from 1 RGBW condemned 1 PWO to defeat in the Infantry Cricket Cup final.

Army and Combined Services all-rounder Pte Trevor Fabien had put 1 PWO in firm control of the match after amassing an unbeaten 133, but, despite losing their ninth wicket while still 32 runs short of the required 190 total, 1 RGBW's lower order held on to claim a deserved team victory.

International invite

ALL military units are invited to apply for an application form to enter next year's Akrotiri international rugby tens tournament, which will be held at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus on May 26-30.

The tournament will feature 32 men's and eight women's teams.

Any units interested in taking part should write to: Capt Vaissiere, Rugby tens co-ordinator, Cyprus Service Support Unit, General Support Squadron, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 57. Applications should be requested before November 1.

Adventurous training

Tiger on the hunt for glory

Former Army footballer has his heart set on the Hull-abaloo of a promotion party

Interview: Andy Simms

Picture: Graeme Main

HEAVILY-TIPPED by the bookmakers as favourites for promotion, and with a purpose-built, 25,000-seater stadium under construction, supporters of Nationwide League Division Three side Hull City FC have more reason than most to be confident about their team's prospects this season.

But it is not only the fans on the terraces of Boothferry Park that are salivating over the possibility of a championship-winning campaign. The Tigers' team captain and three-times Army cup winner, Justin Whittle, has his heart set on being part of a promotion-winning side – an achievement that has so far eluded the right-footed centre-back during his eight years as a professional footballer.

Despite having man-marked some of football's most prolific strikers and made the 200th appearance of his senior career last season, Whittle, who served in the Royal Army Pay Corps for three years during the early 1990s, has yet to realise his childhood dream of lifting a championship trophy.

Now 31, the defender's quest for silverware began in earnest when he left the Army in 1994 after being spotted by a scout while playing for the British Army of the Rhine team and recommended to Celtic's manager at the time, Lou Macari.

"Signing for Celtic came as a major shock," conceded Whittle, who was attached to 26 Engineer Regiment, and later 28 Engineer Regiment, in Germany after completing basic training. "It was a big thing to come out of the Army and go straight to a top club like Celtic – it's a massive club."

"Football has always been my number one sport and that is always what I have wanted to do, so moving to Celtic was an easy decision to make," he said. "However, if it hadn't been for football then I would have stayed in the Army."

"I really enjoyed my three years of service and the only way I was going to come out was to play professional football."

But the defender's dream move north of the border proved to be short-lived.

'I really enjoyed my three years of service and the only way I was going to come out was to play professional football'

Three months after Whittle arrived at Celtic Park Macari was sacked as The Bhoys' boss and took up the vacant managerial post at Stoke City.

"I had the choice of either trying my luck at Celtic or moving with Lou to Stoke," he said. "And in the end I decided that I would have a better chance of first team football playing under the manager who had signed me."

"I never actually made a first team appearance for Celtic because by the time my registration had come through I was already on my way to Stoke."

"Despite everything Celtic was a great experience and I learned a lot in such a short space of time. It is hard not to improve as a player when you are training with the likes of Charlie Nicholas, Gary Gillespie, John Collins and Pat Bonner every day."

The calculated gamble for first team football paid dividends and Whittle became a regular name on the Stoke City team sheet, notching up 80 appearances during a four-year spell with the Staffordshire club. And it was while playing at Stoke's Victoria Ground that Whittle first came within a whisker of fulfilling his lifelong ambition. In 1996 Stoke reached the first division play-offs but were denied a place in the final, and a chance of promotion to the Premiership, by a Leicester City side which featured future England forward Emilie Heskey.

Two years later and Whittle, frustrated by a lack of first team football under new manager Brian Little, parted company with Stoke and accepted an offer to play for Hull City.

"When Hull came in for me during Brian's first season at Stoke I was struggling to hold down a place in the starting line-up," Whittle explained. "I could have stayed where I was but a move to Hull represented a new challenge – they were bottom of the Third Division on 15 points and 12 points adrift of the safety zone."

But once again Whittle's decision to move on to pastures new proved a worthwhile risk.

A succession of peerless man-of-the-match performances from the 6ft 1in full-back helped Hull dodge relegation from



Looking up: Veteran defender Justin Whittle has his sights set on Second Division football

the Football League and earned Whittle the tag of fans' favourite at Boothferry Park. Sorely missed when absent, the Tigers' skipper then played a pivotal role in the team's 2000/2001 campaign, helping them to the play-offs for the first time in their history.

"Winning promotion is still my main ambition," he said. "I have been involved in two play-offs now and lost out both times. Hopefully, if we have a good season and do get there again it will be a case of third time lucky for me."

SHORTS

Holmes howler . . .

COMMONWEALTH gold medallist Kelly Holmes was a former sergeant in the AGC and not a member of the APTC as stated in "Old soldier marches on" in September's *Soldier*.

Orienteer strikes gold

ARMY medic Lt Sarah Rollins (RAMC) helped guide the British women's relay team to gold at the World University Orienteering Championships in Varna, Bulgaria.

The victory marked only Britain's second relay medal in the history of the championships, the first being a silver in Latvia in 1990.

Championship bid

THE Highlanders – the Army's lone shinty team – begin their 2002/2003 campaign this month.

Having finished in mid-table last season, the team, who play their home matches at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, have high hopes of winning promotion from South Division two.

Anyone interested in playing shinty should contact WO2 Stoddart on Mil 94748 5332.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to October . . .

ANGLING: 11-16 – Army shore championships (Dover); 15-16 – Game fishing competition (Rutland Water).

ATHLETICS: 19 – World duathlon championships (Georgia, USA).

CANOEING: 1-6 – Inter-Services slalom championships (Grand Tully, Scotland); 19-20 – Tri-Service surf training weekend (St Mawgan).

FOOTBALL: 16-17 – Women's six-a-side tournament (Deepcut); 16 – BA(G) v Army women (TBC).

MARTIAL ARTS: 26 – Army championships (Aldershot).

NETBALL: 16 – 4 Div championships (Aldershot).

ORIENTEERING: 2 – AGC championships (Avon); 9 – 4/5 Div league meeting (Sidbury Hill); 30 – 4/5 Div league meeting (Didcot).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 2 – Yeoman Cup final (Aldershot); 4 – Scottish Courage Cup final (TBC).

SHINTY: 5 – St Andrews University v The Highlanders (Away); 12 – The Highlanders v Glasgow Mid Argyll (Home); 26 – Edinburgh East Lothian v The Highlanders (Away).

SURFING: 6-13 – Army championships (Brawdy).

WINDSURFING: 12-13 – Inter-Services championships (Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy, Dorset).

RESULTS SERVICE...

ANGLING: Army game championships, inter-unit championship – 1, 39 Engr Regt (WO2 Al McGrory, WO2 Mac McCallum and Sgt Taff Jones); 2, 4 R Irish; 3, 1 Hldrs. **Open team event** – Soldier Palmers (WO2 John Hardy (Para), WO2 Graeme Sharp (Hldrs) and WO2 Jock Kettles (RS)). **Cap badge competition** – REME (WO1 Jon Waters, Sgt Jim Douglas and Maj Graham Thorpe). **Open pairs** – 1, WO1 Waters and Lt Col Steve Perkins (RE); 2, Cpl Charlie Will and WO2 Ronnie Christie (both 1 Hldrs); 3, WO2 Hardy and WO2 Sharp. **Open individual** – 1, WO1 Waters; 2, Cpl Will; 3, WO2 Hardy. **Army individual trophy** – 1, WO2 Hardy (37lb 5oz); 2, WO1 Waters; 3, WO2 Sharp.

ATHLETICS: Everest Marathon – 14, Sgt Mankumar Khambang (QG Signals); 17, Csgt Tarkajang Gurung (RGR); 18, Sgt Meenjang Gurung (QGE); 19, SSgt Palijar Tamang (QOGLR); 20, Capt Matt Hing (QOGLR); 24, Capt Paul Newson (QG Signals).

8 Infantry Brigade sports day winners, football – 1 Green Howards. Mixed event (climbing, clay pigeon shooting and paintballing) – Coldstream Guards HQ. **Tug of war** – 1 PWO Triathlon – 1 Green Howards. **Volleyball** – 1 Green Howards.

BOXING: 28 Engr Regt inter-squadron champions – 23 Amph Engr Sqn.

CLIMBING: Inter-Services championships, men's final – 1, LSgt Loz Owen (Army); 2, Capt Richard Baker (Army); 3, WO1 Mike Smith (Army). **Junior men's** – 1, 2nd Lt Graham Clark (Army); 2, OCdt Tom Odling (Army); 3, OCdt James Moore (Army). **Women's** – 1, Capt Leanne Callaghan (Army); 2, OCdt Jo Holden (Army); 3, Musn Sandra Jones (Royal Navy).

CRICKET: Inter-Services championships – Royal Navy (216-7) beat Army (208) by eight runs; RAF (241-2) beat Army (183) by 58 runs.

EXTREME SPORTS: 4 Div Super Teams competition, men's – 1, 8 CS Coy REME; 2, ATFC; 3, ATR Pirbright; 4, R H Haslar; 5, MCTC; 6, 4 GS Med Regt; 7, JSCSC; 8, 27 Tpr Regt RLC (1); 9, 27 Tpt Regt RLC (2); 10, 3 RSME Wksp; 11, 251 Sig Sqn. **Women's** – 1, ATFC; 2, 27 Tpt Regt RLC; 3, 4 GS Med Regt.

FOOTBALL: REME six-a-side competition, Kennedy Trophy final – 6 Bn REME (A) 2 SEME (A) 1. **Porter Plate final** – SEAE (A) 1 10 Regt RLC Wksp 0.

SAILING: Inter-corps dinghy team racing championships – 1, REME; 2, AAC.

SWIMMING: Army open water championships, 5km team winners – 2 Light Infantry (Capt Rob Windsor, LCpl Michael Gibbons and LCpl James Troupe).



Marathon innings: LCpl David Jones (47 AD Sqn RLC) on his way to an undefeated 194

Picture: Graeme Main

Runaway champs

47 AD Sqn RLC (328-3)
AGC Centre (176)
Minor Unit final

FREE-scoring 47 Air Defence Squadron RLC lifted the Minor Unit championship trophy for the second successive season after amassing 328 runs against the AGC Centre – the highest total ever scored in an Army Cup final. The winning margin was 182 runs.

Put into bat and facing a limited and largely inexperienced bowling line-up, the loggies raced to their record score. Most of the damage was inflicted by LCpl Lee Davies (58) and LCpl David Jones, who punished the AGC for four dropped catches, one of which came before he got off the mark, with an unbeaten innings of 194.

Despite the enormity of the task, the AGC, who had beaten last year's finalists 42 Engr Regt GEO to reach the Aldershot final, began their innings in positive fashion.

SSgt Jeff Lee (41) and Maj Mike Sykes (66) formed a formidable opening partnership, but when they were dismissed their team-mates offered little in the way of useful contributions and proved easy pickings for the in-form SSgt Mark Johnston (4-13).

Already a hero with the bat, man-of-the-match Jones then turned his hand to bowling, helping to condemn the AGC to defeat with a two-wicket haul.

4 R Irish (181)
2 RGJ (182-4)
Major Unit final

TIGHT fielding and a captain's innings from Lt James Fulton helped 2 RGJ to a six-wicket victory over 4 R Irish in the final of the Major Unit championships at Aldershot.

Batting first, the Irishmen looked well placed to take control of the match with their early order making good use of the extremely fast outfield. However, the wicket of Pte Dwain McGerrigle (44) proved decisive and prompted a mini-collapse. Skipper LCpl Mickey Mooney (42) staged a mid-order recovery, but even his heroics could do little to slow the steady fall of Irish wickets.

In reply, the Green Jackets also struggled to find any rhythm and at 23-3 looked to be in danger of defeat. Cue the arrival of skipper Fulton (78 not out) who, assisted by Capt Al Field (46), guided his men to victory by six wickets.



Reserves come in line

Part-time soldiers to switch next month to same pay structure as Regulars

THE RESERVES are about to transfer to the Pay 2000 structure. The next tranche, which will affect all personnel below the rank of two-star, move across to the new pay arrangements on November 1.

Those affected include Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), those on Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and members of the University Officers' Training Corps (UOTC). Also switching are members of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) and the Royal Irish (Home Service Part-Time).

The new structure mirrors, where possible, Pay 2000 for the Regular Army,

with two pay ranges – higher and lower – for other ranks and one for officers.

Some employment groups, including Reserve Special Forces, Late Entry (LE) officers, doctors, dentists, chaplains, veterinary officers, reserve OCFR and officers and adult instructors in the Combined Cadet Force and Army Cadet Force will continue to be paid on their existing scales and most will transfer to Pay 2000 next year.

The most significant and welcome change to pay for the Reserves is the introduction of incremental pay for both officers and soldiers.

Here's an at-a-glance guide to the new system for the Reserves, Royal Irish (HSPT) and MPGS:

- Pay 2000 provides a simpler, fairer pay system that rewards experience for all. It achieves equality with the Regulars and streamlines the process of transfer into full-time service (for example, mobilisation and FTRS).

- On transfer to Pay 2000 no one will receive less pay than they currently are.

- Pay 2000 applies to all ranks from brigadier down.

- All personnel will move to Pay 2000 at the increment level equal to or next above their basic daily rate of pay on October 31 this year.

- Trade allocations to higher and lower pay ranges will reflect Regular soldiers' trades where an equivalent exists. The allocation or reserve-specific trades has been published separately.

- Minimum of two pay rises a year – the Armed Forces Pay Review Body pay rise in April and on the anniversary of promotion.

- Additional increments in pay available on completing class two and class

one qualifications.

- Pay 2000 does not affect pensions for soldiers serving on pensionable terms.

