

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

June 1999 £1.60

SOLDIER



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Getting ready**

**Sniper: Revealing
the invisible killer**

Inside Fort Knox



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... of your award-winning magazine

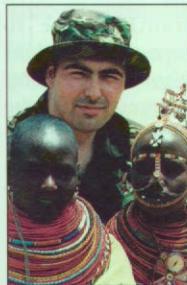
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Soldiers' views on
phoning home



Picture: WO2 Dave Brown

14-17 COVER STORY

Battle drill: A soldier from One Platoon, No 1 Company, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards takes part in tactical movement training from Warrior fighting vehicles at Petrovac ranges in Macedonia. No 1 Company, consisting of 152 men and 14 Warriors, provides the armoured infantry component to the King's Royal Hussars battle-group on the border

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SOLDIER to soldier

They also
serve who
don't get a
mention

IT is frustrating, to say the least, when you work yourself to a standstill and don't receive any credit for it. So we weren't all that surprised to start getting blueys from soldiers whose units have not been given the prominence in our Macedonia reports that they undoubtedly deserve.

There is a simple explanation: there are an awful lot of you, spread over a huge area, and very few of us. Consequently, we can't cover the whole theatre, or be everywhere all the time. We have to turn to reliable sources to fill in the gaps . . . and sometimes we don't get the info.

HEARTFELT

A heartfelt cry from a sapper serving with 2 Field Troop (formerly 1st Fd Sqn, 26 Armd Engr Sqn) informs us that he and his mates were the first into Brazda, where they worked virtually without sleep for three crucial days to set up the refugee camp. "After working ourselves to near-exhaustion we guarded the areas and compounds, did continuous maintenance, and helped put more tents up for more than a week . . ."

Their "blood, sweat and sleepless" efforts made a critical difference in the lives of thousands of refugees.

P TROOP

Two gunners serving with 5 Airborne Brigade's P Troop (the Para air-defence unit) with 47 Regiment RA write that their role in defending 4th Regiment RA's gun positions ("watching the armour's back") in the first weeks of the crisis has been completely overlooked. "Please, for the sake of 28 confused lads, put that right," they ask.

Happy to oblige, P Troop. And we'll do our level best to record which units are in theatre and what they are doing. But if we miss you, understand why, be patient . . . and let us know.

The invisible

Elusive and terrifying, a sniper can hold down a strong force almost indefinitely. *Soldier* joined 1 PWO's trainees in this black art as they learned its difficult skills

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

SNIPING is a calculating, unemotional pursuit, frightening in its efficiency. But, in the language of those other calculating professionals, accountants, it is very cost-effective.

Estimates vary, but this astonishing statistic from the Vietnam War is generally accepted: for every 50,000 bullets fired by regular troops, there was one confirmed kill. There was one kill for every ten rounds fired from sniper rifles.

There is probably no more focused application of military force than sniping. Platoon Sergeant John Garrity of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire has taught on five courses and he expressed it perfectly: "A battle should always be premeditated, but sniping is even more premeditated. You hunt down a target... and then you kill him."

The black art of the sniper can make a huge difference whatever the circumstances. In defence, a few bullets from a pair or a pack of snipers (they should always operate as a team) can kill prestige targets, stopping an advance in its tracks. Even an armoured column can be seriously set back if a commander is picked off in his turret.

In attack, snipers scout ahead, feeding vital intelligence back to commanders and bringing indirect artillery or mortar fire down on the enemy. Radio and fire direction skills can be as important as marksmanship.

Small wonder, therefore, that infantry regiments call their snipers the "force multipliers" and that few units ever believe they have enough.

The burden of operational duties and



"Cpl Tipping, 1 PWO sniper section?
... I never forget a face!"

routine training faced by today's stretched battalions means that too few courses are organised to satisfy demand from soldiers who see sniper status as the pinnacle of their profession.

On one of their all-too-rare courses in the wind-swept hills near Sennybridge in the Brecon Beacons, 1 PWO's 14 candidates were 12 days into six weeks of training.

One student had already been dismissed. "He wanted to be a sniper but didn't want to put the work in," confided Sgt Garrity, adding that only three of those remaining were expected to pass. The rest would make their way back to their units with knowledge and experience that would not be wasted, but without the coveted badge (two crossed rifles surmounted by an "s").

Not that there is shame in failure. Course leader Capt Dick Leach knows that he and his instructors – one for every

two students – expect more than most soldiers can offer. "It's both mental and physical. We want guys who are confident in their abilities, can make decisions and then stay with them. They need to be fit and robust and able to stand up to the cold and wet."

Sgt Garrity confirmed the old cliché that a sniper needs to have the skills of a poacher. "That doesn't mean that someone from a tower block in Birmingham can't do it. But they must have that hunting instinct."

Surprisingly, trainers rarely mention shooting skills, probably because if a soldier has been accepted for a course he is already a qualified marksman – proven on the range – capable of taking out targets at long distance. (It is a source of irritation to the instructors that journalists are prone to call any lone rifleman a sniper.)

BEST FRIEND

Nevertheless, the first two weeks of any course are spent largely on the range and in the classroom. Trainees study the theory of sniping and get to know the L96A1 bolt-action rifle that will become their best friend.

They will find the time to make scarecrow suits Wurzel Gummidge would envy. Skilfully used, these creations of rags and vegetation enable a man to blend, almost magically, with his environment.

During the next four weeks fieldcraft dominates the curriculum. Students

constantly strive to improve the five skills that they must master if they are to gain the sniper badge: observation, distance-judging, map-reading, camouflage and concealment, and stalking. Eventually they must pass practical tests in all of these areas, as

Weapon of choice

The L96A1 7.62mm rifle has been the standard issue sniper weapon since the late 1980s. It replaced the long-serving Lee Enfield L42, a derivation of the standard service rifle used in both world wars.

Like its predecessor, the new rifle has a bolt action. It has an inte-



gral bipod and a x6 magnification optical sight. A more powerful sight can be fitted for anti-terrorist work. Designed to guarantee a hit at 600 yards, the rifle is considered highly reliable in all conditions.

KILLER



Why sniping?

The word sniper was first heard in the Army in India during the 18th century. Hunting for the pot was a popular sport and tiny woodcock-like snipe were both good eating and frustratingly difficult targets. Those who could shoot snipe were considered particularly good shots, or snipers.

The whites of his eyes. Trainee snipers learn to lie low for hours at a stretch

vation post. On operations, they might have the luxury of killing from 900 metres, but getting to within 300 metres of their target added spice to this stalking exercise. "Train hard to fight easy" is the oft-repeated motto.

On this exercise the stalkers were, as is usually the case, spotted by binocular-equipped instructors in the observation post (OP), who brought in trackers by radio. Some students got a trainer in the cross-hairs and fired a blank round before withdrawing.

"Their spirits go up and down," said Sgt Garrity, eyeing a damp and ragged blob as it got to its feet. "If they've crawled 900 metres and are then spotted by an OP, they can be very unhappy. But

it's usually only five minutes before they've forgotten the disappointment and are asking what they did wrong."

Applying cam cream to the muzzle of his rifle, the only bit of shiny metal that could give his presence away, one private was showing youthful enthusiasm. But there was also an intriguing glimpse of another quality coming to the fore: the calculating coolness of the sniper.

What was the most important lesson he had learned? "One shot, one kill. If you don't get that, you might as well be dead yourself." He looked at the instructor. "Isn't that right, sir?"

The captain nodded approvingly. There was at least one potential sniper on this course.

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People, places, events

Helping hands:
British soldiers serving in southern Albania assist aid workers to unload two tonnes of baby food from a Swiss UNHCR helicopter at the Quattron refugee camp, 3km south of Korce.

● All personnel serving in Macedonia will be able to make one free ten-minute satellite telephone call a week from one of nine sites. They can also buy extra minutes at low cost.

See Vox pop – Page 70



More units ready for Balkans move

THREE battalions nominated for the reinforcement of the UK element of Nato's Kosovo Force (KFOR) currently in Macedonia, are fine-tuning for a possible move to the Balkans.

Troops from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and their combat support, form part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

As 1 R Irish already has a company in Macedonia, the shortfall will be made up by soldiers from Colchester-based 1 RGBW and 1 Hldrs from Catterick, while posts in 1 Para will be filled from 3 Para. Posts in the combat support areas will be filled by 1 RHA from Tidworth and 7 (Para) RHA from Aldershot, 19 Regiment RA (Colchester), 9 Para Engr Sqn (Aldershot) and elements of 36 Engr Regt (Maidstone).

