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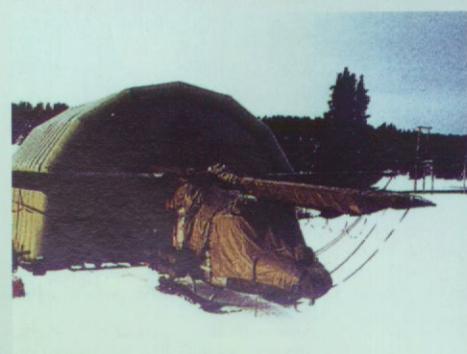


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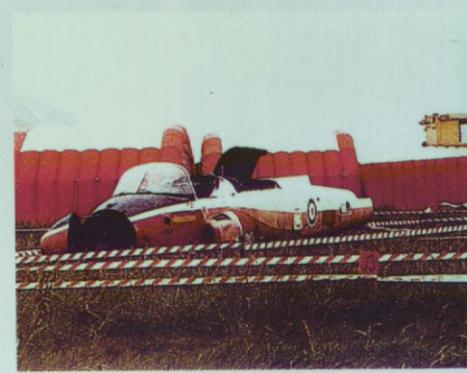
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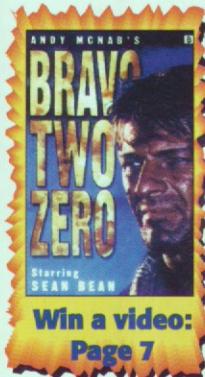
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A glimpse at the year 2010: Fus Jason Suller shows off the head-up computer display, personal transmitter and rifle-mounted camera — part of the FIST (Future Infantry System Technology) — being tested at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster, Wiltshire.
Picture: Terry Champion

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SOLDIER to soldier

Advancing with flying colours

THIS ISSUE of *Soldier* marks two important new advances in the development of the British Army's award-winning monthly magazine.

● Production changes now ensure that we are able to bring you colour on more pages than ever.

● A substantial increase in distribution means more soldiers will now have their own copy to take home.

In the past ten years our production techniques have progressed in a way that would have amazed the Fleet Street men of Montgomery's Army who started the magazine for him in 1945.

Digital images flashed around the world are now fast replacing photographic prints. Typewritten copy and layout sheets have given way to a paperless computer system.

NEW LOOK

Soldier has kept in step with the march of technology, and since we gave ourselves a fresh new look and introduced new features in October, 1997, readers have acknowledged the dramatic improvement in the quality, style and content.

Recognition came last summer when *Soldier* won a Gold Award as the top internal monthly in Britain.

We have no intention of resting on our laurels. This month's changes reflect our determination to stay in the forefront of top-quality specialist publications.

The best Army deserves the best magazine.

● Tell us what you think about *Soldier*, by post or e-mail. You'll find the addresses on Page 51.

What are you worth?

Report: Anthony Stone

JOHN Cox looked around the squaddies' quarters and was not impressed. Paint was peeling, the carpet heavily stained, the bedrooms were cramped and the showers and toilets were very public and not particularly convenient. To put it in plain English, the place was a dump.

"Aldershot accommodation is bad," the distinguished AFPRB member said. "But this is awful."

The squaddies seemed surprised by this direct approach. You got the impression they were expecting the VIPs to turn up in suits, make a few notes, have a cup of tea with the colonel and return to Whitehall before you could say "re-engagement and re-enlistment bonuses".

But then the AFPRB has never dodged difficult issues. The members jealously guard their independence and are beholden to no one. And if the squaddies had any lingering doubts about the effectiveness of the pay body to get things done, they were given a blinding example.

PROMPT ACTION

As a direct result of the AFPRB's concerns over the accommodation, a chain of events was set in motion at the division which resulted in a re-grading board waiving the rental element of the charge. Similar prompt action also took place following an AFPRB visit to sub-standard married quarters in Cyprus. Decisive results were achieved even before publication of the pay body's report. Remember that the next time you are told the AFPRB is coming to your unit.

Established in 1971, the AFPRB's job is to recommend to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence, rates of pay, charges and certain allowances for Service personnel.

The latest report is now with Tony Blair and George Robertson and a Parliamentary announcement will be made later this month. The recommendations should be put into effect at the beginning of April.

First-hand information gathering is vital to the work of the AFPRB. It is an extremely important part, but only a part, of the process.

MoD staff write reports on different aspects of Service life and submit these Papers of Evidence to members. Number-crunchers pore over masses of

How much should soldiers be paid?

Every year the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has to find the answer



John Cox: industrialist

statistics and other documentation. More evidence comes from Government departments, as well as written, oral, anecdotal and personal testimonies.

During the nine-month evaluation process, the AFPRB holds discussion groups with more than 3,500 Service personnel and takes evidence from remuneration consultants, the Council of the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations, the Treasury and the MoD. It is a combination of these papers plus the unit visits that forms the basis of the recommendations.

Take that visit to Aldershot, for example. It was similar to visits which take place all over the world, wherever British troops are deployed. In the course of five hours, members met scores of soldiers from all ranks and different cap badges.

They flew a low-level sortie in a Hercules with The Parachute Regiment and saw first-hand how airborne troops earn their pay.

Back on the ground the AFPRB members held separate informal discussions groups with soldiers and officers, with the chain of command deliberately excluded so that everyone could speak freely. Everything said was deemed to be confidential. This exercise was particularly valuable because the soldiers had been well briefed, so time-wasting was kept to a minimum.

These sessions are also an opportunity for the AFPRB to ask questions, answer queries and listen to soldiers' concerns. AFPRB members do a lot of listening.

During these visits, members are accompanied by MoD staff. Col Alison Trehern of the Directorate of Personal Services (Army), who runs the Army's policy branch on pay, allowances and charges, was able to give *Soldier* some insights into how these visits are approached.

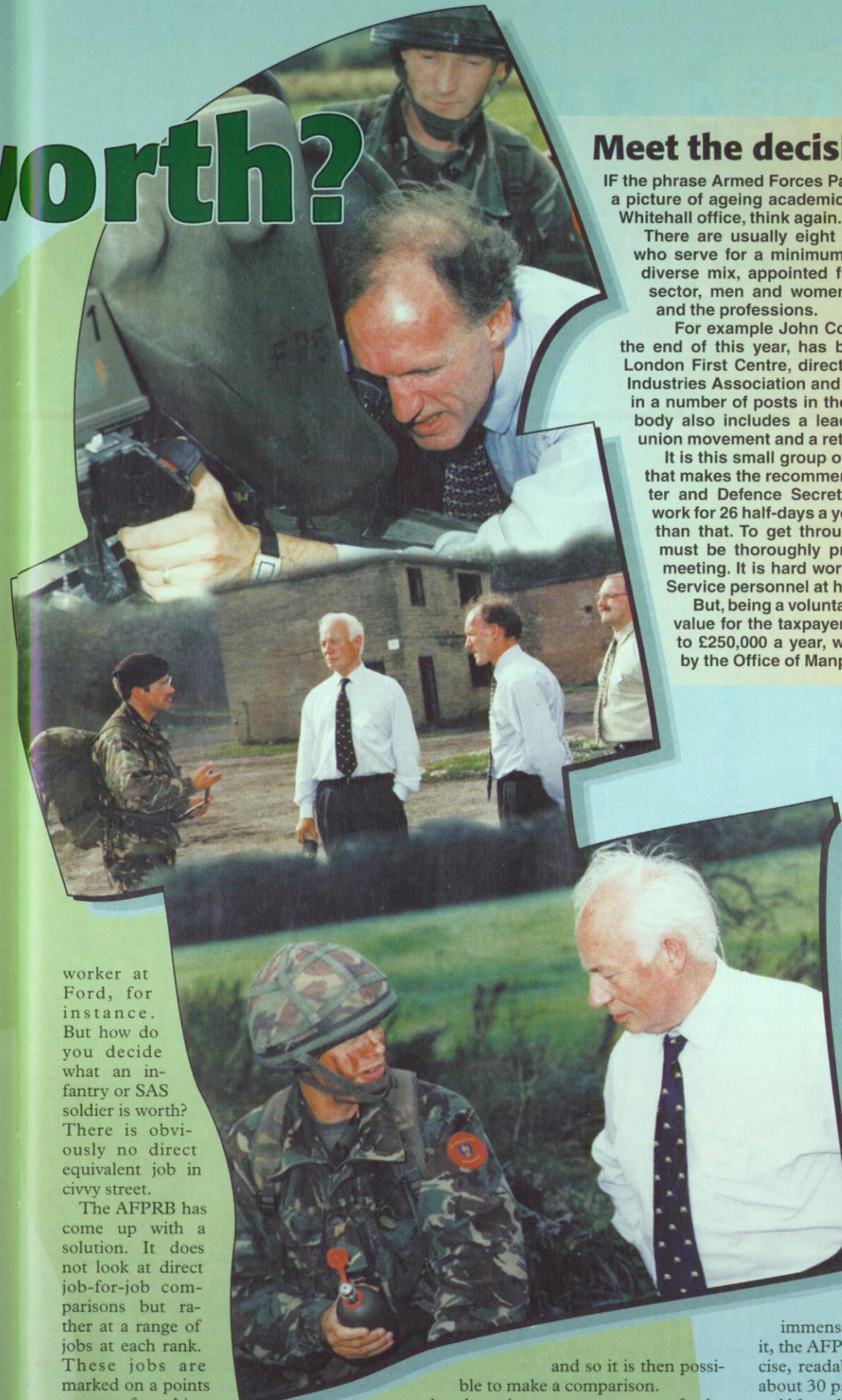
"The AFPRB members are all very professional," she said. "They are all astute, so, even if something is not brought to their attention at one particular place, they will almost certainly have seen it at other places and will be aware of what to look for. On the other hand if someone tries to flannel they can also see it."

GRIEVANCES

Because the Services have no trade union to fight their corner, the discussion groups are often used as forums to bring out grievances about more general issues of service such as accommodation and the merits of Pay-As-You-Dine, or indeed the very pay structure itself.

Col Trehern said: "There are certain common themes that emerge during the visits. The most common general issues over the last year have been concerns over accommodation, spouses' employment, turbulence and separation, and pensions. Although pensions do not fall within the AFPRB remit, the subject has been raised by all ages and ranks wherever the pay body has gone this year."

The AFPRB aims to ensure that Service pay is broadly comparable with occupations in civilian life. It tries to get a fair deal for the soldier, but must balance this with achieving a fair deal for the taxpayer. This question of comparability is a tricky one. It is not difficult if you compare two jobs that are broadly the same – a REME mechanic and a production



Meet the decision-makers

IF the phrase Armed Forces Pay Review Body conjures up a picture of ageing academics pushing paper in a stuffy Whitehall office, think again.

There are usually eight unpaid volunteer members who serve for a minimum of three years. They are a diverse mix, appointed from the private and public sector, men and women from commerce, industry and the professions.

For example John Cox, who is standing down at the end of this year, has been chief executive of the London First Centre, director general of the Chemical Industries Association and has worked for Shell Group in a number of posts in the UK and overseas. The pay body also includes a leading member of the trades union movement and a retired senior military officer.

It is this small group of highly-experienced people that makes the recommendations to the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary. They are supposed to work for 26 half-days a year, but in reality do far more than that. To get through the workload, members must be thoroughly prepared for every visit and meeting. It is hard work, involving travel to British Service personnel at home and abroad.

But, being a voluntary body, it is extremely good value for the taxpayer. The estimated costs come to £250,000 a year, with the secretariat provided by the Office of Manpower Economics.

AFPRB member Prof David Greenaway (top picture) tries the Milan simulator at Warminster, where John Crosby (middle picture, second left) and Prof Greenaway are briefed while Richard Harris of the Office of Manpower Economics looks on. Bottom, John Crosby listens to a soldier's concerns

ernment's decision last year to stage their pay award for the second time in two years".

Because of the huge amount of ground to cover, each year the AFPRB looks at specialist areas such as trainee medical technicians or veterinary surgeons and subjects them to scrutiny. A major pay item such as flying pay or the X-factor is examined every five years.

Considering the immensely complicated task before it, the AFPRB manages to publish a concise, readable annual report, running to about 30 pages.

Although Service personnel might disagree with the Armed Forces Pay Review Body's conclusions, they would be hard-pressed to criticise the thorough manner in which it has reached them.

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Air crash kills three

A LYNX helicopter crash in Bosnia resulted in the death of three Army Air Corps soldiers.

Capt Philip Jarvis, 27, and Sgt David Kinsley, 34, were killed instantly when their aircraft came down outside the perimeter fence of the AAC base at Gornji Vakuf. LCpl Chris Addis, 26, died on New Year's Eve at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, from the injuries he sustained.

Lt Col Jonathan Parish, commanding officer of 4 Regiment, AAC, Wattisham, said: "The regiment is devastated at the news of this crash and the loss of three of its soldiers."

"Capt Jarvis was an enthusiastic young officer with the brightest of futures. He leaves behind many good friends. Sgt Kinsley was a cheerful, experienced technician, whose lively sense of humour endeared him to everyone.

"Cpl Addis, who came top in his JNCO's course prior to leaving for Bosnia, was a man of great talent, dynamism and humour. His fight for life mirrored his zest for life.

"Our thoughts and prayers lie with their families and friends."

Accident investigators travelled to Bosnia to look into the causes of the crash.

Skopje rescue force is ready

WITH the situation in Kosovo deteriorating dramatically as this issue was sent to the printers, Britain's 500-strong contingent in NATO's Macedonia-based Extraction Force had met its January 15 deadline for operational readiness.

With elements from other European countries led by France, British troops are now standing-by near the Kosovo border ready to rescue ceasefire verifiers should it become necessary.

MASSACRE

Kosovo's worsening situation reached a new low when the unarmed verifiers discovered the aftermath of an atrocity in which more than 30 ethnic Albanians had been massacred.

The risk to the verifiers themselves, of which more than 220 are British, was made vividly clear when a British member of the mission was slightly injured during a shooting incident. He was released from hospital the following day. His local interpreter was also hurt in the incident.

Britain's enhanced company-strength contribution to the force, mainly from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, but with elements from The Highlanders and The Royal Irish Regiment, is equipped with Warrior fighting vehicles, mortars and anti-tank weapons.

Support elements and a squadron of Royal Engineers bring the strength of the contingent to just over 500 soldiers.

The UK troops deployed to the Macedonian capital Skopje at the end of December.

"We are on a certain notice to move, and this varies depending on our status," said Lt Col Richard Iron, commanding officer of 1 KORBR. "We are developing our own tactics and training for anything that may develop in Kosovo."

● 1 KORBR in Skopje – Pages 18-19

Win a Bravo Two Zero video

SOLDIER, in association with the BBC, has five copies of the *Bravo Two Zero* video, starring Sean Bean, to give away. To have a chance of winning one, tell us on a postcard the full name of the Greenjacket soldier of the Napoleonic Wars played by Sean Bean on TV. Include your

name and address, and a day-time telephone number, and send your answer to *Bravo Two Zero* Competition to reach *Soldier* by March 1. The Editor's decision is final and winners' names will be published in *Soldier*.

● Sean Bean's army – Pages 34-35

Hope on a rope



True grit: LCpl Samantha Hickson, of 42 Signal Squadron (V), puts her aptitude to the test during a military skills competition at Sennybridge Training Area. Her Manchester-based team finished second

Para patrol saves hit-and-run victim

A PATROL from the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, on duty at Drumcree, Northern Ireland, was called to the scene of a hit-and-run incident and gave life-saving first aid to the victim, a young man, who sustained serious injuries to head and body.

The soldiers were alerted by a girl who saw the incident.

The injured man stopped breathing twice before an ambulance reached the scene and both times the paras revived him. He was subsequently taken to Craigavon Hospital, from where he was transferred to Belfast.

A doctor praised the actions of the soldiers and said the man, who is now

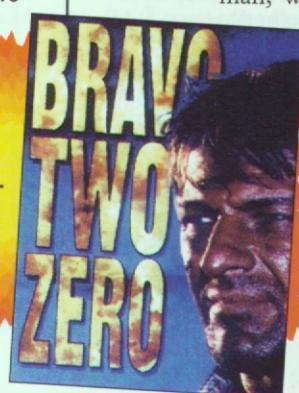


First- aider: LCpl John Scott

making a good recovery, would have died if they had not responded so quickly.

Patrol medic LCpl John Scott was later thanked by the family when he telephoned the man's mother.

The 2nd Battalion is on a six-month tour of duty in East Tyrone.





Picture: Mike Weston

Tread softly: Sarajevo rose marks a killing place

Siege city edges back from brink

FOUR years ago a *Soldier* team was driven through the streets of Sarajevo at 80mph and snipers were taking pot-shots at anything that moved, writes Anthony Stone.

Now as the city enters the last year of the millennium, it is slowly finding its feet. The main road, dubbed Sniper Alley during the war, still has mines scattered liberally either side of it and there is a huge amount of war damage yet to be repaired outside the main shopping area. But there is no disguising the fact that the city is getting back to normal.

The centre could be mistaken for any prosperous central European city, with coffee shops and bars teeming with the young and fashionable.

OPTIMISM AND ENERGY

Sarajevoans are full of optimism and energy. Understandably, they do not want to dwell on the past because, wherever they go in the city they are surrounded by the ghosts of the siege.

One man in his early 20s said: "The war was terrible. A lot of bad things went on, but we try not to think about it. It is time to move on."

But as darkness falls and the temperature drops, the prosperous head for the warmth of nightclubs and restaurants and the streets are left to the war's losers; those who can't so easily forget. Refugees and orphans beg in shop doorways with only pitifully thin clothes to keep out the biting cold.

SARAJEVO ROSE

Walk away from the city centre and you begin to see with more frequency other reminders of the recent past. To mark the spot where a life was taken, by sniper bullet or mortar, the city has painted a blood-red bloom, a Sarajevo rose.

It is not just the freezing winter temperatures that send a chill through the heart. The streets of Sarajevo are paved with headstones.

• *Bosnia briefing* – Pages 21-23

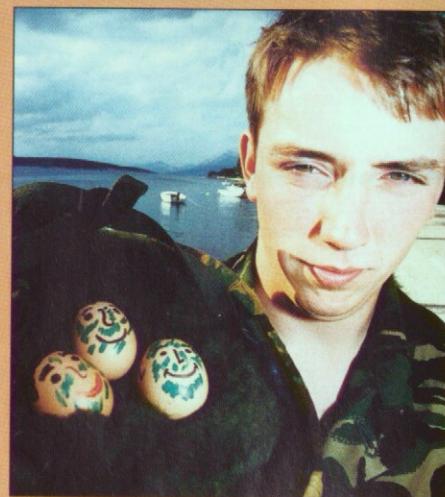
Cracking good eggercise . . .

IT was no yoke when soldiers taking part in an adventurous training exercise broke the eggs they had been put in charge of.

Taking time out from their duties with the NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia, 27 stunned soldiers cracked up when they were given five specially stamped "raw recruits" and told to molly-coddle them as they went rock-climbing, sub-aqua diving, windsurfing and mountain-biking.

But they soon found that Capt Bob Wood, OC Brac Adventurous Training Centre, off the coast of Croatia, who had the eggsellent idea, was serious. If they smashed their egg they were asked to produce a lengthy "death" report.

"Some people asked for a new egg because they had broken theirs after the first activity," he eggsplained. "I told them they had killed their recruit."



Eggstraordinary: Pte Alexander Maguire, RLC, with raw recruits at the Brac adventure centre

"The idea of giving them an egg was to make them think about someone other than themselves. All members of the team had to work together to protect it. They needed the egg for the final exercise so if they broke it they couldn't take part."

Reserves' centre opens at Chilwell

A NEW "stepping stone" for Territorial Army and reserve soldiers between their civilian lives and military service, the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC), is to be established by April.

Situated at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, it will be responsible for the administration, training and requirements of part-time soldiers volunteering for service with the Regular Army at home, on overseas exercises or on operations.

An estimated 3,600 personnel will pass through the centre each year, and the first course is due to start in May. A 12-day individual training

module will give volunteers training in skill-at-arms, first aid, fieldcraft and personal fitness before they join their units.

Individuals going on operations will attend Special-to-Theatre courses before being deployed.

Message delivered

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson paid tribute to the Army's "posties" when he visited staff of the Defence Mail Service, the Defence Courier Service and the British Forces Post Office at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London.

IN BRIEF

NINE soldiers were hoping to reach the summit of Mount Aconcagua (23,000ft) in Argentina by the end of January. The party of eight men and one woman, mostly from The Royal Irish Regiment, left for South America in mid-January to climb the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere. Only about 40 per cent of attempts on the mountain are successful.

- John Bridgeman, chairman of the National Employers' Liaison Committee, made a two-day visit to Bosnia with Lt Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, Commander Joint Operations, and met units serving at Banja Luka, Jajce and Sipovo.
- A new £5.5 million storage and loading area for ammunition has been



Engaging the enemy: AS90s open fire during the final OS Group battle at BATUS

Support Group on offensive at BATUS

CANADA's prairie became the playground of 3 (UK) Division's Offensive Support (OS) Group in a radical departure for the British Army Training Unit at Suffield (BATUS).

It was the first opportunity to develop the concept of the OS Group and its role in divisional operations outside the restrictive confines of Salisbury Plain and the ranges in Germany.

More than 1,500 soldiers from different units were brought together at BATUS near Medicine Hat in Alberta for what Maj Gen Cedric Delves, GOC 3 (UK) Div, described as his potentially battle-winning fourth manoeuvre formation.

Troops of the Household Cavalry Regiment, who provided the opposition for the 1998 series of Medicine Man exercises, became the players and conducted their first formation reconnaissance exercise as a regiment since 1993. In addition, the AS90 guns of 6/36 Battery RA, the Phoenix surveillance and target acquisition system of 22 Battery RA and the Javelin air defence missiles of 43 Battery RA were involved in the three-week exercise.

Surveillance and target acquisition patrols from Catterick-based 5 Regiment RA deployed deep into enemy territory, digging in and observing the opposition forces as they rolled over them.

Already accustomed to the noise of

opened at BAD Longtown by the Quartermaster General, Lt Gen Sir Scott Grant.

- A memorial to British artillerymen who died at Isandlwana was unveiled on the battlefield by the Master Gunner St James's Park, Fd Marshal Lord Vincent, on the 120th anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu war in South Africa. The gunners

commemorated were from N Battery, 5th Brigade RA, who were all but wiped out on January 22, 1879.

- Headquarters 2 (South East) Brigade received the Investors in People award from Kent Training and Enterprise Council's chief executive during a ceremony at Leeds Castle.

Former Iron Curtain countries join ARRC

THREE countries from the former Eastern Block have set up a liaison department at the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Headquarters in Rheindahlen, Germany.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland have each sent an officer and a senior non-commissioned officer to the liaison department, which will act as a conduit between ARRC and the three nations' capitals.

The three were invited to join accession talks at last year's NATO summit in Madrid. Their acceptance into the alliance is expected to happen early next year.

Together . . . sometimes



When LCpl Karen Styles of the Adjutant General's Corps and LCpl Terry Styles of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment decided to tie the knot in July last year, they knew that there was an overseas tour coming up. Sure enough, three months later Karen found herself posted to Split, Croatia while Terry was deployed to Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia. Still, it's a case of absence making the heart grow fonder . . . and at least they see one another once a fortnight.

Picture: Mike Weston

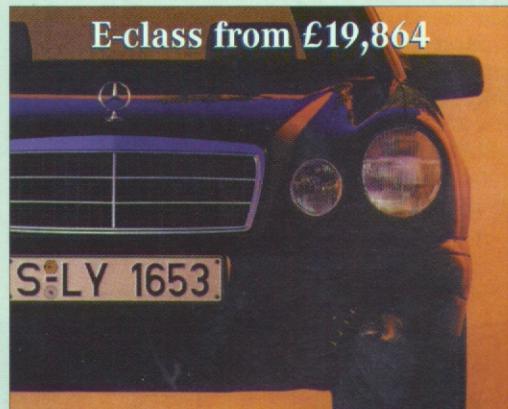
Adventure in Anglesey

A FORMER school for sons of Merchant Navy officers is to re-open as the new HQ Joint Services Mountain Training Centre on April 4.

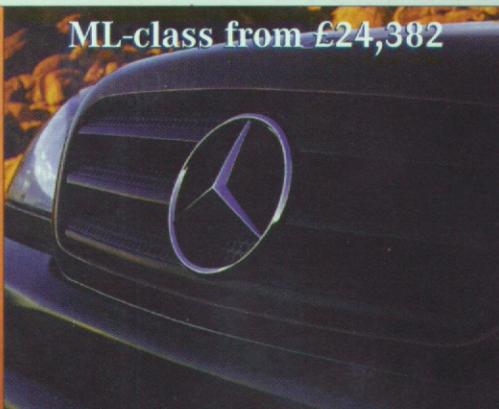
HMS *Indefatigable* in Anglesey will be the centre of excellence for turning talented mountain climbers, skiers and canoeists into adventurous training instructors for their units. A tri-Service family welfare centre, the Nuffield Centre, with swimming pool, sailing club and climbing wall, will also be located on the site.