- Progression up the increments based on experience, rank, qualifications and satisfactory performance.

- Satisfactory performance is a current certificate of efficiency, or a satisfactorily-graded confidential report, as appropriate.

- Unit level briefings will be undertaken to inform you further. Any questions should be directed to your unit administrative office.

Rates of pay for officers of the Territorial Army and Army Reserve Forces carrying out obligatory training and other duties and part-time reserve service under Additional Duties Commitments (ADC)

£ daily

RANK		
Brig +4	Level 5	205.25
Brig +3	Level 4	203.14
Brig +2	Level 3	201.05
Brig +1	Level 2	198.95
Brig OA	Level 1	196.86
Col +8	Level 9	177.01
Col +7	Level 8	174.90
Col +6	Level 7	172.79
Col +5	Level 6	170.69
Col +4	Level 5	168.59
Col +3	Level 4	166.48
Col +2	Level 3	164.38
Col +1	Level 2	162.27
Col OA	Level 1	160.15
Lt Col +8	Level 9	152.88
Lt Col +7	Level 8	151.04
Lt Col +6	Level 7	149.23
Lt Col +5	Level 6	144.04
Lt Col +4	Level 5	142.26
Lt Col +3	Level 4	140.48
Lt Col +2	Level 3	138.71
Lt Col +1	Level 2	136.93
Lt Col OA	Level 1	135.14
Maj +8	Level 9	115.31
Maj +7	Level 8	112.94
Maj +6	Level 7	110.56
Maj +5	Level 6	108.18
Maj +4	Level 5	105.80
Maj +3	Level 4	103.42
Maj +2	Level 3	101.03
Maj +1	Level 2	98.66
Maj OA	Level 1	96.28
Capt +8	Level 9	90.90
Capt +7	Level 8	89.87
Capt +6	Level 7	88.83
Capt +5	Level 6	86.77
Capt +4	Level 5	84.70
Capt +3	Level 4	82.63
Capt +2	Level 3	80.56
Capt +1	Level 2	78.49
Capt OA	Level 1	76.44
Lt +4	Level 10	65.93
Lt +3	Level 9	64.36
Lt +2	Level 8	62.80
Lt +1	Level 7	61.23
Lt OA	Level 6	59.65
2Lt	Level 5	49.63
N/A to Army	Level 4	43.97
SSLC +1	Level 3	37.45
SSLC OA	Level 2	34.31
Offr Cadet	Level 1	31.39

● Turn to next page

Rates of pay for officers undertaking Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and officers of the Royal Irish Regiment (HSPT)¹

£ daily

RANK	£ daily			
	(HC) 0% X-Factor	(LC) 5% X-Factor	(FC) 13% X-Factor	
Brig +4	Level 5	201.88	205.25	210.63
Brig +3	Level 4	199.81	203.14	208.47
Brig +2	Level 3	197.75	201.05	206.32
Brig +1	Level 2	195.69	198.95	204.17
Brig OA	Level 1	193.63	196.86	202.02
Col +8	Level 9	171.30	177.01	186.15
Col +7	Level 8	169.26	174.90	183.93
Col +6	Level 7	167.22	172.79	181.71
Col +5	Level 6	165.18	170.69	179.50
Col +4	Level 5	163.15	168.59	177.29
Col +3	Level 4	161.11	166.48	175.07
Col +2	Level 3	159.07	164.38	172.86
Col +1	Level 2	157.03	162.27	170.64
Col OA	Level 1	154.99	160.15	168.42
Lt Col +8	Level 9	147.95	152.88	160.77
Lt Col +7	Level 8	146.17	151.04	158.84
Lt Col +6	Level 7	144.41	149.23	156.93
Lt Col +5	Level 6	137.18	144.04	155.01
Lt Col +4	Level 5	135.49	142.26	153.10
Lt Col +3	Level 4	133.79	140.48	151.18
Lt Col +2	Level 3	132.11	138.71	149.28
Lt Col +1	Level 2	130.41	136.93	147.36
Lt Col OA	Level 1	128.71	135.14	145.44
Maj +8	Level 9	109.82	115.31	124.10
Maj +7	Level 8	107.56	112.94	121.54
Maj +6	Level 7	105.29	110.56	118.98
Maj +5	Level 6	103.03	108.18	116.42
Maj +4	Level 5	100.76	105.80	113.86
Maj +3	Level 4	98.50	103.42	111.30
Maj +2	Level 3	96.22	101.03	108.73
Maj +1	Level 2	93.96	98.66	106.18
Maj OA	Level 1	91.70	96.28	103.62
Capt +8	Level 9	86.58	90.90	97.83
Capt +7	Level 8	85.59	89.87	96.72
Capt +6	Level 7	84.60	88.83	95.60
Capt +5	Level 6	82.64	86.77	93.38
Capt +4	Level 5	80.66	84.70	91.15
Capt +3	Level 4	78.70	82.63	88.93
Capt +2	Level 3	76.73	80.56	86.70
Capt +1	Level 2	74.75	78.49	84.47
Capt OA	Level 1	72.80	76.44	82.26
Lt +4	Level 10	62.79	65.93	70.95
Lt +3	Level 9	61.29	64.36	69.26
Lt +2	Level 8	59.81	62.80	67.58
Lt +1	Level 7	58.31	61.23	65.89
Lt OA	Level 6	56.81	59.65	64.20
2Lt	Level 5	47.27	49.63	53.41
n/a to Army	Level 4	41.88	43.97	47.32
SSLC +1	Level 3	35.66	37.45	40.30
SSLC OA	Level 2	32.67	34.31	36.92
Offr Cadet	Level 1	29.89	31.39	33.78

¹ R Irish (HSPT) officers paid at 13% X-Factor – as per FTRS (FC) above.

Rates of pay for soldiers of the Territorial Army and Reserve Forces carrying out obligatory training and voluntary training and other duties and part-time reserve service under Additional Duties Commitments (ADC).

Soldiers in receipt of pay under regulations for TA Para 7.032.

Also members of the Military Provost Guard Service²

£ daily

RANK	RANGE 5	HIGHER RANGE		LOWER RANGE	
		HC 0% X-factor	LC 5% X-factor	HC 0% X-factor	LC 5% X-factor
Warrant Officer I	Level 7	94.25	88.94		
	Level 6	92.83	86.51		
	Level 5	91.21	84.14		
	Level 4	89.60	82.53		
	Level 3	88.00	80.92		
	Level 2	86.51	79.33		
	Level 1	84.84	77.81		
Warrant Officer II	Level 9	87.20	79.89		
Levels 5-9 only	Level 8	85.98	78.12		
	Level 7	84.76	76.31		
Staff Sergeant	Level 6	83.55	74.49		
Levels 1-7 only	Level 5	81.75	72.68		
	Level 4	79.93	71.70		
	Level 3	78.12	70.06		
	Level 2	76.31	67.86		
	Level 1	74.49	66.99		
Sergeant	Level 7	74.45	68.34		
	Level 6	73.08	66.78		
	Level 5	71.71	65.45		
	Level 4	70.34	64.30		
	Level 3	69.47	63.65		
	Level 2	67.75	62.09		
	Level 1	66.05	60.52		
Corporal	Level 7	66.90	59.76		
	Level 6	65.47	58.96		
	Level 5	64.14	58.26		
	Level 4	62.62	57.39		
	Level 3	61.20	55.70		
	Level 2	57.77	54.74		
	Level 1	54.32	52.30		
Lance Corporal	Level 9	58.34	48.29		
Levels 5-9 only	Level 8	55.62	46.60		
	Level 7	53.23	44.56		
Private	Level 6	50.90	42.72		
Levels 1-7 only	Level 5	48.54	41.02		
	Level 4	43.90	38.92		
	Level 3	40.82	35.78		
	Level 2	36.98	33.91		
	Level 1	32.02	27.44		

² MPGS paid at 5% X-Factor equivalent to above rates.

Rates of pay for soldiers undertaking Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS), NRPS Groups A and B³ and The Royal Irish Regiment (HSPT)⁴

£ daily

RANGE 5	HIGHER RANGE			LOWER RANGE		
	HC 0% X-factor	LC 5% X-factor	FC 13% X-factor	HC 0% X-factor	LC 5% X-factor	FC 13% X-factor
Level 7	89.76	94.25	101.43	84.71	88.94	95.72
Level 6	88.41	92.83	99.90	82.39	86.51	93.10
Level 5	86.87	91.21	98.16	80.13	84.14	90.55
Level 4	85.34	89.60	96.43	78.60	82.53	88.82
Level 3	83.81	88.00	94.70	77.07	80.92	87.09
Level 2	82.39	86.51	93.10	75.55	79.33	85.37
Level 1	80.80	84.84	91.30	74.11	77.81	83.74
Level 9	83.04	87.20	93.84	76.09	79.89	85.98
Level 8	81.88	85.98	92.53	74.40	78.12	84.07
Level 7	80.73	84.76	91.22	72.67	76.31	82.12
Level 6	79.58	83.55	89.92	70.95	74.49	80.17
Level 5	77.86	81.75	87.98	69.22	72.68	78.22
Level 4	76.12	79.93	86.02	68.28	71.70	77.16
Level 3	74.40	78.12	84.07	66.73	70.06	75.40
Level 2	72.67	76.31	82.12	64.63	67.86	73.03
Level 1	70.95	74.49	80.17	63.80	66.99	72.09
Level 7	70.90	74.45	80.12	65.09	68.34	73.55
Level 6	69.60	73.08	78.65	63.60	66.78	71.87

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New to the UK - Krill Lamps

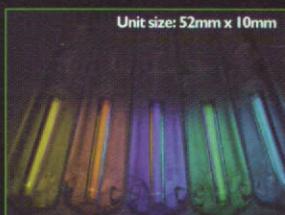
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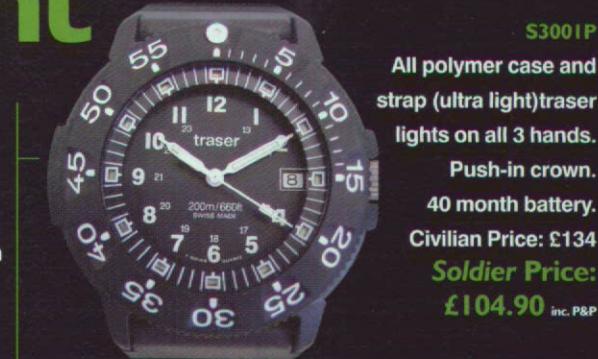
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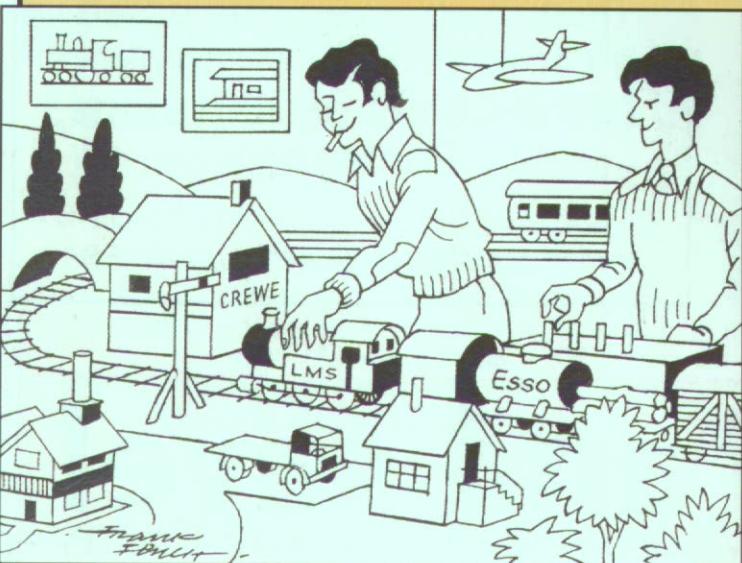
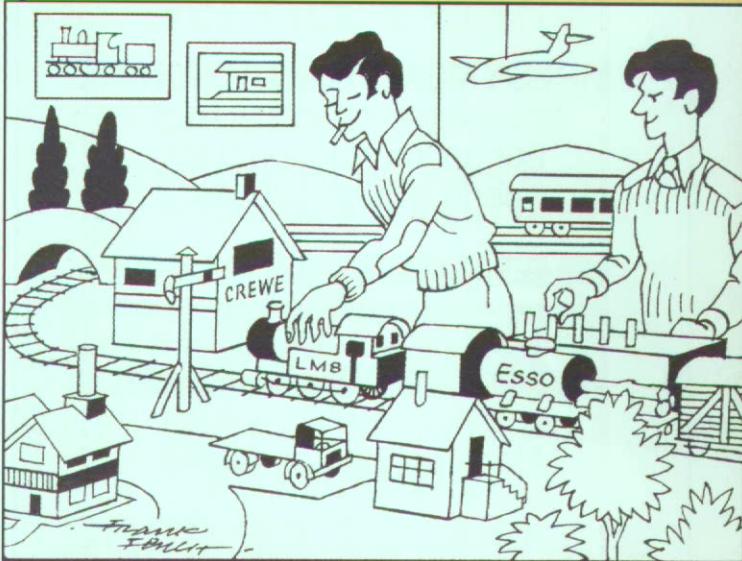
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No 731



How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 731, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by October 31.

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 December issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

August issue (No 729): First correct entry drawn was from LCpl D B Hall, 22 Fd Hosp RAMC, Aldershot, who wins £100. Runners-up Simon Harrison, of Ludgershall, Wilts, and J Malone, 225(H) Fd Amb (V), Dundee, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: "S" in "Guns" and building design above; doorknob and window display; horse's rein and rear leg; saloon roof, window; fighting cowboy; bottom step.



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"What do you mean you won't accept Euros?"