The reinforcements were placed on

alert as the Government maintained its determination to see the Kosovo crisis through to a successful conclusion. It has been anticipated that at some stage the presence of ground troops in Kosovo will be required as part of an invited international peace-keeping force.

The final contingent of Herford-based 4 Brigade Provost Unit has deployed to Macedonia.

● Getting ready – see Pages 14-17

● Soldiers from Colchester-based 10 Transport Regiment RLC have been filming themselves at work in Macedonia and passing on messages to their families back home.

The unit has been building tented villages for Kosovar refugees and transporting fuel, food and equipment to British troops in theatre.

Capt Harry Lomas said that while a video could not replace the intimacy of a personal letter or phone call, it did give a flavour of his soldiers' life in Macedonia to folks back home.

IN BRIEF

THE Joint Services Mountain Training Centre has opened for business on Anglesey. The Indefatigable centre, bought in 1996 and refurbished at a cost of £4.2m, will run courses for Service personnel to become qualified leaders in mountaineering, rock-climbing, canoeing and skiing.

● The Defence Transport and Movements Agency, with responsibilities for a

wide range of operational and non-operational transport and movement services, has been formed. It will operate within the new Defence Logistics Organisation and incorporates the old Defence Transport and Movements Executive, operational transport and movements staff from the Permanent Joint HQ at Northwood, RAF movements staff from High Wycombe, services provided by Marchwood Military Port and the Passenger Reser-

vation Centre in London. Most of the agency staff will be located in Andover.

● Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment based in the Midlands and North-East beat 24 other teams in Britain's largest military skills competition held at Catterick. The 4 Para team, led by Capt Patrick Mitchell, was made up of soldiers from Norton-on-Tees and Nottingham.

Phew! Soldier amazes judge

FOR the second successive year, *Soldier* has scooped two awards in the biggest and most prestigious competition of its kind in Europe. This brings to six the total number of awards won by the magazine in just over a year.

In the annual contest run by the British Association of Communicators in Business, *Soldier* won an award of excellence for its August 1998 issue, which covered the decisions of the Strategic Defence Review.

The judging was based on criteria such as standard of content, focus on the target audience and quality of presentation.

STRIKING COVER

The judge commented: "Phew! At 72 pages, I'm surprised readers of *Soldier Magazine* have time to do their day jobs! That said, it's a really interesting and entertaining read, with plenty to enthuse about – from the striking front cover to the Vox pop on Page 70."

A second award of excellence went to the magazine for a special report in the October, 1998 issue describing Army boxer Fus Dale Duncan's fight for compensation after an horrific road accident. The article, in which the soldier paid tribute to the support of the Army, was written by Anthony Stone, with a photograph by Mike Weston. The judge said: "This story certainly goes a long way towards conveying the message that the Army will look after soldiers in times of catastrophe."



Blowing his own trumpet: Cpl Steven Perry, centre, of the Corps of Drums, 1 WG, proudly carries the coveted Silver Bugle after being confirmed as the best bugler in the Household Division for the second year in succession. Cpl Perry is joined by the runner-up, Dmr Mark Ainsby (right), 1 Gren Gds, and Dmr Michael Gregg, 1 Coldm Gds, who finished third in the contest

People, places, events

Oops! Soldiers hit by pay slip

WIDESPREAD errors in soldiers' pay slips in March and April were due to complex changes in the way the Army's pay systems operate.

A signal from the Adjutant General to all soldiers has described the situation as "totally unacceptable" and expressed regret for the inconvenience and worry caused to personnel on operations and separated from their families.

In his signal, which requested all commanders and commanding officers to brief their soldiers on the situation, Gen Sir Alex Harley said: "I am bringing as much pressure as possible to bear on the AFPA (Armed Forces Pay and Administration Agency) and EDS (Electronic Data Systems) directly and through MoD (to whom the AFPA answers) to get all this right as soon as possible.

MAY PERSIST

"I hope there will be substantial improvement by the end of this month." But he warned commanders that it was possible that this unsatisfactory state of affairs may persist for longer.

In some cases, special payments have been authorised to alleviate hardship. The Army has undertaken to reimburse bank charges and mortgage fines suffered by soldiers as a result of the errors and individuals have been advised to see their administration staff to process repayments.

Some soldiers received more pay than they should have: 22,000 were undercharged for food and accommodation. A small number were overcharged on income tax.

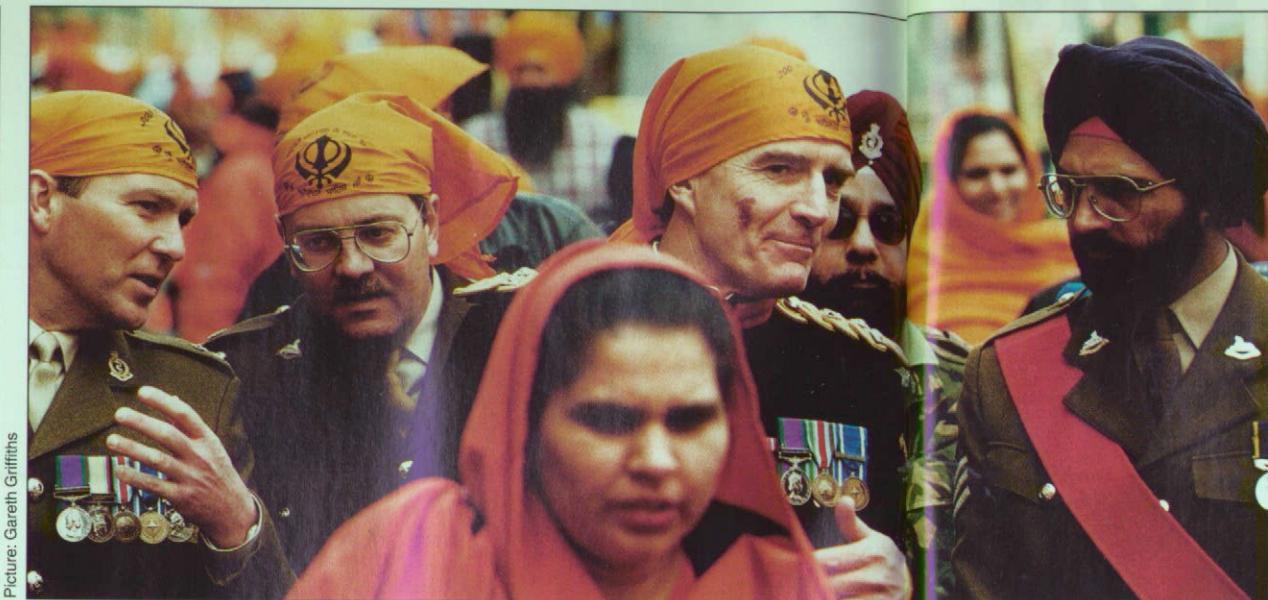
TRANSFER

The errors came about after EDS, the contractor which manages the Armed Forces pay systems, and AFPA took a decision to transfer the six existing Army pay systems into one new one to provide a more flexible and robust service.

The changes have been driven by the need for Year 2000 compliance and in preparation for the implementation of Pay 2000 in April next year. Because soldiers' pay is the most complex part of the system it was decided to transfer it first.

Legends – starting next month

WATCH out for a new series on regimental and corps museums starting in the July issue. Legends of the Regiments and Corps begins at the Army Medical Services Museum at Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, with the gruesome tale of the branding irons used to mark deserters.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Operational honours and awards

QCB for corporal killed at road block

THE QUEEN'S Commendation for Bravery has been awarded posthumously to Cpl Gary Fenton, who was hit by a petrol tanker as it drove through a road block in south Armagh last summer.

Cpl Fenton (29) was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment when he tried to flag the vehicle down. He died from his injuries.

Lt Col Patrick Tomlinson, CO 1 RGBW, said: "We are extremely pleased that Cpl Fenton's bravery has been recognised in this way. We are also very sad that we have lost such a professional and dedicated soldier."

Capt Paul Cranch, AAC, was awarded the Air Force Cross for "outstanding bravery" in evacuating a casualty in extreme weather in Brunei last year, while WO2 Scott Carr, RE, was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery for rescuing a teenager off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Among the latest list of operational honours there is also a posthumous Queen's Commendation for Bravery for Rfn Ryan Blackledge, RGJ, who lost his life saving a colleague from

drowning in Kenya in November 1997. Lt Col Nigel Start, cited for his "outstanding command" of the UK Logistic Regiment in Bosnia last year, receives the OBE, while Maj Harry Emck, RGJ, who "made a significant contribution to the peace effort" in Bosnia, is made an MBE and WO1 Kevin Grantham and Capt Pat Shields of the Royal Engineers, who were involved in dangerous bomb disposal incidents in North London and Chippingham, Wiltshire, receive the Queen's Gallantry Medals.