Magic Moments

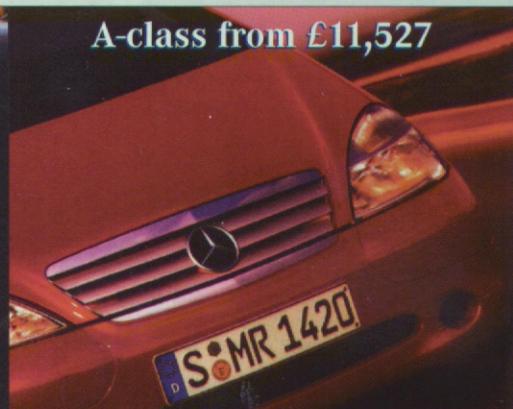
E-class from £19,864



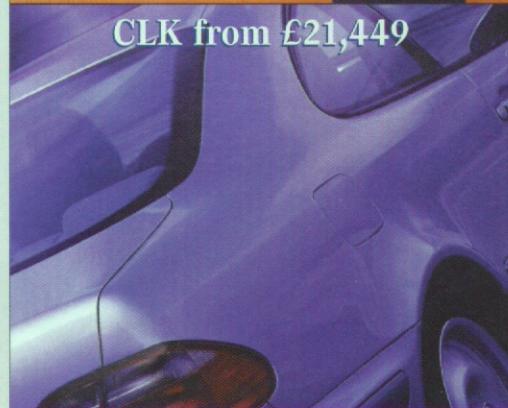
ML-class from £24,382



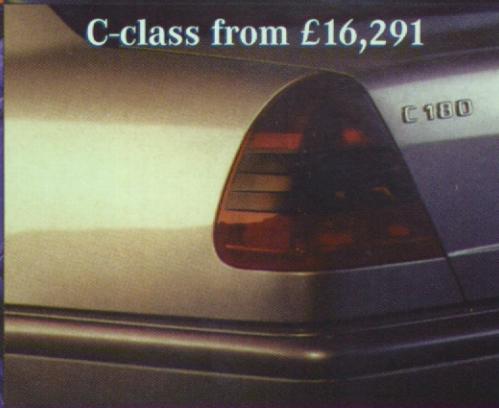
A-class from £11,527



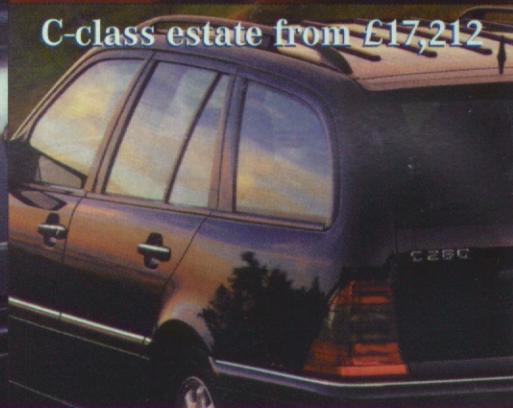
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People, places, events

Prince of Wales at Sandhurst

CADETS passing out at the 128th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy were inspected by the Prince of Wales, appearing for the first time at Sandhurst in the uniform of a major general.

Prince Charles, who was accompanied by the Commandant, Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, left, presented the Sword of Honour to Junior Under Officer Anthony Bird, who will serve with the Army Air Corps.

OC Paul Beaves, who received the Queen's Medal for achieving the best overall results in military, practical and academic studies, will join the Royal Tank Regiment.

The parade was commanded by the Academy Adjutant, Maj Francis Hobbs, Gren Gds, mounted on Talavera. Maj Hobbs had been due to ride Rougham Colleen, a horse familiar to millions of television viewers after appearing in the programme *Animals*



in Uniform, but she was injured a short time before the parade. Although recovering well, Rougham Colleen was unable to take part in the parade.

Of the 210 officer cadets taking part in the parade, 24 were from 16 overseas countries

Picture: Terry Champion

Otterburn: the inquiry reopens

THE public inquiry into Otterburn Training Area is to reopen at the end of March following a Government decision to invite comments on new information which has arisen since the original hearing as a result of the Strategic Defence Review.

The first inquiry, which lasted for seven months and caused a rift between the Army and the Northumberland National Park Authority, finished on October 30, 1997. The Army wants to improve facilities on Otterburn training area to train safely on the AS90 gun and the M28 multi-launch rocket system. New factors to be taken into consideration include

the withdrawal of troops from Germany, reductions in the strength of the Territorial Army, location of training facilities for additional AS90 regiments, and the training needs of a new armoured brigade and new Apache helicopter regiments.

"If the Army needed more facilities than it did before it would put in a new Notice of Proposed Development, having carried out the required environmental assessments," said Lt Col Patrick Gouldsbury, HQ Land Command.

"We still urgently need Otterburn Training Area developed to meet our commitments to NATO."

IN BRIEF

THE Army Presentation Team has been awarded the Government's Charter Mark for providing an outstanding service to the public. It is the first award of its kind to be won by an Army or MoD organisation.

● A 70ft Bailey Bridge which served as a temporary National Trust footpath across the River Ouse in Cambridgeshire has been

removed by 50 men from 39 Engineer Regiment based at Waterbeach. The bridge was erected by Royal Engineers in the spring last year during a major restoration programme at Houghton Mill.

● Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson visited troops stationed in the Falklands during his first trip to the islands in December.

Cavalry regiment's bond of friendship

CAVALRY regiments from either side of the Channel paraded together at Hyde Park Barracks for the signing of an official Bond of Friendship.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) and La Garde Républicaine of France have had close contact for some time.

It had been agreed to establish more formal ties and the arrival of an equestrian display team of 12 Republican Guards for the International Horse Show at Olympia provided the ideal opportunity for a ceremonial signing.

Flag comes down on 'secret' ammo dump

BRITISH involvement in the Walsrode ammunition compound near Fallingbostel in Germany ended in December after 53 years. The site had been in constant use for ammunition storage since the end of the Second World War when it was discovered, accidentally, by a British Army major. He was cycling past the site when he was handed the keys by a local German civilian.

Until then, due to the excellence of its camouflage, the Allies had no idea it existed.

Final hand-over to the German Government will take place next year.

● Booker Foodservice has won a contract to provide food to UK Armed Forces in Croatia and Bosnia via a warehouse and transport operation based at Bugojno, central Bosnia.

● The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, met soldiers of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during a visit to Ashington TA Centre, Northumberland.

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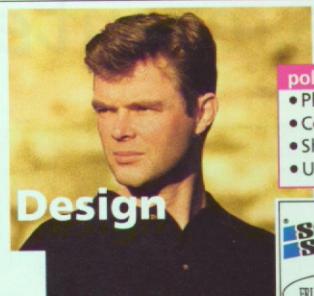
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People, places, events



Record rookie: Sgt Larry McFarlane, right, inspects new recruits at Chelsea Barracks, including Stephen Rosling, left, the 15,000th to sign up during 1998. Also in the picture are, from left, Lydia McPherson, Laura Bunce and Tammy Knight

Recruiting figures take upward turn

AN energetic recruiting campaign during 1998 resulted in an 18 per cent increase in the number of soldiers enlisting during the year.

It reversed the recruiting slump of previous years and was the best figure since 1991. The concerted effort focused on a hard-hitting advertising campaign, the establishment of an Ethnic Minority Recruiting Team and a high-profile campaign to attract more women into the Army.

These measures were reinforced by the opening of the new Army Foundation College at Harrogate (see feature, Pages 38-39), a Pathfinder programme for schools, a continued programme of Army Careers Office openings, and the re-appearance of uniformed soldiers on the streets of Britain.

Internet provides TA latest in the outback

THERE was nothing on the bush telegraph in Australia's outback, so soldiers from 15 (North East) Brigade, which has 20 Territorial Army units under command, accessed the Internet to find news of the TA restructuring.

Based in Brisbane for the five-nation command post exercise Rainbow Serpent, many of the 15 Bde contingent were taking part in an outstanding adventure training programme when news of the restructuring was announced.

The rear party at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane culled news of the announcement from the Internet so that soldiers could be briefed as they returned from rock-climbing, bush-walking, scuba-diving and canoeing in national parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

It was the first time a regional brigade had represented the UK on an Australia, Britain, Canada and America (ABCA) exercise. Officers from New Zealand were also present as observers. Australia's newly-formed Deployable Joint Force Headquarters took part for the first time.

The event, last staged at Fort Lewis in the USA, is held every two years. Britain will host the 2000 exercise.

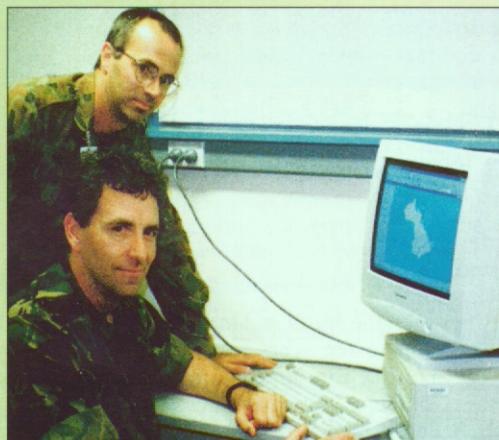
"We practised hard before we set foot in Australia," said Brig Alan Deed, Commander 15 (NE) Bde, "and it was gratifying to see

all our hard work pay off. We gained much useful knowledge from operating with our closest allies."

The largely computer-based exercise was designed to practise the procedures and planning becoming increasingly necessary in providing peace support to countries such as Bosnia which are emerging from turmoil.

Rainbow Serpent also provided a testing ground for the technical demonstrator of the Battle Management System (BMS), designed to be used as a planning tool by officers on such exercises.

Other nations showed much interest in BMS, which provides details of geographical locations, what manpower and equipment is held, where it is, and its battle-fitness state.



Capt Mark Layton, seated, project officer for the Battle Management System, gives a demonstration to SSgt Barry Miller of the Australian Army during Rainbow Serpent

Picture: Maj Charles Jones

Cold start in Gornji



This is snow fun if you have to do it most winter mornings. SSgt Jamie Alleyne and Sig Min Gurung, both of 30 Signal Regiment, clear the bonnet of a Land Rover at the HQ of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment in Gornji Vakuf, Bosnia. See Pages 21-23. Picture: Mike Weston

EOD sappers to dig up old tanks

ARMY explosive experts from Essex have begun a two-year long operation to clear land near the entrance to the Channel Tunnel at Folkestone of ammunition and wartime tanks buried on the North Downs.

The project, by soldiers from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Wimbish, will involve the clearance of more than 150 acres on the training area at Arpinge. The land has been used by the Army since the First World War. Already hundreds of ordnance items have been removed for destruction.

Specialist equipment will be used to remove four Churchill tanks, known to be buried on the land, because of the potential hazard to personnel from excavating the area.

Setting sights on 2010

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

IMAGINE the scene. It is the year 2010 and British soldiers are taking part in a fierce street-battle.

A section is waiting behind a wall. The commander edges his rifle around the corner, presses a button and the camera mounted near the sight starts to record the scene for him. The images are relayed to a computer processor on the soldier's back and appear on the head-up display in front of his eyes at the same time as being transmitted back to headquarters.

Something catches his eye and disappears. After rewinding and freeze-framing the image to examine it more closely he makes the decision to wait until nightfall

The Infantry Trials and Development Unit tests weapons and equipment the British Armed Forces will use in the 21st century

before advancing. A terse instruction into the personal-role radio microphone attached to his helmet is transmitted individually to other soldiers in his section and they prepare to wait.

All of them are wearing night vision devices and they have laser aimers on their rifles. The night holds no secrets for them and they are able to operate as comfortably in the dark as in daylight.

This is FIST – Future Infantry System Technology – which is being developed and tested in a £6m project funded jointly between the MoD and industry.

"In the past people used anything they could beg, borrow or steal," said Maj Barry. "We

Personal Clothing and Equipment Section

"We are called the Cinderella section," joked Maj James Barry, R Irish, SO2 Personal Clothing and Equipment Section. "But a lot of what we produce helps the soldier in his everyday life. We think about the chap in his trench, uncomfortable and cold, and we come up with ideas to make life easier."

One such innovation is a slip-over stand for a hexi-burner, which will enable soldiers to heat water in their metal cups without it falling over. This small but ingenious idea is in the process of being accepted and will eventually be issued with all ration packs.

The section has also been testing a new Fighting In Built-Up Areas (FIBUA) pack which has been developed over the past three years.

"In the past people used anything they could beg, borrow or steal," said Maj Barry. "We

have now identified the exact quantities needed and are in the middle of procurement, and it will hopefully come into service soon."

The pack contains such items as sledge-hammers, jem-mies, crowbars, grappling-hooks and axes. The two major items are a specially-designed ladder, which can be easily carried and assembled from four pieces, and a stretcher which weighs only nine kilos.

Head for heights: top to bottom: Pte Jeremy Davies, WO2 John McCaffrey and Maj James Barry testing a new ladder

provide the infrastructure for the trials.

"This is the first year in a ten-year cycle to produce the final system," explained Maj Simon Nias, RGR, SO2 Electronics and Special Equipment Section, ITDU. "It is avionics technology out of the cockpit and on to the battlefield. We have to make it user-friendly and 'ruggedise' it so that soldiers can use it in the field."

It is one of more than 70 trials ITDU is

presently involved in from its base at Warminster Training Centre on Salisbury Plain. The unit, which is all-arms and tri-Service, is responsible for testing and developing all infantry-type weapons and equipment before they are issued to soldiers. These can range from Warrior fighting vehicles and missile launchers to gun-sights and personal clothing.

ITDU is a vital link in the chain which finally ends with a new piece of equipment coming into service. The Operational Requirements Branch at MoD first decides if there is a need for an item. Staff at the Procurement Executive at Abbey Wood are then tasked with procuring it, and it is passed to ITDU to trial and check it meets all specifications.

Lt Col Stephen Oxlade, Commandant of ITDU, said the unit's prime aim was to ensure that new equipment met the operational requirement under operational conditions. The "user" – the soldier whose life could very well depend on his piece of kit performing in exactly the way he was told it would – is always uppermost in the minds of those doing the trialling.

"We are here to give advice if there are any problems," said Lt Col Oxlade. "If we don't know the answer then we always know someone who does."

"Our trial reports are completely unbiased. We produce a ranking against key requirements and it is for someone else to take these results and make the deci-

Anti-tank power: MRTRIGAT, a European project, being trialled by Pte Graham Cunnea and CSgt Nick Carter



Package of improvements: Maj Brian Robertson and Pte Graham Cunnea (left) with a modified 50-calibre machine-gun



Lt Col Stephen Oxlade

stop there. It carries out Mid-Life Improvements (MLIs) on kit and generally makes sure it has an input in projects from cradle to grave.

As a result there is an "Aladdin's Cave" of a workshop with state-of-the-art com-

● Turn to next page

Kitstop special

Small Arms Section

The Rifle Grenade General Service, which can fire a high-explosive fragmentation grenade into a bunker-sized target accurately from up to 150 metres, has been one of the great successes of ITDU.

"The problem was that the soldier was issued with a small plastic sight which broke shortly after being tested," explained Maj Simon Jones, PWRR, SO2 Small Arms Section. "We received different sights which varied in size and effectiveness – one actually melted when we were testing it."

"Finally Joe Allen in our workshop fabricated a dedicated bracket with an accurate ring-sight which fits on top of the rifle perfectly. We are now developing a bracket and iron sight for jungle operations."

The section is testing various grenades which use modern and cheaper manufacturing techniques. One of the most effective, but most expensive, has a first charge causing metal legs to spring out so that it rights itself. A second charge then explodes with a lethal range of 20 metres.

The section is trialling four long-range large-calibre rifles; two British, one American and one French. A full set of climatic trials has been carried out and the trial reports are being written.

"It's sad, but we don't give any



preference to British manufacturers," said Maj Jones. "The advantage of buying British is that it is very easy to interface with British companies and we can make modifications quickly and easily. Sometimes dealing with manufacturers abroad is difficult. But at the end of the day it is a level playing field."

Testing, testing: From left: Maj Simon Jones, QMSI John Dallison, CSgt Gary Hayward and Hldr Ian Chisholm with four long-range large-calibre rifles from various countries

Clear view: Hldr Chisholm demonstrates the accurate, home-crafted new ring-sight



2010

● From Page 15

puterised manufacturing equipment. It is here that any adjustments or alterations are carried out to improve the performance of hardware being tested.

"We can make absolutely anything here," was the proud claim of workshop administrator WO2 (AQMS) Gary Williams, REME. Civilian industrial technician Joe Allen has been made MBE for his 15 years of service, and is responsible for designing and manufacturing a number of modifications on weapons and kit the British Army uses today.

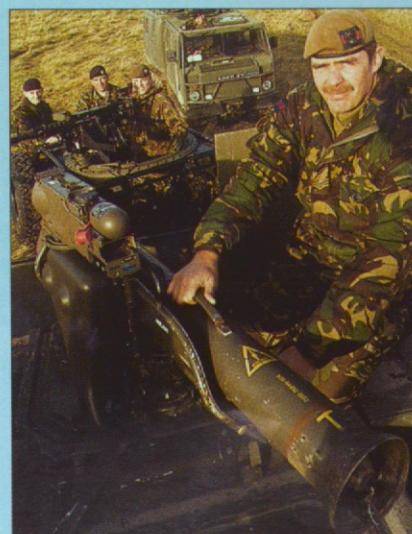
All the officers in the unit have technical weapons qualifications and attended the Military College of Science at Shrivenham for a year. The senior NCOs are experts in their own technical areas.

From its base on the edge of Salisbury Plain, ITDU has access to 400 square miles of roads and countryside on which to carry out many of its trials.

The Army of the future is being scrutinised very carefully by the Army of today.

Mobility Section

Thousands of kilometres are covered by the Mobility Section as the vehicles and weapons they test are subjected to the most rigorous trials.



By design: CSgt Pete Aston with his system for firing Milan from a Warrior

The Weapons Mount Installation Kit on top of a Land Rover Wolf chassis modified with a GPMG and a .50 Browning is one of the systems undergoing tests.

The procedure was explained by Maj Ranald Blue, LI, SO2 Mobility Section. "First we test the ergonomics; does it feel right, and will the soldier feel comfortable? We then take it on a 1,000km trundle over all different types of terrain and if a bit falls off it is logged. We don't just say what the problems are, but make rec-

ommendations to solve the problem. A lot of it is just common sense."

Trials have also been carried out on the 7.62 chain gun for the Warrior fighting vehicle to see whether the point of impact moves when the barrels are changed. The section has also been trialling a weapon mount for a .50 Browning on top of a BV206 on behalf of the Royal Marines. It has already snapped once and modifications have been made.

CSgt Pete Aston has been working out a system where a Milan can be fired from the top of a Warrior. He has designed a castellation protection system which will be attached to the top of the vehicle.

"We have to determine how thick the metal has to be by working out what mass will strike the plate, and the workshop will then produce the sheet for us," he said.

Beating burns

Burns are a hazard of modern warfare. But at the Royal Hospital Haslar, surgeons, nurses and combat medical technicians learn new methods which improve victims' chances of survival

Report: Graham Bound

Pictures: Terry Champion

IT IS conservatively estimated that burns comprise about ten per cent of injuries in any war and, depending on the nature of a conflict, this figure can be very much higher.

But surprisingly few burns injuries are caused by direct enemy action. Most soldiers suffering the agonising, sometimes fatal and often disfiguring injuries are the victims of accidents which occur when the stress of operational duties overwhelms peacetime standards of health and safety.

Mundane though such threats may appear when an enemy is firing rockets and dropping bombs with extreme malice, almost as much danger exists in the routine management of ammunition stores, fuel dumps and domestic facilities – particularly kitchens.

MAXIMUM CHANCE

When burns do occur, whatever the cause, it is vital that victims receive prompt and appropriate first aid. Correct early treatment gives them the maximum chance of survival and rehabilitation when they have been transferred to permanent or field hospitals.

These were the principal messages conveyed to tri-Service students attending a special course at the Royal Military Hospital Haslar at Gosport, Hants. The latest of a series of intensive one-day burns seminars was designed to bring medical field operatives up to date on the latest techniques for the prevention and early treatment of burns.

During a break in the course, organiser Maj David Bates explained that most par-



Tri-Service approach: Trainees attend to a simulated casualty on a burns seminar at Haslar, Gosport. Left to right, Leading Naval Nurse Lisa Mullen, Flt Lt Gordon Brown, Lt John Logan and Capt John Clarke

Where does it hurt? Casualty simulation, using realistic techniques, is a vital ingredient in the course. Inset, Maj Fiona Cameron of 205 Field Hospital applies the gory make-up to Pte Nicola Walker of 33 Field Hospital

ticipants had already passed the standard medics' courses on battlefield trauma and life support and were familiar with modern drugs and treatments. But few had experienced the intensely demanding reality of casualty "management" in the field.

"One problem," said Maj Bates, "is that those giving first aid can be diverted from the proper procedures by the drama of a situation. They can be confused by the chaos surrounding an incident and the pressure to treat obvious superficial injuries, overlooking previously existing conditions such as pregnancy, diabetes or asthma, with potentially serious results."

A combination of lectures, group work and the "treatment" of simulated casualties (all bearing horribly realistic injuries and acting with disturbing realism) brought home the vital lessons in this course, which is licensed to the British military medical authorities by its designers in the New Zealand and Australian armed forces.

Civilian instructor Sarah Pape, normally a consultant plastic surgeon at the

Royal Victoria Infirmary at Newcastle upon Tyne, emphasised that the techniques taught are practical and appropriate for use in difficult circumstances. "There is no theoretical stuff," she explained, pointing out that many battlefield first-aiders are likely to be young, junior ranking combat medical technicians or even bandsmen with minimal medical training.

Combat medical technicians working alongside senior nurses and even consultant surgeons were, said Sarah Pape, among the best students. "That just shows the merits of this course. We can teach burns prevention and management techniques to people with only basic knowledge of anatomy and medicine."

Attendance at one of Haslar's occasional Emergency Management of Severe Burns courses is not compulsory for field medical operatives. All students are volunteers. But Haslar's burns specialists hope that the course will soon become an integral element of basic training for every medic, nurse and doctor.

Warrior force ready for action

As the world nervously watched Kosovo appear to descend into another ferocious Balkan war, British soldiers were placed on stand-by in Macedonia for a possible rescue mission to the disputed territory

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Jim Gallagher

THE OPERATIONS room at Camp (once hotel) Panorama on the outskirts of Macedonia's capital, Skopje, hums with activity and conveys the sense of ordered, brisk urgency which has characterised this King's Own Royal Border Regiment deployment since the first troops arrived a month ago.

In the days before Balkan strife put paid to the local tourism industry, the ops room was a casino, but no chips have changed hands there for some time. The booth from which the bits of coloured plastic were dispensed is now occupied by a camouflaged NCO cashier handling wads of denar bank notes for the purchase of local building materials and food.

The soldiers at their makeshift desks are busy planning and supervising logistical support and training while monitoring the tinder-box situation across the border. They are also developing plans for the emergency extraction of the unarmed cease-fire verifiers, a mission which could come with as little as six hours' notice.

The deadly serious nature of this deployment and the rapidly deteriorating situation are illustrated vividly by annotations on the huge map of Kosovo which dominates one wall of the ops room: *December 13: five-hour gun battle, 30 ethnic Albanians killed. January 7: eight Serb soldiers captured by KVA; January 15: 30 or more ethnic Albanians massacred.*

It is all happening perilously close to the 1,000 or so unarmed men and women of the Kosovo Verification Mission, some 225 British among them, who are monitoring events in the disputed territory and even attempting to keep the regular and guerrilla armies apart. One British verifier has already been injured in a shooting

incident. If the escalation continues, the vulnerable international observers will need to be evacuated. Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic has promised to see that this is done, but if he reneges or is unable to fulfil his promise, NATO's Extraction Force will do the job.

Compared with the other national elements of the force – France (the lead nation), the Netherlands, Germany and Italy – the British contingent is heavily armed and protected. KORBR troops are equipped with 14 Warrior tracked fighting vehicles, packing 30mm cannon and machine-guns and each carrying seven infantrymen, or "dismounts".

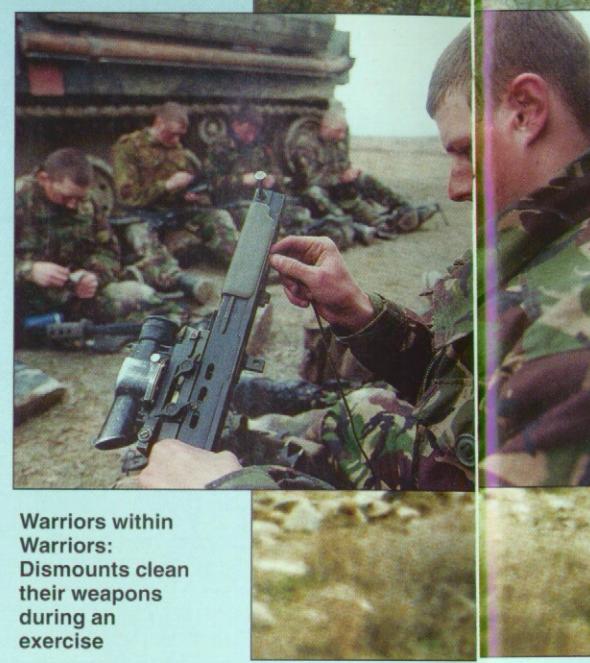
The enhanced company also boasts anti-tank weapons and one of the few indirect fire assets available to the extraction force, hefty 81mm mortars.

CAPABLE

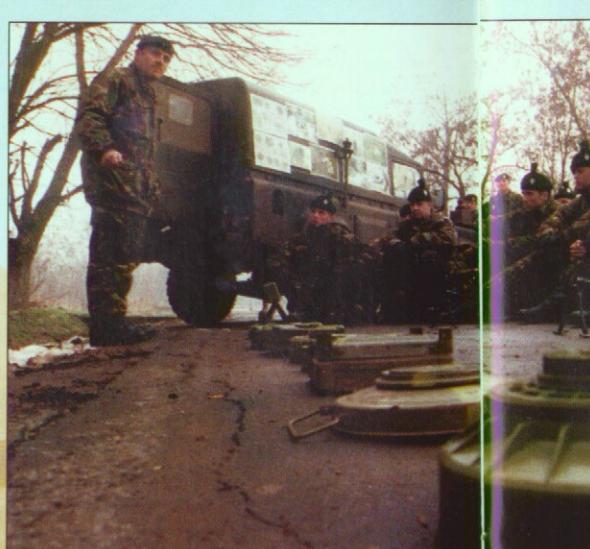
"We are as strong as can be," said Burma Company's Ops Officer, Capt Andy Scholes. "The British contingent has support elements, and a resupply and support chain in place, meaning that we are capable of deploying to the north independently."

They are, however, unlikely to head into Kosovo alone. Within the Extraction Force the British troops are most closely allied with the Netherlands Forces, who have three Chinook heavy-lift helicopters based at nearby Skopje Airport. This gives the British-Dutch combined element the ability to deploy by air, land or both, depending on the mission. Further air support is available from French Puma troop carriers and Italian light attack helicopters.

Working furiously towards the mid-January date by which the Extraction Force was to be fully operational, the KORBR company and the reinforcing platoons



Warriors within Warriors:
Dismounts clean their weapons during an exercise



from the Royal Irish Regiment and the Highlanders must at times have found it difficult to believe the latest call to the Balkans had come out of the blue as recently as November 24. They had just 11 days to prepare for deployment "to a place to be confirmed," as the orders cryptically put it.