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in November 1951. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by October 30.



We've awarded the prize for our August competition to Graham Drew, Army School of Ammunition, Southampton for his caption: "The rivalry between the A and B Company beekeepers was getting out of hand." He also suggested "Douglas Fairbanks Junior - The National Service Days."

However, most of the entries had a recurring theme. Here's the pick of the bunch.

"I know we had problems with the SA80 but this is crazy" from



C Coull of Camberley, Surrey; "I wish the armourer would hurry and fix my SA80, this is torture", from LCpl McLaughlin, BHQ, HQ ARRC Sp Bn; "They have heard about the SA80 and

have asked MoD for these" from Bill McCarthy, Brixham.

And on a different note we also liked "You put your left foot in, your left foot out" from B Gaze of Cowes.

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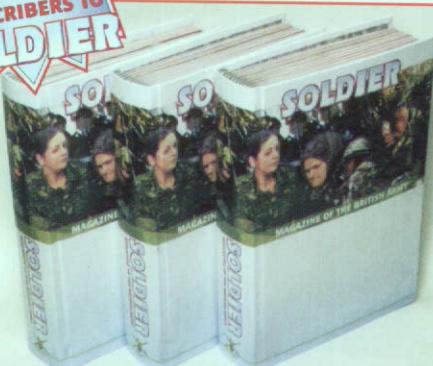
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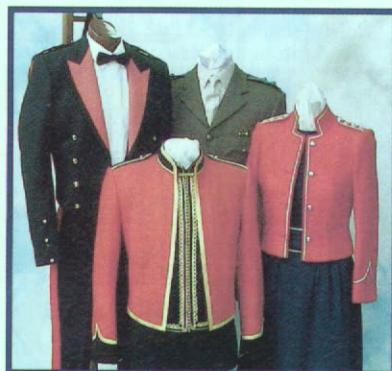
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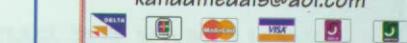


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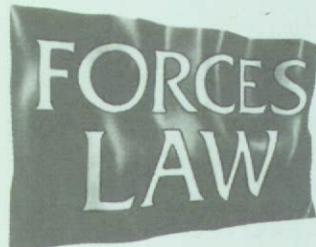
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Nicole, (29), 5'3", outgoing, bubbly, olive skin with dark hair. Enjoys walking, cinema, drives, working, friends, keeping fit and the gym. Caring, friendly and sensitive, seeking pen pals, 25-35. P182

Theresa, (39), 5'3", medium build with blonde hair who is outgoing and honest. Enjoys writing, music, walking, cycling, sailing and climbing. Seeking pen pals, 30-49. P183

Louise, (34), 5'5", slim with long hair. Enjoys art, working out (aerobics), dogs, trance music and writing. Would like to get in contact with NCO or above rank, 30-40. P184

Daniel, (21), 6'2", with brown hair and green/grey eyes. Enjoys football and most other sports, drinking, clubs, socialising, reading and the cinema. Seeking female pen pals, 18-27. P185

Gillian, (40), 5'4", attractive blonde with big brown eyes. A graduate who enjoys the theatre, going out and current affairs. A wheelchair user, seeking pen pals, 40-45. P186

Julia, (48), petite, happy, loving who enjoys most things, independent, country lifestyle, antiques and animals. Seeking pen pals, 40+. P187

Karen, (36), blonde single mum with blue eyes. Enjoys reading, watching TV and going out. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P188

Gill, (37), 5'4", slim, with long dark hair and brown eyes. Intelligent, honest, caring with GSOH. Loves dogs and animals. Enjoys renovating the house, antiques, the countryside, having fun. Seeking honest, sincere and genuine pen pals, 34-44. P189

Diane, (50), 5'3", with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys 50s/60s music, dancing, eating out, cinema and dinner parties. Divorced with two sons. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P190

Lauren, (21), Anglo-Filipino with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys clubs, shopping and travel. Seeking pen pals, 19-24, single soldiers. P191

Tina, (44), 5'1", big build, with long brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys music, car rides, dining out and cosy nights in. Divorced and fun loving, seeking good natured pen pals with GSOH, 25+. P192

Tall Irish blonde, seeks pen pals 38-48, loves travel, cinema and music. P193

Sharon, (34), 5'7", blonde who enjoys pubs, clubs, eating out, concerts, cinema and general having fun. Seeking pen pal with a good sense of humour, any age group. P194

Caly, (35), 5'9", slim blonde. Enjoys football, Man United fan, dance, singing, drama, drawing, music and soldiers. Seeking a special friend with GSOH, but sincere, 25+. P195

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Sarah, (32), 5'6", with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys days out with children, country pubs, nights in, writing and music. A non-smoker, mum of two, seeks someone to write to, to form a friendship and exchange lots of laughter, 34-40. P197

Joanna, (34), 5'4", with dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys horse riding, meals out, pubs and the cinema. Seeking pen pals, 35-45. P198

Helen, (39), 5'6", blonde with medium build. Single parent with a nine-year-old son. Honest, genuine with GSOH, who enjoys socialising, pubs and clubs. Seeking male pen pals, 35-40. P199

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SEARCHLINE

Royal Engineers officer **Capt Williard**, who served with 2 Sqn in Sarawak 1966-67, is asked to contact old friend **Adzmi Mahamud** via his son, Syahifun Adzmi, at 258 Kg Abi Padang Machang, 01000 Kangar, Perlis, N Malaysia or e-mail syahifun@hotmail.com

Ex-Coldstream Guards, July 1950 from Sgt Peacock's squad, especially **D Mitchell, W Wright, R Gray, J Robson and B Tinsley**, are asked to write to Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeye Park, Hull HU4 7QE, ring 01482 503649 or e-mail harry@westgarth.karoo.co.uk

Thomas Silk, ex-K (Hondegaham) Bty, 5 Regt RHA 1950s and 60s, has happy memories of his service and would like to hear from former mates. Write to 135 Vale Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3HE.

Darren Nicholson, a driver with Masters Tp, 30 Sqn, Junior Leaders RCT 1983-84, is sought by Michael (Smudge) Smith on 0191 5360157 or smudgejo@btopenworld.com

Ex-Millbankers: Missing titles required by Michael Carr for murals featured on the Army Medic Forum site. Go direct to page via www.armymedic.info/millbank.php

Sgt Michael Scott, 14 Signal Regiment, Celle 1978, is asked to contact Robin Stanley-Jones, Schlesier Strasse 7, 29303 Bergen Germany (telephone 0049 5051 3409).

Do you remember red-haired **Pte Edward "Teddy" Hughes, 2 Para, Aldershot, 1945**? If so please contact his granddaughter, Liz Bigland, Eastwood, School Lane, Mistley Essex CO11 1HN or e.bigland@zoom.co.uk

Calling all A Coy, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Northern Ireland 1973. Contact John Bull 01765 604071 or johnbull@btclick.com

Trucial Oman Scouts, late 1950s and early 1960s, sought by Mick Lee, ex-S&T Squadron, 2 Para and 63 Para Company RASC. E-mails to leesy@ca.com.au

Oman expats: Ken Dixon, who is compiling a book in which names will be recorded, wishes to hear from anyone who served in Oman. Replies to 50 Greenfield Crescent, Cowplain, Portsmouth PO8 9EJ.

Sam Hodges, Falkland Islands Log Bn 1985, is sought by friend and pen pal H Downes. Replies to h@paradane.freeserve.co.uk

News of **Everett Benson Harris**, originally from St Kitts, later of Birmingham, served with the **Cheshire Regiment in Warminster 1966-67**, is sought by old friend now living in Australia. Replies to R Northover, 8 Kalima Court, Hallett Cove, 5158 SA, Australia or 0061 883872197.

● **EXECUTOR** seeks information on **Wassili Wassiliew** to amplify brief records housed at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand. Wassili was a member of the **DP Concert Party**, a post-Second World War entertainment unit in BAOR. He wore British uniform and was attached to **22 Armoured Brigade, 7 Armoured Division**. He sailed from Northern Italy to New Zealand on the *Hellenic Prince* in October 1950. Information regarding Wassili or his family is sought by I W Hastings, 21B Crieff Street, Northland, Wellington, New Zealand.

Essex Corps of Drums (member of Corps of Drums Society) is recruiting. It will provide the instruments and uniform. Applicants should be fit, aged 14 to 55 and interested in playing military music. For details please contact secretary, Mick Chapman on 017085 20948.

If you recall **Desert Rat Amos George Spall**, who served with the 8th Army, 27 Bn RAOC 1944-47, please contact his son at e-mail [t.townsend1@ntlworld.com](mailto:townsend1@ntlworld.com)

Suez Canal Zoners Association. New Hants and Surrey branch has 64 members and seeks more for meetings at Royal British Legion in Camberley. Contact hon sec Bernie Corrie, 5 St John's Road Guildford or 01483 575081.

To contact friends from BFES/SCE schools in Germany visit www.baorkids.co.uk

Mark Smith, R Signals, Bulford 1995 and Kosovo 1999, is sought by Gary and Helen Morgan on helen.morgan168@ntlworld.co.uk

Any memories or details of **St Andrew's, Malton, N Yorkshire**, used before and during the Second World War as a nursing/convalescent home, to E Cowham, 138 Finch Street, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146, Australia or e-mail tcowham@brw.fairfax.com.au who also seeks friends or descendants of **Eileen Mary Marcella Coleman**, born December 14, 1918.

Gordon Platoon, RAOC Apprentices College, Deepcut, Sept 1970 intake, interested in a reunion should ring 01785 604772 or e-mail graham.harvey@ntlworld.com

Old friend Bonita (Bonnie) Kilbride sought by ex-LCpl WRAC 1975-77 Lynn Brocklehurst (now King) bradcom@btopenworld.com

History and photographs of **Land Rover Ambulance 07 FL 27, of 7 Fd Force Fd Amb RAMC 1978-1982**, sought by proud new owner John Davies at jhn2712@aol.com

Ex-LCpl David Taylor RAOC Monchengladbach 1967 to early 1970s is asked to contact old mate **ex-Pte Ian Wood**, now in Canada, via 126 Brantford Street, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada T7X 1B4 or ian-wood@shaw.ca

Ex-SSgt 66240 George Albert Taylor, RASC/RCT, Second World War veteran of Africa, India, Europe, Burma and Palestine, later BAOR as well as Jamaica and British Honduras. Final unit may have been 24 Regt RCT, Hannover 1970. Any information please to his daughter Georgina Taylor, 331 E Carson Street, Apt D, Long Beach California, 90807-2702 USA or georginapt@hotmail.com

Grant Houghton AAC, passed out of ATR Winchester June 2002, is asked to contact former trainee S West at sophibla@aol.com



● FAMILIES and friends of paratroopers and aircrew killed when three Stirling bombers crashed in storms over Norway on May 10, 1945 are invited to attend a memorial service near Oslo on May 11 next year. The paras were on their way to secure the surrender of 363,000 Germans and died two days after hostilities had ended. More details from Col Fredrik Michelet on michel@skyterlollen.no

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

XAR (August) winners: Cpl Bushell, BFPO 47; L Folbigg, Comberton, Cambs; E Henderson, Waltham Abbey; K Russell, Swindon. Answer PC Format.

Medal of Honor Frontline (August) winners: D McSpadden, Southsea; S Fowler, Rendlesham; M Evans, Birmingham; Chris Roberts, Ringwood, Hants; T Black, Newtonabbey. Answer: Lieutenant.

Britain at War in Colour (August) winners: D Purnell, Newport, S Wales; D Graham, Ontario, Canada. Answer: September 3, 1939.

Woolwich HIVE opened

● A new HIVE opened in Woolwich will provide an information service to all arms, including single Service men and women and their families in London. It is in Victoria House Community Centre and coordinator Amanda Lawrence can be contacted on 020 8781 4395 or woolwichhive@tiscali.co.uk

REUNIONS

23 PFA Old Comrades' Association: Reunion, including other airborne medical personnel, Oct 18-20 in Carlisle. Details from B Wickins 01514 288366.

HQ MND(C) close-down: Former members, serving and retired, invited to close-down ceremony, Oct 25, Rheindahlen. If you have not had an invitation call JHQ 5823 or 5822 (civ 0049 (0)2161 565 5823 or 5822).

Desert veterans: All, including women and QAs who served in desert/North Africa campaign, are invited to attend a reunion and commemorative events in Perth, Scotland on Oct 26. Contact Dr Tom Renouf MM, 14, Windsor Gardens, Musselburgh, EH21 7LP.

46 (Talavera) Battery OCA: Reunion at Mabs Cross Hotel, Wigan on Oct 26. Contact Bill Montgomery 01642 659664 or juheemam@hotmail.com

8 Regt RCT/RLC: First anniversary reunion on Oct 26 at Wigan. Contact jimmyasp@hotmail.com

Association of Ammunition Technicians: Reunion in late October for all WOs, SNCOs and those subsequently commissioned; serving and late RLC and RAOC, AT, AE, lab foremen and EOD Op TA. Ring Paul on 01235 51337.

South Notts Hussars Association: Annual remembrance dinner at TA Centre, Bulwell, on Nov 9. E-mail G E Aldridge at g.e.aldrige7@ntlworld.com or ring 0115 9135708.

Royal Anglian Regiment and Beds and Herts Regimental Association: Wreath-laying and reunion on Nov 17 at The Keep, Kempston. For details contact John Baggard on 01234 294853 or johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com

Ex-REME artificer instruments, serving instruments technician SNCOs: Reunion dinner, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Arborfield, Nov 29. Numbers limited so ring SSgt Everett on 0118 976 3755 (mil 94251 2755) for booking pro forma.