Capt Paul Cranch, AAC, was awarded the Air Force Cross for "outstanding bravery" in evacuating a casualty in extreme weather in Brunei last year, while WO2 Scott Carr, RE, was awarded the Canadian Medal of Bravery for rescuing a teenager off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Lcpl Neil Rolston, RAMC, is cited for the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service for his part in helping victims of the Nairobi bomb explosion in August last year.

IN BRIEF

• Six wartime tanks have been unearthed during an operation to clear an Army training area near the Channel Tunnel at Folkestone. They are the latest of thousands of items recovered by 33 Engineering Regiment (EOD) during a two-year operation to clear the 150 acres at Arpings. It is believed the tanks were used as target practice then buried.

• Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, and CRE Armed Forces Commissioner Bob Purkiss met staff and students during a visit to the Tri-Service Equal Opportunities Training Centre at Shrivenham, Wilts.

• Vice-Admiral Sir Ian Garnett, Commander of Joint Operations, watched G

Sikhs on parade

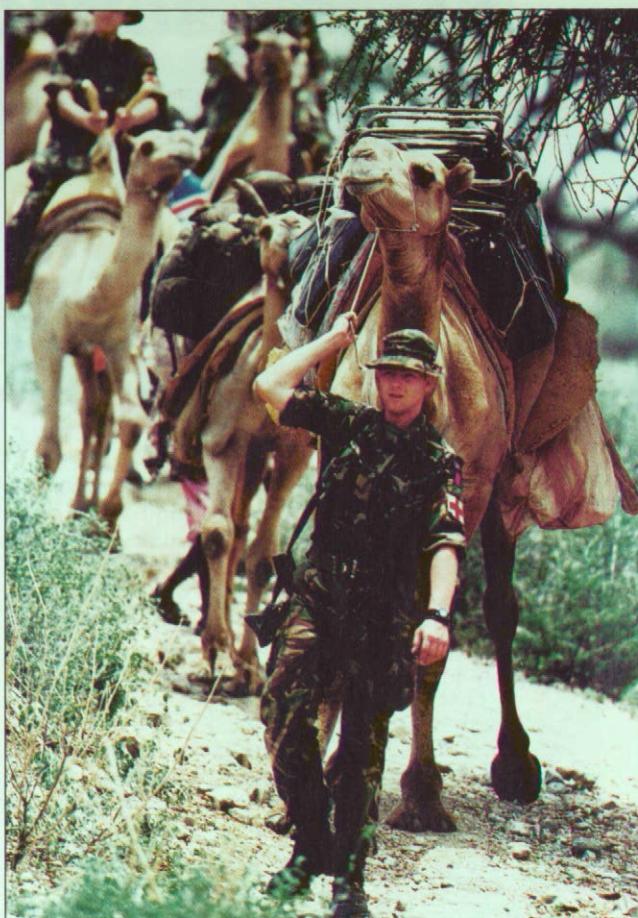
All dressed up: From left, Lt Col Keith Tippin (CO 222 F Amb), Lt Col Peter Holme (CO 7 R Anglian), Brig John McColl (Deputy Hon Col, 7 R Anglian) and Sgt Balbir Singh (7 R Anglian) take part in the Vaisakhi parade in Leicester. They were among soldiers from Leicester-based infantry and medical Territorial Army units taking part in the major Sikh religious occasion.

The procession, which had special significance as it marked the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the religion, drew thousands of Sikhs from around the country.

Lt Col Holme, CO 7th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, said: "Our regimental band, led by two of our Sikh soldiers, headed the parade. It was an incomparable honour." He sees the move as significant in bringing communities together.

"The Territorial Army and Sikh leaders want to see young men and women making the most of the advantages military service can bring."

Camel corps



Picture: Chris Fletcher

One hump or two? Camels played a significant role in British Middle Eastern military campaigns in the past, but the "ships of the desert" were paid off in 1944. Now they are making a return. Six Arabian camels were used by Colchester-based 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance in Kenya to carry medical equipment into remote regions inaccessible to Land Rovers.

The camels helped 140 medics deliver a polio and diphtheria vaccination programme to three nomadic tribes. Commanding officer Lt Col Roland Gill was delighted with the animals. "Using camels meant we could reach more remote areas and be of benefit to more of the local population. We will be using them more comprehensively next year."

• Sharp Point – turn to centre pages



Island parade: The Governor of the Falklands, Richard Ralph, inspects members of B Company, 2 R Anglian during the islands' annual Queen's Birthday Parade. Falkland Islands Defence Force, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force elements took advantage of an unusually sunny winter's day to mark the day in style

Coy being put through their paces during a visit to the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

• Link Up, a scheme designed to encourage military pilots to commit to longer careers in the Armed Forces and help them secure second careers in the civil sector, has been launched by the MoD. Pilots approaching a career break-

point will be invited to sign up to further military service in return for payments up to £10,000 towards the cost of gaining civil flight qualifications.

• Colchester-based 19 Regiment RA has received the first of its AS90 guns. It is due to move to Larkhill to become part of 12 Mechanised Brigade.

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Example of call charges (per minute)††										
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	Peak	Off Peak	Peak	Off Peak	Peak	Off Peak	Peak	Off Peak	Peak	
Calls within country	10p	7p	47p	38p	30p	30p	64p	£1.45	29p	29p
Calls to UK	83p	58p	85p	70p	£1.19	£1.19	64p	£1.45	£1.16	£1.16
Calls to France	83p	58p	93p	78p	94p	94p	64p	£1.45	-	-

Cost comparison of making a 5 minute weekday daytime international call					
	Orange	Cellnet	One 2 One	Vodafone	BT Standard rate
Berlin	£1.06	£4.70	£4.11	£3.87	£1.45
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People, places, events



Picture: Paul McCabe, MOD RN

Big break for the troops: Entertainer Jim Davidson, pictured with members of the pop group Girl Nation, is as good as his word. The star of *Big Break* and *The Generation Game* told *Soldier* last year that he wanted to take top acts to forces serving overseas and at no charge to them. Now, as promised, Jim has launched the British Forces Foundation to organise that entertainment. The foundation is supported by

the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, and trustees include Maj Gen Arthur Denaro. Defence Secretary George Robertson has given his backing.

Jim hopes his charity will raise at least £1 million a year and attract stars such as Alan Davies, Ben Elton, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, and Rory Bremner. Jim has performed for soldiers in the United Kingdom, the Falklands, Bosnia and the Gulf.

Three soldiers die in helicopter crash

THREE soldiers were killed when their 9 Regiment AAC Lynx Mk VII helicopter crashed on farmland near Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire.

Pilot SSgt Stuart Donnan (38), WO2 Andre Perenczek (33) and SSgt Peter Clyne (34) died in the accident and a fourth soldier, whose name had not been released as we went to press, crawled out of the wreckage. He was said to be making satisfactory progress.

SSgt Donnan, WO2 Perenczek and the surviving soldier were all members of the Army Air Corps. SSgt Clyne REME was serving with 9 Regiment.

People from the village of Tilton on the Hill scrambled across fields to the site of the crash but were prevented by flames from reaching the victims. The Lynx, based at Dishforth, North York-

shire and bound for RAF Odiham in Hampshire, was on a site reconnaissance for the deployment of helicopters.

Air accident investigators were examining the circumstances of the crash.

'Sword of honour'

The Army's *Broadsword* maintained a healthy lead over the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force boats across most of the 1,500-mile South China Sea passage from Hong Kong to Singapore to achieve a resounding victory in the fourth leg of the Inter-Service Trans-globe yacht race.

Although the RAF and RN yachts arrived a few hours ahead of the Army boat, their crews used their engines, forfeiting any chances they may have had.

● Full story in next issue.

IN BRIEF

● Part of the Sir John Moore Barracks at Shorncliffe near Folkestone is to be re-built to house nearly 800 Gurkhas and their families. The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Regiment is to move from Brunei and will be joined by the battalion band and the Brigade Training Team, which are moving from Church Crookham in Hampshire.

● The new HQ of the Defence Storage

and Distribution Agency (DSDA), formed on April 1, is to be in Bicester. The DSDA will manage non-explosive stores.

● The Prince of Wales took the salute and laid the **Combined Cavalry** wreath at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park on the 75th anniversary of its unveiling.

● Capt Andrew Wood of 101 (London)

TA soldiers work for United Nations

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers from all over Britain refurbished accommodation used by UN forces based in Cyprus.