There was a race to fit the Warriors' bolt-on armour and pack containers with freight, ammunition and food.

With the vehicles and supplies en route across the Mediterranean courtesy of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the advance party left for Macedonia on December 16, followed later by the bulk of the company and a squadron of Royal Engineers.



Making tracks: As the deadline for operational readiness approached, the KORBR crews put their Warriors through their paces on ranges borrowed from the Macedonian Army

At your peril: Soldiers of the Royal Irish Regiment, left, learn about the threat from mines

Sapper EOD experts lectured on the myriad range of mines employed by both sides in Kosovo and weapons were zeroed and tested on ranges borrowed from the tiny Macedonian Army.

Above all, Warrior and infantry tactics were rehearsed over and over again, culminating in a lengthy company-level live firing exercise which confirmed that the January 15 target date for operational readiness had been met.

The cruel Balkan winter made it a miserable business at times. In early January, night-time temperatures plummeted to minus 20C. Warrior batteries froze, fuel lines split and engines were sometimes left running around the clock to ensure that they did not fall victim to the intense cold.

"It's not a walk in the park, and it's not like Bosnia," commented Maj Geoff Moss, describing the challenges that they had already overcome and those that they may yet face. No one in the NATO force would disagree. The thought of operating in volatile Kosovo, where they could easily be caught between opposing guerrilla and Yugoslav Army forces, is sobering.

There was also the urgent need to develop a training programme tailored for whatever challenges might await in Kosovo if the call comes. First-aid procedures (more comprehensive than usual) were taught, revised and revised again. For this reason Lt Col Richard Iron, CO 1 KORBR, recognised that any mission to rescue the verifiers needed to be well-defined, limited and, above all, very carefully planned. Despite the Serbian

leader stating publicly that any NATO forces crossing the border would be considered hostile, the CO hoped that heavy diplomacy would ensure that any mission would not be opposed.

"It is simply not in our mandate to go in and fight the Yugoslav Army," he said. "But nothing in the Balkans is easy and if we do deploy it is likely to be in an uncertain environment."

CONFIDENCE

The weeks of preparation and training undoubtedly raised morale and confidence among the soldiers, both the KORBR crews and their mixed-regiment "dismounts". "It's got the potential to be exciting," said LCpl Carl Brookes, with masterly understatement. The sniper added: "We're trained to do it, so we want to."

Pte Michael Grundell, a gunner in a Warrior's 30 mm turret, admitted that he had originally felt some qualms. "I was nervous to start with, but I'm getting used to the idea."

Their platoon commander, Lt Graham Johnson, summed up the optimism common among the soldiers at Camp Panorama. "So long as my platoon is happy about their vehicles and the dismounts are trained, then I'm happy. We're ready for anything."

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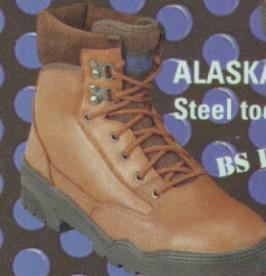
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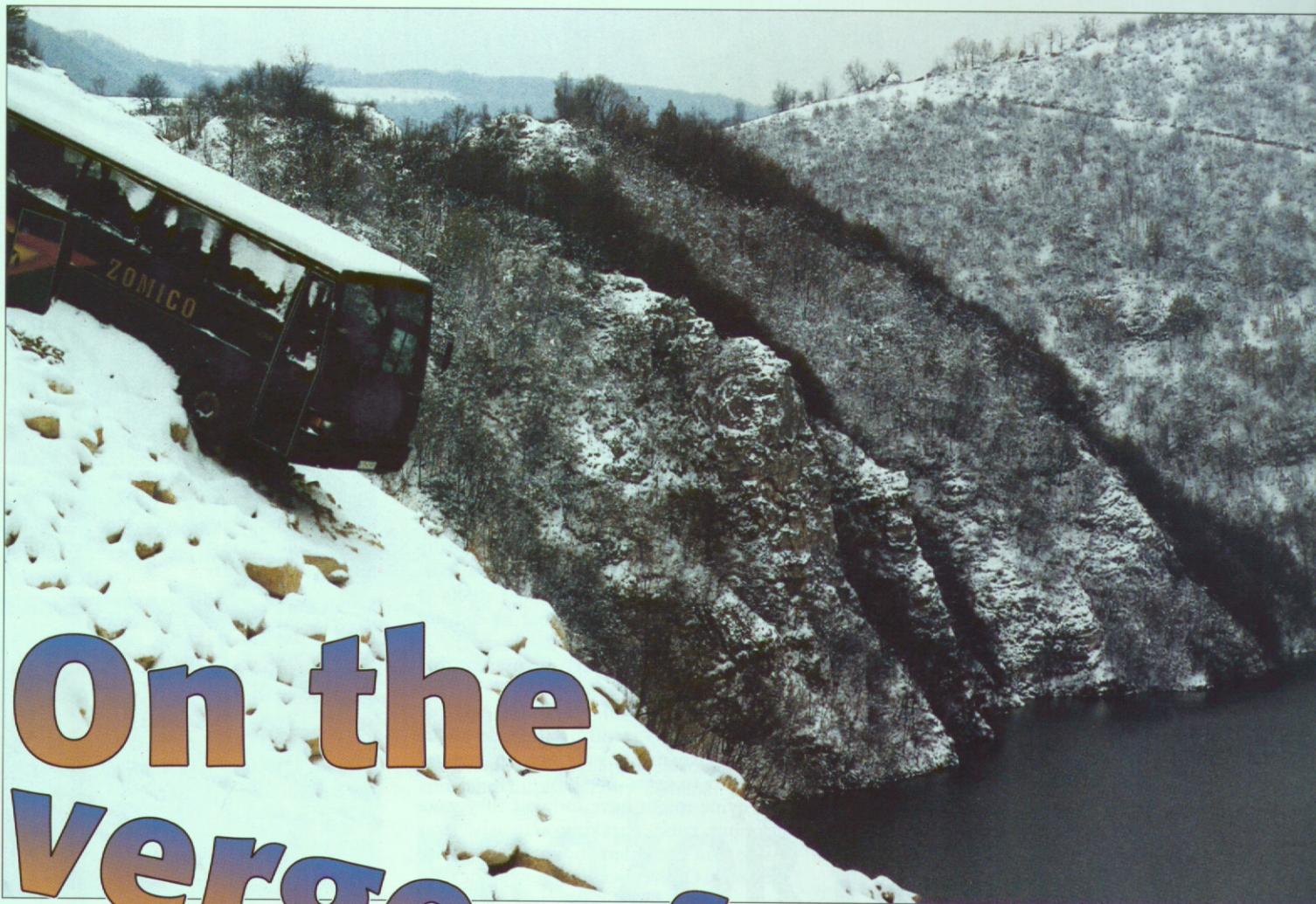
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Bosnia briefing



On the verge of disaster

Bosnia's roads claim more lives than military action. The British Army is making sure that soldiers know how to cope when they arrive

Reports: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

YOU wouldn't want to be sitting in the front seat for this excursion. This was the view from route Gull shortly after the first snows of winter had fallen.

Bosnian cars are specifically designed for the unique driving qualities of the Balkan driver . . . they have no brakes or indicators. For the advanced motorist, special-edition vehicles have the steering wheels removed.

Driving in Bosnia is no joke. There is a greater risk of death and injury from road traffic accidents than from military action. The good news is that there has been a significant reduction in accidents over the past year, achieved against a backdrop of increased military activity over a period when local populations and traffic increased to pre-war levels in most areas.

Monthly comparisons between 1996 and 1997 and 1997 and 1998 reveal a

● Turn to next page

Driven round the bend: This civilian coach took a slip road off the Gull scenic route



Pte Brent Hardacre, 1 WFR motor transport platoon, checks his vehicle's snow chains

Policing the police

THE road was dark and icy, the weather bitterly cold. Snow had been falling steadily all day and the wind had whipped it into little mounds by the side of the road.

Lt Col Robert Jordan, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, saw the police the moment the convoy turned the corner and instructed his driver to pull over.

Accompanied by Capt Charlie Thompson and an interpreter, Lt Col Jordan walked crisply over to the two policemen.

We were about to see how the Dayton Peace Agreement is put into action on the ground. The two policemen were obviously freezing cold, as if they had been standing there for some time. Lt Col Jordan exchanged pleasantries and quickly got down to business.

"Ask them what they are doing here," he told the translator.

"They say they are stopping motorists to advise them to take care on the icy road," came back the reply.

"Remind them that it is explicitly against Dayton to set up roadblocks."

When this was translated, the policemen vehemently denied that that was what they were doing.

"Well if that is the case ask them why this is the third time in two weeks that I have seen police at this spot?"



Lt Col Jordan

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment encountered a few difficulties on their first Bosnian tour in 1996.

Not least of these were that the locals found it difficult to pronounce their name, especially if the slivovic (the indigenous cherry brandy, known as slip-in-a-ditch) had



been flowing freely.

So on their second tour, the regiment opted for a more corporate image. This time around the battalion has painted a picture of Robin Hood on the side of its Warriors. The graphic is easily recognisable and the regiment is now known by everyone as the Robin Hoods.

There were more animated denials. The discussion carried on in this vein for several minutes and then ended cordially with the colonel shaking hands and bidding them goodnight. He had made it clear, politely but firmly, that he did not expect to see them there again.

It was obvious to everyone present that they were being economical with the truth. It was, after all, very public-spirited of the police to stand by the side of the road in freezing conditions to remind motorists to drive carefully.

A cynic might have thought they were stopping cars, checking out who was inside and then demanding money with menaces. Or even worse, they might have been on the lookout for returning refugees. That is not the sort of welcoming committee that would make you feel glad to be home.

The problem is complicated because the local police are paid peanuts and a bit of palm-greasing is the only way some of them can survive. It is through incidents such as this, making the police aware that

Verge of disaster

• From Page 21

steady reduction in the number of accidents for all but one of the 12 months.

Conditions faced by military drivers deploying to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia are probably the most severe they will encounter in their careers.

Pre-deployment training and imaginative initiatives taken in theatre, such as the Op Lodestar Driver of the Month award, have all contributed to reducing accidents.

Military speed limits (set lower than the civilian ones) are strictly enforced and spot checks ensure that vehicles are in a roadworthy condition.

The new Defence Annual Road Safety Report notes: "Most road traffic accidents occur during the best driving condi-

tions and Op Lodestar has been no different in this respect. "Complacency and lack of concentration, combined with regular routine journeys, may all be significant contributory factors."

Elsewhere in the report there is a comparison of accidents with soldiers' ages.

"Not surprisingly, when compared to all Army road traffic accidents (RTAs), younger drivers were involved in the highest proportion of RTAs. The 17-21 year-old age group was involved in 33 per cent of all RTAs and 60 per cent of drivers involved in accidents were under 25 years of age.

"This age group is recognised nationally as the one most at risk. It is also the principal age group which the Army trains and employs."

Hearts and minds

SGT Bobby McCabe, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, stationed at Banja Luka, summed up the sort of challenge the humanitarian projects presented.

"We found three families last night in the church. There were 15 people there. The church was wrecked, they had no food and no income. I have no doubt that when the really cold winter comes in we will lose three or four of those people."

These are hard facts to digest, but then Bosnia in winter is an unforgiving place. If you are old, unprotected, weak or sick, getting through the winter is a matter of life or death.

British soldiers in Banja Luka are doing their best to ensure that many of the vulnerable will be alive in the spring.

VERY ISOLATED

To this end they have set up Operation Snowman. WO1 Bruce Maguire, 163 Movement Control Regiment RLC (V), explained: "Soldiers on the ground go out on patrol every day. They talk to people and find out what's going on. Some of the families are very isolated. You have a lot of refugees, a lot of women who lost husbands and children who lost fathers. Also a lot of sick old people who have been ethnically cleansed. It is a hearts and minds operation.

"We try to get out provisions on a daily basis. A soldier on the ground puts in a report. We identify the needs of what has to be done. For example, what we are looking to do in some cases is put on a secure roof, windows and



Putting the joy back into young lives: Soldiers of B Coy, 1 RS (Gurkha reinforcement company) at Budzak school, Banja Luka. The Gurkhas are building a play area

doors so that they have heat and protection. The winter months are very, very cold."

That is exactly the sort of help they gave recently to a couple in their 70s after a neighbour threw a pipe bomb at the house. The Army was making good the damage and supplying additional blankets.

"Once the work has been completed we will still go back with basic foodstuffs, but we have to avoid making them dependent on us. Aid agencies are supposed to look after them and we try to enhance that work."

WO1 Maguire said provisions were paid for by the Gurkhas of B Coy, the Royal Scots' Gurkha reinforcement company.

Projects are driven by Gurkhas on the ground. At a cerebral palsy and prosthetic hospital, the soldiers from Nepal, adored by the youngsters, have arranged concerts for the children and supplied 11 electric heaters.

SGT Paul McFarlane and his patrol worked the market with the kind of social grace that a society hostess uses to mingle at a cocktail party. There was a cheery smile here, a wave there and some stumbling Serbo-Croat to help things along.

This was one of the three daily patrols

that 1 WFR performed in and around Prozor town. Usually lasting for 90 minutes, the four-man patrols are an important part of the peace process. They let the locals know that they are there if needed.

GOOD HUMOUR

The style is relaxed and good humoured. Perhaps the British squaddie is particularly well-suited to this sort of meet-and-greet, end-of-the-millennium soldiering, where diplomacy is as important as traditional Army strengths. Years of experience in Northern Ireland and Cyprus obviously help.

The patrols, always immaculately turned out, have their rifles slung over their backs which makes the troops appear unthreatening.

Capt Charlie Thompson explained the benefits of this approach. "The soldiers are very good at communicating with the locals, even though they don't speak Serbo-Croat. It reassures them to know that we are here."

Market traders sell all manner of food and drink and the soldiers took an obvious delight in guessing if some of the items were animal, vegetable or mineral.

But despite the urbane conviviality which the soldiers carried with them, you could never quite escape the undercurrent of another, altogether more sinister mood. This was partly to do with the fact that there were so many guns about. What if a situation developed?

The SFOR British soldiers have plenty of options. First, they can bring their weapons around to their chests, immediately upping the ante. Then they can cock their weapons to show that they mean business. Failing that they can withdraw and return with body armour and reinforcements.

All of these options and more were available, as distinct from a more heavy-handed approach characterised by a patrol marching about in body armour with rifles at the ready.

As the patrol worked its way across the market, one of the stall-holders, an old man with no teeth, called out to the British soldiers and held up some of his produce with a beaming smile.

"I might be a big tough soldier, but I am not brave enough to try some of that," one of them quipped.



Market movements: From left to right, Cpl Allen Oliver, Cpl Jason Marks, Sgt Paul McFarlane and LCpl Anthony Gamble, 1 WFR, press the flesh in the town's busy market

PROZOR PATROL

THE INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF CARE OF CHILDREN RECEIVING COMPLEX HEART SURGERY AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry, which is examining the management of the care of all complex children's heart surgery cases at the hospital between 1984 and 1995 is now underway, after being formally launched at a preliminary hearing.

The Inquiry wishes to hear from the families of any children who had complex heart surgery at the BRI between the above dates and from people who may have an interest in the work of the Inquiry team and who want to make a contribution.

If you have not previously been in contact with the Inquiry then please get in touch, in the first instance, with the **Secretary, Una O'Brien, Room LG07, Wellington House, 135-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.**

All initial contacts with the Inquiry office will be treated as confidential. The Inquiry team's e-mail address is inquiry@doh.gov.uk You can fax the team on 0171 972 4602 or telephone on 0845 3000 613 (calls charged at local rate). The Inquiry's terms of reference and other relevant information can be found on an Internet website: www.Bristol-Inquiry.org.uk/

The Inquiry team is currently gathering evidence in preparation for the start of full public hearings which will be held in both Bristol and London and are scheduled to start in March this year.

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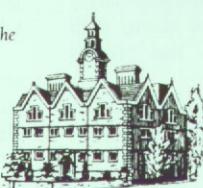
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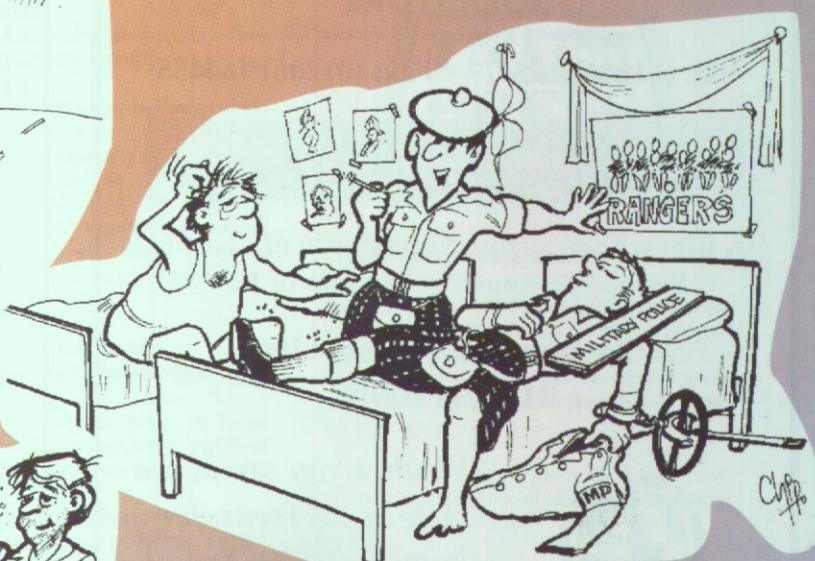
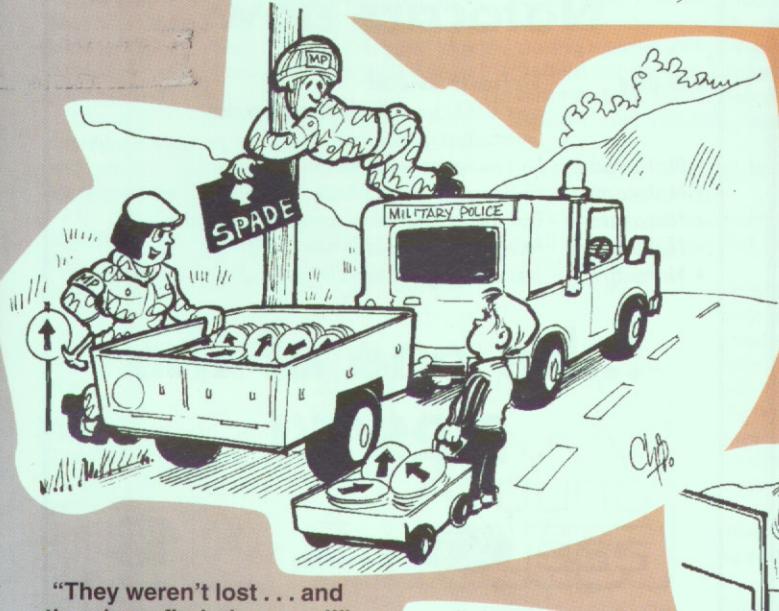
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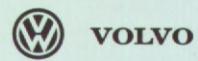


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From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

Too young for the UN

NO under-18s will be sent by the Ministry of Defence on United Nations peacekeeping missions, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson said in a Parliamentary written reply.

More than 5,000 soldiers under the age of 18 currently serve in the British Army, according to statistics issued in another written answer on the same day. Sixteen-year-olds totalled 1,182, including 99 females, and 3,877 17-year-olds (428 females).

Mr Henderson said the MoD fully accepted the UN's undertaking that no one under 18 would take part in UN peacekeeping missions, with the proviso that 17-year-olds may be serving in a Royal Navy ship deployed at short notice while at sea.

Private transport: Front-line transport for tanks and other heavy armoured vehicles may be provided by the private sector from the year 2002.

Four groups of companies are being invited to bid for a heavy equipment transporter service. The consortia are also being invited to explore the scope for using sponsored reserves – company employees with a reserve service liability, trained to operate the vehicles on exercises and operations.

"We aim to reach a decision on the way ahead in early 2000," Defence Procurement Minister John Spellor said. "As always, the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces will be paramount."

The current fleet of 120 Scammell Commanders is nearing the end of its planned life and needs to be replaced with vehicles capable of carrying Challenger 2 into battle.

Munitions contracts: Royal Ordnance has won the contract to supply most of the Army's large-calibre ammunition for AS90 self-propelled gun, the Challenger tank and other vehicles for the next five years.

In addition, Marconi Marine Land and Naval Systems has been chosen for improvements to the AS90, with Royal Ordnance producing new barrels and a South African company, Somchem, manufacturing a new modular charge system. Together the two contracts are worth about £200m.

Headquarters revamp: A private group of companies had been selected to carry out long-overdue modernisation of the 40-year-old Ministry of Defence main headquarters in Whitehall, London by the year 2004.

The Amey-Hyder-Kvaerner consortium, supported by Innsfree, will redevelop the HQ in a public-private partnership project, providing open-plan offices and a generally more pleasant and flexible working environment.

Defence Secretary George Robertson said the 1950s building fell well short of normal office standards and was badly in need of refurbishment.

"I have directed that the redeveloped build-



Picture: Mike Weston

World class: Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson welcomed the news that the Challenger 2 main battle tank has exceeded very demanding reliability targets during a series of rigorous trials under battlefield conditions. He said: "This is excellent news for the British Army, which has a world-class, reliable, battle-winning tank

ing should be functional, fit for its purpose and not luxurious," he said.

"It will allow us to concentrate headquarters staff in two buildings and thereby reduce our estate holdings."

Staff, who will move to other buildings while work is going on, will eventually be accommodated in the main HQ and the adjoining Old War Office, freeing three other central London buildings for disposal.

Other points from Parliament:

Pardon plea: A fresh plea for the 343 soldiers executed in the First World War to be pardoned was rejected in the Lords.

Defence Minister Lord Gilbert reminded the Earl of Carlisle that a review by former Armed Forces Minister John Reid had concluded last year that there was not enough evidence to pardon all the men, but that they would be remembered as victims of the war.

Gulf representations: Since May 1, 1997, 88 MPs have made representations to MoD ministers on behalf of one or more constituents concerning Gulf veterans' illnesses.

Education success: The Army is now the largest single beneficiary of civilian vocational awards.

designed to counter current challenges and threats and capable of adaptation to meet future requirements."

The trials, at Bovington and Lulworth, involved the tank, built by Vickers Defence Systems, carrying out 84 battlefield missions. It is a strong contender for the 250 tanks required by the Greek Government.



□ A new investigation is to be launched into claims that a rare cancer is killing Servicemen who witnessed Britain's nuclear weapons tests in the 1950s. Research suggests the number of test veterans contracting the bone marrow disease is ten times higher than the rest of the population. – *Mail on Sunday*

□ Australia's Armed Forces have announced plans to let women join combat units. – *Sunday Times*

□ The Army is just about the only efficient institution left in Britain. Nothing else works properly . . . – *Auberon Waugh, Daily Telegraph*

□ International moves to end the use of child soldiers could be scuppered by opposition from British armed forces chiefs who say a minimum age of 18 would hit Britain's recruitment programme. – *Independent*

● Readers are reminded that views expressed or reported in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

Building up the will to fight

The British Army is leading the way in Fighting in Built-Up Areas training. Soldier joined the seventh NATO instructors' FIBUA course at Copehill Down

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

A LABEL on the injured soldier read, "Gunshot wound to right arm. Action – go into shock."

To his right, also in the shadow of the building they had been attacking, was an American major who, for the purposes of the exercise, had a "sucking chest wound".

All around them, smoke generators filled the air with acrid cloud. Other soldiers provided covering fire and lobbed grenades into buildings before using ladders to climb through windows. Enemy soldiers, in other houses along the street, were keeping up a constant attack.

The troops were taking part in Exercise Full Rig, the finale of a two-week NATO instructors' course on Fighting In Built-Up Areas (FIBUA) at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain.

Of the 40 students, 15 were from other NATO countries, including America, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

"This is an important course because of the international flavour," said Maj Stuart Norman, WFR, officer commanding FIBUA training team. "Many of the students will be going back to run their own FIBUA training teams, so we put in a lot of work to make sure the training is of the highest standard. All the British soldiers who pass will get a special qualification as a FIBUA instructor."

Britain has gained a reputation for being a world leader in FIBUA training, Maj Norman explained. The purpose-built "village" of Copehill Down has developed into a highly-sophisticated and useful training area during the ten years since it started. Not only have the houses,



Maj Stuart Norman, WFR

church, garage and streets been designed to resemble a typical built-up area, but there are also lecture rooms and a computerised urban battle trainer (URBAT).

The British Army may be concentrating on turning itself into a predominantly armoured force that can move and strike fast to outmanoeuvre the enemy, but it has not lost sight of the need to be able to fight in urbanised areas.

"The urban areas of the world are growing at about five per cent a year," explained Maj Norman. "Some towns and cities are growing even faster. By 2015, 75 per cent of people will live in urban areas, therefore the likelihood is that these are places where the UK Army is likely to operate."

"This is very different fighting. It is very difficult to move armour through streets and around buildings, therefore the emphasis is on dismounted forces. Another difference is that many of our weapons have been developed to fire at long range. In this environment the range is a maximum of 100 metres. Dismounted close combat is more likely; in other words, meeting the enemy face-to-face."

"It doesn't matter what part of the Army you come from. There could always come a time when you find yourself in a town and have to defend yourself."

There is no doubt that urbanised warfare is extremely stressful. To help bring realism into the training, soldiers on the course wear Infantry Small Arms Weapons Effects Simulators (ISAWES) which emit a high-pitched bleep when they are hit by harmless laser beams attached to weapons.

"Before the introduction of ISAWES, it was possible to cheat," said WO1 John

Downie, LI, FIBUA Warrant Officer. "Not only was it difficult to tell who had been hit, but if you were you were finished. Now casualties can be re-introduced back into the battle and continue their training. With the laser equipment they know there is a high risk of getting shot so there is a lot of personal pride at stake."