Coldstream Guards, 4 Coy 3 Bn (1950-55): Reunion dinner in Derby on April 12, 2003. For details contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeye Park, Hull HU4 7QE, ring 01482 503649 or e-mail harry@westgarth.karoo.co.uk

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenevolentfund.com

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

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

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

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 0800 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; www.ngvfa.com

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

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845 7725 725; www.britishlegion.org.uk

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

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

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

and women 020 7723 5021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

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

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244 **Services Cotswold Centre** 01225 810358 **SSAFA Forces Help** 020 7403 8783; www.ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400 **Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency)** 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); www.veteransagency.mod.uk

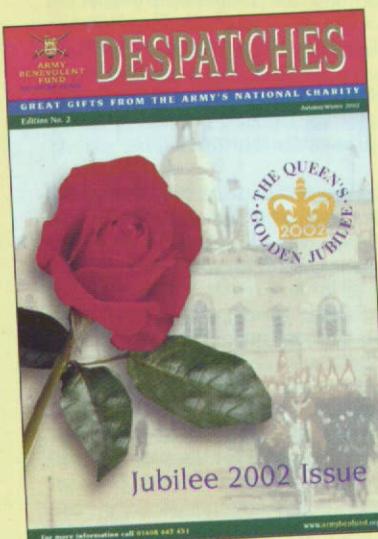
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272 **WRVS** General enquiries 02920 739906; www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

OCTOBER

11: Light Division Concert Band, Hereford Cathedral, 1930.
 26: Golden Jubilee concert in aid of Army Benevolent Fund, featuring Bands of the Dragoon Guards and Parachute Regiment and Minden Band of Queen's Division. Charter Hall, Leisure World, Colchester. Tickets (£13) from ABF on 01206 782169 or box office on 01206 282020.



* IF you want to help the Army's national charity and find that exclusive present, look no further than the Army Benevolent Fund's gift catalogue, *Despatches*, pictured above. It features an extensive range of quality products, including glass and chinaware to cuddly toys and puzzles.

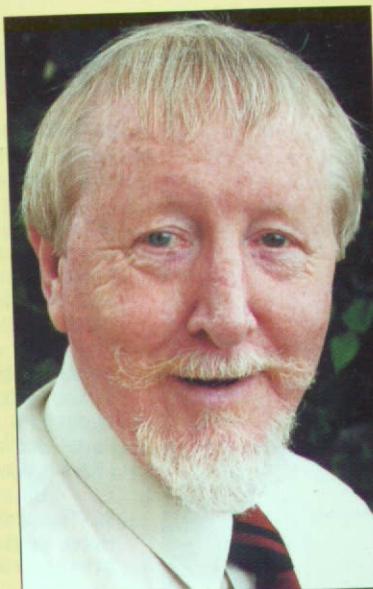
It is hoped sales from the brochure will make a major contribution to the ABF's fund-raising this year.

Despatches includes the popular Piscator range of merchandise, featuring the work of our regular cartoonist (see Page 75). The first 250 orders over £25 will receive a free Piscator "Shovel Patrol" mug.

To get a free copy of the catalogue, ring 01608 647 451 or e-mail amanda@sdmsuk.co.uk

* AN olive branch from the grave of **Rupert Brooke** on Skyros and **Robert Graves**'s knapsack are among the artefacts in the Imperial War Museum's "Anthem for Doomed Youth" exhibition. Illustrating the life and work of 12 soldier-poets of the First World War, it is open from October 30 until April 27.

* SOLDIERS from 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron (Militia) ran 41 miles from John Chard VC House in Swansea to City Hall, Cardiff and raised £1,800 in sponsorship for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which affects boys.



Taff's big day out

FORMER sapper George "Taff" Harris, left, the man behind the commemorative medal for troops who served in Jordan, has been presented with a medal of his own. He received the Prince Michael of Kent Award in recognition of his fund-raising for SSAFA-Forces Help from Prince Michael at Goldsmiths Hall in London.

His "Jordan Service Medal" raised £4,000 for SSAFA-Forces Help and £4,500 for underprivileged children in Jordan, and an unofficial Golden Jubilee medal which he initiated has so far pulled in another £8,776. In all, Taff, who served with 1 Troop, 23 Field Squadron RE and 9 Para Squadron RE in Libya, Cyprus, Jordan and the UK, has raised nearly £17,300 for worthy causes.

As a further reward, Taff and his wife, Diane, were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace – no mean feat for a man who has suffered two massive heart attacks, cardiac surgery, diabetes, arthritis and sundry other serious ailments. "Apart from that I am fine and I'll go on doing what I can for veterans and those in need," he told us cheerfully.

Robert and Zak go walkies

It seems you are never too old to take up a challenge for those less well off than yourself. Ex-Para **Robert Griffiths**, right, accompanied by faithful hound **Zak**, and other members of the West Berkshire Parachute Regimental Association, walked eight miles from Hungerford to Newbury to collect for former paratroopers and their widows.

The old soldiers walked along the Kennet and Avon Canal to raise money to provide Christmas hampers and vouchers.

Anyone wanting to sponsor Robert (or Zak) should call 0118 9713324.

Picture: Newbury Weekly News



Napoleon 2, Wellington 1

BONAPARTE extracted revenge for his defeat at Waterloo by winning a re-run of the battle staged in the National Army Museum in Chelsea. Napoleon – aka war gamer Ged Elliott – was declared the victor after a three-day rematch against the **Duke of Wellington**, played by Mark Hartman.

Fought over a large polystyrene board covered by hundreds of half-inch tall metal soldiers, the result was reversed because Ged made fewer mistakes than Boney had during the one-day battle on June 18, 1815.

Crucially, he seized the high ground at La Haye Sainte farm rather than getting bogged down in the mud and allowing the Iron Duke's forces to stay put until the crucial arrival of Prussian forces under Marshal Blücher.



'AKB' calls it a day after 42 years in the Army

MAJ Allan "AKB" Barley, left, who has hung up his uniform after 42 years' service, will retain his military links through his continued duties as secretary of the North East branch of the RMP Association.

He served from 1961



A fund of recipes

MAJ Barbara Gregory, left, a US exchange officer serving at Worthy Down, presented a £5,000 cheque to the Army Benevolent Fund from sales of her *International Flavours* cookbook. It detailed favourite recipes of foreign and liaison personnel working in the UK.

● THE remains of First World War soldier **Pte William Crompton** of the 1st Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment, were re-interred at the Peake Wood Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery near Fricourt, 25km south of Arras in northern France, last month. Killed in action on the third day of the Battle of the Somme, July 3, 1916, his body was unearthed in Shelter Wood, near Fricourt, two years ago.

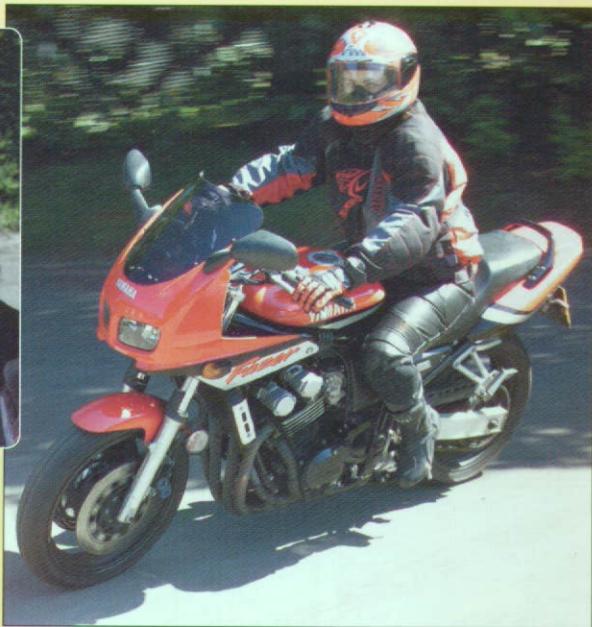
to 1984 with the Royal Military Police. During the Falklands War he was Force Provost Marshal and head of the civilian police, and during the latter stages of the operation he oversaw the handling and documentation of almost

12,000 captured Argentinian soldiers.

In 1984 he transferred to the RAMC to become admin officer with 251 Field Ambulance in Sunderland, later moving to his final posting with 201 Fd Hosp in Newcastle on promotion to major.



Long way round: Karen Dawes, above and right, whose husband Sean is a lance corporal serving with 3 RSME at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley, took her time motor-cycling from Guildford to Stratford-upon-Avon. She joined 2,000 riders on a national rally which raised funds for Mencap, the learning disability charity. The riders zigzagged their way across



country to Stratford, clocking up 540 miles in 20 hours. Karen's long day in the saddle was worth it... she collected £700 for the charity. Pictures: Graeme Main

Legends of the regiments and corps

39

Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, Gloucester



Very close call: Lt Col (Retd) Trevor Ongley, Glosters, left, is reunited with his flak jacket as ex-Sgt Paddy Gleeson, Glosters, who was wounded in the same incident, points to one of the bullet holes

Picture: The Citizen, Gloucester

Inverness cadets on show

DRUM Maj James Clarke, left, of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, led the regimental Pipes and Drums in a display at this year's Inverness Tattoo. Organised by local Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps detachments, the annual event raised about £8,000 for unit funds. Others to benefit from the pageant include Erskine Hospital, SSAFA-Forces Help, the Gurkha Welfare Trust and a local hospice.

The tattoo also featured the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.



Cover tribute to hero of Post Office Rifles

A COVER depicting the action in which post office worker Sgt (later 2nd Lt) Alfred

Joseph Knight won the Victoria Cross has been issued by the British Forces Post Office to mark the 85th anniversary of the award and raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund.

On September 20, 1917 Alfred Knight of the 2nd/8th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) ran through a British barrage to capture single-handed a German machine-gun firing on his

platoon in the Alberta Section at Ypres in Belgium. All the company's officers were killed or wounded before the first objective was taken so Sgt Knight took command, performing several other acts of conspicuous bravery under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire.

Each cover, illustrated with a reproduction of artwork commissioned from the late Terence Cuneo in 1970, bears a BFPO handstamp dated September 20, 2002, and includes an insert with details of the action and a map of the battlefield.

Unsigned covers cost £4; signed by BFPO senior officer £6; signed by a VC holder £9; signed by the Prime Minister £30. Add 50p p&p for UK, 90p for Europe, £1.50 worldwide.

Orders should be made payable to Central Bank (BFPO) and sent to the Philatelic Bureau, BFPO, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX.



Saved by a jacket

LT Trevor Ongley has good reason to recall with affection the flak jacket he was wearing while on patrol in Belfast 30 years ago.

He was hit by five Thompson sub-machine-gun rounds at close quarters and survived to tell the tale. Others were not so fortunate.

The jacket, with its bullet holes obvious to all, is a special item on display in a new exhibition commemorating the past 32 years of service in Northern Ireland now open in the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum.

FIRST TIME AWAY

For many young men, their first tour of the Province was also their first time away from home. The special display attempts to tell the story of what was involved and what they faced. Junior officers and NCOs, often working under the critical eyes of the world's media, acquired skills which have made the British Army the acknowledged experts in peacekeeping operations.

It will be familiar to troops who took part, but less so to civilians who read about it in their morning papers.

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Customs House, Gloucester Docks is open every day in the summer from 1000 to 1700 and closed on Mondays in the winter. Tel 01452 522682 or e-mail rhqrgbw@milnet.uk.net

www.armymuseums.org.uk

Switched on . . .



ALL-SINGING, ALL-DANCING ▲

PACKING 64MB of memory the PhotoClip 5-in-1, above, takes high-quality photos, records digital video (with or without audio), can play back pre-recorded MP3 files, record external audio and be used as a webcam/video conferencing suite. And as if all that isn't enough, it can also be used as a removable PC hard drive.

① £199.95, from www.firebox.com (0870 2414289).

Game on . . .

THE SUM OF ALL FEARS, PC, PS2, GAMECUBE

BASED on Tom Clancy's novel and the Paramount Pictures movie of the same name, *The Sum Of All Fears* immerses players deep into a high-stakes adventure as a member of an FBI élite hostage rescue team reassigned to tracking down the conspirators of a major plot against the United States of America.

As the commander of one of the teams of counter-terrorism experts, gamers must lead their men into the heat of battle on assignments that span the globe.

The game's 11 missions are each set in different environments, which range from the deserts of the Middle East and the diamond mines of South Africa to the corridors of wealth and power in Austria, and feature equally diverse objectives.

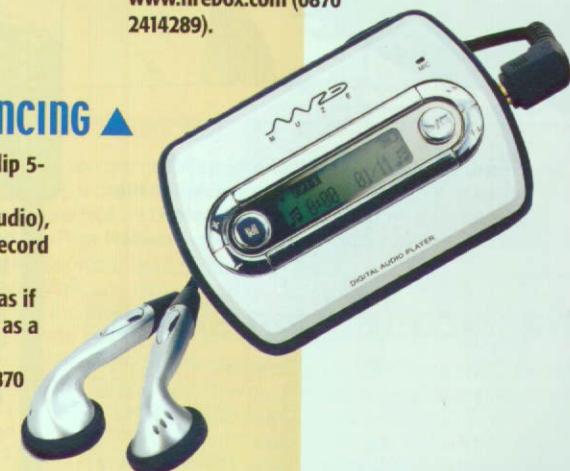
One minute players will be eliminating terrorists with an arsenal of weaponry, which includes 15 unique gun types, flash-bangs and frag grenades, and the next they'll be rescuing hostages, destroying illegal weapons caches and covertly planting bugs.

Rendered cinematics depicting vital plot points from the novel and movie ensure the gameplay is fast-flowing and the action suitably intense.

♦ On the PC version gamers can choose to play as part of a three-player team or as one of 36 players on the internet.

VERDICT: A guaranteed best-seller.