Under SSgt Taff Brimble, a staff instructor at Central Volunteer HQ, they upgraded accommodation, toilet and shower blocks for a multinational force. And because they were working as engineering assistants to Operation Toska, the British contingent of the UN Force, the volunteers were entitled to wear the distinctive blue beret of the UN soldiers.

Chief of Staff for the UNFICYP, Col Christopher Coats said: "The UN needed urgent assistance in bringing accommodation up to standard in terms of safety, hygiene and privacy. What they are doing here is vital work and it is a United Kingdom contribution in kind."

End of line for Fred



Farewell: Capt Fred Culvert, regimental admin officer of the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, marked the end of 45 years' service when he paraded with the battalion on its farewell at Alnwick Castle. The following day a drumhead service marked the end of the Fusiliers' long association with the Borough of Berwick-on-Tweed, followed by a parade commanded by Maj Stephen Dickinson

Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), the first Territorial Army officer to undertake bomb disposal work in Bosnia, has been awarded a GOC's commendation for exceptionally valuable service. Meanwhile, 101 Regiment's 217 (London) Field Squadron (EOD) RE (V) and 220 (London) Field Squadron (EOD) (V) dealt with unexploded bomb situations in key locations in and around London during the annual Exercise Make Safe.

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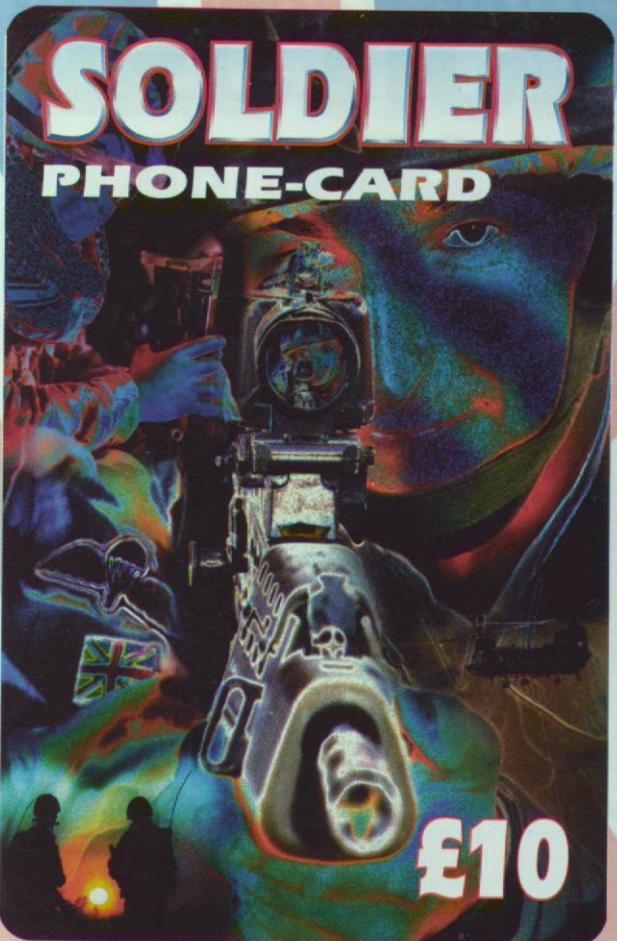
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People, places, events



Kindred spirits: Pte Chris Shelmardine and Pte Ricky Albuery of C Coy Group, 1 Para with members of the Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment exchange views on a GPMG

Desert exercise delayed by flood

AN opportunity to exercise in the arid and challenging conditions of Oman got off to a shaky start – because of floods.

C Company Group of Aldershot-based 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was based on the coastal plain near Sur, 300km south-east of Muscat but the floods forced them into a hotel in the town. It was a luxury that lasted only one night before the soldiers returned to their tented camp.

A week of acclimatising was followed by a three-week rotation through live-firing, adventurous training and a mobility package. This phase included basic desert survival skills in the vast, inhospitable Wahiba Sands.

To prove that even the best-laid plans can go wrong, local wildlife joined in. With Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of Defence Staff, due to call, the rehearsal for his visit to the mortar platoon was delayed when a donkey wandered into the impact area.

Towards the end of the exercise, the mortar platoon hosted a company from the Sultan's Own Parachute Regiment and carried out a joint British-Omani company attack and a joint exercise on the Al Mahatta training area.

The company group has now returned to Hampshire, ready to deploy with a knowledge of desert hazards. Its soldiers can cope with extremely high temperatures as well as floods and camel spiders – and they have the suntans to prove it.

Soviets remembered

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson called for past friendships between Britain and the former Soviet Union to be remembered in the present Kosovo crisis. He was speaking outside the Imperial War Museum in London at the unveiling of a memorial in remembrance of the 27 million Soviet citizens who died in the Second World War.

IN BRIEF

● 46 Northern Ireland Workshop REME has become the first unit in Northern Ireland to achieve Investors in People accreditation. It is also the 100th MoD organisation to attain the standard. Meanwhile, Lt Col Nigel Lloyd received an IIP accreditation on behalf of the 200 military and civilian employees who work with the **Petroleum Centre** (now the Defence Petroleum Centre) near Wimborne, Dorset.

● The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of **The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)** visited the 1st Battalion in south Armagh. She met soldiers at Bessbrook and laid a wreath in the memorial garden before going on to Forkhill and Crossmaglen.

● X Company, 6 (Northumberland) RRF (V), based in Newcastle upon Tyne, success-

Foresters in control



We are the champions: Celebrating top guns from 3 WFR are Sgt Tony Jones, Cpl Shane Wyer, LCpl Wayne Smith and Pte Craig Finch

UK unit wins Nato reserves contest

A TEAM of part-time soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (V) proved they are number one when it comes to military skills – and that's official.

They took part and won an international military skills competition arranged by the Reserve Forces Association at Altcar training camp and beat teams from Germany, Holland and Belgium as well as other Army and Royal Air Force units.

Aims of the event were to bring members of Nato reserve forces together, to enjoy the benefits of a friendly competition and to improve basic military skills.

Thirty-two four-man teams were put through their paces on an assault course, signals, mine recognition, first aid, prisoner handling, survival and aircraft recognition.

fully defended its TA machine-gun platoon title.

● Work on a new £2.6 million building for the **Oxford University Training Corps** is on schedule to be completed by next spring.

● Twelve Russian youngsters affected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster visited **19 Air-mobile Field Ambulance** at Wattisham.

Ready and waiting

Soldiers from the Irish Guards battle-group are now in position in Macedonia. Their exact role is still unclear – but whatever happens, they will be ready

Reports: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

THERE are not many organisations in the world which could set up a tented training camp for 1,200 soldiers, provide them with three meals a day, washing and toilet facilities, and run a reliable telephone and postal service in less time than it takes a DIY enthusiast to build a garden shed. But then there are not many organisations like the British Army.

When the Irish Guards battle-group arrived in Macedonia it needed to set things up from scratch. Quartermaster Maj John Faloone was one of the men charged with making it happen.

"The first thing that needed to be done was to identify a suitable piece of land," he told *Soldier* at the Krivalac Training Area, south of Skopje.

"It needed to have a route in and a route out so you could move supplies and it had to be close to a water source. One week ago this was just a bare field – now look at it."

Indeed it was hard to believe how quickly it had been transformed. There were 135 tents in one camp, with another 40 in the second and 50 in the third.

The battle-group is made up from units based in Germany. They include D Squadron, The King's Royal Hussars, with 14 Challenger 1 tanks; No 1 Company Group the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards; and A (King Harald) Company Group 1st Battalion, The Green Howards. Between them the two infantry companies have 40 Warriors in theatre.

Offensive support is provided by 52 (Niagara) Battery of 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery and combat engineer support by 21 Engineer Regiment.

Once the engineers had found the right



Preparing for a rainy day: Spr Jeff Barnett

spot for the camp, a troop from the Pioneer Corps erected tents. Things gathered pace when the quartermaster's staff arrived. The priority was to get the kitchen up and running and to start feeding soldiers. It took only three days to sort out and then the chefs were told to get cracking. Once the burners had been set up, the first meal was produced in just five hours.

"If you keep a good standard of food on the hotplate, the morale of the troops really goes up, especially in this type of climate and the fact that the soldiers are

Some soldiers attached to the battle-group are referred to by their adopted units and not their parent units



Intense effort: Maj John Faloone has overseen transformation of this field into a tented camp which, with other sites, supports 1,200 soldiers

running up ranges," said Maj Faloone. "The engineers have been a godsend. They have been most useful in coming up with the ideas. They have really been an asset. I was giving people a bit of a hard time in the first week to make sure as much was done as possible before the arrival of the battle-group. At the end of the day my job is to look after the men and to make sure they get what they need."