The objective of the exercise for the students, mainly sergeants and captains, was to reinforce a company already in the location and to clear buildings as they progressed through the village. They moved on to the training area at 0400 and at first light the battle simulations laid by the Royal Engineers, and the enemy, provided by the resident battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset

Apart from the basic skills of how to assault and clear buildings, the students are also taught something about engineering techniques for defending them, such as propping and shoring roofs. Although for the purpose of the course they are acting as an infantry company, students are also introduced to the All Arms aspect, and artillery, armour and engineers are used in instruction.

The main emphasis, however, is teaching them the skills, drills and techniques of fighting in urban areas, and how the FIBUA message can be put across to sol-

What they thought . . .

Lt Cormac Mangan, Irish Defence Force



I am going back to the Infantry School in Ireland to be a dedicated FIBUA instructor. The best part was the practical demonstrations of the battle runs, which gave me a good idea of the sort of exercises that can be run.

Lt Alfredo Taveri, 183 Airborne Brigade, Italian Army



In Italy we have different tactics. The most useful part has been seeing all the different arms working together. In Italy we have a village like Copehill Down but it is a lot smaller.

Maj George Glaze, Live Fire Operations Group, Readiness Training Centre, US Army



I run my own Military Operations on Urbanised Terrain (MOUT) site in America which is the same as FIBUA. I will take the lessons I have learned here and apply them back home. The British soldiers are outstanding.

Sgt Erwin Dees, 13 Battalion Infantry Airmobile, Dutch Army



The most interesting part was working with people from other countries and learning the way the British Army works. We have some FIBUA villages but this is better equipped.

SSgt Brian Taylor, 42 Survey Engineer Group, RE



Fabulous. It is one of those courses which has built up over a period of time and it really works.

diers under their command so that they can organise their own exercises.

"By taking part in this exercise they learn how difficult it is for soldiers to fight through buildings," said Maj Norman. "We spend a lot of time teaching them to organise battle runs at section, platoon and company level. They are given part of the village with a simple battle picture and have to take the exercising troops through the procedure."

The course has gained itself a high reputation among NATO countries and the twice-yearly courses are always heavily over-subscribed.

"This bunch has been brilliant, they are so enthusiastic," said WO1 Downie. "They come armed with cameras and video recorders and record everything."

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Ill health 'more common' in Gulf veterans

... but pattern suggests there is no specific syndrome related to the war, says new report

HEADACHES, fatigue, chest pains and other symptoms, and conditions such as asthma, arthritis and dermatitis were all more common in troops who served in the Gulf War than in soldiers who were not deployed there, according to a new study, writes John Elliott.

But the researchers could find no evidence of a unique Gulf War syndrome even though they concluded that participation in the war caused a two- to three-fold increase in general ill health.

"Explanations for higher frequencies of ill health are still needed. If there is a Gulf War syndrome, it cannot be identified by symptoms alone," say the authors.

The report by researchers at King's College Hospital, London, is the first of its kind in the UK. It was based on a random sample of about 3,000 male British Gulf veterans who completed a detailed health questionnaire. The same questions were put to similar numbers of Bosnia veterans and soldiers who served during the Gulf War but who were not deployed to the Gulf.

The results, published in *The Lancet*, revealed that men who served in the Gulf War felt their health to be significantly worse than comparable military personnel who were not deployed there or who served in Bosnia.

Most significant finding was that those who had been to the Gulf reported more of each one of 50 symptoms and 39 self-reported medical conditions than either control group, who did not differ substantially. Gulf veterans were about twice as likely to complain of symptoms such as fatigue, pain, poor sleep, headaches, memory problems and joint pains, and twice as likely to complain of conditions such as asthma, back pain, arthritis and ulcers.

Those who had been to the Gulf were between two and three times more likely to have significant symptoms of post traumatic stress or general psychological distress.

The study, led by Professors Anthony David and Simon Wessely, from the School of Medicine at King's College Hospital, says potential causes unique to the Gulf, including pills to counter nerve agents, burning oil wells and being involved in chemical alerts, showed the same kind of association with ill health, while multiple vaccinations, used in Bosnia and the Gulf, were linked to reported health effects in the Gulf group only.

MORE HAZARDS OVERALL

The pattern of symptoms, as analysed, was the same in the Gulf, the Bosnia and the control groups, suggesting that there was no specific Gulf War syndrome. The authors point out that this did not mean sick veterans did not have a genuine illness.

"The conclusion is that the worse health of the Gulf Servicemen may be partly because they experienced or remembered more hazards overall, rather than any single hazard in particular," notes the report.

Prof Wessely said: "Our study provides the first clear proof that going to the Gulf has

The King's College report was welcomed by Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson, who said: "The Government is determined to do everything it can to analyse the reasons why some Gulf War veterans are ill, including looking at possible causes and supporting appropriate treatment.

"MoD officials will now be considering these results in detail, and I have directed that they approach the Medical Research Council and the independent panel for their advice on future action in the light of these results."

The MoD is funding two epidemiological studies, an interactions programme of multiple vaccines and NAPS, a study of neuro-muscular symptoms, a systematic review of all relevant literature, and a medical assessment programme for Gulf War veterans.

Precautionary measures:
Three British soldiers try on NBC suits in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War
Picture: Mike Weston

affected the health of our soldiers, even if we cannot identify any specific illness or specific cause."

Further clinical studies, including neuro-muscular and immunological tests, are currently being conducted at King's College Hospital, London, to determine the causes of the reported ill health, using both ill and healthy Service personnel.

Funded by the US Department of Defence, the conduct of the study and publication of results was completely independent. The MoD assisted in the mailing of a questionnaire to Service personnel but otherwise remained uninvolved.

According to the study, which is of male soldiers only, deployment to the Gulf War caused a two- to three-fold increase in general ill health. Despite this, it points out, the vast majority of Gulf veterans were functioning well, even if they did not feel in perfect health. A smaller number of men were clearly affected severely.

It says there was no single or new illness to explain this and that troops who did not go to the Gulf could develop identical symptoms, albeit they were less likely to do so.

Until more is known of the mechanisms underlying their findings, the authors say, specific recommendations cannot be given. They will report on the health of female personnel separately.

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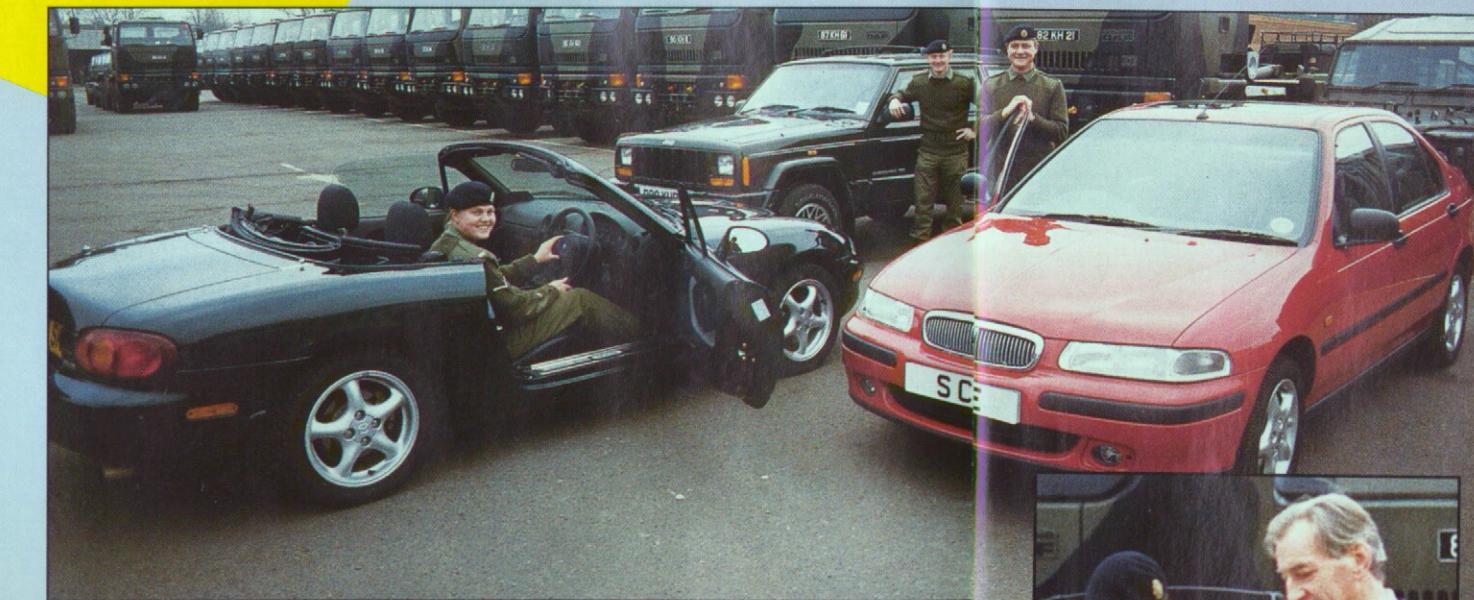
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Pictures: Terry Champion

MAJ MARK Abraham spends much of his working day at the Ministry of Defence hammering out special deals for Services personnel.

The RLC officer is paid to search out companies offering quality services and products. Then, with the help of a small tri-Service committee, the bargains are publicised in the *Forces' Discounts Brochure*, a special booklet freely available to all military units.

The MoD's guide to money-saving offers is now in its sixth year and, thanks to the efforts of Maj Abraham and his



Deals on wheels: *Forces' Discounts* advertiser SCE Auto International demonstrates Rover, Mazda and Chrysler models to members of 27 Regiment RLC at Aldershot. Cars are among the items most commonly purchased through the booklet. SCE offers tax-free services to qualifying customers, a range of discounts and trade-in facilities. The company has shipped cars to Services personnel all over the world.

colleagues, has grown to 100 closely-typed pages. Crammed between the covers are details of hundreds of companies offering their products and services to Servicemen and women at attractive rates. The offers cover almost everything that a soldier, sailor or airman is likely to need, as well as a few that might not be considered essential.

But at Forces' discount prices, even the frivolous can be affordable.

It is difficult to know where to begin... but it is certainly possible to think big. A new house, for example, might be

found - with £500 knocked off every £25,000 of the purchase price - on Page 61 of the brochure. And why stop there? A good deal on a new car can be found on Page 19.

If you want the car to look ultra-trendy, try strapping a surf board to the roof, which you can do if you take the surfing lessons offered on Page 96.

If this sounds a tad dangerous, flick back to Page 60 where a whole section is dedicated to solicitors specialising in the writing of wills.

Most of the participating companies

One hundred pages of choice

Somewhere in the packed pages of the Forces' Discounts Brochure there is bound to be a bargain that suits you. The main categories are:

- Ferry, rail, air and coach travel
- Cars sales and rental, car insurance, parking, spares and other motoring services
- Hotels, villa rental, skiing, flotilla sailing, specialist tours, foreign currency and other travel services
- Financial services, including credit cards, personal loans and
- Solicitors and will-writing services
- Storage and delivery services
- Medical, dental, travel and personal property insurance
- Pets services, including vet treatment insurance and burial services
- Telephone services
- Outdoor, adventure and sports clothing, sailing kit, membership of gyms, scuba kit, skiing equipment
- ... and much, much

mortgages

IN THE next few issues of *Soldier* we will be listing some of the special offers from specific sections of *Forces Discounts*. But please remember that we are printing only essential information. For more details are available in the booklet.

Services Travel Centre Ltd can get you concessionary fares with most of the ferry companies operating out of Britain. Tel 01480 436655

P&O European Ferries (Portsmouth) Ltd provide a ten per cent discount on services to France and Spain. Tel 0990 980555

P&O North Sea Ferries offer special discounts on services out of Hull. Tel 01482 377177

Scandinavian Seaways can provide a 25 per cent discount on standard return and "seapex" fares. Tel: 01480 436655

Forces Travel Ferries can obtain cheaper rates on all ferry routes. Tel 01727 865112

GB rail travel. The British train operating companies offer savings of between a quarter and a third to holders of a Forces Railcard. Help with journey planning is available on 0345 484950

Eurostar offers special fares to Services personnel and their families travelling for leisure. Call the MoD Leisure line on 01233 617561 for details.

Eurotrain discounts rail fares to all parts of Europe for people under 25. Call 0171 7303402.

Le Shuttle, the car-car-

OFFERS YOU CANNOT REFUSE

This month: ferry, rail, coach and air travel

HOW TO GET YOUR COPY

THERE is a copy of *Forces' Discounts* for you. Although enough are printed to provide every Serviceman and woman with a copy, co-ordinator Maj Mark Abraham admits that adequate stocks are not always held by units.

If you have not yet received yours, contact your unit administration office. Staff can obtain stocks from the Central Services Establishment at Llangen-nech, Wales. You owe it to yourself to see a copy of this money-saving booklet.

ry tunnel service, offers reduced rates for Forces (and claim to offer the cheapest duty-free). More details on 01727 865112.

National Express. Presentation of the HM Forces Coach Card gives discounts of up to 30 per cent. Timetable information available from 0990 808080.

Hoverspeed European Coach Services offers a 15

per cent discount on some services to European cities. Call 01304 865000 for details about specific ser-

vices.

The following airlines offer discounts to Service personnel. Most airlines require a certificate of eligibility, which is attached to copies of *Forces Discounts*.

British Airways. Call the MoD Hotline on 0141 226 4321.

Continental Airlines. Tel 0800 776464.

GB Airways. Tel 0141 226 4321.

Virgin Atlantic Airways. Tel 01293 747747.

Alitalia. Tel 0171 602 5441.

Qantas. Tel 0181 846 0466 (ask for Corporate Servicing Department).

British Midland. Tel 0354 554321.

Sabena Belgium World Airlines. Tel 0181 788 3984.

South African Airways. Tel 0171 312 5001.

Air Canada Military Leisure Fares. Bookings through Services Travel Centre Ltd, 01480 436655 (the STC can also offer details of other discounted services for the military).

income. They can hardly wait to get into the booklet."

No wonder. One medical insurance company offering a 45 per cent discount on cover claims to receive 100 enquiries a month from the Services, and many of these are converted into firm sales.

In some quarters *Forces' Discounts* is so popular that you might think it is printed on £10 notes. It is not that desirable, but it simply does not make sense for a Serviceman or woman or an MoD-employed civilian to go shopping without first checking what special offers are available.

So treat yourself to a copy, go shopping, put a smile on your face and show the MoD's chief bargain-hunter that his efforts are appreciated.



Bargaining: Maj Mark Abraham, left, with Jon Nightingale, of SCE Auto International

offer discounts - usually around ten per cent but occasionally as much as 45 per cent. There are also tax-free services for those posted overseas.

Maj Abraham clearly enjoys the cut and

From sabres to Scuds with *Bravo Two Zero*

SEAN BEAN has rapidly slipped into the mantle of all-action hero. The smart money is on this 39-year-old from Sheffield becoming Britain's answer to Hollywood's Harrison Ford and Bruce Willis, writes Graham Bound.

Indeed, it would probably be hard for him not to achieve that accolade. Bean's macho portrayals of tough guys have men gripped, while his craggy, if rather cruel, face make him the fantasy "bit of rough" for millions of women.

The actor, who trades on his working-class background and Sheffield accent, first aroused intense interest among cinema-goers when he appeared as a villain in the Bond movie *Golden Eye* and as an IRA terrorist in *Patriot Games* (America's equivalent of a 007 film). The actor's thin-lipped scowl, reluctant smile and cold eyes were well exploited for film roles which demanded the personification of nastiness and violence.

DANGEROUS LOOKS

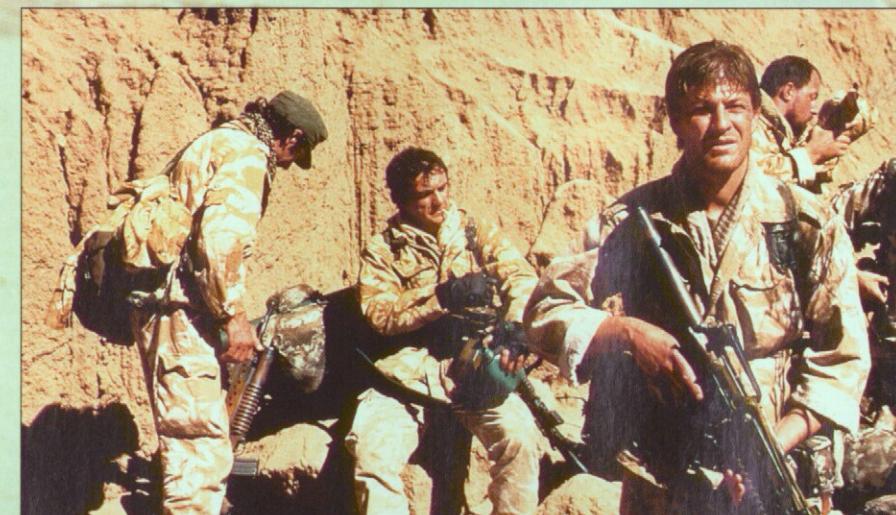
It could be considered a little worrying for the Army that the same characteristics appealed so much to the producers of TV's *Sharpe* series. Bean's dangerous looks were tamed only slightly for the television role, which brought him real fame as Bernard Cornwell's Napoleonic hero and lady-killer. When he swashbuckled his way into Britain's living rooms for the first time several years ago it was clear that a major new talent had claimed the all-action high ground.

Now Bean has dropped his sabre and picked up a devastating armoury of Special Forces' weaponry to thrill audiences with an altogether more modern military role: that of an SAS sergeant in the BBC's production of Andy McNab's best-selling Gulf War story *Bravo Two Zero*.

For those (by now very few) who are not familiar with the story, *Bravo Two Zero* covers the often violent and tragic course of a behind-the-lines mission in Iraq. An SAS patrol led by McNab was tasked to breach Iraqi communications and take out their feared Scud missiles.

But the allegedly hastily-arranged mission went wrong at an early stage when the SAS patrol was discovered and its radio communications broke down. The

It's a long way from the Napoleonic Wars to the Gulf conflict, but Sean Bean has completed the journey, cutting the mustard as SAS soldier Andy McNab in the BBC's recent adaptation of *Bravo Two Zero*



Wadi hell: The ill-fated patrol, still undetected by the Iraqis, takes shelter near the target

Picture: BBC

mission's goals were quickly abandoned as (in scenes portrayed on-screen with breathtaking realism) the team came under sustained attack. In the subsequent story of survival and evasion from a tenacious Iraqi force, three of the men died and others, including McNab, were captured and tortured. Other members of the patrol escaped into Syria.

Sean Bean, who, along with almost every other member of the book-buying public, had been aware of the story of *Bravo Two Zero* before he accepted the demanding role, was intrigued at the prospect of meeting the author, Andy McNab. The soldier, who left the SAS shortly after the Gulf War and created considerable controversy within the normally secretive regiment by publishing his story, co-wrote the screenplay and acted as an adviser throughout the filming in South Africa. The relationship between

the two men was to be important, although Bean had no intention of mimicking the ex-SAS soldier.

"We are very different physically so I didn't want to paint a copy of exactly how he speaks, how he looks," explained Bean. "I decided I'd try to portray his spirit, his enthusiasm and his personality. I concentrated on what makes him tick. That dark humour that gets you through situations is entrenched in his personality and I particularly wanted to capture that."

Bean, director Tom Clegg and Andy McNab himself agreed that familiarisation with the world of the modern Special Forces' soldier was vital if the film was to ring true to critical audiences. So the real SAS soldier and the actor met several times before leaving for South Africa. According to Bean, McNab showed him equipment that was vital for survival in the desert behind enemy lines and

showed him how to use it. "Mostly," said Bean, "it was pretty basic kit, water flasks and some ammunition," but it all helped to bring home the reality of a very demanding role.

Later, on location in a scrubby, semi-desert area of South Africa and under the careful eye of the production company's armourer, McNab introduced Bean to modern weapons: machine-guns, grenade launchers and anti-armour rocket launchers, the confident handling of which would eventually make the film almost uncomfortably convincing.

Familiarisation with modern guns did not come that easily to the actor. "I'd done a lot with weapons before in *Patriot Games* and *Sharpe*," he explained. "There's nothing very subtle about them: they're lumps of metal that shoot people. But for this role I had to make it look as if I had carried this thing for a few years and that I was familiar with it. I tried to pick up on the speed and precision with which he could change a magazine."

CRASH COURSE

The South African Defence Force also provided expertise, giving Bean and his co-actors a crash course in fitness. "We did a lot of running in the desert with rucksacks on our backs," Bean reflected rather ruefully.

Bean insisted on doing all of his own stunts in *Bravo Two Zero*. Most involved explosions or firing of some kind and he was all too aware that there was a serious risk of something going wrong. "I put great trust in the expertise of the armourers and special effects people," he explained. "But you do sometimes wonder what will happen when a bomb goes off."

Tough though the stunts and action sequences were, their portrayal on screen was easy compared with the far more subtle drama of the soldiers' capture, interrogation and torture.

Tom Clegg and Bean spent a lot of time talking to Andy McNab during the days leading up to the filming of these vital scenes. "I just listened and let it sink in," explained the actor. "They were harrowing scenes and especially upsetting when you know the man it happened to."

All-action hero: Sean Bean as SAS sergeant Andy McNab in the BBC's *Bravo Two Zero*

The first-hand account of the experience which nearly killed Andy McNab and his colleagues made Sean Bean think deeply about the qualities needed to withstand merciless brutality. He was impressed by what it said about the SAS.

"I don't think you could take a normal individual and place them in that situation and expect them not to crack," he explained with an evident sense of awe. "That group trained together, relied on each other and trusted each other, so they formed a very strong bond. I think that's what carries you through, because you are holding out for your mates, not just for yourself."

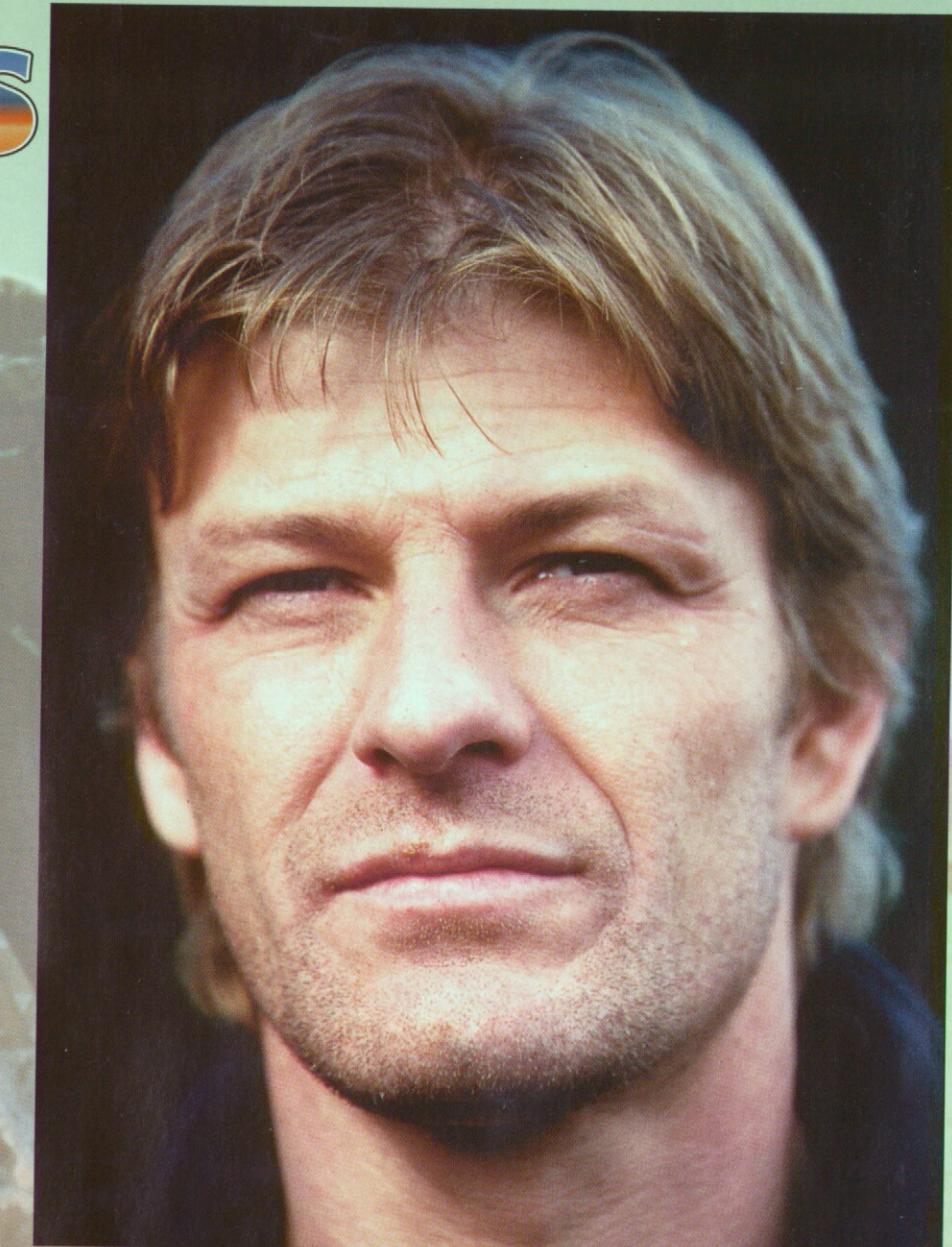
Sean Bean is such a natural action hero, such an archetypal tough-guy, from a traditional forces' recruiting area, that it seems a little strange to learn that he never felt any inclination to be a real soldier. Friends of his from school joined up

and his grandfather was in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, but the discipline of military life was not for him. He preferred art and books.

But he does have one thing in common with 99 per cent of soldiers: a deep love of football. His particular passion is for his home-town team, Sheffield United. This may explain in part why Sean Bean acts the part of a soldier so convincingly. Team spirit is, after all, vital to both soldiering and football.

Whatever the reason, Tom Clegg, who worked on the *Sharpe* series for almost six years before tackling *Bravo Two Zero*, knew that there is more than a little of the modern soldier in *Sharpe*.

And he was right. Sean Bean is one good reason why the story of *Bravo Two Zero*, which originally swept all other books from the paperback best-seller list, performs equally well on screen.