8/10



POCKET PLAYER ▼

WEIGHING in at just 27g, this matchbox-sized personal stereo is one of the smallest MP3 players on the market.

As well as sporting all the usual functions, the Kiiro MP3 player, pictured below, also has a voice recorder (with up to two hours recording time) and a data storage chip, which means that users can upload and download files such as Word documents and PowerPoint presentations.

① £99.95, from www.firebox.com (0870 2414289).

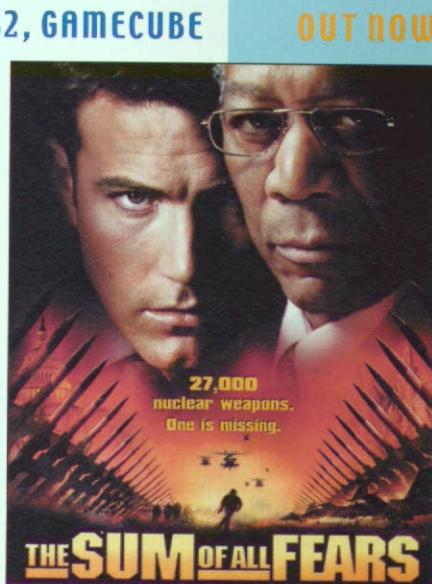


A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS ▲

IDEAL for adventurous training or use in the field, this handheld altimeter, pictured above, features a programmable altitude alarm, barometer, thermometer, stopwatch and calendar.

Its water-resistant casing means that it can be used in most conditions and locations.

① £30, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN . . .

SOLDIER has five prize bundles containing a copy of *The Sum Of All Fears* for the PlayStation 2, a t-shirt and official film poster, up for grabs. For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

Who plays Jack Ryan in the film *The Sum Of All Fears*?

Send your answer on a postcard to TSOAF competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU by November 1.

BYTE-SIZE HEAVS

SPORTS Interactive, developer of the hugely popular *Championship Manager* football games, has announced a six-figure, three-year shirt sponsorship deal with AFC Wimbledon, which will see the SI logo displayed on both the home and away kits.

AFC Wimbledon was formed in the close season by fans disillusioned by the Football League's decision to ratify Wimbledon FC's move to Milton Keynes. The club now plays in the Combined Counties League and has agreed a ground-share deal with Kingstonian.

EIDOS has announced that it has already begun work on the third instalment of its tactical action strategy series, *Commandos*.

Commandos 3 will boast improved graphics and artificial intelligence, and a greater variety of enemies and equipment.

KONAMI has confirmed its commitment to the PC with a number of key titles to be released on the format throughout 2003.

Previously, Konami has enjoyed enormous success producing video games for a wide selection of console systems. However, starting next year the publishing giant is to extend its range with high-quality titles dedicated to the PC.

SUDDEN STRIKE 2, PC

CDV Software Entertainment's *Sudden Strike 2* (SS2) transports gamers on to the front line of the battlefield.

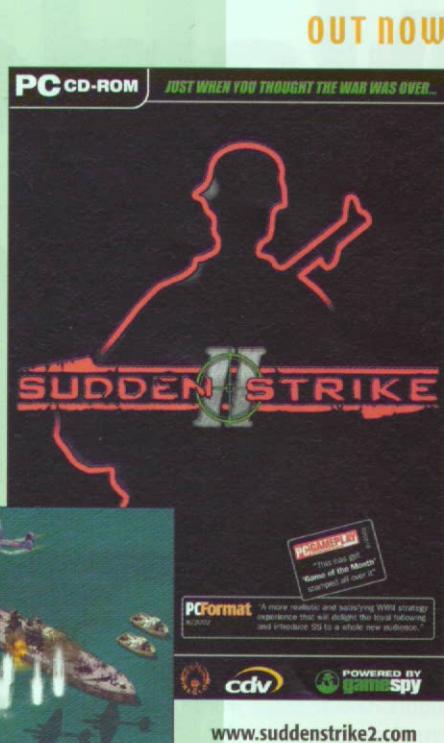
Set against the backdrop of the Second World War, this eagerly-awaited sequel combines real-time strategy with actual historic events and offers significantly faster gameplay than its predecessor.

As well as being given the choice of whether to command British, American, German, Russian or, for the first time, Japanese troops, players will find themselves in a variety of conflict scenarios, be it battling it out in the Pacific jungle, fighting on the beaches or trying to stay afloat during large-scale sea battles.

In addition to the realistically modelled tanks of best-seller *Sudden Strike*, this title also features new controllable units such as trains, ships and planes, which can be used to transport supplies and additional firepower to troops on the front line.

Other improvements include an enhanced weather system, an increased degree of realism and more interactive objects.

Developed by Fireglow, the game also boasts four levels of difficulty, catering for the complete beginner while also stretching the minds of even the most experienced tacticians.



Whether playing alone or in multiplayer mode, the game's user-friendly editor allows for unlimited supplies of professionally generated maps and missions – ensuring that the action never ends.

VERDICT: Even better than before.

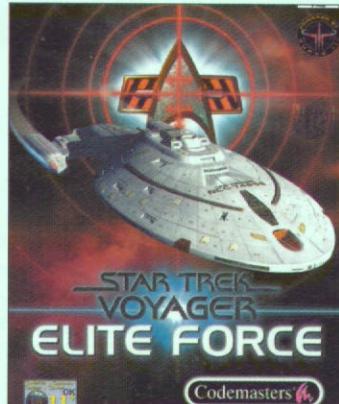
9/10

STAR TREK: VOYAGER, PS2

WIDELY recognised as the best Star Trek game, this Codemasters' title puts players in control of the heroic leader of Voyager's Hazard Team assault squad.

Charged with investigating a series of abandoned space craft, the game's first-person 3D action comes thick and fast as the team is attacked by hordes of aliens.

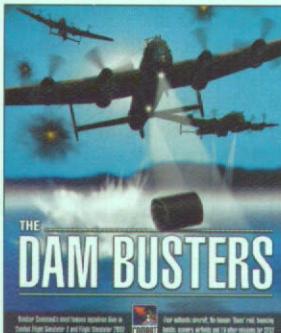
Each member of the team has access to official Federation armaments, including phasers, and the Ensign can also equip his men with guns liberated from defeated alien races.



VERDICT: Set to stun.

8/10

THE DAM BUSTERS, PC



VERDICT: Should soar to the top of the charts.

7/10

OUT NOW

WIN...WIN...WIN

SOLDIER has joined forces with CDV Software Entertainment to offer you the opportunity to step back in time and on to the battlefield.

For your chance to win a copy of SS2, a Sony SLVSE220 video recorder, and two hit films (*Pearl Harbor* and *Empire Of The Sun*), simply tell us which country makes its debut in *Sudden Strike 2*.



Ten runners-up will each receive a copy of the game, T-shirt and mouse mat.

Send your answers on a postcard to *Sudden Strike 2* competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by November 1. Usual rules apply.

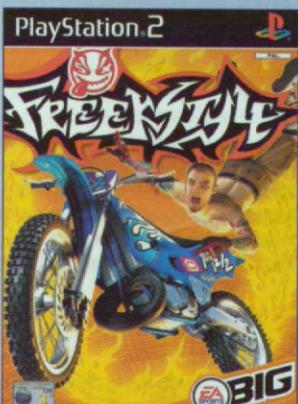
OUT NOW

FREESTYLE, PS2 & GAMECUBE

OUT NOW

IMAGINE flying through rugged terrain at more than 100mph on a motorbike, hitting a 40ft jump at the edge of a 400ft cliff and pulling a 360-degree turn before landing, and you will have some idea of what *Freekstyle* is all about.

This unique racing title from Electronic Arts is not about being the fastest or finishing first, it is all about being fearless. Embracing the risks of extreme Moto-X riding, players are awarded points for completing tricks, and with more than 100 to choose from there are plenty of daredevil stunts to master.



VERDICT: One hell of a ride.

7/10

OUT NOW

STUNTMAN, PS2

OUT NOW

DESIGNED by the creators of the *Destruction Derby* series and the award-winning *Driver* franchise, *Stuntman* comes from good gaming stock and does not disappoint.

Players assume the role of a stunt driver hired to perform daring routines and high-speed chases in a variety of films. With the aim of progressing from working on low-budget productions to appearing in multi-million dollar Hollywood blockbusters, gamers must master stunts ranging from 180-degree spins and perfectly timed jumps to dramatic barrel rolls.



VERDICT: Very tricky.

8/10

Pawns of battle who painted the world red

RICHARD Holmes predicts in *Redcoat*, his eye-opening story of the British soldier in the age of horse and musket, that "those who go in for the martial equivalent of trainspotting will complain that I have paid scandalously little attention to the raising, disbandment, re-raising and renumbering of infantry regiments in the 18th century". Thank goodness he has, for too much pedantic detail might have ruined this colourful picture of the "pawns of battle, the regimental officers and soldiers" who "painted the world red". It is now published in paperback by HarperCollins at £8.99.

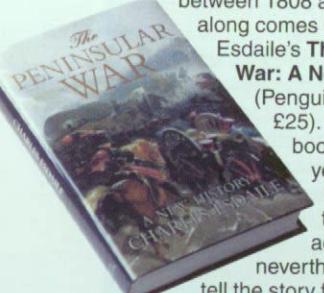
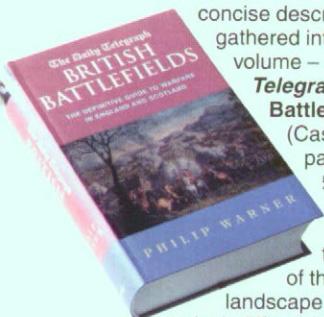
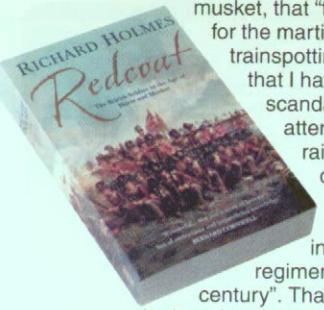
First battle – fit it into the glovebox

FROM Mount Badon to Culloden ... Philip Warner wrote famously about them all in the 1970s and now his concise descriptions are gathered into one sturdy volume – *The Daily Telegraph British Battlefields* (Cassell, paperback, £14.99). There are updated maps but thankfully none of those bleak landscape photos which make it difficult to envisage what it was like to be fighting for your life in 516 or 1746. It's also hard to imagine squeezing this 640-page "glove-compartment guide" in between the gloves, sunglasses, road maps, cassettes and Coke bottles.

Social aspects of war brought to the fore

JUST when you thought everything had been said or written about the conflict in Spain and Portugal between 1808 and 1814, along comes Charles Esdaile's *The Peninsular War: A New History* (Penguin Allen Lane, £25). Ironically, the book was 20 years in the making, but the Liverpool academic was nevertheless keen to tell the story for a fresh

generation, partly from the point of view of the suffering of the Iberian populace, which had repercussions well into the 20th century. Few would argue with Bernard Cornwell's verdict on this authoritative tome: "Brilliant".



Alamein: Monty's blow for morale

Sixty years on, military historians make fresh appraisals of the battle that turned the tide

Alamein by Jon Latimer (John Murray, £25).

Review: Brian Jewell

JON Latimer, a specialist in the North Africa campaigns of the Second World War, makes a very good case for Bernard Law Montgomery's full show in this well researched and thoroughly documented work.

"Some have sought to denigrate or belittle his achievement and even to suggest it was not really his," he writes. "... This is patently not true. The battle was Montgomery's and its success and failures were his alone."

The controversy over Montgomery's prickly character and ability to make enemies among fellow commanders is well known. But of course the British people loved him and named their cats after him.

In retrospect, the truth lay somewhere in between. Montgomery was an arrogant loner, destined to make enemies. Alamein, fought in October 1942, was his first and best remembered battle.

He was not Churchill's first choice to command the Eighth Army; Churchill would have preferred to appoint Lt Gen W H E "Strafer" Gott, but on August 7 Gott was killed when his plane was shot down.

Montgomery addressed his new staff from the steps of his caravan "with electric effect". On August 15 he took over command from Auchinleck and was soon modifying the existing battle plan.

TA veteran Latimer shows the remarkable ingenuity of the camouflage section when he describes the pre-battle deception operation using thousands of dummy tanks and trucks.

"Capt John Baker made tanks from pleated panels of split palm that the local fallahin used for beds ... obscured under camouflage nets, they were all that was necessary to create three large armoured formations apparently camouflaged and awaiting movement orders, probably to the south."

At 2140 hours on October 23, after exploratory shots to test the weather, 882 field-guns burst into life. "Such was the intensity of the artillery effort that for the rest of the war 'Alamein barrage' became a term widely used throughout the British Army for any artillery programme that someone wanted to seem impressive," writes Latimer,

who vividly describes the battle in all its complex detail. His 14 maps chart its progress from the preparatory stages up to the final assault, November 2-4, 1942.

This book is more about the in-depth history of the battle than any of the characters involved, though oral history and eye-witness accounts are skilfully used.

"Great news from Egypt" roared the *Daily Express*. The BBC jubilantly announced: "The Eighth Army is advancing and the enemy is in full retreat all along the line."

As some may still recall, it is impossible to over-estimate the morale-boosting effect of this, the first British Army victory of the war.



Best of enemies: Soldiers of the Eighth Army and the Afrika Korps share a friendly smoke in the aftermath of battle. From the cover of *Alamein: War Without Hate*

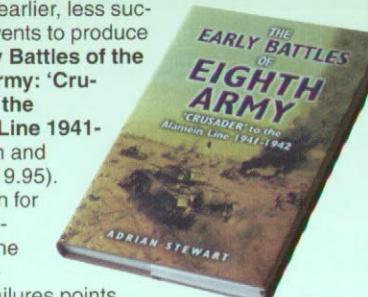
Picture: Robert Hunt Library

Two books to be won

IN association with Penguin Viking, publishers of *Alamein: War Without Hate*, we have two copies to give away in a simple competition. Just answer the following question on a postcard:

Q: On what date (month, day and year) did Monty's Battle of Alamein begin?