An ablution system was devised so people could wash and shower with hot and cold water. Portable toilets were installed and a local contractor found to take care of the waste. A camp this size creates a lot of waste which has to be carefully bagged, dumped in a skip and collected, again by local contractors.

The business of dealing with local contractors is a delicate one. The Army needs businesses to supply them with bread, fresh meat and vegetables but care must be taken not to distort the local economy. Supplies are stored in a refrigerated truck.

Siting of the various elements within the camp is of crucial importance. Vehicles must have access to the stores and toilets but should not drive through the tented camp, where they would cut up the soil and risk damaging tent pegs.

Maj Faloone explained that in each

camp there was a warrant officer whose job is to make sure the routine runs smoothly.

Safety is always to the fore. "Within 24 hours of setting up the camp you have to have a fire practice," Maj Faloone said. "The main concern in a tented area is a fire. People must know where to go and where the fire-fighting equipment is."

By this stage the camp was beginning to look like a military installation. Guards

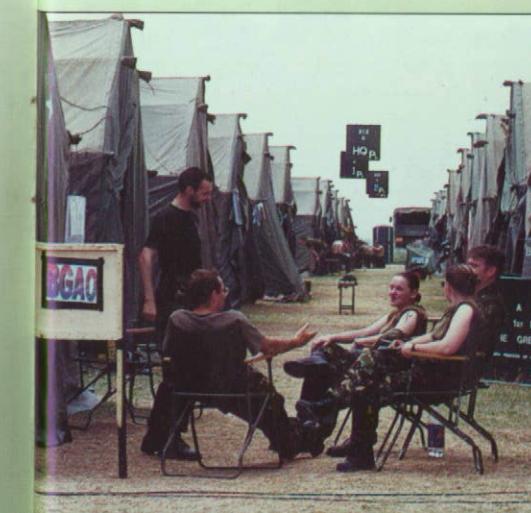
were put on duty at the entrance point and to book vehicles out, so they could keep track of movements.

A few more touches and the camp would be eligible for AA stars. "Barbed-wire was erected around each of the camps," said Maj Faloone. "Not just to keep people out but also to stop animals getting in. There are loose dogs around the area and the farmers let their sheep graze on the training area. You don't want them running through a tented camp leaving their droppings."

The main camp is administered by a dozen soldiers who make sure the water is running properly, generators for the lighting systems are filled up and generally see that everything is running smoothly. Six soldiers in each of the other two sites do the same job.

Maj Faloone said: "It's a full-time job and until we get everything sorted out and establish a routine, which will take a couple of weeks, we are virtually running from reveille to midnight."

So if there is a problem getting the Millennium Dome finished on time, there are a few chaps currently based in Macedonia who might be able to help ...



Time out: Soldiers grab a quiet moment

Turning up the heat

IF you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen. But that wasn't an option for Cpl Anna Harris, KRH, and her fellow chefs even though during lunch at the Irish Guards battle-group camp, it was 65 C.

Cpl Richard Thompson, 1 IG, said it was unbelievably hot with the burners on. The thermometer proved he was not imagining it. It felt as if they were working in a sauna.

"We were issued with cold-weather clothing to come out here," he said. "Shouldn't think there will be much need for it."

The chefs have been outstanding, even by their standards. "We had the first evening meal ready within five hours," Cpl Harris said. "That was pretty good going because they weren't really expecting to get the first meal for 24 hours after being here. That first day we fed 1,000. Usually it is about 750 a day."

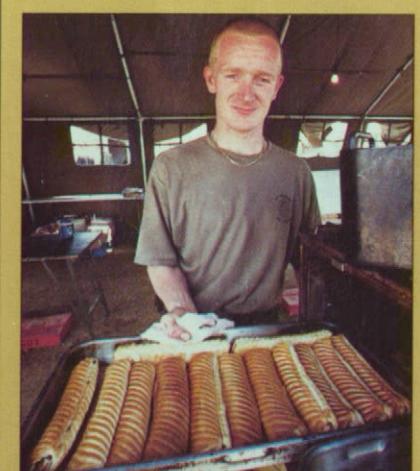
"Perhaps 250 to 300 of the meals go out as container lunches which we make up and the rest we do over the hotplate. Of an evening we feed the whole 750 through the hotplate."

BLISTERER

When *Soldier* visited the battle-group the weather was getting fairly warm, which was usual for the time of year. The summer promises to be a blisterer. Despite the temperature, soldiers still need rich sources of energy.

Cpl Harris said: "We are starting to put lots of pasta and carbohydrate dishes on because this is what the lads need. We have to cater for what the workforce is doing and there is a lot of manual work being done here."

Cpl Jay Bracelet, 1 IG, said everyone was slowly acclimatising to the conditions. "I think after two or three weeks people will start drinking more tea as hot food cools you down faster than cool food," he said.



Keeping cool: Pte Blackie Black RLC, attached 1 IG, with energy on a plate

All dressed up and nowhere to go

Be prepared for anything

FROM London to Moscow, politicians are seeking a political solution to the Balkan crisis. But for the soldiers on the ground, the waiting game goes on, and all they can do is make sure that whatever happens, they are ready.

Maj Nick Hunter, officer commanding D Squadron KRH with the Irish Guards battle-group, is training hard making sure his men are prepared. The end-game is not clear yet so the soldiers are looking at a broad spectrum of contingencies – from a war-fighting role in tanks to foot patrols.

FIELD EXERCISE

When Soldier caught up with him at the Irish Guards battle-group training camp, Maj Hunter was devising a field exercise which had obvious applications.

"Basically what we are trying to achieve is to get very close integration between tanks and Warriors," he explained.

"In our normal training when we are doing war-fighting there tends to be a distance between Warriors and tanks. The tanks tend to go in first and the Warriors will follow. What we want to do is ensure the effective use of both by co-operating in such a close fashion that they are virtually in pairs.

"This would be particularly useful working in a close-quarter environment where the tanks need the infantry to give them protection."

FINER DEGREE

Maj Hunter has devised a method of making sure the armour and the Warriors work as teams.

"I'll present targets to the tanks that cannot be engaged by them. It will force them to bring up their twinned Warrior. What is important is improving communications between the two and honing them to a finer degree.

"We are preparing for all eventualities," Maj Hunter said.



Training: Maj Nick Hunter

THE worst part was the waiting. Soldiers who make up the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards battle-group were relieved when the order finally came through to join Operation Agricola.

Lt Col Bill Cubitt, commanding officer 1 IG, said: "We waited in Germany for about two months to come on this operation and that was a difficult time. All the families were obviously keyed up to the fact that at a moment's notice they could start a period of six month's separation. I think it is easier now we have actually started."

IG BG joined the King's Royal Hussars battle-group, which was already in Macedonia. Together they make up the 4th Armoured Brigade. The battle-group has 14 Challenger 1 tanks of the King's Royal Hussars, a company of armoured infantry from 1 Battalion the Green Howards, No 4 Company 1 IG, a reconnaissance platoon and a Milan platoon and a mortar section from the Irish Guards. Also attached is 52 (Niagara) Battery, Royal Artillery and combat support provided by 21 Engineer Regiment.

Apart from a few vehicles and stores which had been delayed because of civil

disorder in Greece, the battle-group was complete.

"Certainly we have a sense of purpose," Lt Col Cubitt said. "We have a training package and something to aim for. Morale is good but obviously media talk of a ground offensive is unsettling.

"We read the papers like everyone else and we come to the same variety of conclusions. Most people recognise that it is pretty likely that at some stage during our six months we will be in Kosovo one way or another. That is just a guess."

The battle-group is making good use of the ranges for live-firing exercises. And it is also making excellent use of the tactical engagement simulation equipment.

"Laser-based equipment means you can actually simulate knocking people out," said Lt Col Cubitt. "It encourages people to keep under good cover and to use field craft and the ground correctly."

The Macedonians have been co-operative with the British in allowing them to use the area. Every day the battle-group is on the ranges. Hillsides echo to the sounds of the big guns.

Lt Col Cubitt said: "Things have gone



Heavy metal: Challenger 1 tanks from D Squadron King's Royal Hussars prepare to exercise. With something to aim for morale was high



In charge: Lt Col Bill Cubitt, CO 1 IG battle-group



Listen up: As contingency preparations are made, soldiers are briefed on the day's events

smoothly. I think it is fair to say our requirements for this range are greater than those for the Macedonian Army. It is a constant process of trying to persuade them that the things we want to do are sensible and safe and will not damage the infrastructure."

As dusk fell over the Krivalac training area, the booming sound of the guns became indistinguishable from the rolling thunder. The waiting to get to Macedonia might be over. The waiting for what happens next goes on.