Night attack

Twelve simultaneous muzzle flashes rip apart the night sky over Glamoc ranges in Bosnia as the Challenger 1 main battle tanks of B Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers conduct a long-range shoot with HESH (High Explosive Squash Head) anti-tank rounds.

Commanded by Maj Andrew Hughes, they deployed to Bosnia last May with the Light Dragoons battle-group and have now returned

to their base at Osnabrück, Germany.

The photograph, taken by Padre Andrew Totten, chaplain to the battle-group, was achieved with a two-second time exposure at F11 on a hand-held Hasselblad camera during B Sqn's operational annual firing period at Glamoc. The tank crews were firing into an area target 7.5km away, illustrating the scope for training available in Bosnia.



Back to the future?

Who are the new soldier-students?

THE 16 and 17 year-olds who enrol in the Army Foundation college are soldiers, earning up to £138.82 a week, and they are subject to military regulations. However, after the first six weeks and before the end of the sixth month, they are entitled to leave the Army "as of right".

Those who successfully complete the course will leap-frog to an advanced stage of phase two military training and from there into the Infantry, the Royal Armoured Corps or the Royal Artillery. Girls can only join the Royal Artillery.

Effort, achievement and potential are rewarded with temporary ranks. Even a student sergeant major is appointed. Ranks are, however, surrendered at the end of the course.

Most, but not all, students will have taken GCSE exams at school, but acceptance at the AFC is based on potential rather than achievement.



"I wanted to do something different," said April Whalley, "and the Army Careers Office told me about this place. I've no regrets at all." PT has made her fitter than she was, and she said that being a girl does not mean she is treated any differently.

Computer work is the best aspect of college life for Jason Turnbull. "We didn't have posh computers at school, so it's great here." Discipline was a surprise to him, but not an unpleasant one. "I thought there'd be more discipline, but as long as you keep on top of things it's OK."



Chris Thrower decided that the college may be better for him than school, where he was not happy. "They treat you more as a grown-up here and they're a bit more tolerant. I'm having some of the best times of my life here. Drill and fieldcraft are best."

The Army's youngest recruits are being trained at a new foundation college. Some hail the scheme as a return to the days of junior leaders regiments. But Harrogate is more than that

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE FIRST young men and women to pass through the newly-opened gates of the Army Foundation College (AFC) at Uniacke Barracks in Harrogate in September last year were given a promise by their instructors and teachers which was simple, honest and likely to make some of the raw 16-year-olds wonder what on earth they had got themselves into.

Printed prominently in the handbook given to each of the 386 student-soldiers were these words: "At the end of your initial training you will be a different person. You will be fitter than you have ever been before; more confident in your own abilities, more disciplined; and you will have made many new friends. More importantly, you will have become a soldier!"

No one would have blamed the youngsters for having a few second thoughts, and some probably did. But, to their credit, there was no rush to head back to civilian life, and now, six months on, the staff and students appear to have established a happy balance between discipline and youthful exuberance: formality and friendliness.

Nevertheless, this is the Army, and the college motto, "Trust, courage, team spirit", keeps students focused on the goal. The proof is yet to be seen, but there is every reason to believe that when the first graduates begin phase two training six weeks into the course (the AFC gives them a head start), the Infantry, Royal Artillery or Royal Armoured Corps will have acquired 386 motivated, self-disciplined and capable young soldiers.

Many older soldiers will watch this with



Some things never change. LSgt Roger Shellant drills a platoon of students

an "I-told-you-so" kind of satisfaction, pointing out that the Foundation College has effectively revived the concept of the old junior leaders regiments which put so many young people on the fast track to promotion. They were scrapped in what many believe was a flurry of ill-conceived cuts in 1994.

But the old-timers (some of them well into their 30s) should not get carried away with the idea that the new initiative in Harrogate is all about getting back to basics or simply dusting off an old concept and throwing it back into the training and recruitment arsenal. The college's commandant, Lt Col Ian Smith, gives this suggestion short shrift: "We are not just making junior leaders," he said. "We aspire to surpass the standards that have been synonymous with the junior leaders."

Maj Alistair Fyfe, the 2iC, accepts that the college owes something to the old school-leavers courses, but in Harrogate the military and civilian trainers plan to produce "more rounded" people. "The warrant officers of tomorrow are being



Tom Chaplin, above, already knows that he wants to be in the infantry. He said he disliked school. "There's a lot of education here, but they teach you in a different way."

created in the college today," he said, "but the skills we give them are relevant in any walk of life, and they are life-long skills."

Local educational and training authorities are supporting the "well rounded" approach. In particular, the North Yorkshire Training and Education Council has helped to develop an academic curriculum based on National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in maths, English and information technology. (Teaching IT relies on several state-of-the-art computer suites worth a staggering £1 million.)

The college's curriculum amounts to the kind of training that would stand a young person in good stead in civilian as well as military life. Three 14-week terms include a healthy 23 weeks of military training, weighted towards the beginning and end of the course. The emphasis of this training is on PT, fieldcraft, drill and marksmanship, and includes a final two-week exercise. Five weeks are spent learning leadership skills, largely through outdoor activities, and 14 weeks distributed throughout the year are dedicated purely to academic studies.

In the this full timetable's few gaps, students are encouraged to take part in games and outdoor adventures; climbing,

hiking, canoeing and the like. According to Maj Fyfe, few of the students have any trouble coping with the physical demands, and he does not have much truck with those who claim today's youths are idle and overweight computer gamers.

"They are better than we ever imagined possible," said Maj Fyfe. "They pack away huge quantities of food but their energy level is incredible. We are confident that at the end of 42 weeks they'll be supremely fit and able."

It is no surprise that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the AFC among instructors and recruiters. However, it is surprising to learn that this enthusiasm is shared by potential students.

Nearly 3,000 youngsters applied for the first 400 places, and similar demand is expected for the second intake of 250 this month. The college will soon be more able to cope with demand. In September contractors will begin a £4.3 million refurbishment and expansion, transforming the site into a modern campus. By 2002 the AFC should be home to around 1,300 young soldiers, all of whom will be learning the basic lessons needed for a successful life in the Army and for life in general. Already there are aspirations for a second college.



Maj Alistair Fyfe:
"They are better
than we imagined
possible"

Dilemma for the RSM

WHEN RSM Glenn Brown, pictured below, arrived at Harrogate, the AFC was as novel for him as it was for any of the 400 students. Particularly challenging was the need to establish a code of discipline and support which was appropriate for the backgrounds and tender ages of the recruits.



"We originally thought we would treat them with kid gloves," said the former cavalry soldier. "But we realised that there would be no return from that. So now we start applying discipline lightly from the beginning, tightening it week-by-week until normal Army standards are reached."

Parents are seen as vital partners. As soon as the RSM or other staff notice that a student has a problem, parents are advised. "They are our greatest allies. We will frequently get parents on the phone so that they can talk to their sons or daughters."

RSM Brown is easy-going. "It's the right way," he insists. "We need to be approachable and friendly."

There is something of the friendly uncle about him. He is not, however, a typical RSM – as the young students will discover all too soon.

University has jobs in prospect

A NEW project to help ex-Service men and women to find work after leaving the Forces has been launched at Longhirst Hall, near Morpeth, Northumbria.

The Prospects Programme, managed by the University of Northumbria with funding from the European Social Fund, aims to help people who have left the Armed Forces and are unemployed, as well as those who are about to leave and have no job to go to.

One of the first to benefit from the scheme will be Maj Bertie Sexton, 54, who served more than 30 years in The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. He said: "Having spent most of my life in the Forces I have a wealth of qualifications and experience. I hope that what the Prospects Programme will allow me to do is to convert that into a recognised qualification for work in civvy street."

The Longhirst Hall project has three objectives:

- To provide vocational guidance and counselling to help ex-Service personnel;
- To provide training leading to middle and higher level qualifications;
- To help individuals find jobs by offering a comprehensive programme of work placements in local companies, linked to training and qualifications.

FIFTEEN WEEKS

Prospects is aimed at NCOs and above, with 20 candidates starting in December and 60 more booked to start in April and September. Each programme lasts 15 weeks, four of which will be spent at Northumbria University and 11 on work placement. Candidates will receive the BTEC Professional Development Certificate in Work-Based Experience as well as NVQ qualifications in management training and development, IT or business administration.

Project manager Deidre Burnet said: "Many people who have worked within the Armed Forces have very valuable skills but need to learn to apply them to a commercial environment. The Prospects Programme aims to help them make that transition."

For more details contact Deidre on 0191 227 4447.



Converting: Maj Bertie Sexton

Army leads way on treatment of stress

Well-defined procedures exist for prevention, detection and treatment of problems which can lead to psychological trauma

THE high-octane lifestyle modern people are expected to lead inevitably causes stress. Occasionally the condition is so serious it can lead to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), writes Karen Moseley.

Military personnel and the emergency services are among the groups most likely to be exposed to situations which can lead to psychological trauma after a harrowing event. The Army is acutely aware that people suffering from PTSD must be treated quickly, efficiently and with care so that further problems are prevented.

The Army Medical Service (AMS) claims the standard of military treatment and the rapid referral system for stress and PTSD is one of the Army's greatest successes and is the envy of the National Health Service.

Preventive measures

All pre-operational tour training and briefing packages include education, awareness and advice so that early problems can be identified. Community psychiatric nurses (CPNs) are deployed to all operational theatres and, importantly, are available in barracks when the unit returns from operations.

Two CPNs are based in Bosnia, where a visiting psychiatrist is on call, three in Northern Ireland with a resident psychiatrist, and one in the Falklands, which also has a visiting psychiatrist. There are CPNs in London, Colchester, Tidworth, Aldershot and Edinburgh, and an even spread of psychiatrists around the country.

Detection

A constantly reviewed programme of detection is included in the training of regimental medical officers, chaplains, officers and the senior NCOs of deploying units, and a specialist course is organised in UK and Germany before

a deployment. This four-day theoretical and practical course helps relevant personnel to identify key stages of a traumatic event and who is most likely to be exposed to trauma.

A new pamphlet, which accompanies the course, *Primary Management of Psychological Trauma*, is now available to units.

Treatment

Much of the treatment is carried out in informal surroundings and out of uniform. A military patient will be seen by a CPN within two weeks and often more quickly. Treatment will then start or a referral will be made, which compares with six to eight weeks in the NHS.

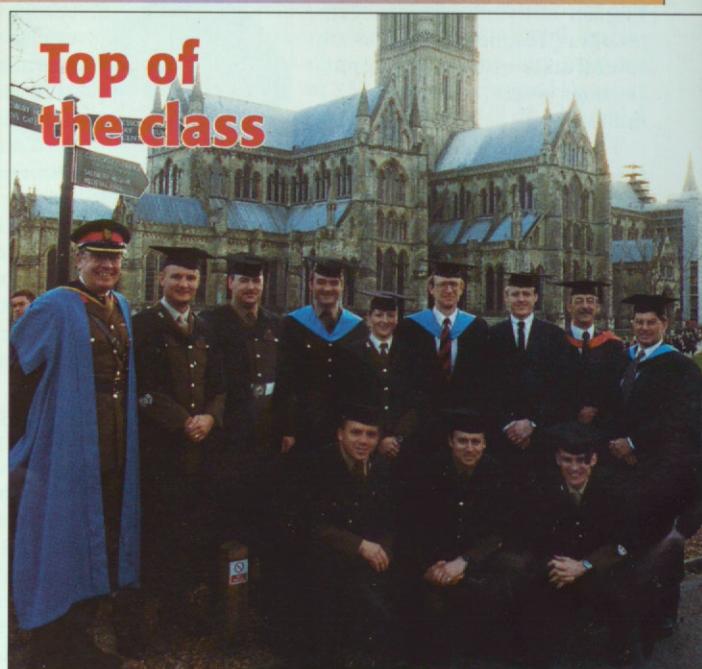
Where possible the military system allows the patient to remain at work while receiving regular treatment. If an admission is necessary then it can be made quickly to the psychiatric wing at the Duchess of Kent Hospital in Catterick.

The AMS is keen to get the message across that there is no stigma attached to a person admitting he or she is suffering from stress. Much of the CPN's work is carried out in relaxed, informal surroundings, often in the evening.

The system does, however, rely on every soldier to keep alert and watch for possible symptoms from colleagues. Referral via the regimental medical officer is simple, and soldiers owe it to their colleagues to make such a decision.

Early treatment usually means an early return to work.

● See Books, Pages 66-67



Top of the class

● Cari Roberts will be back next month with her regular advice column.



Ready to listen: A member of the confidential support line staff on the telephone to a caller

Soldiers more aware they can share problem

MORE than 1,000 calls were made to the Army's confidential support lines during its first year in operation and there are indications that officers, soldiers and family members are increasingly aware that there is someone on hand to share their problems.

Staff, trained by the Samaritans, have offered options and support to people worried about harassment and equal opportunities, financial problems, loneliness and depression. About four per cent of calls are about race issues.

"That may not seem a lot," said a support line manager, "but those calls tend to be very intense and staff hear some very distressing things."

The manager said that although racism and sexism were the high-profile issues, bullying was often at the root of the problem. It took the form of physical and verbal intimidation and subtle undermining.

Run by SSAFA Forces Help, the "listening ear" is free, confidential and sep-

rate from the military environment. Callers are not asked their names.

Average length of calls is 17 minutes, but they have lasted up to three hours. More than a fifth of callers ring back for more support or to say how they are doing.

Some have changed their minds about leaving the Army and instead decided to make a complaint after talking things through on the helpline.

One member on the receiving end said: "You know that the people you are helping are in an environment where speaking from the heart is not encouraged. It's good to feel that it might be the first time they have really been able to talk honestly."

The lines are open every day of the year from 1030 to 2230 and can be contacted on the freefone numbers listed in the panel in the next column.

Callers from other parts of the world can telephone on UK 1980 630854 and a member of staff will return the call.

Setting the standard: Senior NCOs who completed both Education for Promotion (EFP) level 2 and the NVQ level 4 pose in academic gowns for their graduation ceremony at Salisbury College. Personal and career development are high-profile issues in the Army, and the success of the group – mostly WO2s and staff sergeants

– underlines the huge efforts being made in this area. Pictured, left, with the successful candidates in The Close at Salisbury Cathedral is Col Robin Field-Smith, who was representing the Directorate of Educational and Training Services (Army) at Upavon.

Picture: Terry Champion

'R U Owed' cashback on personal pensions?

MORE than two million people who may have been mis-sold a personal pension up to ten years ago will be the target of a new £10 million advertising campaign to be launched by the regulating Financial Services Authority.

A TV, radio and press campaign will begin the second phase of the on-going review of personal pensions sold to a younger age group between April 1988 and June 1994.

The first phase was aimed at people who were at or near retirement and the new campaign involves reviewing those now in their 20s, 30s and early 40s. They could each be owed up to £4,000 or more in compensation.

LETTERS

In all, about six million people will receive a letter – bearing the logo "R U Owed" – from the company which first advised them to take out a personal pension. It will invite them to consider putting their case forward for review.

Mis-selling occurred when some people were persuaded to leave or not join their employer's pension scheme or when they transferred pension benefits from a previous employer's scheme and took out a personal pension plan. So far, nearly £2 billion has been paid back to 330,000 investors.

A FSA helpline is open on 0800 003 007. There is a textphone number, 0800 917 9258, for people with hearing difficulties, and further details are available on Teletext ITV Page 358 or on the Internet via www.pensions.fsa.gov.uk

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0131 827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249;

Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980

618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442954

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Wales

Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Castle and Regimental Museum

Senior Regiment of the Reserve Army. Monmouth's Early Defences. Medieval Herb Garden. 2 - 5 pm daily in summer. 2 - 4 pm weekends in winter. at Monmouth Castle. Free entry 01600 772175



SOUTH WALES BORDERERS MUSEUM

The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB. Telephone: 01874 613310. E-mail: rrw@ukonline.co.uk. **300 years of history.** Zulu wars. Large medal collection and armoury. **Open:** Oct to Mar (weekdays only) & Apr to Sept (daily) 0900 - 1300 and 1400 - 1700

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WE asked curators of military museums to tell us about a treasure in their keep.

- An oil painting entitled "The Battle of Meaneanee" by George Jones. The 22nd Cheshire Regiment was the only European regiment present at this battle on February 17, 1843 when Sir Charles Napier was colonel. The painting was commissioned by Napier's brother to give visual expression in support of Sir Charles who was being accused of starting a war for his own ends. — **Cheshire Military Museum**

Berkshire

REME MUSEUM

Arborfield Garrison, just off the A327



Open:

Mon - Fri: 09.00 - 12.30 and 14.00 - 16.30 (Fri - 16.00)

For information: REME Museum, Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NJ

Tel: 0118 976 3567

Cheshire

Cheshire Military Museum

Open 10am - 5pm seven days except 22 Dec - 2 Jan.

Last entry 4.30pm

Special Art & The Boer War centenary 1999.

The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN Telephone: (01244) 327617 Small charge & disabled access



Cornwall

MILITARY MUSEUM at The Keep, Bodmin

The history of a famous County Regiment, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Fascinating displays of uniforms, weapons, medals and much more.

Open during normal business hours and on Sundays during July and August 10am - 5pm or by appointment at other times. Tel: 01208 72810 Adults: £2 Children: 50p

Essex

The Essex Regiment Museum

Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford. Tel: (01245) 353066

Open: Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm Sun 2 - 5pm Closed 2 April 1999

Admission Free. Parking Free

● The last wartime-built Scammell Pioneer recovery vehicle to remain in Army service was still operational in Belize in the early 1980s. The vehicle, known as Swampy, was shipped back to the UK in pieces and later rebuilt by 43 District Workshop, Aldershot for the REME Museum's historic vehicle collection house at SEME Bordon. — **REME Museum of Technology**

- The magnificent court dress presented to Gen Charles Gordon by the Chinese emperor in 1864 as a reward for Gordon's services. — **Royal Engineers Museum**
- The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum has its own Elgin Marbles: Gen George Washington's Bible, on which he had to sign his Oath of Obligation. It was taken by the 46th Regiment of Foot from the West family in a punitive raid on rebel ships and dockyard in New Bedford in 1778. Certain Americans hotly contest its ownership. — **The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum**

● Aldershot's famous Douglas Dakota Mk1 KP208 was built at the Douglas Aircraft plant, Oklahoma City, USA in June 1945 as 44-77087. Its association with The Parachute Regiment began when it saw service as the personal aircraft for the Chief of Allied Forces, Northern Europe, Gen Sir K T Darling, late Para. Today it is displayed in the colours of the air

Dorset



The Keep Military Museum is a museum which tells the remarkable story of those who have served in the regiments of Dorset and Devon. Their courage, their humour, their traditions and their sacrifice are all brought together in an exciting and colourful exhibition for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

The story is told by usage of IT technology and creative displays of the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillerymen of the counties of Dorset and Devon. The diversity of articles shown allows the visitors' imagination the freedom to recreate the world of these soldiers and their families from 1685 to the present day.

There are also activities for children to take part in and win a prize. These activities help the younger generation to understand the courage and sacrifice their grandparents made. A final bonus to one's visit to The Keep is the spectacular views from the battlements showing all the main areas of Dorchester and its countryside. The Keep, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1RN. Telephone: (01303) 264066 Fax: (01303) 250373

A registered charity that educates the public in our Regimental Histories.

craft used for the Market Garden operation of 1944. — **Airborne Forces Museum**

- The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Museum has its own Elgin Marbles: Gen George Washington's Bible, on which he had to sign his Oath of Obligation. It was taken by the 46th Regiment of Foot from the West family in a punitive raid on rebel ships and dockyard in New Bedford in 1778. Certain Americans hotly contest its ownership. — **The Buffs Regimental Gallery, Royal Museum, Canterbury**
- The Highland Society of London's vase, presented by the Society to the 42nd at Armagh in 1817 for the capture of the French Invincible standard at the battle of Alexandria, March 21, 1801. — **Black Watch Museum**

● Coconut toddy bottles carved by soldiers in the 19th Regiment when stationed in Ceylon in 1800. They were used to carry the unconsumed portion of the daily ration of rum. — **Green Howards Museum**

● The last note of Capt Joseph Fenwick, The Buffs, written in his

Hampshire



c/o ASPT, Fox Lines, Queens Avenue Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LB Tel: 01252 347168 or 01252 347131

APTC history since 1860 including development of physical training in the Army, APTC international and Olympic sportsmen, evolution of athletic equipment and instructors' dress, etc.

Open Mon to Thurs 0900-1600 & Fri 0900-1230. Weekends and Bank Holidays by appointment only.

Kent

MUSEUMS Guide

MUSEUMS

Park cracked it. — **The Museum of Defence Intelligence**

● The battles of Talavera (1809) and Chillianwallah (1849) during the Sikh wars are significant events in the 24th Regiment's history. Purchase of the Small Army Gold Medal awarded to Lt Col Drummond will ensure, with the help of the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund, that the fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by soldiers at Talavera are never forgotten. — **South Wales Borderers Museum**

● Tiney.

A small dog of varied pedigree who was the mascot of 12 Coy, Commissariat and Transport Corps during the 1880s. During his service he travelled to Egypt and the Sudan and was present at the battles of Tel-el-Kebir and Hasken. On returning home, he was killed in a road accident and preserved. — **Royal Logistic Corps Museum**

● An original German Enigma machine from the Second World War. The Germans believed this encoding machine to be impregnable . . . but boffins at Bletchley

Victorian building. Each medal tells a silent story of the extreme bravery and courage. — **Military Museum of Devon and Dorset**

● Pte William Ratcliffe was a stretcher-bearer with the 2nd South Lancs at Messines on June 14, 1917. The battalion had captured its objective when a German machine-gun nest opened up on their flank and rear. Ratcliffe picked up a dead man's rifle and charged the machine gun. Having bayoneted the German officer and five of the crew, Ratcliffe brought the captured gun into action against the

● Turn to next page

Lancashire

THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Incorporating the collectables and archives of The East Lancashire Regiment, The South Lancashire Regiment, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), The Lancashire Regiment, Militia, Volunteers and Territorials.

Fulwood Bks, Preston, Lancs PR2 8AA. Telephone: 01772 260362 Open Tuesday - Thursday 0930-1630 or by appointment

THE FUSILIERS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Discover the history of this famous British Regiment from its foundation in 1688 and its connection with Wolfe, Wellington and Napoleon. Open: Every day except Wed & Sun 0930 - 1630. Closed Christmas & Easter. Open Bank Holiday Mondays Admission: Adults £2.00, OAPs & children £1.00 Wellington Barracks, Bolton Rd, Bury BL8 2PL Telephone: 0161 764 2208

THE PRINCESS OF WALES' ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM

AT DOVER CASTLE Open all year 1000 - 1600 winter 1000 - 1800 summer Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: WW1 trench experience; interactive videos of WW1; medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable drum displays in the army for hire; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free. Join our Friends - contact Mr A Booth on 01227 595524

The Royal Logistic Corps Museum

Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey Tel: 01252 340871 Mon-Sat: 9.30am-4.30pm & Sun: 2-4.30pm (Sun closed) Closed Sundays and Public Holidays Free admission. Fully accessible to the disabled with special parking.

Surrey

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS MUSEUM

Sussex Combined Services Museum, The Redoubt Fortress, Royal Parade, Eastbourne BN22 7AQ Tel: 01323 410300

Open April - November 1998, 0930 - 1730

Admission: Adults £2.00, Family ticket (2+2) £5.50, Under 16/over 60s £1.00

For further information phone: Major P J Timmons 0171 414 8782

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE MUSEUM Roussillon Bks, Chichester W Sussex (A286 Midhurst Rd) OPEN: Tues-Fri, Jan-Dec 1030-1230 & 13.30-1630 plus extra Sat & Sun Apr-Sept, 1400-1730 FREE ADMISSION Tel: 01243 534225

THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS MUSEUM

Lord Leycester Hospital, High Street, Warwick CV34 4BH. Tel: 01926 492035 Open: Summer 1000-1700 & Winter 1000-1600

(Closed Mondays and Christmas Day)

Admission to museum is free

For further information phone: Major P J Timmons 0171 414 8782

Discover the history of this famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1690 onwards and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry awards medals, Regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of WW1 and CD ROM. Also some of Richmond's historic plate.

1 FEB - 31 MAR: Mon-Fri 10.00 - 4.30pm (Sat & Sun closed)

1 APR - MID MAY: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm & Easter Day 2pm - 4.30pm (Sun closed)

Mid MAY - 30 SEPT:

Mon-Sat: 9.30am-4.30pm & Sun: 2-4.30pm

1 OCT - 31 OCT: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm (Sun closed)

1 NOV - 30 NOV Mon-Fri: 10am-4.30pm (Sat & Sun closed)

Open at other times by appointment. Closed DEC - 31 JAN

GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Trinity Church Square, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4QN Tel: 01748 822133

This famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1690 onwards and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry awards medals, Regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of WW1 and CD ROM. Also some of Richmond's historic plate.

enemy. William Ratcliffe received the Victoria Cross and the Maxim is on display. — *Queen's Lancashire Regiment*

- Important displays include Napoleonic relics. The regiment buried Bonaparte on St Helena. –

- The story of Britain's sea soldiers is not just about war stories. Rooms are filled with priceless silver, sweeping stairways are hung with splendid portraits and halls are adorned with a world-famous medal collection. — *The Royal Marines Museum*

- The complete set of surgical instruments used by Surgeon Gen Munro when he was surgeon of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders during the battles of Alma, Balaklava, Sebastopol, Lucknow and Cawnpore. — *Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

- Pte Samuel Parkes saved the life of Trumpet Maj Crawford of the 4th (Queen's Own) Light Dragoons when his horse fell during the charge of the Light Cavalry

VISIT WINCHESTER'S 5 MILITARY MUSEUMS

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5

- * The King's Royal Hussars
- * The Light Infantry
- * The Royal Gurkha Regiment
- * The Royal Green Jackets
- The Royal Hampshire Regiment

(Telephone: 01962-828541)

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(Telephone: 01962-828549)

(Telephone: 01962 863659)

* Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester SO23 8TS. ° Serles House, Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EC.