The first two correct answers drawn at random on November 1 will win a copy of the book. Usual *Soldier* competition rules apply.

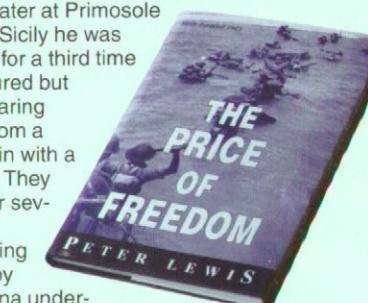


Auchinleck singled out as desert scapegoat

WHILE the main reviews on these pages deal with the glory of victory at Alamein, Adrian Stewart has concentrated on earlier, less successful events to produce *The Early Battles of the Eighth Army: 'Crusader' to the Alamein Line 1941-1942* (Pen and Sword, £19.95). His search for the scapegoats of the pre-Montgomery failures points the finger at the generals rather than at the soldiers or equipment. Stewart controversially singles out Gen Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C Middle East, as being ill-fitted for mobile warfare and inept at selecting suitable subordinates.

Wounded for a third time – then escapes

SERVING with The Durham Light Infantry, Maj Peter Lewis MC was wounded at El Alamein and again in Tunisia. Later at Primosole Bridge in Sicily he was wounded for a third time and captured but made a daring escape from a prison train with a comrade. They walked for several days before being rescued by the Modena underground resistance movement, before embarking with forged documents on an epic journey across the mountains to Switzerland. Lewis tells this exciting true story with pace and panache in *The Price of Freedom* (Scotforth Books, Lancaster, £14.95).



Privates and gentlemen

Amid the artillery's venom chivalry was not yet dead

Alamein: War Without Hate by John Bierman and Colin Smith (Penguin Viking, £20); *Alamein* by Stephen Bungay (Aurum Press, £16.99).

Reviews: Chris Horrocks

JUST as Jon Latimer has used first-person accounts to add colour to his weighty analysis of Alamein, so John Bierman and Colin Smith have deployed their journalists' craft to extract riveting human stories from both sides and all ranks to drive their narrative.

They are testimonies of selfless courage; achingly poignant cries for help uttered and scrawled in letters home from holes in the ground; lump-in-the-throat evocations of comrades' bodies and lives torn apart. Some of the more lurid are from infantrymen and running through them are hints of the black humour that keeps the squaddie sane.

Pte John Bain of the Gordon Highlanders – Scottish Command's 1941 middleweight boxing champion, who later wrote award-winning poetry under the name Vernon Scannell – recalled advancing with the 51st Highland Division under the German and

Italian reply to Monty's massive artillery barrage at the start of Operation Lightfoot.

"There was a sergeant who was quite close to me who always seemed to me almost a kind of father figure – rather a tough, leathery kind of man," Bain said. "And he was badly wounded and hearing his voice sort of sobbing and in fact calling for his mother, his mum, you know, seemed to be so ... demeaning and humiliating and dreadful."

Sheltering from artillery fire in a shallow depression, Bain's reaction seems fitting coming from a boxer-poet: "All of that shrieking, whining venom is directed at you and at no one else. You hunch in your hole in the ground, reduce yourself to as small a thing as you can become, and you harden your muscles in a pitiful attempt at defying the jagged, burning teeth of the shrapnel."

"Involuntarily, you curl up into the foetal position except that your hands go down to protect your genitalia." He adds a killer

Soldier ordering service
All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

punchline: "Montgomery doesn't protect his privates, but by Christ, I protect mine."

Why, then, the sub-title, *War Without Hate*? Rommel himself coined the phrase as a way of contrasting the Nazi atrocities in other theatres with the strangely civilised camaraderie that existed between enemies in the desert – perhaps because there were few civilians to be caught up in the crossfire.

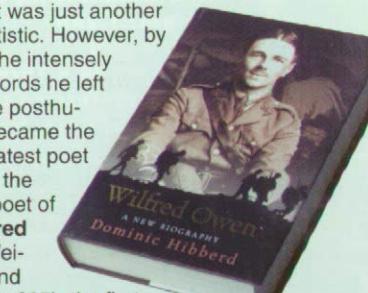
Field hospital facilities were sometimes shared, prisoners were treated considerately, and opposing generals showed each other the courtesies of old-world chivalry.

One German officer even wrote a letter of condolence to a widow in Britain after the officer who captured him was killed.

Bierman and Smith, who previously collaborated on a much-acclaimed biography of Orde Wingate, have worked their magic again and produced a piece of popular history to rank with Antony Beevor's *Stalingrad*.

Meanwhile, Stephen Bungay's excellent and insightful *Alamein* is a fitting sequel to his own previous triumph – *The Most Dangerous Enemy*, a history of that other pivotal event, the Battle of Britain.

Like Bierman and Smith, he has written a readable and page-turning account, told from the point of view of the common soldier as much as the big players.



Stunning biography of national war poet

WHEN he died aged 25, a mere week before the end of the First World War, one 2nd lieutenant in The Manchester Regiment was just another tragic statistic. However, by virtue of the intensely moving words he left behind he posthumously became the war's greatest poet – indeed, the national poet of war. *Wilfred Owen: A New Biography* by Dominic Hibberd (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25), the first biography since 1974, is a stunning achievement by Dr Dominic Hibberd, who through painstaking research has unearthed a wealth of detail to present an infinitely clearer three-dimensional picture of the man.

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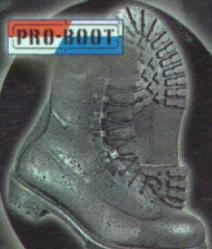


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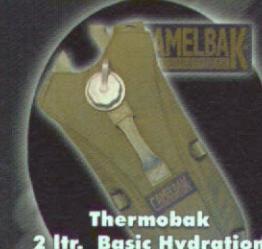
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BOOKS IN BRIEF

Waging Modern War by Gen Wesley K Clark. The former Supreme Allied Commander Europe lifts the lid off the Kosovo operation and offers a blueprint to deal with future threats. Now in paperback with a new preface. (Public Affairs, £10.99.)

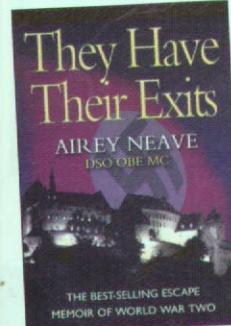
Warrior Race by Lawrence James. Reissued as a chunky, 600-page paperback – history at its entertaining best. Detailed but thoroughly readable story of the British at war down the ages. (Abacus, £10.99.)

Great and Glorious Days by James Falkner. The author, now national secretary of the Road Haulage Association, brings an ex-Regular officer's insight to Marlborough's battles, 1704-9. Foreword by the current Duke. (Spellmount, £20.)

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 1855-1970. Pictorial record compiled for the Queen's Lancashire Regiment by Dr Stephen Bull, curator of Military History and Archaeology at the Museum of Lancashire. (Tempus, paperback, £10.99.)

Gibraltar by Maurice Harvey. Current events give this 1996 history, now in paperback, a fresh significance. Foreword by former Governor, Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple. (Spellmount, £17.50.)

The Trenches, narrating the experiences of Billy Stevens on the Western Front, is one of four easy-to-read fictional paperbacks aimed at giving children an insight into the past. The others are **Trafalgar**, **Battle of Britain** and **Civil War**. An early Christmas gift idea. (Scholastic, £4.99 each.)



They Have Their Exits by Airey Neave. Brilliantly written, best-selling Second World War escape memoir by the much-decorated Royal Artillery officer who became a close confidant of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before being killed by a terrorist car bomb. (Reprinted by Pen and Sword, £19.95.)

Wellington's Doctors by Dr Martin Howard. Account of the British Army Medical Services in the Napoleonic Wars. (Spellmount, £25.)

Military Anecdotes by Geoffrey Regan. Entertaining 1992 anthology, resissued in paperback. One to dip into and quote from. (André Deutsch, £14.99.)

Westpoint: The Bicentennial Book by Agostino von Hassell and Herm Dillon. Lavish, colourful, large-format hardback celebration of the US military academy. Amazingly includes the names of all cadets between 1802 and 2001. (Spellmount, £45.)

Jane's Guns Recognition Guide by Ian Hogg. Well-produced, updated colour paperback includes pistols, revolvers, sub-machine guns, bolt-action rifles, automatic rifles and machine guns. (HarperCollins, £17.99.)

Ike's Last Battle by Charles Whiting. The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket, April 1945. First published in 1989. (Pen and Sword, £19.95.)

VIDEO/DVD

Oh what a colourful war

AS a companion to the Channel 4 series, Warner Vision has released **America's War – World War II in Colour** on a double video ... and we have six copies to give away.

It includes footage only ever seen before in black-and-white, but now rediscovered in its original form and restored. Battlefields, concentration camps, carrier decks in the Pacific and the shattered streets of Hiroshima are captured in powerful, shocking images.

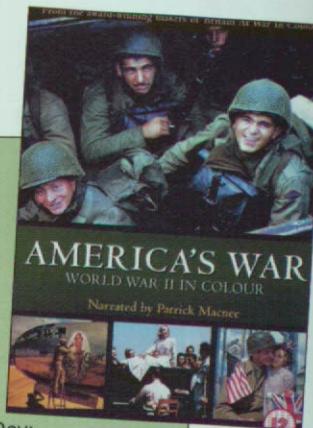
The two-video package, running to nearly 4½ hours of film, is out now, priced £19.99,

and a DVD version is due to be released at the end of the month.

To have a chance of winning a copy, tell us on a postcard which of these American leaders was the Supreme Allied Commander on D-Day:

a) Patton b) Eisenhower c) Roosevelt

First six correct answers to reach us by October 31 will win the videos. Usual competition rules apply.



Star Farrell is back in Army

POLISHED boots and Army fatigues have played a starring role in the career of Hollywood newcomer Colin Farrell.

Born and raised in Castleknock, Dublin, Farrell had his first taste of Army life and movie success in 2000 when he starred in Joel Schumacher's **Tigerland**, a gritty drama which portrays the story of American soldiers taken to the backwoods of Louisiana in 1971 to prepare for their first tour of duty in Vietnam. Farrell garnered a Best Actor Award from the Boston Society of Film Critics for his portrayal of Bozz, a roughneck Texan recruit who helps his boot-camp buddies avoid Vietnam combat.

And clearly not put off by barracks room living, the Irishman, who recently appeared alongside Tom Cruise in Steven Spielberg's **Minority Report**, returned to the ranks of the American Army for **Hart's War**.

However, Farrell insists that aside from being back in uniform, the similarities between the two films end there.

Released on DVD this month, **Hart's War**, which also stars Bruce Willis, is set in a German prisoner-of-war camp in 1945 and takes a far less critical look at war than **Tigerland**.

"I think it's far harder to be cynical about the Second World War than Vietnam because if the boys hadn't done what they did during the Second World War then we'd all be speaking



Colin Farrell

German now," explained Farrell. "They had to do what they did, whereas what happened in Vietnam was up in the air and always will be."

Farrell's character in **Hart's War**, Lt Tommy Hart, a former law student appointed to defend a black soldier charged with murdering a white sergeant, is also far removed from outspoken, action-man Bozz.

The film's action scenes are monopolised by Col William McNamara (Willis), who, with a court martial to keep the Germans distracted, orchestrates a daring scheme to escape and destroy a nearby munitions plant, and is helped unwillingly by Hart.

"Playing Hart was a lot harder than filming **Tigerland**," he said. "It was definitely the hardest job I've done because the character was so still and not proactive at all. Personally I'd feel guilty if there were a lot of young men who were at death's door every day and I was sticking pins in a map because, like Hart, my father happened to be a senator."

He may already have the mindset of an infantryman, but with films alongside Al Pacino and Ben Affleck already in production, it is unlikely that Farrell will be trading the red carpets of Hollywood for the parade squares of the British Army just yet.

Five copies of hit movie to be won

WE'VE got five sets of **Hart's War** DVDs, T-Shirts and zippo-style lighters to give away.

To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard which Hollywood actress was Bruce Willis once married to. Was it:

a) Nicole Kidman b) Demi Moore or c) Sandra Bullock

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by October 31. Usual rules apply.

• **Hart's War** will be available to own on DVD (RRP £19.99) and out to rent on video from October 14.



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THE BATTLE OF ISANDLWANA, 22 JANUARY 1879
Charles Edwin Fripp, c.1885

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Originally exhibited as 'The last stand at Isandlwana', this painting is one of the worst disasters suffered by the British Army in a coercive move against the Zulus to cooperate in a field force of British colonists and their regiments in South Africa, Zululand in 1879. On 22 January, the British army base camp was surprised under the distinctive hill of Isandlwana. Two days later, Charles Fripp arrived in London in March 1879 as the 'leading' artist for 'The Graphic'. Not long after, he recorded this event as more heroic than the realities. It must have been.

The painting made little impact when it was exhibited in 1885 since the event was then glorious and topical. However, Zulu appeared in 1963. It is now the most popular image in the



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SOLDIER to soldier

It's worth repeating

READERS may notice a number of references in this issue to the Army Benevolent Fund . . . at least nine by our reckoning.

They include an advertisement on Page 6 and an extensive editorial feature. ABF items appear on the Diary spread (four times) and again in the Feedback section in the form of a letter of gratitude and Piscator's monthly cartoon.

While this may be a few more than average, it will be a rare edition of *Soldier* that contains no mention of a charity which does an enormous amount of work for soldiers, their families and the old-and-bold.