Disaster that touched the world

FATHER Mark O'Keeffe RACHD stood outside his tent on the Krivalac training area on a Macedonian hillside the morning after an almighty rainstorm. Lightning had strafed the skies like an AS90 bombardment.

The Roman Catholic priest's thoughts turned to what the deluge would do to Brazda refugee camp. In a few hours he would find out when he returned.

Fr O'Keeffe had been there over Easter at the height of the humanitarian catastrophe. He had witnessed the modern-day miracle of logistical support provided by the British Army and other Nato countries that had helped save hundreds of lives.

"What struck me about the camp was that when you went in how calm it seemed. People were either in a queue for food or else with their families in their tents. There

was a sense of calm about it. The refugees possessed a supreme dignity considering what they had lost and what they had been through. It was only later when you contemplate and comprehend what they have been through that you appreciate it."

Anybody who saw the tide of humanity washing over the Kosovo-Macedonia border could not fail to have been moved.

The dedication of the soldiers brought in to ease the suffering of the refugees also left an impression with the Irish Guards chaplain.

"Soldiers gained a huge amount from the experience through helping. The guys were terrific. They worked 24 hours a day for three days solid. I am sure that they will remember their contribution for the rest of their lives. A lot of the jobs were not glamorous but they did them willingly."

Beware the midday sun

TWO soldiers man the first-aid post at the top camp. The rest of the 21 medics, including a doctor, are spread out over the other two sites.

Lcpl Scott Campbell, 1 IG, explained the minor problems they had treated so far. "We have had a lot of hay fever sufferers, and soldiers with heat-rashes and sunburns. There have been a few cases of mild dehydration.

"People are gradually acclimatising to the weather, though. If you are doing arduous work you should be drinking a litre of water an hour," he warned.

Lcpl Campbell takes the temperature every two-and-a-half hours in the sun so he knows just how hot the soldiers are getting. That day it was 34 degrees.

The other things to watch out for are grass snakes and spiders. Both give a nasty nip.



Lcpl Scott Campbell: A word in your ear

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From Westminster to Wapping

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

Apache brigade date set

THE BRIGADE that will fly the Army's new force of Apache attack helicopters is due to come into being on September 1.

That is the day earmarked for 24 Airmobile Brigade to be renamed 16 Air Assault Brigade and to take over command at Colchester of the very high readiness Airborne Battle Group, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson told MPs.

On the same day, 5 Airborne Brigade HQ at Aldershot is due to be re-named HQ 12 Mechanised Brigade. Mr Henderson said 16 AA Bde would remain operationally effective in the airmobile role and the Airborne Battle Group would remain so throughout.

The new assault brigade would, however, not become operationally effective in the air assault role until the Army's new Apache WAH-64 is brought into service. The brigade's attack helicopter regiments are all expected to be operationally effective by mid-2004.

Mr Henderson added that some parachute-trained personnel would transfer from 5 AB Bde Paralogistic Battalion (due to disband on September 1) to 16 AA Bde's Logistic Regiment and Field Workshop, while the remainder would form the nucleus of the new 12 Mech Bde's logistic squadrons and equipment support companies.

Tournament hint: Although no decisions have yet been made about a replacement for the Royal Tournament from 2001 onwards, an unnamed "new venue" with a "wider appeal" was hinted at when the matter was debated in the Lords on May 6.

After peers were told by Lord Burlison that the event had lost £600,000 overall between 1991 and 1997 and its recruitment value had been questioned, Lord Hoyle, a Defence spokesman, suggested that while the new venue would retain the best traditions of the Royal Tournament, its setting would allow the Services to be better represented and would have a "wider appeal to the population".

The last Royal Tournament will be held at

And I quote...

Baroness Park of Monmouth: "The promise of a 24-month gap between deployments and operations for units seems to have gone by the board. Most of the Kosovo intervention force in Macedonia served in Bosnia the year before. The Government must no longer expect the Forces to grit their teeth and manage indefinitely. Families are a powerful force nowadays and there will be rebellion there.

"...there needs to be money for the Services and plenty of resources. Otherwise I believe that the Government can say goodbye to any hope of retention of one of their best assets – the Armed Forces." – Kosovo debate in the Lords



On the way: The first Apache WAH-64 destined for the AAC

Earls Court next month. Next year, as part of the Services' contribution to the millennium celebrations, the Royal Military Tattoo 2000 will be staged on Horse Guards Parade from July 10 to 15.

TA in Macedonia: In a written reply on May 13, Defence Secretary George Robertson said 19 individual members of the TA are serving in Macedonia. Units, with numbers in brackets: HQ 4 Armd Bde (9); 2 Sqn RAF (1); HQ UK NSE (3); 21 Engr Regt (4); 28 Engr Regt (1); 23 Para Fd Amb (1).

In answer to a question on April 28 he said that while individual TA members were serving in the Balkans on a volunteer basis, there were no plans to deploy formed TA units.

Skill shortages: Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson reported on May 10 that skill shortages existed in the medical, dental and veterinary services. There were also shortfalls in the Royal Artillery, Royal Signals, Infantry, Army Air Corps, Royal Logistic Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Intelligence Corps and Corps of Army Musicians. Initiatives had been introduced to improve the situation, he added.

Other points from Parliament:

TAVRA changes: The number of Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations will be cut from 14 to 13 by 2002 under new arrangements aligning those in England with Government office regions. The South-East and Eastern Wessex associations will amalgamate.

Front-line vegetarians: The MoD is assessing the requirement for a vegetarian option in operational ration packs. A choice is already available in all fresh meals supplied by military catering staff.

DLO HQ: From April 1, 2000 the headquarters of the new Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO) will be at Ensleigh, Bath. About 300 people – one per cent of the staff – will be based there.

IN The PRESS

What the papers say

● A group of Labour MPs is waging a parliamentary campaign for veterans of the 1951 Suez crisis to be rewarded with a medal. Around 60,000 were drafted into the emergency zone and 22 British Servicemen were killed and about 100 wounded as they struggled to keep the peace for the next three years. – *Daily Mail*

● We simply do not have enough soldiers to fulfil the policies Britain is pursuing. That deficiency will ultimately apply a brake to Mr Blair's Balkan strategy. – John Keegan, *Daily Telegraph*

● The Household Cavalry, rehearsing in Hyde Park for May's Major General's Parade, charged to the rescue when a male pedestrian was involved in an accident with a tourist coach on an adjoining road. Army doctors watching the rehearsal nursed the man until an air ambulance arrived. "Who says they are there just for show?" – Jasper Gerard, *The Times*

● A letter to his wife, written by Pte Thomas Hughes, aged 26, and dropped in a bottle 85 years ago from a troopship a few days before he was killed on the Western Front, has been handed over to his daughter in New Zealand after it was retrieved by a fisherman in the Thames Estuary. – *Daily Telegraph*

● A horse rescued by the RSPCA is set to join the Household Cavalry. Three-year-old shire cross Jasper was handed over to the Army six months after being found starving, emaciated and lice-ridden. His former owner was jailed for five months for neglect. – *Express*

● The US Army has recognised white witchcraft as a religion and has appointed chaplains to oversee pagan ceremonies on at least five bases. – *Daily Telegraph*

● British soldiers will rub shoulders with Hollywood actors under plans to hire them out as film extras. Producers are keen to use real Servicemen for war epics, apparently because they are easier to direct than civilians. Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson has agreed that soldiers not needed on active duty can be spared. – *Daily Mail*

● Under £180m refurbishment plans shown to MoD staff for the first time, the central section of the MoD Main Building in Whitehall, closed for decades and used as a dumping area for old furniture, is to become the heart of the new interior, with glass atria and elegant cloistered walkways. – *Daily Telegraph*

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

Inside Fort Knox

(In your dreams . . .)

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

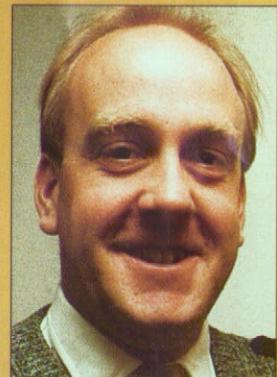
YOU know that bit in the Bond film where Sean Connery bashes up Oddjob in the gold depository at Fort Knox?

Well, it might have made great cinema, but apparently the gold vault is nothing like that in real life. Very few people really know what it is like, because only a select few have ever seen inside it.

The depository sits at the heart of a massive military complex in Kentucky that covers more than 100,000 acres.

Fort Knox – the home of US Mounted Warfare – has served as a US military installation since 1918. When the US Cavalry traded-in their horses for tanks, this is where they came to train.