Brigade. Parkes fought off two Cossacks, then kept at bay six Russians as the two men retired. His VC is on display. — *Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Museum*

- The Victoria Cross of Cornet William George Hawtrey Banks, 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars was won posthumously after he led a counter-attack against tribesmen at Moosa-Bagh, Lucknow during the

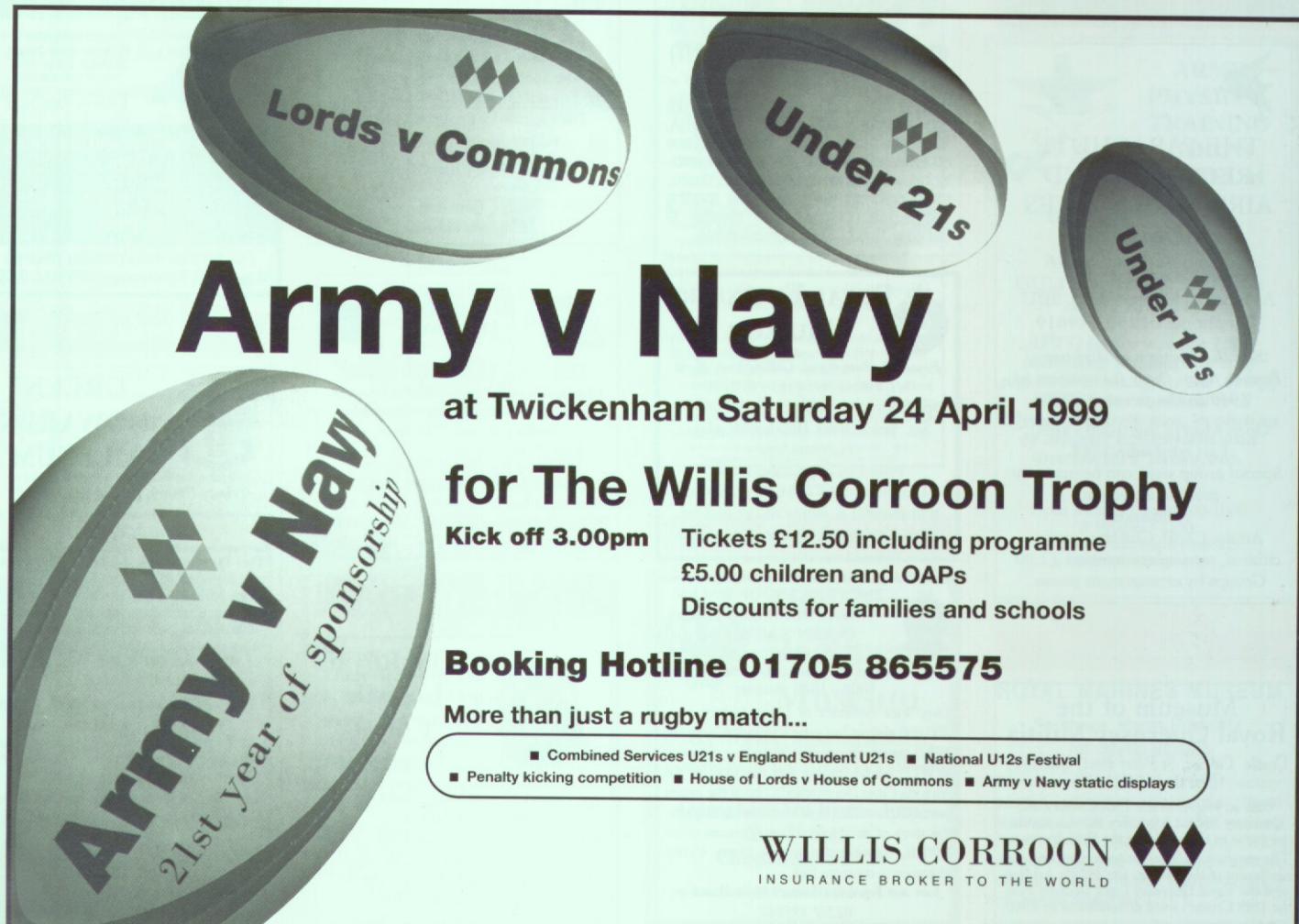
Indian Mutiny. It is on display. — *Queen's Own Hussars Museum*

- A silver model of Fox Gym at the ASPT, Aldershot depicts the gymnasium built in 1894 and named after Col Sir Malcolm Fox, Inspector of Gymnasia. — **APTC**
Museum

- The evolving role of the corps from Tudor times to the current sup-

port role fulfilled by Royal Military Police in the former Yugoslavia. — *Royal Military Police Museum*

- Time travel at the King's Royal Hussars Museum on the weekend of March 14, 1999 will include personalities from the Charge of the Light Brigade, India and Sudan in the 1880s, First World War and today's regiment. – *The Museums of Winchester*



Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

POWER-LIFTING



Picture: Terry Champion

Lift-off: LBdr Mike McDermott gets more power to his elbow during a training session

Powered-up

Report: Karen Moseley

WHEN SSgt Steve Grey broke his back in three places after somersaulting through a hoop of fire during a gymnastic display he thought his career as a PTI was over.

But after six months of light duties and, on the recommendation of his physiotherapist, gentle weight-lifting, not only was he back at work, but on his way to becoming a power-lifting world champion.

"I enjoyed the weights so much I carried on," he explained. "I was then asked to organise a power-lifting competition in Larkhill and decided to enter myself. Officials from the British Power-lifting Congress came along, and to be honest they were a bit sneering about it all beforehand. They were very surprised when they saw what I could do."

In 1996 SSgt Grey, who is now based with 39 Regt RA at Newcastle upon Tyne, went to the world championships in South Africa as the British champion. It was the first of many titles he was to win over the next two years, culminating in the world bench-press championship at last year's event in Austria.

Grey has now decided to retire from power-lifting, but another champion is waiting in the wings.

LBdr Mike McDermott, 14 Regt RA, trains three times a day at the gym in Larkhill where he is based. Now aged 26,

he started weight-lifting when he was 14. Not, he was quick to point out, because he was bullied for being small, but because he was encouraged by a friend of the family, WO1 Ray Williams, a former Commonwealth champion.

"He set me on the right track," McDermott said, "but last year when I was in Sanski Most, Bosnia, my BSM, WO2 (now WO1) Steve Morgan, encouraged me to take up power-lifting. I was good at it and actually preferred it."

"We had our own little competition in Bosnia and I then went on to the British Army (Germany) championships."

He went on to win the silver medal at the world championships in Blackpool in 1997, and at the world championships in Austria last year beat 14 other competitors to win the open power-lifting event, which involved all three disciplines, and became the 52kg world champion.

Power-lifting has three different disciplines: the dead-lift, which is raising the weight from the ground to the waist; bench-press, where the person lies on a bench and the weight is lowered to the chest, held for a second and then lifted up with straight arms; and squat, which involves lifting the weight from a raised position on to the back of the shoulders, bending until the top of the legs are parallel to the floor and lifting the weight straight up.

SHORTS

Golfers know the score

GOLFERS from the newly-formed Corps of Army Music got into the swing of things at the Army Golf Club in Aldershot where they held their first championship.

Lads try frilly challenge

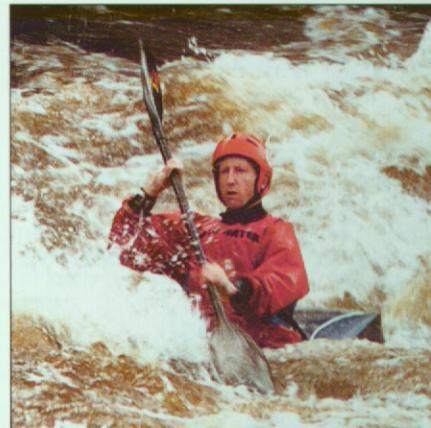
THREE teams of men from HQ Land Command, Wilton, dressed in frilly netball skirts for charity – or so they would have you believe. The lads took on the headquarters women's netball team and raised £400 for local girl Sam Keel, who has non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and £235 for Salisbury Hospice.

Pull the other one

THOSE old warhorses 4 R Irish swept the board with 26 Regt RA the runners-up in each weight at the Army indoor tug of war championships at Aldershot. Army tug-of-war secretary Maj (Retd) Dick Field said: "It was very encouraging to see the new lads from 1 RSME giving their all. I predict a bright future for them in years to come."

White knuckles

THE inter-corps wild-water racing championships were fiercely contested between the REME and RA on the River Dee at Llangollen in North Wales. The paddlers from REME won through to take the championships for the second time in three years. The RLC were relegated to third place. The men's K1 event was won convincingly by Lt Peter Francis from AAC Arborfield and the C1 was won again by Maj Paul Hepworth from 4 GS Regt RLC.



Battling through on the Dee: WO2 Smudge Smith, REME proves that age linked with experience is a successful combination

SHORTS

Never mind the pollocks

THE Army reeled in the team prize to retain the inter-Service shore angling championships title. Fifteen anglers took part in the catch-and-release competition held on Holyhead Breakwater.

Most anglers were head-to-head, landing small whiting, until WO1 Bruce Findlay (HQ RSME) Chatham played his trump card. He decided to adopt an old Dover breakwater tactic of fishing for pollock down the side of the wall. The tactic proved decisive. The Army also won in the reserve zone competition, with Cpl Mick Bowden (REME) taking the honours.

Hockey is a hit

SIX teams based in and around Rheindalen, Germany took part in a two-day hockey tournament organised by HQ ARRC for 21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC. The overall winners, RAF champions RAF Bruggen, retained the title.

Winners again

EXPERIENCE gave 14 Independent Topographic Squadron RE the upper hand to retain the title of British Army (Germany) Minor Units squash champions. The military map-makers were again up against 24 Transport and Movement Regiment RLC at the Ahorn Sportpark near Paderborn.

Cup runneth over

THE inter-unit cricket competition will take a slightly different form this year. District and divisional leagues will be organised as normal but the Army inter-unit cricket cup will be run as an additional competition.

Landing the big one

JUDO players from 5 Airborne Brigade (Log Sp) carried off the Wilkinson Sword Trophy at the Army Judo Association open and men's and women's individual championships at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. Competitors travelled from the Falkland Islands, Cyprus and Germany to take part. The other results were: Welsh Cup, under 60kg, Tpr Andrew Smith (QRH); Harvey Sword, under 66kg, LCpl Derek Gibb (1 KOSB); Lancashire Fusiliers Cup, under 73kg, Sig Thomas Shirlock (1 (UK) ADSR); MILF Cup, under 81kg, Capt Jim Platt (LISA); Sheedy Sword, under 90kg, Pte Stuart Docherty (1 RGBW).

Opening flourish

THE Combined Services opened their football season with a convincing 5-1 win over Fulham Youth XI at Aldershot. The extra strength and experience of the Services proved too much for a good young Fulham outfit.

INFANTRY NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Snow, quick, quick, snow

GOOD snow and low temperatures guaranteed excellent conditions for the 1998 Infantry Nordic ski training and championships in Nordseter near Lillehammer, Norway. Eight regular infantry battalions took part as well as a TA unit, the 6/7th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Col Nick Gaskell, chairman of infantry skiing, said the exercise aimed to introduce young soldiers to Nordic skiing and biathlon and to improve the standard of the more experienced skiers. The event was also used to prepare teams for the divisional and Army championships.

The training period ended with 50 novice skiers being awarded British Association of Ski Instructors' two-star award and six skiers being given the three-star award.

HIGHLIGHT

Col Gaskell said: "In a week of exciting and competitive racing the highlight was the 4x7.5km biathlon race which saw 22 teams competing in the 1994 Winter Olympic stadium." The race was won by the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards.

Race week concluded with a demanding 26km patrol race around the hills and forests above Lillehammer which was won by the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. The novice patrol race went to 6/7 PWRR.

Overall, the open team winners were The Green Howards and the novice team winners were the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. LCpl Nigel MacGillivray (Hldrs) was the open individual winner and Hldr Callum Anderson won the individual novice prize.

The exercise was sponsored by SIKA International, who awarded a special prize to the most promising junior novice, Pte John Watson (1 GH).

Col Gaskell said: "We have been generously sponsored by SIKA International for both Nordic and Alpine infantry skiing which will allow us to develop plans for improving training for both novices and aspiring ski instructors in the coming seasons."



Into the sunset: Skiers from 1 D and D push on and make the most of the last hours of daylight in the Olympic stadium at Lillehammer

MILITARY MARATHON

How gunners blew world record apart

AN EIGHT-man team from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery has broken the military marathon record by 15 magnificent minutes. The new world record stands at 4hr 19min 40sec.

Not bad considering the team had to run round the route in Luton while wearing issue kit and carrying 40lb.

Lt Jon Cresswell, one of the record-breaking team, said: "We were determined to succeed and were frequently seen pounding the streets of Plymouth."

The training consisted of three sessions a week, comprising circuits and runs and gradually building up load-carrying strength. The strain of training and regimental commitments saw squad members change as injuries occurred and individuals were deployed overseas.

SPECIAL RESERVE

The team, managed by WO2 (BSM) Derek Gilbert, a veteran of the 1987 record attempt, comprised LBdr Llewellyn Evans, LBdr Damien Isherwood, Cpl Darren Hall, Cpl Mark Rodhouse, Bdr Bryan Davidson, Bdr Ian Marsh, Sgt Paul Hough, and Lt Jon Cresswell. Maj Paul Ingram and LBdr Nathan Goodger were the reserves.

Lt Cresswell said: "The first couple of miles flew by at a horrendous pace as the adrenalin flowed. The civilian runners passed the squad shouting encouragement. We soon settled down to a ten-minute pace and faced up to the long road into the record books."

The marathon itself comprised three laps of an 8.75-mile circuit, which allowed the coaches to assess the team's progress.

"The final circuit was a true test of training and commando spirit," said Lt Cresswell. The aim of the sessions on Dartmoor during the previous weeks had been to condition our bodies to overcome the inevitable build-up of lactic acid that causes many runners to hit the wall a few miles before the finish."

It was between 18 and 22 miles that the record would be decided. The preparation and hard training paid off and the ten-minute mile pace was sustained through to the finish.



Softly does it: The 6/7 PWRR team follows the lead of Capt Simon Nadin



Five o'clock shadow: SSgt Mick Arnell, GH turns for home. Inset, from left to right, Cpl J Northrop, Pte K Beckett and Pte D Davies of 1 Cheshire check their position

SAILING

Broadsword cuts to the chase

After 1,000 miles of cut and thrust, the Army's *Broadsword* wins Transglobe's Caribbean leg

Report: Graham Bound
Picture: Mike Weston

THE ARMY'S Transglobe challenger *Broadsword* swooped into harbour in Colon, Panama, clinching first place on the second leg of the Services' round-the-world race.

Honour had been reclaimed for the Army after bad weather and a series of mishaps had put *Broadsword* in third place on the earlier transatlantic leg.

But the Caribbean victory was a close-run thing. Five days out from Antigua, *Broadsword*'s crew believed they were

comfortably in the lead. The fact that their spinnaker halyard had snapped, making it impossible to hoist a "kite", was not concerning them unduly... until the Royal Navy's boat, *Racer*, suddenly appeared on the horizon. She was flying a huge spinnaker and gaining fast. It suddenly seemed possible that the Army might lose the lead at the 11th hour.

Broadsword skipper Henry Bradshaw and his crew of nine men and three women frantically re-wove a spare mainsail halyard, fitted it to a small spinnaker and managed to hoist it. It was neck-and-neck as the boats approached Colon, but *Broadsword* just managed to retain her lead.

"It was," said Henry Bradshaw, "a real fillip for the crews because after six days at sea and after covering almost 1,000 miles, we finished just 25 minutes apart."

The Royal Air Force boat, *Adventure*, crossed the line three hours later. *Adventure* had originally been in the lead but suffered a broken boom when she broached during a squall.

Throughout the Caribbean leg winds blew strongly from almost directly astern the boats - "up the chuff", in sailing parlance. Wear and tear can be a problem when constantly running before the

wind, and so it proved for *Broadsword*.

The crew were kept on their toes with frequent sail changes and repairs to rigging. At one stage a member of the crew climbed the mainmast in heavy winds to re-route a halyard.

For skipper Bradshaw, the race was one of the high points of his sailing career. The retired Royal Logistic Corps major began sailing dinghies as a child, and was introduced to yachts through the Army's sailing club in Keil, Germany.

He said of his latest sailing adventure: "It was hard work, but I couldn't have asked for a better crew."

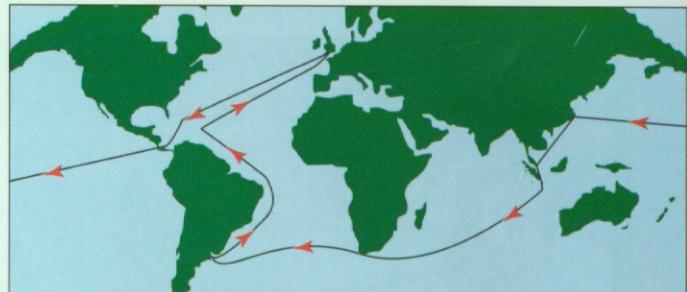
VARIABLE WINDS

After passing through the Panama Canal, the three Nicholson 55s were due to commence the transpacific leg from the port of Balboa on January 17. They face a challenging 4,600-mile race, the result of which may be decided during the first week.

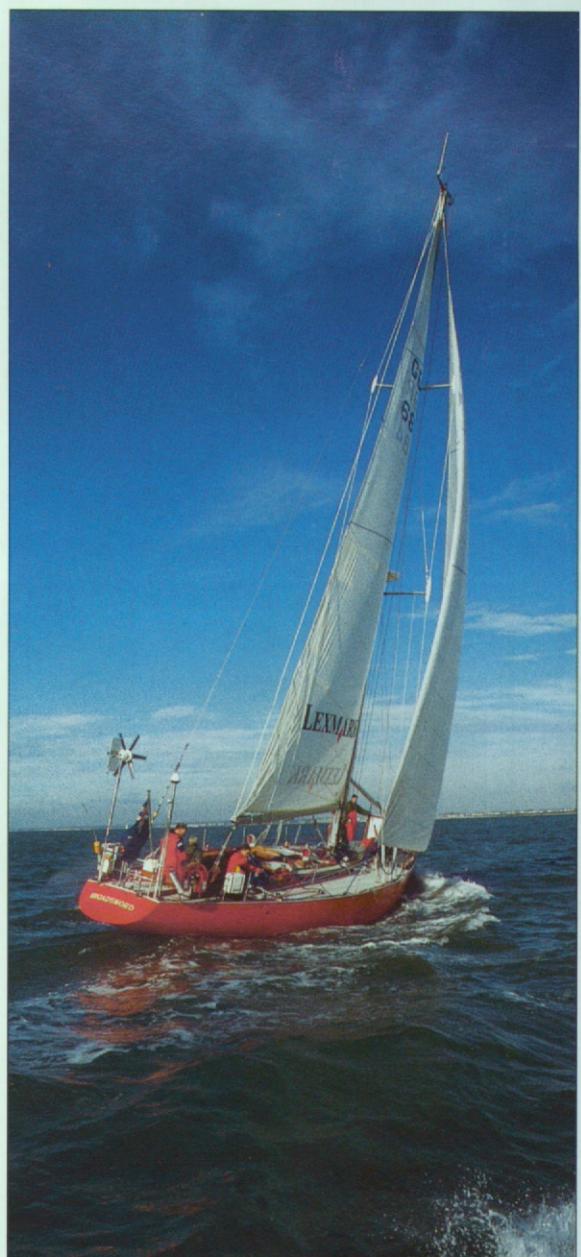
Speaking from race headquarters in Gosport, Army organiser Capt John Broadley explained the boats are likely to encounter light and variable winds for the first 800 miles. "The skippers will need to concentrate hard on tactics during that phase," he explained.

"The boat that's first to pull ahead into the strong north-easterlies is likely to stay in the lead."

The winning Nicholson 55 is expected to arrive in Honolulu, Hawaii around the middle of February.



Round the world: The route the three Service yachts are taking



Action stations: The possibility of the Army losing the lead at the 11th hour suddenly seemed a real possibility

Now you can step on the gas!

AS the Government makes increasingly punitive tax assaults on diesel and petrol, the staple fuels of our transport system, motorists are beginning to ask if other fuels offer real alternatives, writes **Syd Taylor**.

In the current climate, being green wins votes, helps to sell vehicles and gives good publicity. The question is, however, does it pay you or cost you?

Committed to making cars more environmentally sound, Volvo was the first manufacturer to introduce a production alternative-fuel vehicle into the UK in 1996.

The Volvo S70 Bi-Fuel (there's also a V70 Estate variant) is available with automatic transmission only, as a "platform" car costing £22,955 or an SE variant as tested for £25,905. These prices are about £2,800 more than the petrol equivalent S70 and show roughly the same differentials as those existing between diesel and petrol versions of the same car. Initial cost, therefore, is a major consideration.

We already know that the S70 is an outstanding car which is a real pleasure to drive and is easy to live with. It's one of the safest models available and at the same time is an inspiring car with excellent dynamic qualities. Built for comfort and ease of travel, this spacious and classy vehicle is the ideal model to reflect Volvo's quest for an environmentally compatible approach to modern-day driving.

FLICK OF A SWITCH

Using the highly-acclaimed five-cylinder 2.5 litre engine, the S70 can be run on compressed natural gas (CNG) or petrol. When using gas, emissions are dramatically lower than petrol emissions, with 77 per cent less carbon monoxide and an 80 per cent reduction in hydrocarbons.

At the flick of a fascia button you can switch back and forth from petrol to gas at any speed, with no noticeable change in driving characteristics. There's a supplementary fuel-injection system for the CNG and ignition is regulated and monitored through the normal electronics.

Although performance levels are ten per cent less when running on gas because of the extra space it occupies in the combustion chambers, throttle response and driveability are unchanged. In reality the slight loss of performance is not noticeable. The engine still develops a



Road test: Volvo S70 SE Bi-Fuel

Tech Spec

ENGINE Transverse five-cylinder, 2.5 litre; power, 122 bhp (CNG; torque, 180 Nm at 3600 rpm (CNG).

TRANSMISSION Four-speed automatic.

PERFORMANCE Top speed 112 mph; acceleration

0-62 mph in 13.9 sec.

FUEL CONSUMPTION Extra urban (CNG) 34.4 mpg.

PRICE £25,905 as tested.

healthy 122 bhp on CNG and it can propel this heavy car to a top speed of 112 mph.

Loss of power in gas-propelled vehicles is entirely due to their using a "petrol" engine running on gas. With dedicated gas engines, the situation will be corrected, but with an infrastructure to refuel a long way off (there are currently only 18



Choice is yours: Gas filler point next to the conventional petrol cap on the bi-fuel S70

sites, with just 12 available to any user) the bi-fuel compromise stays.

However, the way round this is for users to tap into the nationwide natural gas network, which means that anyone with a domestic natural gas supply can fill-up at home.

The gas used in this Volvo is the same as you use to cook breakfast. British Gas already offers an affordable and easy-to-use vehicle refuelling appliance (VRA) called Fuel Maker. This allows overnight refuelling, taking seven to eight hours to fill an empty tank.

Filling-up at any of the expanding network of fuel stations is usually by prior arrangement. You "log-on" and use the special Triscan Kiss Key which you get from British Gas after paying a one-off £25 fee.

This "fast-fill" refuelling takes about the same time as for petrol and you probably need to refuel the 80-litre gas tank every 150 miles.

With two fuel tanks, the benefits of increased range are obvious, but it must be remembered that the gas tank - located behind the rear seat - takes up a lot of space, drastically reducing boot capacity. As you would expect with Volvo, safety has been a prime consideration and the installation has had to meet rigorous international regulations so that it can withstand immense impacts. Short of nuclear attack it looks indestructible. The heavy tank, however, seems to make the car sit lower on the suspension at the rear.

Overall, CNG gives slightly lower performance levels than petrol, but this is more than compensated for by its considerably lower cost. At the time of writing, with petrol at 66p per litre, the petrol equivalent price of CNG is only 45.2p per litre and on top of that, drivers can expect marginally better fuel economy, too.

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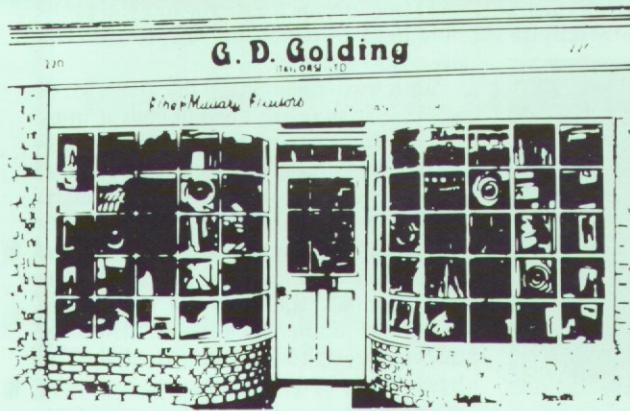
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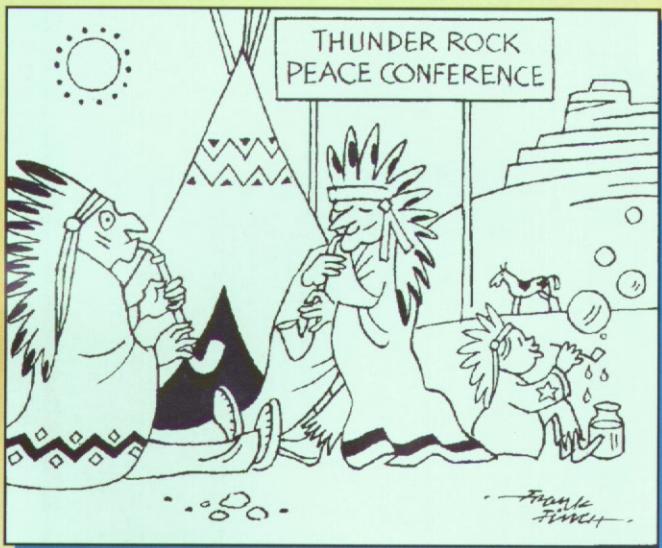
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How observant are you?

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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 687, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by March 1.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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Competition 685 (Dec 98): First correct entry drawn was from Mr F Martin, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, who wins £100. Runners-up Sgt Ian Rogers, RHQ WG, Wellington Barracks, London, and Mr A Dunn, of Warrington, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: snow over door; chair inside mess; staff car's tail fin; top of smaller tree; truck's bonnet and snow guard; line of snow below shovel of middle soldier; lower soldier's shoulder flash; dog's ear; initials bottom right.

SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU



Founded 1945
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Territorial Army
Magazine

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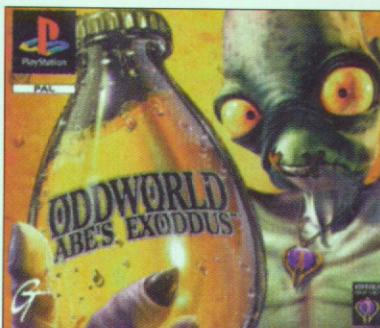
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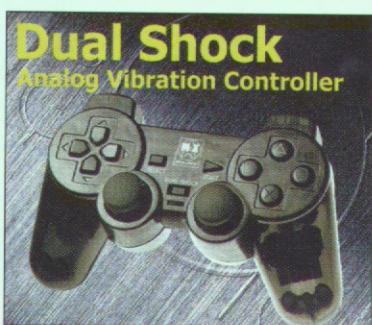
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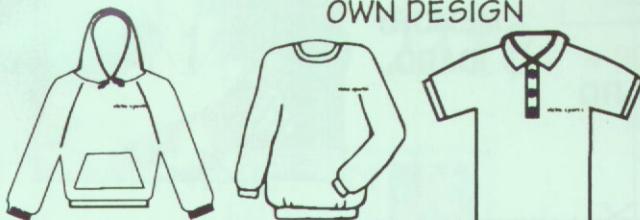
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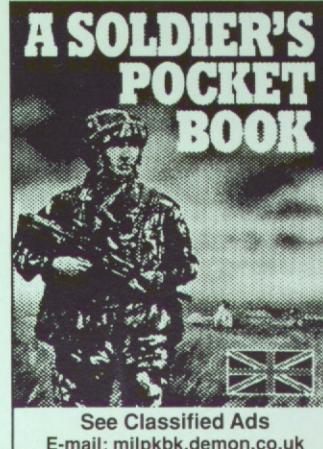
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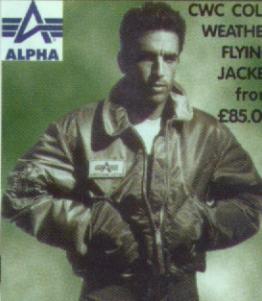
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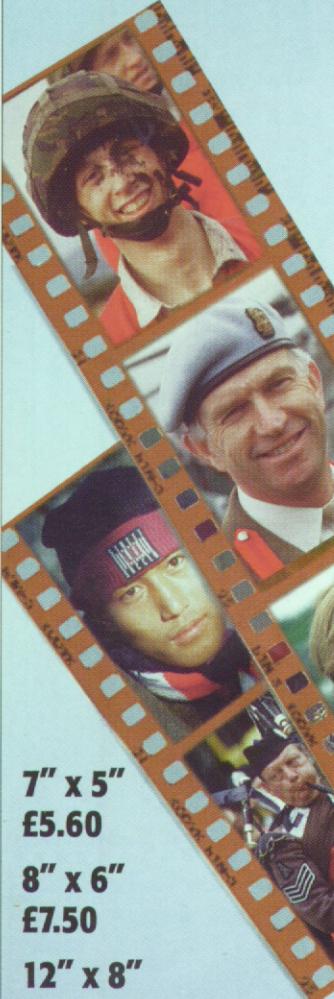
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Diary

Lee's so in tune with the pipes

DRUMMER Lee White is a fast learner. He qualified as a Northumbrian piper with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers after just two weeks' training.

Serving with the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland, he was introduced to the instrument by Richard Butler, the Duke of Northumberland's piper, during a weekend at Alnwick.

So quickly did Lee pick it up that he was attached to the regiment's Territorial Army battalion in Newcastle upon Tyne for an intensive two-week course under the tuition of LCpl Richard Johnstone, of the Northumberland TA Band, and gave his first public performance at a Christmas lunch for battalion staff.

Lee obviously hit the right note, because he passed out as a Grade 3 piper. On his return to the 1st Battalion he was appointed the CO's piper, a post previously held by LCpl Johnstone.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment watched their oldest member receive the Legion d'Honneur, France's first ranking order, during a civic reception at the City Hall, Manchester. Michael Lally, now 104, served in France during the First World War. Earlier in the day the Blackpool-based battalion had exercised its right to the Freedom of the city with a parade.

The Officers' Mess of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Saffron Walden hosted the ceremony when 102-year-old Somme veteran Tom Dewing received his Legion d'Honneur. Tom, who lives in Saffron Walden, manned an observation post in no man's land on the disastrous first day of the battle.

DATES

FEBRUARY

6: Royal salute by The King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200; HAC at Tower of London to mark Queen's accession.

APRIL

24: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, 1030-1600.

JULY

20-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Ticket office 0171 244 0244.

23-25: Invicta Military Preservation Society's War and Peace Show, Beltring Hop Farm and Country Park, Kent.

To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.



In tune with the pipes: Dmr Lee White

The Rev Nigel Knights-Johnson, Colchester Garrison's senior chaplain, has received a commendation for distinguished service following his ground-breaking efforts to gather rival clergymen for peace talks in Bosnia. He spent three months patiently getting Muslim and Roman Catholic priests together for the first time since 1994. After further meetings were banned by church leaders at a higher level, the World Congress for Peace and Reconciliation is now attempting to continue his work.

Capt Clyde White APTC, OC 3 Cadet Training Company at Colchester, was also commended by the NATO force commander for running the successful adventure training centre at Brac, near Split.

Sarah (14) and Charlotte (9), pictured right, watched proudly as their dad, WO1 David Emsley, received a certificate for exceptional work with the Royal Military Police in the Territorial Army. David is a staff adviser within the Special Investigations Branch and the award was from the Lord Lieutenant for Greater Manchester. Meanwhile, Maj Eddie MacMahon, who has just retired from 5/8 Kings, received the only Lord Lieutenant's Certificate to be awarded in Cheshire in 1998.



Summit talks

Lt Col (Retd) George Evans, former Principal Director of Music, was appointed president of the International Military Music Society's UK branch at a meeting held at Kneller Hall.

Also present at the celebration, held in the headquarters of 21 SAS (V) at the Duke of York's HQ in King's Road, London, were vice-patrons, including Col the Duke of Westminster and Gen Sir Michael Wilkes.

Last year Sgt White was one of two part-time soldiers to reach the summit of Tinchin Khan (6,010m) in an Indo-British TA expedition assisted by the Ulysses Trust.

Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrott

Spr Sharon Platt and Pte Tim Platt are thought to be the first mother and son to pass out of basic training on the same day... unless you know better. While Sharon, pictured with Tim, was on parade at Grantham with the TA's Chilwell-based

Royal Engineers, her 17-year-old son was passing out as a private at Catterick before joining the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. But while Mum stays at home with 73 Engineer Regiment's 350 Field Squadron, Tim was on his way to Bosnia with 1 WFR.



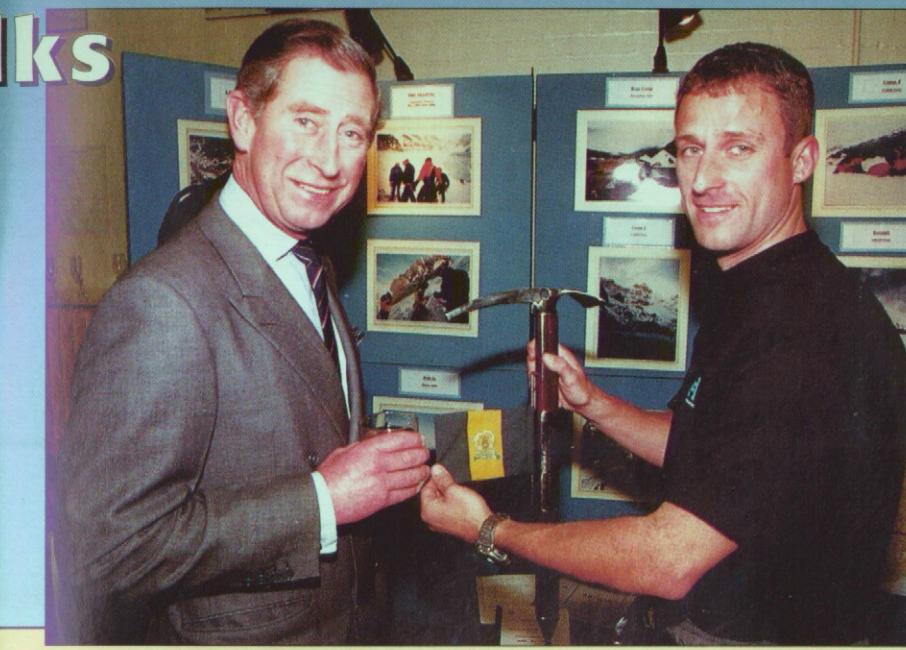
Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Sgt Dan White, who is to take part in a Territorial Army attempt on Everest in the spring of 2000, meets the Prince of Wales at a reception to mark the fifth anniversary of the Prince's patronage of the Ulysses Trust. The trust has given nearly £400,000 in grants to 240 expeditions mounted by reserve forces and cadet units since 1992.

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Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrott



Mission to Nepal

Army specialists patch up vital equipment

FOUR British Army technicians have returned from one of the poorest nations in the world following a mission to service life-saving equipment in remote regional hospitals, writes David Falcke.

Led by Capt Ian Williams REME, the team travelled to Nepal to visit clinics serving the hill communities from which young men are recruited into the Gurkhas. They were stunned by the scale of destitution in areas through which they passed.

WO1 Robert Strange, REME, senior instructor in the Medical and Dental Workshop at Bielefeld, Germany, said: "I had always thought I could cope with anything, but the shock of the first three or four days left me almost numb. The squalor that these people are living in is quite horrifying."

The other members of the team were Sgt Mark Lambourne, a REME vehicle mechanic with 8 Field Workshop at Colchester, and Cpl Kamal Khapung, QGE, based with 26 Engineer Regiment at Maidstone, who acted as the interpreter and guide.

They inspected, repaired and, in some cases, replaced worn-

out and broken equipment. The four technicians examined everything from auraloscopes to X-ray machines and blood-pressure gauges to operating tables, most of it in far from hygienic conditions.

"Most of the equipment that we looked at would have just been bunged in a skip in the UK," said Sgt Lambourne, "because a lot of it was little more than junk held together with bits of tape."

They repaired or replaced many of the 2,000 pieces of equipment which they inspected.

The British soldiers, who were accommodated at Gurkha Area Welfare Centres set up by the Gurkha Welfare Trust, visited 16 hospitals as well as checking medical equipment at the two British Army centres in Nepal.



Mr Fixit: Artificer Sgt Maj Robert Strange concentrates on a faulty piece of equipment in Bharatpur District Hospital, Nepal

Treasures of the National Army Museum



8



The gold watch owned by Napoleon

A timely reminder of Boney's bitter exile

AFTER his defeat at Waterloo, Napoleon was exiled to the South Atlantic island of St Helena, arriving on board HMS *Northumberland* in October 1815.

He presented this watch to Lt Gen Sir Hudson Lowe, Governor of the island from 1815 to 1821. Bonaparte died of cancer of the stomach on St Helena on May 5, 1821.

Lowe's treatment of Napoleon was criticised by Barry O'Meara, at one time Napoleon's medical attendant, but the fact that the Governor was given this expensive gift suggests that he may have treated the defeated emperor rather better than was thought.

MANIPULATIVE

In fact, Napoleon, bored by his exile, was as keen as ever to manipulate and dominate those around him.

He set out to undermine Lowe's authority at every opportunity but was thwarted by the Lowland Scot who, rigid in his sense of duty, unbendingly applied the rules governing Bonaparte's confinement.

The watch is on display in The Waterloo Gallery at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. Alongside it is Wellington's shaving mirror and the bearskin of a Grenadier of the French Imperial Guard.

Bulletin board

Mines-awareness video wins gold

A mine-awareness training video has won a gold medal in the New York Festival's prestigious international film and video competition.

"Mine Strike", which was sponsored by the Directorate of Individual Training Policy (Army) and produced by the Central Office of Information for the Battlefield Engineering Wing of the

Combat Engineer School, was entered in the education and training category.

It vividly portrays the effects of anti-armour and anti-personnel mines and provides a demonstration of the immediate action drills for foot and vehicle-mounted personnel who find themselves in a suspected minefield. The video will be distributed to all units.

Legion to offer more tours to battlefields

IN response to growing demand, partly sparked by the widespread media coverage of the 80th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, the Royal British Legion is extending its programme of battlefield tours.

Its "Remember Them" schedule, beginning in May, is designed to bring the past to life in an affordable and informative way. Tours are planned to France, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands, including Ypres, the Somme, Dunkirk, Cassino, Anzio, the Normandy beaches and Arnhem.

The first trip will be to Loos, the Somme and Vimy Ridge.

Separately, the Government-supported RBL programme of war graves pilgrimages, including financial assistance for widows visiting a husband's grave for the first time, will continue.

More details are available from the Pilgrimage Department, the Royal British

Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX (tel 01622 716729 or 716182, fax 715768).

GC for Blandford

A posthumous George Cross won by Sig Kenneth Smith in Yugoslavia in January 1945 has been acquired at auction by the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford.

Smith was with a patrol of the Long Range Desert Group on the Adriatic island of Ist when it was attacked by saboteurs. He was removing a bomb, which he knew was about to detonate, from a house full of partisans and children when it exploded, blowing him to pieces. His remains were buried nearby and moved after the war to the British Military Cemetery in Belgrade.

The rare award of the George Cross to members of the Armed Forces is made for actions for which purely military honours are not normally granted.

SEARCHLINE

Information wanted on First World War bandmaster **Jubilee Kedge, Scots Greys**, later instructor in music at Docklands Settlement in London. Also anything on **The Liberation Waltz** composed by Sgt Tom Sidebottom RA and Lbdr Bob Warne RA. Replies to Jerome Gatehouse Collection, 67 Hoskins Street, Newport, South Wales NP9 5LA (tel 01633 243286).

Reunion planned for May or June for **Boys' Company RASC** (1943 onwards). Ring Taffy Buckland on 01222 615405 or Chalky White on 01279 834864.

Copies of **The Waggoner**, magazine of the Royal Corps of Transport, sought, particularly those featuring **8 Regiment RCT** based at Portsmouth Barracks, Coerde, Münster during the period 1979-83. Contact J Heeney (ex-8 Regiment RCT) on e-mail jvh100@yahoo.com or send them to him at Langwith College, University of York, York YO1 5DD.

Suez medal campaign: Former members of the Royal Dragoons, Lancashire Fusiliers, 4 RTR, Parachute Regiment, RPC (Mauritius), support units and re-called Reservists who served in the Canal Zone 1951-54 are asked to put their names forward to support a Commons question by Andrew Bennett MP. Please call 0181 643 6503 or 01942 818537.

Author working on history of **Royal West African Frontier Force** seeks anecdotes, stories or personal notes on life with the 1st and 2nd Brigades in East Africa 1914-16, Abyssinia 1942-45, Burma 1942-45 with 81st and 82nd Divisions, and the Chindits with 6th, 7th and 12th Bns, The Nigeria Regiment. Replies to Capt H W Bolden, 4-118 Station Road, Wootton, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 4RQ (tel 01983 883602). Author served with the frontier force from 1940 to 1945.

Doug Hoyland, a member of the **8th King's Royal Hussars** in the 1950s, wishes to obtain a copy of *Cross Belts*, the regimental magazine, for the year 1955-56. E-mail him on adhoyle@yahoo.com

Former soldier seeks Service colleagues involved in the 1977-78 **firemen's strike** in Cheshire. Contact Stephen King, 37a Upper Green East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2PF or stevefom@lineone.net

REUNIONS

Joint Service Mountain Training Wing, Twyn: Former members of staff who have not been notified of the close-down reunion on March 6 should contact JSMTC on 01654 710371 or Twyn Mil 8628.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Assoc (London): AGM and branch reunion at the Victory Services Club, London, on March 26. Details from Veronica Joel Newton on 0181 888 9739. Next meeting on June 25.

260 Signal Squadron (1960s-1970s): Next reunion at Loughborough, April 23-24. Contact Roy Andrews on 01227 264551.

138th (City of London) Fd Regt RA Association: Final reunion on April 26 at Victory Services Club, London. Details: Frank Flack, 22 Camborne Way, Hounslow TW5 0PW (tel 0181 570 5267). News from members welcome.

201 RCZ Workshop (V): Joint mess reunion for former officers and SNCOs and families, in May in Coventry. Details from R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

Light Dragoons (formerly 13/18 H, 15/19 H): Southern Branch's sixth reunion dinner, Victory Services Club, London, on May 8. Details from Capt G Locker, Home HQ, The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4NP (tel 0191 239 3140/3141).

RAMC/RADC WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner Club: Annual dinner and reunion on May 8 at Fort Blockhouse (formerly HMS *Dolphin*), Gosport. Details from WO1 (RSM) R Murdy RAMC, Hon Secretary, DMS Training Centre, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, nr Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

50 Missile Club RA: Annual reunion at Britannia Hotel, Stockport on May 8-9, with church parade to dedicate the standard. Ring A J Todd on 01387 262378. Membership enquiries to 9 The Grove, Heathall, Dumfries DG1 1TN.

National Children's Home, Sheringham, Norfolk reunion planned for June 25-26 at St Andrew's Church Halls, Cromer Road. Contact Shirley Phyll (née Chambers), 14 Hildreth Road, Prestwood, Gt Missenden, Bucks HP16 0LU (tel 01494 890220).

Mortar Platoon, 1 RGJ: Reunion planned for July, to be incorporated in Greenjacket weekend at Winchester. Contact Vince Wellington on 0181 286 1253 (evenings).

RE Association (City of Wakefield Branch): Tenth anniversary dedication service and parade on July 11. Details from Gerry Fielding, 22 Denhale Avenue, Flanshaw, Wakefield WF2 9EF (tel 01924 379470).

3 DWR mess to close

Following SDR, the **3rd Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) (Yorkshire Volunteers)**, formerly 3/4 Yorks Vols, will amalgamate with 3 PWO and KOYY (L1). Individuals and organisations who have presented items to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess and who would like them returned or have a preference for their disposal should contact SSgt Porter, HQ Coy, 3 DWR, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield S10 3EU (tel 0114 2663242) by Feb 28.

Tamara's a big draw . . .



"It Girl" and socialite Tamara Beckwith lines up with members of the Royal Artillery's motor-cycle display team, the Flying Gunners, after pulling the winning raffle tickets in the annual SSAFA Forces Help three-car draw. The three top prizes

were new Volkswagen Golfs and the draw, sponsored by Natocars and Volkswagen, raised more than £100,000 for the Service welfare charity. Tamara is wearing the hat of Senior Aircraftwoman Maria Rawlinson RAF, who helped her to make the big draw.

New Year Honours

Order of the Bath

KB – Lt Gen S C Grant CB, late RE.

CB – Maj Gen G A Ewer CBE, late RCT;

Maj Gen R A Oliver OBE, late RE; Maj Gen W R Short QHP, late RAMC.

Order of the British Empire

KBE – Lt Gen E F G Burton OBE, late RA.

CBE – Col T W Burls MC, late Para; Brig M I Laurie, late Int Corps; Col P J T Maggs OBE, late RLC; Brig D M O'Callaghan, late 16/5 L;

Brig C K Price, late 14/20 H.

OBE – Actg Col D H Bristow, Cam-

bridgeshire ACF; Lt Col J J Cargill SG; Lt Col J E M Crowe SG; Col A D Harking, late RE; Lt

Col I F G Henderson, Int Corps; Lt Col H A Kemp REME; Lt Col A W B Loudon BW; Lt Col J MacDonald, R Signals; Lt Col M C Parish MBE, Kings; Lt Col M G Paterson RE; Lt Col A M F Potter, R Irish; Lt Col D E Price, CA Mus;

Lt Col D C Stevens RE.

MBE – Maj D L Allan RA; Maj D S Armitage RE; Maj P C Bawden, R Signals; Capt R B Bayston RLC; Lt Col I J Blanks RE; Maj G L Butt RA; SSgt L Collingwood AGC(SPS);

WO2 R J Collister IG; Maj J H Cotterill WFR; Maj P M Cruickshank, Hldrs.

Capt F N K Datson RA; Maj R Davies BEM,

RLC; Maj S H Dehnel, Gren Gds; WO2 P J Denham RE; WO1 W K Duncan RLC; Maj P E Farrelly AGC(RMP); Maj F D Fletcher RA TA.

SSgt S H Gaskin REME; Cpl E W Golaub RE; Maj R T Goodman AGC(SPS); Cpl J Grant RDG; WO1 A Gray, A and SH TA; Actg Capt F H N Greenwood, Sussex ACF; Maj D M Hale RLC; WO1 A D Hall AAC; Maj J W Hall LI; WO2 A Hawksworth AGC(SPS); SSgt K Hearn AGC(SPS); WO2 G Hind RWF; WO2 S Hon, Hldrs.

Maj C J Ions AAC; WO2 C P Ireson, KORBR; SSgt C L Jackson RE; WO1 S D Jarman RLC; Actg Capt P A Jeanes, Berkshire ACF; Capt M Jeng RAMC; WO2 Y Khatri RGR; CSgt A F Kinnear SG; Maj B K E Lane PWRR TA; Maj G E Lowder RS; Maj P G May RLC; SSgt K J McMillan RA; Sgt K L Melville RLC; WO1 M Monahan REME.

SSgt T Parle, R Signals; WO2 D P Penniall BEM, AGC(SPS); WO2 C H Potts BEM, AGC(SPS); WO1 G Prince KORBR; WO2 K M Reade RGBW TA; Maj I Sanderson LG; Lt (QGO) R Sherchan RGR; Bdr S J Smith RA; WO2 N G Spencer RE; Maj G N M Stoddart BEM, RHF; Cpl P W Summersett BW; Capt M J Tregebar HAC TA; Maj R C Wolfenden RRF; Sgt B R Wood RTR.

VIDEOS

Close look at how Army goes about its training

AMONG the latest video releases is the Army's very own *Video Diary* for winter 1998. Made by Grosvenor TV Productions for the Directorate of Public Relations (Army), it takes a close look at training, including the work of the Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA), which controls almost all the Service's training activities.

Michael Collie and his video diary team also focus on a recruit selection centre to find out what potential recruits have to do to join the Army, and then follow them to their Army Training Regiment for Phase 1 training.

The Army Video Diary is distributed widely throughout the Regular and Territorial Army so there should be copy somewhere near you.

BRAVO TWO ZERO

Yes, it's been well worth the wait. Eight years after Andy McNab went walkabout with seven mates and enough firepower to start a small war, BBC Worldwide has released *Bravo Two Zero*, the video of the scud-busters. It grips you tighter than a pair of Iraqi handcuffs and the black humour is darker than the desert nights.

McNab worked on the film as the military adviser – and it shows. The firefights have the "been there, done it" look of the real thing. Tacked on to the end is an exclusive interview with the man himself. (£14.99). To win a copy, see Page 7.

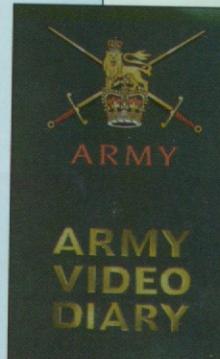
Look out for *Foreign Legion* from LaserLight Video, which shines a light on the most romanticised army unit in the world. Only one in ten applicants earns the right to wear the famous "kepi blanc". (Price £10.99 plus £1 p&p from Delta Music, 22 Cray Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR5 3PZ, tel 01689 888888. Running time 100min).

TANK WARFARE

Also from LaserLight are the four-part *Great Tank Battles of WW1* (Dawn of the Titans, The Superior Force, Death in Snow and Sand and Out-Blitzing the Blitzkrieg), which add up to a comprehensive look at the weapon that changed the way battles were fought in the 20th century. (£9.99 plus £1 p&p each, from Delta Music, 52min each).

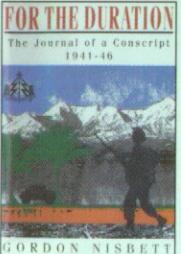
Another multi-part is the same production company's *The War Years* in five titles – The Phoney War, Battle of Britain, The Blitz, The Turning Tide and The Final Chapter – narrated by Michael Aspel (£9.99 plus £1 p&p each from Delta Music, 48-58min).

Siegebusters (DD Video) makes use of real-life footage to tell the stories of counter-terrorist action at the Munich Olympics, the Iranian Embassy, the Marseilles plane hijack, the Achille Lauro, Chechnya and Waco, Texas. (£5.99, 50min).



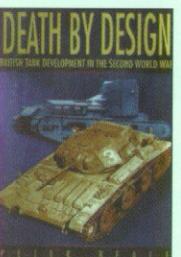
Five years with the valiant 1st Division

AFTER the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940, the 1st British Infantry Division was brought up to strength by conscripted men who fought valiantly alongside the Regulars in North Africa, Italy and Palestine. In *For the Duration: The Journal of a Conscript 1941-46* (Penland Press, £14.95), Gordon Nisbett pays tribute to the division, which won three VCs, and to the officers and men of the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, with whom he served throughout the campaigns and of whom this represents an important historical record.



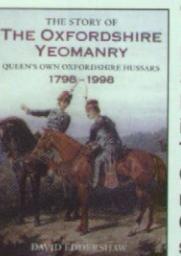
What went wrong with our tanks?

BRITAIN'S lead in tank development by the end of the First World War was squandered to the extent that the nation was unprepared at the time Hitler provoked the 1939 conflict. In *Death by Design* (Sutton, £19.99) Second World War tank crewman Peter Beale blames successive governments for indecision, bad planning and waste of resources. He points damningly to the fact that no single agency was responsible for the design of the whole vehicle and claims that the critical views of front-line tank crews were ignored by the powers-that-be.

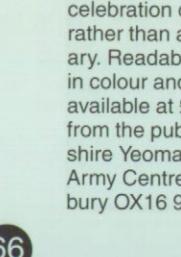


Oxfordshire Yeomanry passes the 200 mark

AS a Royal Signals squadron, the Oxfordshire Yeomanry escaped intact from the Territorial Army cutbacks following the 1998 Strategic Defence Review.