The scope of that work is graphically illustrated on Pages 28 and 29.



Three individuals – the ten-year-old son of a serving gunner, a modern soldier whose life was shattered by a road accident, and a First World War veteran old enough to be a great-great-great-grandfather – are all currently enjoying a better quality of life than they might have had if the Army Benevolent Fund did not exist.

Last year it gave about £2 million to individuals not unlike the three featured in our report. It is worth repeating that the Fund relies on all our generosity to ensure it can go on assisting those who need help.

In this case charity truly does begin at home and we are happy to remind our readers of that . . . several times in fact.



THANKS to a London charity and SSAFA-Forces Help (see Page 7), a young soldier absent without leave for five weeks has returned to the ranks – and he is very glad to have done so. An adviser from the Reclaim Your Life project acted as a go-between, speaking to the military and clearing the way for the 20-year-old to surrender himself voluntarily.

His unit is said to be so impressed with his positive attitude that promotion and a first stripe is on the cards.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

War talk's hard for the families

HERE, it would seem, we go again. The media are having a fine old time speculating when, rather than if, we will go to war in the Gulf, with a wonderful disregard for facts, logistics, common sense, or the sensitivities of Service families.

I find it a daunting prospect these days to open a newspaper or watch a TV news broadcast. Who knows which brigades or ships, previously believed to be somewhere entirely different, will have been summarily committed to a potential war zone by a defence correspondent more interested in keeping the story alive than checking his facts. It's driving me to Moron TV in search of escape, though I did draw the line at Tony Blackburn in the Outback.

So it was good to get reassurance from the very top recently that when decisions are actually taken on any possible military action, soldiers and their families "will hear the facts first from the chain of command and not the media" (not forgetting Rumour Control, of course).

I sometimes wonder if the media ever think about the alarm and worry they may be causing spouses and children when they talk of Service personnel going to war. It's not such an exciting prospect when your nearest and dearest may be involved.

Strike paid off . . . for us

● Déjà vu seems to be happening a lot lately – it's probably my age. Ump-til-twiddly years ago, I can clearly remember Him Indoors and his fellow soldiers doing their best, with alarmingly outdated equipment, to stand in for firemen striking for a pay increase.

The soldiers, needless to say, were



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

being paid rather less than those firemen already received, and that fire strike resulted in a review of Armed Forces pay and a substantial increase. If history has to repeat itself, let's hope it has the same effect, in that regard at least.

MPs' special edition

● The Army Families Federation recently took an advertisement in *The Parliamentary Monitor*, a magazine which reaches all MPs. We don't usually do such things, but this was a special edition on defence, housing and education – three topics close to Army families' hearts.

We thought it a good opportunity to make more people aware of the difficulties Army families encounter because of our mobile lives, and to help the MoD persuade other Government departments of the need for Service personnel to be recognised as a special case in some areas.

As our advert says: "It is some time since the Government decreed that military dependants are equal and equivalent to any other British citizen, and yet we have unequal access to standard civilian services because the military lifestyle does not fit comfortably around the normal routine of most national provision."

The impact of Army life on families remains the reason most likely to drive soldiers to leave the Service. Can the Government afford to ignore the fact that many Army families feel disadvantaged compared with their civilian counterparts? Is it willing to lose trained soldiers because of their families' concerns?

It doesn't really seem like the time . . .

BFBS to air issue of domestic violence

BFBS Radio is to air a half-hour documentary on the problem of domestic violence in the Forces. With the help of welfare experts, the police and members of the military, freelance journalist John Adderley has investigated an issue recently acknowledged by policy-makers in the MoD as a problem.

"If people hadn't come forward we

wouldn't have a programme . . . and if others stay silent the official and welfare channels can't help them," he said.

The BFBS Forces Action focus on domestic violence will be broadcast on BFBS Radio 2 on Wednesday, October 9 at 1830 UK time. The programme can be heard by going to www.bfbs.com and clicking on the "Forces Action" page.



Why can't I have eye surgery at my own risk?

COULD you explain to me and your glasses-wearing readership why the Army will not allow soldiers to have corrective laser surgery to improve their vision?

The Lasik methods used are more than a decade old and have been showing very good results. I know there are some well-known side-effects – such as potential halos at night and star spots.

However, normally these do not last for more than six months and are less of a combat inhibitor than having dirty glasses, having to change contact lenses under field conditions and the prospect of actually breaking spectacles in the field or getting an eye infection.

There are many places where specs can cause unnecessary hindrance – the dust at BATUS and in Oman, ice in Norway and grime in Brunei, for example.

If the Army allowed individuals to fund their own corrective surgery, surely it would have better soldiers as a result. – Name and address supplied.

▲ Response from Army Medical Services: The policy on corrective eye surgery is tri-Service and detail can be found in Chapter 4 of JSP 346 (PULHEEMS A Joint System of Medical Classification), which was revised last year. A review of the policy is currently underway.

It is a complex area, both because it is technically developing and because there is still a real and substantial risk that visual function will get worse after surgery, something not always well-advertised.

In brief, current policy is that some methods of surgery, for short or long-sightedness, may be considered suitable for personnel or new entrants on a case-by-case basis, if certain highly specific medical conditions are met regarding eyesight beforehand. There is a period of medical downgrading after surgery (12 months), and upgrading to full fitness after that is dependent on the success of the procedure and the achievement of specific requirements.

Surgery is not approved for certain specialist employment groups such as aviation, diving, airborne and commando forces, unless specifically approved by the single Service employing authorities for these personnel. There are some forms of surgery, which are not acceptable for serving personnel at all, because of their potential after-effects. Surgery is not currently available through Service sources.

Anyone with a specific question can consult their medical officer, who can obtain more detailed advice if required.

Just how long have I been in this Army?

Qualified for a Jubilee Medal, but not a five-year bonus

I HAVE been in the Army since January 1997, when I was 16½, and have noticed that the organisation is brilliant at changing its policies on benefits and allowances. Here are a few examples.

Three years after January 1997 my rail warrants and motor mileage allowance claims were cut, indicating to me I had been in the Army for three years. As, according to the Army, I had done three years, I thought I should only have to wait another two years to receive my five-year bounty.

Surprise, surprise . . . I was wrong because the qualifying date for that bonus

Prize letter

does not start until your 18th birthday. Yet earlier this year I was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Now, if memory serves me correctly, you must have completed five years' reckoned service to qualify. So if I am eligible for the Golden Jubilee Medal, why do

I need to wait another 18 months to qualify for my bounty?

It seems to me that they are chopping and changing the dates of qualification for various things to suit themselves. I feel this is wrong and would like to know if there is anything I can do about it. – N Kealy, Waterbeach, Cambs.

Fund put me on the right course

I AM attempting to retrain for a second career in health and safety and identified a postgraduate certificate course in Occupational Health and Safety Management at Portsmouth University. The cost, however, was £1,950.

Having already spent £1,300 on courses this year, my funds had run out. Having failed to get sponsorship from my own agency I approached SSAFA-Forces Help, the Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund. SSAFA and the

RBL couldn't offer anything but the ABF was more than helpful. Their welfare officer informed me that an interest-free loan of up to £5,000 was available in compassionate cases to aid resettlement training. I completed the forms and had the £1,950 I needed within a few days.

The aim of this letter is not only to thank the ABF for their help, but also to inform others that funds are available. I had never heard of this scheme. – SSgt Steve Lloyd, 11 Region DDA, Tidworth.

Noticeboards are no substitute for training

I READ with interest Capt Huish's letter in (Aug) suggesting the Army should copy civilian organisations by using noticeboards to deliver safety training.

As a training manager in the civil aviation industry, I can reassure your readers that no reputable civilian organisation would ever claim that posting health and safety information on a noticeboard constitutes effective training.

Training is about improving people's

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda . . . but please keep them brief. The more space you take up, the less room there is for others, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

Please be brief

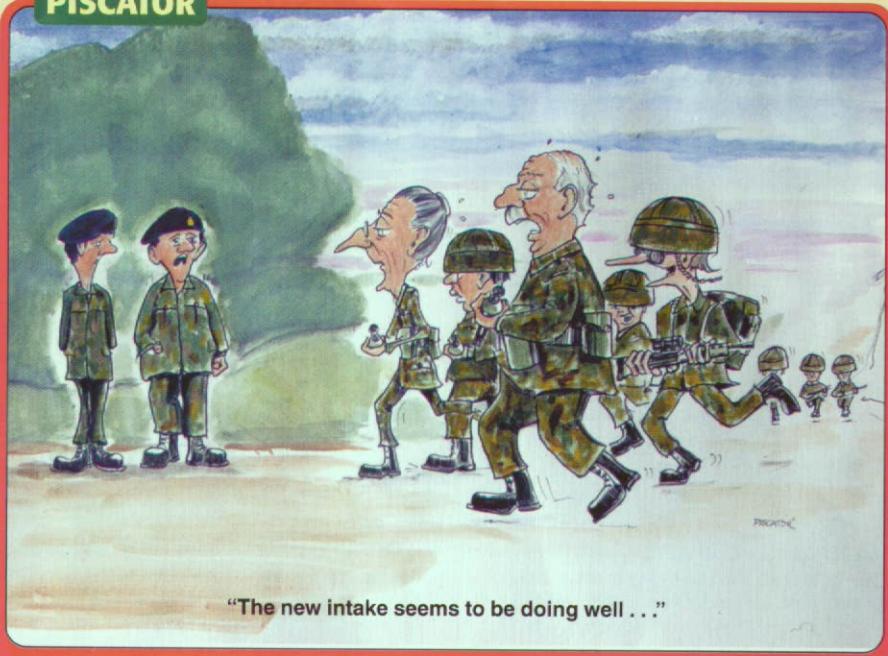
E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication). Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

skills, knowledge and attitude – and noticeboards can never achieve this. Nor incidentally will simply making them watch a video or listen to a presentation on the subject – both poor but easy substitutes for properly designed training, which generally the Army does very well.

If it were that easy, one assumes that the new recce courses, also described in the August issue, could be replaced with information on noticeboards, saving the MoD huge amounts of time and money.

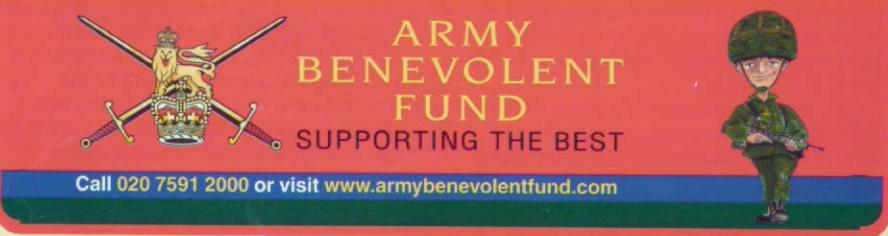
Capt Huish does however have a point that the powers-that-be issue ever more training objectives while at the same time reducing the time and resources available with which to achieve them. The solution, however, is not to reduce essential health and safety training to the posting of information on noticeboards. – Capt S M Riches RLC (V), London.

PISCATOR



'Pensionable age to rise to 70' – newspaper headline

Hero's legacy: When making a will, it is essential to ensure your loved ones are taken care of as best you can. While you remember your family and friends, we ask you not to forget the Army family. A legacy to the ABF will help to ensure that we can look after members of our wider family when they need us. Be a hero and leave a legacy. For further information, contact Susan Berrington at the ABF on 020 7591 2054 or send an e-mail to www.armybenfund.org



There's insufficient evidence for veterans' ill-health to be characterised as a syndrome

YOU carried an article (July) drawing attention to a report in the *Daily Express* about Gulf War Syndrome. This piece contained factual inaccuracies.

The Government has not been "... forced to admit that Gulf War Syndrome exists". The recent Pensions Appeal Tribunal's decision is specific to that case and it would be wrong to interpret from the tribunal's finding that Gulf War Syndrome does exist.

The Government accepts that some veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict have become ill and that many believe this ill-health is unusual and related to their Gulf experience.

However, the overwhelming consensus of the scientific and medical community is that there is insufficient evidence to

enable this ill-health to be characterised as a unique illness, condition or syndrome.

This is why, as you may have read in recent newspaper reports, MoD is seeking leave to appeal against the Pensions Appeal Tribunal's decision.

The fact that there is, at present, no proper basis for recognising Gulf War Syndrome does not prevent Gulf veterans from getting war pensions.

A war pension can be paid for any disablement, however it is labelled, provided a causal link to service is accepted.

Should your readers have any questions about Gulf veterans' illnesses, my unit may be contacted on Freephone 0800 169 4495. – D Applegate, Head of Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Unit, MoD.

PS . . .

Moaning singles

I AM writing with reference to the letter "Please have respect for singles' private spaces" (Sept) on the subject of room and block inspections.

As an ex-sergeant major, and as such very much involved in this type of inspection, I would like to point out to your correspondent that if their accommodation is kept clean and tidy, it shouldn't take the whole evening to sort the block out.

I am sick of hearing singles moaning and groaning about their rights and what accommodation they should have.

I am only surprised that they aren't asking for four-bedroom semis because they have served ten years and have a long-term relationship, or their cat from a previous relationship has to visit once a month. – WO1 (SSI) Gary Miller, Abingdon, Oxon.

Putting the boot in

I HAVE just been issued with the new version of Boots Combat Assault. The lace lock system is useless – more of a hindrance than a help – and the leather is also much stiffer.

Why change it when we were happy with the old style? It might be a good idea to have an easier system to give feedback about kit. – Name and address supplied.

▲ Response from the Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team: There is currently no new version of the Combat Assault Boot and it is difficult to address the specific issues referred to without seeing the actual boots in question. If your reader takes his boots back to the stores and ask them to raise a Defective Clothing Report (MoD Form 1197) we will be able to investigate his complaint.