Maj Jonathan Brooking RDG



"I am here as the British exchange officer with the United States Armor Centre. My job is as a small group instructor whereby I teach between 10 and 16 lieutenants and captains a course on advanced tactics prior to them taking command of their companies.

"I teach an 18-week course which has nine different parts to it. It focuses on the military decision-making process at the beginning of the course and ends with operations other than war.

"This course is the equivalent of the junior division of the staff college at Sandhurst.

"I am loving it. It is a good crack. Our hosts have been extremely welcoming and hospitable."

Lt Col Mike Clements R Irish



"My job title is British liaison officer to the United States Army Armor Centre in Fort Knox. My primary function is to facilitate the exchange of information between the United States and the United Kingdom in the armour area.

"We are two very different armies. The British Army is compact well-trained and well-motivated and it's quality that matters. We have to make sure the small numbers we have are extremely well focused and trained.

"The Americans achieve quality

through quantity. Quantity has its own quality. You can't argue against several hundred battalions of armour.

"The scale of the American Army is awe-inspiring really.

MATURE

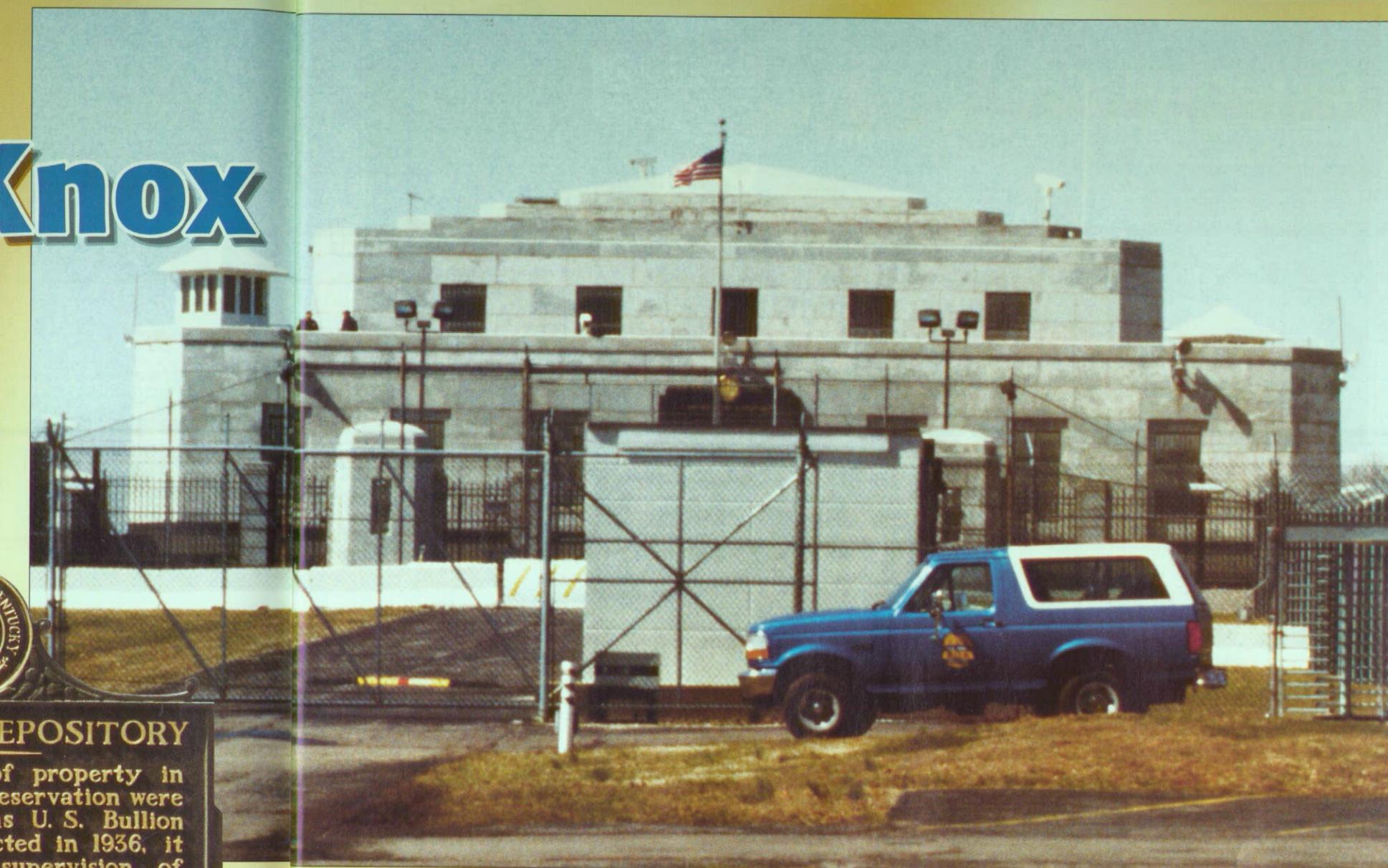
Their development programmes are so mature. They will put a lot of money into individual programmes if they think it will lift standards at the end of the day.

"We sort of speak the same language although there is sufficient room for confusion. The example they hold up is when

you are standing in line in a supermarket and they ask you 'paper or plastic?'. You assume they are asking you how you want to pay, not how you want your groceries packed. And you must never ask for a fag break in this country.

"Because we have a special relationship with America and something to offer in the way of technology there is a two way flow of information.

The way they look after the liaison staff is very good. We are fully embraced by the American community. We are invited to everything."



U.S. BULLION DEPOSITORY

In 1935, portions of property in Fort Knox military reservation were set aside for use as U.S. Bullion Depository. Constructed in 1936, it was placed under supervision of Dir. of the Mint, a U.S. Treasury official. First gold brought here by railroad in 1937, and depository continues to be storage site for most of the nation's gold. By law, not open to public visits or tours.

Keep out: Fort Knox's gold bullion depository has legendary security, and few people have been inside. But is it all a myth – has the treasure gone, and is this just an empty box?

WO2 Tim Stearne 2RTR

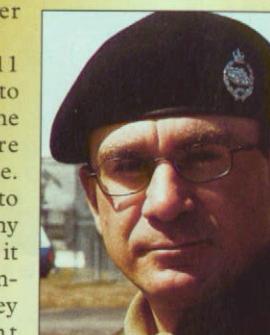
"I am the exchange warrant officer who works in the master gunner branch as a master gunner instructor.

"I teach an 11 week course to 18 students. The first year here was very intense.

"I have had to slow down my delivery when it came to explaining things. They use different words and they are big on acronyms. There must be a million and one acronyms in the US Army.

"One of the biggest things I have missed about being over here is the Sergeants' mess, the camaraderie and being able to go somewhere to relax.

"The Americans would dearly love the regimental system that the British Army has."



Aladdin's cave . . . or just gold bull?

THEY say the street value of the pure heroin inside Fort Knox bullion depository is worth more than the gold bars.

Confiscated drugs piled up to the ceiling would, the story goes, be used by hospitals in times of national emergency by being processed into morphine.

Security (they say) is so tight that hidden machine-guns can pop out of the ground to shoot at trespassers . . . those, that is, who haven't already been felled by marines on attempting to climb the perimeter fence.

So much for the stories. Here are the facts as we know them . . .

The depository was completed in December 1936, constructed of reinforced steel and granite, and the first gold was moved in by train the following month.

Today the vault holds 147.3 million ounces. Calculated at \$42.22 per ounce, each gold bar is worth \$16,888 and weighs 27.5lb.

The irony is that this vast wealth resides in one of the poorest states of the Union, Kentucky. Within a few miles of the biggest concentration of gold in the world, people are living in trailer parks.

The gold bars are stored without wrappings and great care is taken to avoid abrasion of the soft metal when they are handled.

In the past, the depository has stored the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Gutenberg Bible and, during the Second World War, the Magna Carta and the Crown Jewels.

But because the authorities are so secretive about the depository, the myths continue to grow. No visitors are allowed inside. Ever.

This has given rise to one of the most enduring myths of all. They say the gold was removed from the vault years ago. Now it is just a very expensive empty box.