Social historian David Eddershaw's engaging 82-page chronicle *The Story of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars 1798-1998* is happily, therefore, the celebration of a bicentenary rather than an unintended obituary. Readable and well-illustrated in colour and black-and-white, it is available at £7.95 plus 80p p&p from the publishers, the Oxfordshire Yeomanry Trust, Territorial Army Centre, Oxford Road, Banbury OX16 9AN.



The Punic Wars by Nigel Bagwell. Rome, Carthage and the struggle for the Mediterranean, by a former Chief of the General Staff. Dedicated to the British Army in gratitude for his own experiences. (Pimlico, £12.50.)

Weapons and Equipment of the Napoleonic Wars by Philip J Haythornthwaite. Detailed guide includes cavalry, infantry, artillery and engineers. (Arms and Armour, £9.99.)

Victoria's Wars by I F W Beckett. Campaign photographs from Burma, 1852, to Tibet, 1904. (Shire History in Camera, £5.99.)

A Bright Shining Lie by Neil Sheehan. Pulitzer Prize-winning

Paperbacks

William Fessey DCM, KOSB. Published by his granddaughter Heather Wilson, 67 Cadogan Gardens, South Woodford, London E18 1LY (£8 plus 80p p&p).

The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom by Charles Heyman. Pocket-sized post-SDR guide to organisation and equipment, with silhouettes and wiring diagrams. (Leo Cooper, £5.95.)

The Anatomy of a Raid by Tony Spagnoli and Ted Smith. Australians at Celtic Wood, October 1917. Revised edition. (Pen & Sword Cameos of the Western Front, £9.95.)

Blue Bonnets, Boers and Biscuits. Boer War diary of Pte

Christopher Sells. More than 470 ties, some regimental, pictured for designers and collectors. (Bushwood Books, Kew Gardens, TW9 4JF, £19.95.)

Combat stress: the stark truth

THIS excellent book should bury, once and for all, any lingering doubts about the existence of battle stress.

It brings home starkly what is perhaps not generally appreciated, that thousands of veterans, suffering varying degrees of distress as a result of service to their country, need continuing help.

We do not necessarily know who or where they are; just that their numbers are increasing.

As a case officer with the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress), whose superb caring work has been well chronicled in the pages of *Soldier*, retired major Roy Brook's job was to locate and assess war veterans who needed help.

In ten years he made more than 5,000 visits and he chronicles, anecdotally, responsibly and with great compassion, many of the extraordinary stories he

encountered on his travels. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is the most commonly encountered mental disorder among both Service people and civilians who have suffered a serious and sudden shock to their system.

Written with the co-operation of Combat Stress, The Royal British Legion, SSAFA Forces Help and the Not Forgotten Association, the book has valuable advice on what help is available and what can and cannot be done.

A list of useful contact addresses runs to 16 pages and there are indispensable glossaries of medical and military terminology.

As the author points out with startling honesty, no one actually knows the wider extent of the problems that his case histories represent. The only certainty is that they are growing. — CH

Novels

The Eagle by Gerald Lowthian. Military saga of the early 1800s, the title relating to the eagle of the French 105th infantry of the line captured by the Royal Dragoons. (Minerva, £6.99.)

Borrowed Swords by John Booth. Former RAMC officer's story based on experiences in Oman during early 1970s. (Shemagh Productions, PO Box 51, Pershore, WR10 1YH, £5.99 inc p&p.)

The Drumbeat of Jimmy Sands by Murray Davies. Two Catholic soldiers from tough backgrounds end up on opposite sides in the Northern Ireland conflict. (HarperCollins, £5.99.)

Drunken recruits went on waggon

ARCHIVES and other contemporary records are, by their nature, vital to the regimental or corps historian.

This 200-year account of the predecessors of the Royal Logistic Corps is as meticulous, thorough and readable as logbooks past and present could have wished.

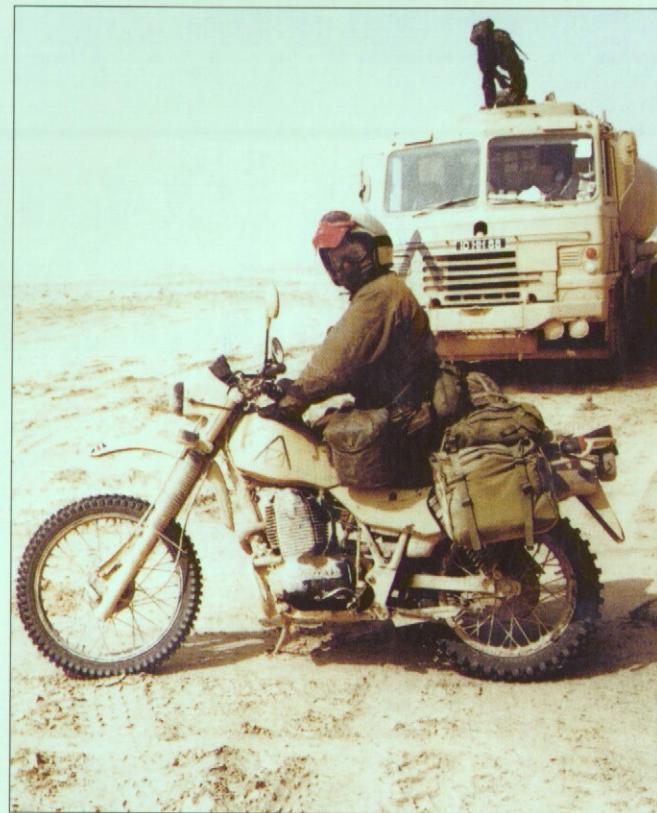
But what hope is there for the diligent researcher if he or she meets a blank, as did one of the many eminent contributors to this volume who wanted to chart the official beginnings of the British Army's great logistical institution?

We are told that when the Royal Waggoners were formed in 1794 at the time of the Duke of York's expedition to the Low Countries, the new captain commandant, James Poole, looked to the usual sources for his recruits – the jails of England, which yielded up their "drunks, felons, debtors and psychopaths".

The writer goes on: "No attempt was made to recruit men experienced with horses, except that the Chelsea Hospital was asked by the Treasury to call upon any of its cavalry pensioners to volunteer, if they so wished, and they were offered a substantial bounty.

"As could be expected with this motley collection, the reputation of this new corps was not likely to be enhanced when it joined the campaign in the Low Countries in July, 1794... It is perhaps not surprising that their duties and activities were not recorded."

Churchill observed of the Royal Army Service Corps in the Second World War that "transport was the stem with-



Two wheels on my waggon: A unit of 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, makes a refuelling stop in the desert during the Gulf War

Wait for the Waggon: The Story of the Royal Corps of Transport and its Predecessors, 1794-1993, edited by Brig John Sutton (Leo Cooper, £30).

Train and its successors became increasingly better organised and successful. All the triumphs and tribulations in that transformation from the simple to the sophisticated are related here.

Thankfully things improved after that false dawn, and the activities of the Royal Waggon

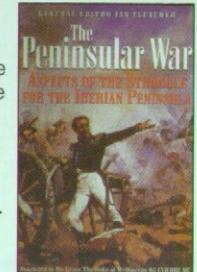
Shadow Dancer by Tom Bradby. ITN political correspondent's tense thriller, described by the *Irish Independent* as the best book on Northern Ireland since *Harry's Game*. (Corgi, £5.99.)

James Morgan – Hit Man by Robert Marriott. Written by ex-Special Forces soldier, the plot follows action hero Morgan as he attempts to destroy leaders of terrorism. (Townshires Ltd, £4.95.)

The Contractor by George Brown. The CIA will go to any lengths to keep the dirty secrets of an agent in deep cover somewhere in South-East Asia. (Piatkus Books, £5.99.)

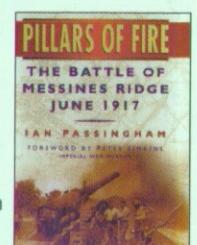
Try this one if you want a good read

BERNARD Cornwell's *Sharpe* novels, coupled with Sean Bean's portrayal of the Green-jacket on television, have brought the Napoleonic era alive for millions. For those inspired to read more there is a valuable chapter on the available literature, with a nine-page bibliography, in *The Peninsular War* (Spellmount, £20), in which Ian Fletcher has gathered the talents of seven experts to study various aspects of the campaign. The character of the Duke of Wellington, as Wellesley became after Talavera in 1809, is among topics examined and is subject of comment by the present Duke in his foreword.



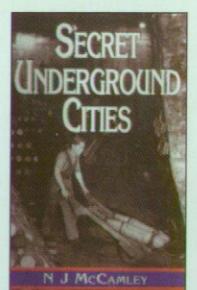
Great orchestrator denied the applause

RETired Royal Hampshire Regiment major Ian Passingham has provided a service to First World War history by writing the first detailed account of the pivotal Battle of Messines Ridge in 1917. In *Pillars of Fire* (Sutton, £19.99) he asks why the highly-respected Gen Sir Herbert Plumer, whose meticulous organisation of men and arms (likened to the composition and orchestration of a symphony) resulted in the first clear-cut victory on the Western Front, did not receive the kind of recognition enjoyed by Haig and Gough.



We're being nuked, so all down to the pub!

AS war threatened in the 1930s, vast underground complexes were built at great cost in Britain to store ordnance and national treasures and house aircraft factories. Most are now decommissioned, though in the Cold War at least one, near Corsham in Wiltshire, became an anti-nuclear bunker for 5,000 people, complete with government offices, medical centre, bakery, laundry, and, we're told, even a pub. After 30 years' research, Nick McCamley tells the story unsensationally, though in remarkable detail, in *Secret Underground Cities* (Leo Cooper, £25).



DOWNLOAD...

WE have received dozens of e-mails on our various Vox pop questions, including some on the topic of annual leave entitlements. Remember to include your name and address if you want your views to be considered for publication. Here are some that did:

What do you think of the new leave arrangements?

At long last the leave anomaly between officers and other ranks is to be rectified. This decision is long overdue. – **Maj Ian Marshall.**

Forty-two days of leave a year sounds great, especially as civilians only get 20 to 25 a year plus bank holidays. – **Cpl Dave Crampton, R Signals (V), Edinburgh.**

We all do the same work, so it is logical for everyone to have the same number of day's leave, from private to general. – **Y Bourhis, France.**

I think the leave we get is pretty good. – **AS Manikiza, Army Foundation College, Harrogate.**

● See also prize letter

Thank you also for the many, many e-mails we received, and continue to receive, on the importance of remembrance. The latest have come from **R Donovan** (ex-23rd Foot), Bridgend; **M A Hellewell** (ex- RE), Woodville North, South Australia; **Tom Cooke** (ex-Life Guards), Bermuda; **J Heeney**, University of York; **OCdt Dean Cresswell**, Wales UOTC; **2nd Lt Ray Butten** (ex-Royal Yeomanry), S W London ACF; **Capt (Retd) William Kent Weitz**, US Army, Plant City, Florida; **SFC Michael P McEleney**, Randolph, Massachusetts; **Lt A Ravn**, TA, Denmark; and **Cpl R Brumby**, Royal Australian Air Force.

Old hand tries for an Olympic return in 2000

RECENTLY I applied to Australia House regarding a possible short-service re-enlistment into the Royal Australian Artillery during the year 2000, in the hope of getting my old job back during the Sydney Olympic Games.

I was the "Pommie" WO in charge of WOs and Senior NCOs concerned with crowd and traffic control of all external events during the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, including the marathon. I was also i/c crowd control during the entry of the national teams for the opening ceremony performed by Prince Philip.

When I wrote to the Australian High Commission I thought I had better mention that as I am 86 years old I may not be capable of moving with sufficient alacrity to handle any situation that may arise. – **W Sadler, Colchester, Essex.**

Why can TA soldiers serve past 50 while Regulars have to leave at 40?

AS a Regular soldier Permanent Staff Instructor serving with a Territorial Army unit, I have a question that may show that the Regular soldier is discriminated against.

I hope some of your readers will be able to comment.

A TA soldier can serve on Active Service past the age of 50 (two members of my unit served on an Operation Resolute tour of Bosnia when past the age of 50),

whereas a Regular has to leave at the age of 40 or his 22nd year of service and can extend only this in certain circumstances.

My question is: why can a TA soldier serve up to and past 50 when his Regular professional counterpart is considered too old for the job? Is this discrimination? – **SSgt C L Anderson, PSI, 220 (1st Home Counties) Field Ambulance (V), Aylesford, Kent.**

Time to cash in on unused leave

THE change to the way leave is to be taken is a welcome one in that soldiers will not have to take nine days' leave in order to take a five-day working week off.

However, as has been illustrated by some of the comments on your web site, many soldiers are unable to take their current leave entitlement due to overstretch and undermanning (apart from Sig Maggie West, Vox pop Dec – and may I please have a posting to wherever she is?).

It is very likely many soldiers will see no difference in the amount of time they have off, merely an increase in the days they have been unable to take.

It is unrealistic to allow all unexpended leave to be carried over as this simply compounds the problem for the following year. I had 29 days' untaken leave last year.

However, should a cash reimbursement

Prize letter

be offered to soldiers for each day unused at the end of the year, I'm sure it would be most welcome. Of course, this could lead to a scenario in which Pte X, who is in dire financial straits, decides to forgo his leave in favour of the additional cash benefits.

There are arguments both for and against this situation. While it would be of monetary benefit to the soldiers and of manning benefit to units, what is the price which the Service, and soldiers, would pay in terms of overwork, stress and lack of R and R? – **WO2 (Supvr Radio) Andrew Jensen, 640 Sig Tp (EW), 226 Sig Sqn (EW), 14 Signal Regiment, Brawdy, Haverfordwest.**

● How does WO Jensen get his suggestion taken seriously? The answer is on Pages 4-5. What do YOU think about financial reimbursement for untaken leave? – **Editor.**

Leave? Not in the Canal Zone

IN Vox pop (Dec) you asked for comments on the increase in annual leave. In my two years of National Service (July 1950 to July 1952) I was given:

- 36 hours station leave at Rhyl;
- 14 days' embarkation leave at Woolwich;
- 36 hours at Elballah, Suez Canal Zone;
- Ten days' leave after being on a tank

landing craft off Kuwait for 16 weeks, and then the leave was cancelled because the Naafi in Ismailia had been burned down by terrorists.

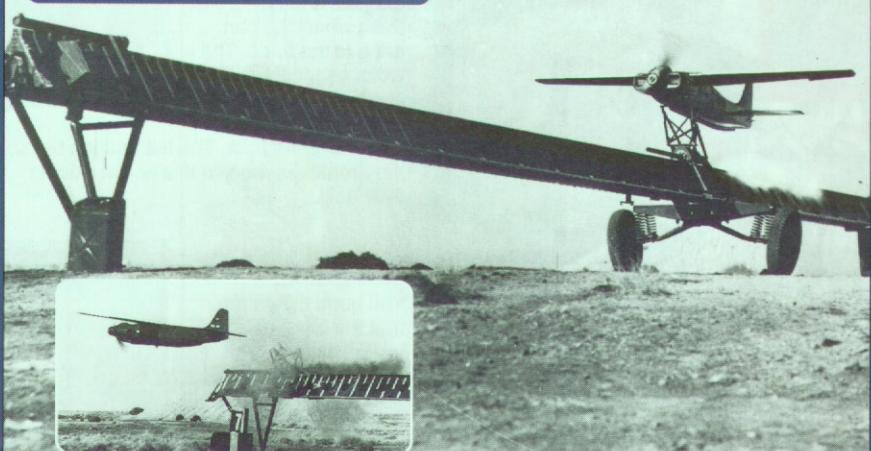
Even back at Woolwich just eight days before demob we got no leave, although I did manage a 12-hour guard duty. I bet there are a few old Servicemen who got even less than me. – **Taff Evans, ex-41st Fd Regt RA, Stevenage, Herts.**

Write us a prize letter

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from the **Soldier** gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing! Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1949

This is the latest ack-ack target, a rocket-launched radio-controlled aircraft with a speed of 220 mph being developed by the United States Air Force. Revealed here for the first time, it can loop, roll, dive and perform other aerial feats. When the fuel is exhausted (or when the aircraft is hit by gunfire) a parachute emerges and lowers the target gently to earth. On launching, the rocket car stops against a hydraulic snub at the end of the ramp, and the aircraft takes off at 80mph.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, February 1973

A vast sandbag wall, reckoned to be the largest in the British Army, has been built to protect one side of Creggan Camp, which dominates the Catholic estate of the same name on the western fringe of Londonderry in the enclave between the city and the Eire border. The sandbags cling to the slope above the Creggan's terraced streets in defiance of the principles of engineering.



As they were: The regimental badges of The Green Howards and West Yorkshire Regiments at Gebeit, Red Sea Hills, Sudan, photographed in 1948 after a detachment from 2 GH had reconstructed their regimental badge. The picture appeared in *Soldier* in May of that year

Are the Gebeit badges still there?

YOUR readers may be able to help me with a query. Back in 1952-54 I did my National Service with the Yorks and Lancasters in the Sudan. Each company of the regiment in turn left the garrison at Khartoum and did a spell in Gebeit. While there they worked on making a replica in stones of the cap badge on the sides of the Red Sea Hills just beyond the camp.

Units that had served in the Sudan before us had also built these huge cap badges and, if my memory serves me right, there were at least another six regi-

mental badges on the site. My query is: what happened to those badges? You can imagine the hours and hours of sweated labour that went into constructing them... and all of it "volunteer" labour. I have made enquiries over the past few years, including the York and Lancaster's museum at Rotherham, but all to no avail.

I wrote to the Sudanese Embassy but did not receive an answer, and also to Michael Palin who travelled by rail through the Sudan for one of his TV programmes. — **Raymond Haggard, Ringwood, Hants.**

PS . . .

13th's piece of hell

IN your review of the book *Battle of the Bulge: Britain's untold story* (Jan), it was stated that the 12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment attacked the village of Bure. This is incorrect. It was the 13th Lancashire Battalion which fought there. Over the three days of fighting in the village, the battalion took more casualties than the 2nd did at Arnhem. The 12th was also part of the 5th Parachute Brigade and took its part in the Bulge battles, but Bure was the 13th's particular piece of hell. — Andrew Bragg (e-mail).

Second thoughts

PLEASE consider the contents of my letter "You can have my Vietnam War medal" (Nov) as null and void. My apologies for offering an opinion that was hasty, ill-considered and not really deserved. The British Army has always been "aces high" in my estimation and I would be proud to soldier next to Tommy any day of the week. As my pappy used to say: "Act in haste, repent at leisure." Pardon me while I pull this size 11 combat boot off my back molars. — SSgt Stephen R Sandberg, Co C, 961st Engineer Bn (Combat) (Heavy), Milwaukee, USA.

Delayed reaction

AS a young soldier in the early 40s I joined debates on the efficiency and ethics of the lacing of our tea with "gypso" or bromide to reduce our libido. I can assure the MoD that this enforced medication is now beginning to have the results they envisaged. — A Sheldon, Nottingham.

Regular confusion

How can anyone claim to be the last serving National Serviceman (Mailbag, Dec and Jan)? When they signed on to do extra service they became Regular soldiers and ceased to be National Servicemen. — K Preston, Hartlepool.

Stand-by medals?

PERSONNEL involved in the airborne landings at Suez in 1956 (Op Musketeer) were awarded the GSM with clasp "Near East". Did those posted to Cyprus on stand-by for the aborted re-occupation of the Canal Zone also qualify? — Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.

What's going on ear?

WHAT a cracking photograph on the front of the January edition (Sgt Shane Wilkinson's award-winning black-and-white portrait). It's a pity that it is spoilt by the beret badge being worn French-style over the left ear. This seems to be creeping more and more into soldiers' dress. Should you be giving it credence by publishing it on the front cover? — T P O'Connor, Chester.



Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

International operations: The pros and cons

These days, all British soldiers must expect to work shoulder-to-shoulder with foreign armies. Eleven soldiers serving at the HQ of the multi-national Kosovo Extraction Force in Macedonia told us about the best and worst aspects of international operations.

CSgt John Grisely, RRW

The learning process is the best part... their languages, how they work and so on. The worst aspect is the difference between how we are treated in our army and how they are treated. We get what we want – food, clothing and good administration. But in other national units it's not the same.

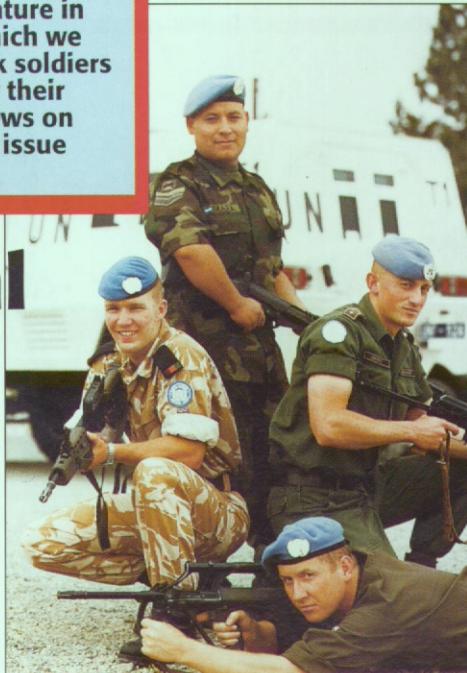


LCpl Titch Vellacott, R Signals

The worst thing is the language barrier. But one of the good things is that by the time we go home we'll probably be tri-lingual. We're always picking up the words the others use. It's interesting to see how much we differ but how well we can work together.

LCpl Noel Peace, AGC

It's amazing how people of the same rank from different armies have different opinions on things. That's the good thing. The worst thing, definitely, is compromising on the food. I'm resorting to Pot Noodles... morning, noon and night.



SSgt Nick Perkovic, AGC

Plus points? Obviously the interchange of ideas, the languages and learning about other cultures. On the negative side, in the British Forces we are used to having things organised from day one. But obviously it takes time here for everything to mesh.



Maj Mark Neate, RHA

The good thing about it is working with soldiers from different environments. Soldiers always get on, regardless of differences. There are obviously difficulties, especially the language barrier, and pulling together a number of disparate elements can be frustrating.



Capt Dean Young, AGC

When it's for real you accept that things may not be perfect. I've got a French colonel, a Dutch colleague and German NCO in my department. If you are multi-lingual that helps, if not you need to have someone about who can help.

Lt Col Gareth Banner, Int Corps

It allows us to integrate with our NATO colleagues and take from them what they can bring to the force. The worst aspect? For this particular location, I think the welfare support was quite poor. The lead nation here, the French, recognise this and are doing their best.



WO1 Alan Ralph, R Anglian

The good things are that the other nations understand English very well. And they have better sense of humour than I thought they had, which is very helpful in the job we are doing. Dislikes? Nearly all of them smoke.



Capt Crispian Cuss, RDG

It can be incredibly frustrating and incredibly rewarding. At times you are beating your head against a brick wall because the things you would expect to be done with such ease can be impossible. And yet at times there is a great sense of reward from working with different people.

SSgt David Quigley, REME

The good thing is that you can see the way other people operate; their procedures and how they do things. One thing I find confusing about a NATO HQ is that the acronyms used can be the same as ours but mean different things.



Sgt Merlin Wrightson, Int Corps

It's always good to work with Americans because they have so much money, so kit appears much more quickly than it would in a purely British operation. But I find you have to work twice as hard to make yourself understood. And other nationalities have a tendency to flap more than the British.



COMING SOON

Colin Brodie, right, was a committed soldier... until drugs undermined his enthusiasm and wrecked his life. Thrown out of the Army, his life spiralled downwards until he went to prison for armed robbery. When he is released, he intends to counsel others against the misuse of drugs. He tells his story in *Soldier* as a warning to others.



We also investigate the high life enjoyed by the Army's specialist air despatchers based at RAF Lyneham and go backstage with Kid Creole and his freezing Coconuts while they entertain troops in Bosnia. The show must go on...

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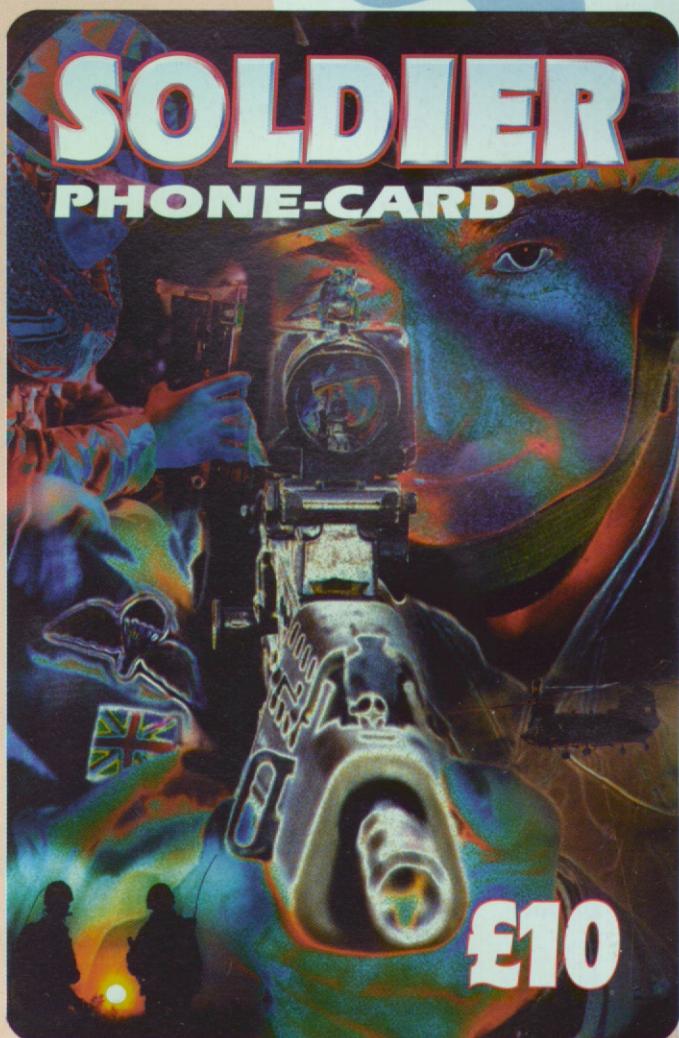
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