It is vital that all defective equipment is returned to the stores. That way we can investigate and take appropriate action.

Use of this reporting system is very important in allowing us to identify and overcome any problems.

Unflagging support

I HAVE read articles in the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Mail* commenting on the part they have played in trying to get a medal for our service in the Suez Canal Zone 1951-54.

Of course, we are all grateful for their contribution, but those in the know, who have been pursuing the cause for yonks, acknowledge the main media thrust has come from *Soldier*.

You've been "at it" since 1969, with references going back to 1957.

When the medal is granted – and I use the word "when" rather than "if" – to some large measure this will be the result of your never-flagging support. More power to your elbow. – David Podd, ex-4 RTR, Lowestoft.



TV licence fee briefing lost me a refund

I DEPLOYED abroad at short notice and forgot to cancel my TV licence.

I didn't worry about getting a refund because we – there were more than 100 of us in the lecture theatre at the time – had been told by a Television Licensing Authority (TVLA) representative that military personnel would have no problem claiming if they were deployed at short notice.

On my return I phoned the TVLA and I found this was not the case. Refunds cannot be made on "old" licences so I lost six months of mine due to being misinformed. – **Name and unit supplied.**

HAVING just read an article in a daily newspaper that prisoners serving at Her Majesty's pleasure and living in Crown-owned property pay only £1 a week for their TVs, I must ask why serving soldiers who also live in Crown property have to pay the full licence fee.

I have been told by my son, a serving soldier, that he is in a three-man room and that each of them has to buy a licence for their own set.

We could get into the argument that those in a house have only one licence while the single man must have one for each TV. Something should be done about this. – **WO2 T McGhee, HQ RG Upavon.**

▲ **Response from PS4(A):** Despite prolonged lobbying from the Services, the TVLA's work is governed by legislation which leaves them little or no discretion to negotiate special terms for the Armed Forces.

Advice on licensing is available on customer care lines operated by the TVLA, based in Bristol (08705 763763) or on the web at www.tvlicensing.co.uk and details are also printed on the back of every licence application form. Army guidelines are contained in Joint Service DCI 49/99 and AGAI Vol. 3 Chap. 94, copies of which are available in every unit.

Units should refer queries from those requiring more information to their next higher formation G1 staff, who are able to clarify particular points with the TVLA's appointed Armed Forces Liaison Officer (AFLO). The AFLO cannot deal with enquiries from individuals but is available to advise units in the UK.

MULTI-OCCUPANCY

In a multi-occupancy room only one licence is necessary to cover all TV sets in that room, regardless of ownership.

As with the road-fund licence for cars, refunds may only be claimed for unused months before the start of the months being claimed for. With regard to the apparent misinformation given in the TVLA briefing, the author should pass the details of this briefing on to the TVLA's AFLO, via his unit.

No swanning about on posting to Kenya

I THOUGHT my six-month posting to the temporary British Army Training and Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) would be a swan, but it has turned out to be an ugly duckling. I am referring to the welfare system – or the complete lack of it. It took me three days to let my wife know that I had arrived and the cost for this was £28 for a 13-minute phone card. For my wife to contact me costs about £3 a minute.

Before I got here I was informed that spouses could fly out for a much-reduced rate or that I could have a welfare flight to the UK. Both were incorrect.

With the pathetic rates of local overseas allowance (LOA), it is costing me money to serve here. – **Cpl J Smith, Kahawa Barracks, BATLSK, Kenya.**

▲ **Response from PS10b1(A):** It is regrettable that Cpl Smith appears to have been misinformed about welfare flights. BATLSK has confirmed that there are no welfare flights either to or from Kenya for members of BATLSK staff or their families.

LOA is a compensatory, non-taxable allowance paid to military personnel serving overseas whose expenditure on items of day-to-day living is assessed to be necessarily higher than in the UK. One of the factors is the cost of telephone calls from overseas and the LOA budget includes an allowance for this. LOA for personnel in Kenya was reviewed in April 2002 and this resulted in increases for all ranks. The Temporary Duty (TD) rate of LOA for a corporal rose by 46 per cent to £3.71 per day.

The Operational Welfare Package (OWP) introduced a fundamental change to the provision of welfare facilities for overseas deployments on operations (this can include exercises, as in the case of Saif Sareea) for longer than two months. Cpl Smith should be aware that service on the temporary duty

(TD) staff at BATLSK does not qualify as an operation or exercise. Furthermore LOA and OWP are mutually exclusive, so OWP replaces, not supplements, LOA.

In discussions with TD staff at BATLSK in April, the LOA review team explained that OWP was not an addition to LOA but a replacement that would require the approval of HQ Land; furthermore, that if it was to be introduced there would be no return to LOA if OWP was no longer seen to be attractive or to meet the original requirement. Moreover, LOA is subject to annual review, OWP is not.

Cpl Smith should be aware that for the duration of his attachment to BATLSK he will be entitled to Longer Separation Service Allowance (LSSA), the basic rate of which is £5.13 a day, increasing to £8.03 for the middle rate and £10.94 for the higher rate.

There are also LSSA bonuses for which he might qualify as a result of his service in Kenya. Clearly, with an extra £8.84 a day (LOA £3.71 + LSSA £5.13 minimum), Cpl Smith does receive some extra financial remuneration while serving in Kenya.

Banking on change

I AM a senior NCO with 14 years' service, most of it in Germany. I have held a German bank account – now a joint account with my German wife – for at least ten years.

We have, among other commitments, a large mortgage on a house in Germany. This comes out of our German account and the manager is aware that I am posted around and has made provision to allow me to access my pay and bank statements anywhere in the world.

But, because I'm no longer serving in Germany, I have been told to stop my main pay from going to this account and to find an alternative or the Army will do it for me. Now we are in the European

Union, it is surely irrelevant within its confines where one has a bank account.

A UK bank account is not feasible as I do not go to the UK when on leave. As I am domiciled in Germany it makes sense for my main pay to remain in a German bank account. This is also the first time my wife has accompanied me on a tour, due to the generous statutory German maternity leave scheme of three years, after which she plans to resume her career in 2003 when I'm due a posting.

My finances have always been in order as expected of a SNCO, which is why I find this whole matter distressing. – **Name and address supplied.**

▲ **The Directorate of Staff and Personnel Support (Army) responds:** Personal Administration Manual Pt 2 Ch 5, Para 02.05412 (1) states: "Soldiers may make allotments to their own bank accounts subject to a restriction which states that Servicemen may make payments to any bank in the country in which the soldier is stationed." Individuals who believe that they have good reason for the restriction to be lifted may staff their case through the chain of command.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1977: A new family of tracked vehicles roars over a Salisbury Plain horizon into the British Army as a whole new generation equips soldiers of the Eighties. They are Scorpion and Scimitar (reconnaissance), Spartan (armoured personnel carrier), Sultan (command vehicle), Striker (missile platform), and Samaritan (ambulance).

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1952: Frank Finch illustration, above, for a feature on big changes in the Army's "Ack-Ack" (anti-aircraft) capability. The once-despised rocket is tomorrow's weapon against aircraft. Britain is perfecting powerful ground-steered rockets and the US Army already has its seek-and-destroy guided missile, as has the US Navy.

I'm not allowed to wear my tank transporter driver badge

AFTER 13 years of serving as a tank transporter driver, I have been told that I am no longer allowed to wear my trade badge. I, and many others, have always worn it with great pride. Not everyone had one and we had to complete a course to get one. Trade badges showed who we were and what we did.

In the past 12 months, we have lost our trade pay; at some point in 2003 we will lose our trucks when the contract is handed over to Sponsored Reserves; and now the powers-that-be want to remove our identity altogether. We know we are a dying breed, but the least they could do is let us bow out with a bit of pride. We've earned the right to wear our trade badge. – Cpl G Honey, Andover.

▲ *Soldier* understands that a new directive on the wearing of badges applies only to combat kit (No 8 dress). Qualification badges on combat kit are restricted to Para/SAS wings (upper right arm), the commando dagger (upper left), EOD (lower left) and AT/ATO (lower right) badges and the Army flying badge (chest). Cpl Honey may continue to wear his tank transporter driver badge (a special arm or trade badge) on any other order of military dress. – Editor

PS . . .

It worked for me

I RECENTLY lost my father after a short battle to remove a tumour. I would like to thank the compassionate cells in Andover and Hannover for their handling of the case. I was at my father's side in Leeds within 12 hours of my sister informing Andover.

I feel that these units do not always get the recognition they deserve. Having ensured my family had the compassionate card to use, I can say the system works, as I found at first hand. – LCpl Thomas, 43 Sup Sqn RLC, Gutersloh, Germany.

▲ Copies of the Compassionate Leave-Travel from Overseas card (Army Code No. 14603) are available from unit RAOs. – Editor

Glasgow Celtic's VC

I COULDN'T help noticing your review "Fields of Glory: The Extraordinary Lives of 16 Warrior Sportsmen" (Aug) highlighting the story of 2nd Lt Donald Bell, said to be the only professional footballer awarded a VC. You might like to put the record straight by mentioning Glasgow Celtic's William Angus, who won a VC with the 8th Highland Light Infantry in 1915. Angus played for Celtic from 1912 and volunteered in 1914.

He won his medal at Givenchy rescuing an officer, losing an eye, damaging a foot and receiving 40 wounds in the process. He lived to be 71, however, and is still a revered figure within Glasgow Celtic FC, who produced a brochure detailing his achievement. – Neil Griffiths, Editor and Press Officer, RBL Scotland.

Well spoken . . .

WITH reference to Page 71 (Aug), the Tech Spec for the Porche 911 Turbo describes the wheels as "Six-spoke alloys". Is this the result of inflation? The alloys pictured should have been referred to as five-spoke. – Doug Watson, Bulkington, Warwickshire.



▲ We have to agree with the compelling evidence of our own photo, right. – Editor

I was taxed by this

I AM a civilian subscriber to your magazine and was disturbed to read that Servicemen and women in Afghanistan do not get tax relief while serving there and only get a 20-minute phone call card per week. I felt I must do something about it and wrote to Charles Kennedy, leader of the Liberal Democrats, to which I belong, to urge him and his colleagues to raise this matter with the Government.

With all good wishes and thanks again for your magazine, which continues to be a first-rate publication in every respect. – J Mills, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Sig Baz McGeachy, 8 Bde Sig Sqn

It is not what I expected. The facilities are excellent. You can just book a welfare car and go. Barrack life can become depressing and activity centres bring some sort of normality back to your life.



Cpl Lee Vendyback, B Coy, 2 R Anglian

There's a lot put on for the guys obviously, because they can't go home. They get away to do paintballing and watersports such as jet-skiing. I have done some sea fishing at minimum cost which the company and the battalion subsidise. A lot of the guys have passed their driving tests and the motor-cycle test is cheaper here as well.



LCpl Roy Cousin, B Coy, 2 R Anglian

There's a good internet suite, which is free. There is jet-skiing and kayaking, which is cheap. All the facilities are there for you to use and take advantage of, so I'm happy with things. The gym facilities are excellent, with football, tennis, multi-gym, free weights, and a swimming pool.



It's just so good . . .

A recent letter in *Soldier*, from a soldier in Kabul, questioned the welfare provision in Northern Ireland. Troops stationed in the province have nothing but praise for the 'excellent' facilities

Pte Stuart Baxter, B Coy, 2 R Anglian

I am learning to drive while I am here. I'm going for my Cat B licence, which is costing me nothing at all. There are more courses available here than on the mainland so you can just book on to one and do it. I think that the welfare facilities that they've got are quite good and I don't think that

they need any more improvement.

LCpl Mo Morrison, 8 Bde Sig Sqn

This is my second tour of Northern Ireland, I have just come back from Afghanistan, and it is all a bit of a culture shock. The welfare facilities here are outstanding, quite different from the norm.



Pte John Faversham, B Coy, 2 R Anglian

For us here in 8 Brigade things are good and our accommodation has just been done up to single-man rooms. I just hope the accommodation improves throughout the Army and that it's not just a trial here.

Pte David Martin, B Coy, 2 R Anglian

It's great to be able to go to the activity centre then chill out with a couple of beers. I don't know how they could improve things really, short of shipping us off to Ibiza. I suppose they could help us out a bit more with the cost, but then we do get paid quite well here anyway.



Pte Daniel Cross, 1 PWO

Facilities are very good compared with the mainland. The gym is far better than any I have seen and so is the Naafi. The welfare car, which my mates have used, is very good. You just give them a day's notice and, if it is available, off you go.



Sgt(SI) Archie Richmond, APTC

Welfare facilities here are top-rate. The gym has received some new equipment and people are on the machines from seven in the morning until eight at night. Things are looking good. What do I think of the Naafi and the bar? I don't know, I'm never in them to tell you the truth.

Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Graeme Main



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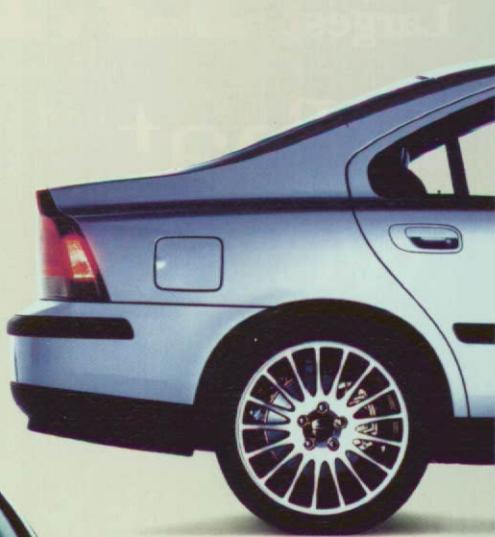
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