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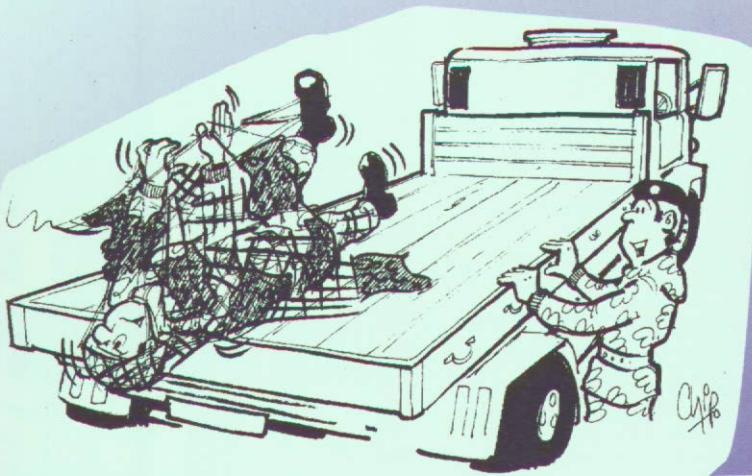
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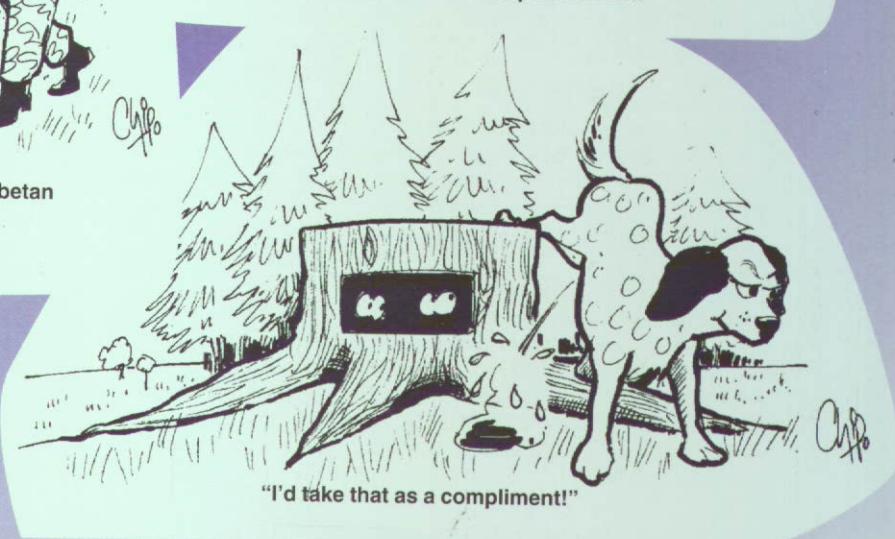
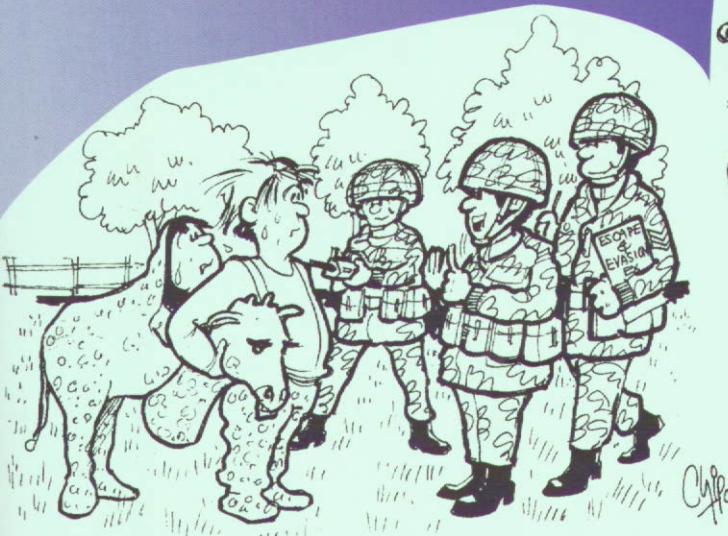
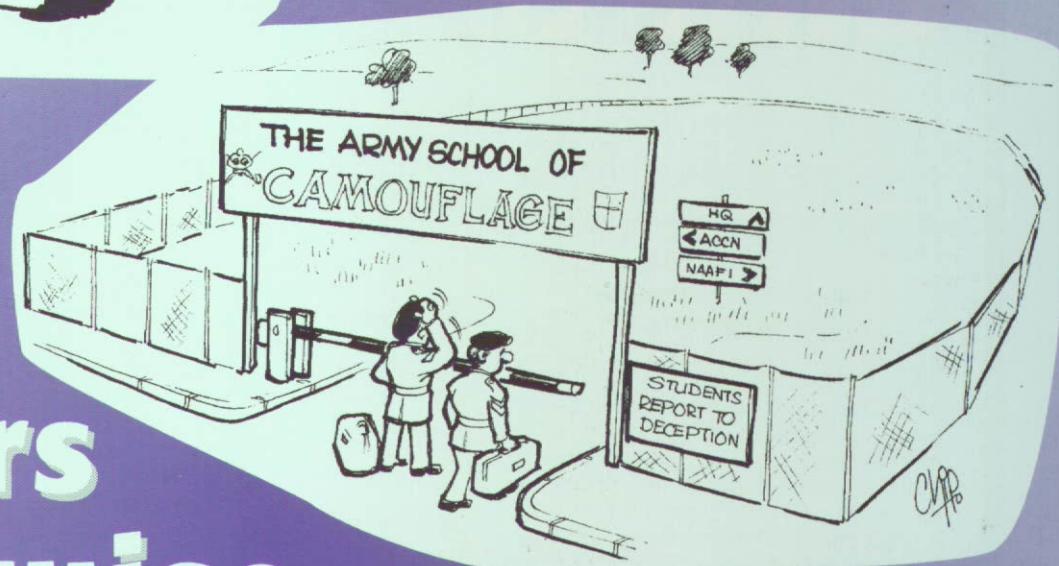
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Masters of disguise



The butcher, the baker, and the victual maker

Supply experts who get food to troops in the field are trained at the Operational Food Service Division, Army School of Catering

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

YOU will not find a fresher bacon sandwich anywhere, is the standing joke among students attending courses run by the Operational Food Service Division (OFSD) at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot.

Butchers and bakers are trained here, and although the Army no longer needs candlestick makers, it is likely that in the past, they too would have received a thorough grounding in the merits of tallow fat before going off to the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars.

But another old-fashioned term – victualling – is still used, and Royal Logistic Corps soldiers arrive at the school for victualling courses which introduce them to every aspect of food supply. These take them through stock and quality control, dry rations, fruit and vegetables, and cold storage management, as well as, of course, bakery and butchery.

JOINTS

The victualling department not only has its own bakery but also a fully-equipped abattoir, where students are taught how to slaughter cattle, sheep and pigs before learning how to recognise and cut joints of meat.

"In the Field Army the butcher has to take the animal from the hoof to the butcher's block," Maj Jackie Gavin, the officer commanding OFSD, explained. "But when you start dealing with food you also have to think about many other things as well, such as temperature control, hygiene and safe handling, quality control as it goes into the warehouse, quality assurance, and of course, making sure there is no possibility of food poisoning."



In charge: Maj Jackie Gavin, OC Operational Food Service Division

CHEFS

The department works closely with the catering side of the school and is now teaching food logistics to WO1 and WO2 chefs who will be moving into the administration side. Although Maj Gavin concentrates on supplying the food, she cannot hide her admiration at the job the chefs do in the field.

"I am in awe at what chefs can produce," she said. "And speaking as someone from the supply side, it is nice to bring the whole thing together so that the customer, from the infantryman to the brigadier and general, is looked after."

The course is run for eight RLC lieutenants and captains each year by the Operational Food Service Division (OFSD), and is designed and run by Maj Jackie Gavin, who trained at the Army College of Catering herself ten years ago.

The students are taught every aspect of food supply, learn commercial best practice, and attend courses at Bournemouth University. At the

may return to train as butchers or bakers. These three-month courses generate a lot of interest from civilian companies, which recognise the quality of the training the

Food and drink

FOR eight young officers on the intensive 11-month Food Service Officers' Course, the two weeks they spend in the victualling department is an eye-opener. The majority have never baked bread and have certainly never slaughtered animals for meat before.

They liken some of their time in the victualling department as being on the Generation Game.

"You get two minutes demonstration and then you have to do it yourself," laughed Capt Lizzie Stileman, as she kneaded pieces of dough in the bakery on her first day of making bread. "We have had to kill a pig and a lamb, shave all the hair off the pig and get the fleece off the lamb."

We knead the dough: Officers on the Food Service Course learn about breadmaking



Army provides. As well as butchery, bakery and victualling, the 21 instructors also teach field catering and give management development training to soldiers between lance corporal and major.

INTEREST

Some 12,000 students pass through OFSD's doors each year. The school has contacts with the Worshipful Companies of Butchers and Bakers, two of the oldest guilds in the City of London, which sponsor prizes and pay a keen interest in what the students are doing.

"Food is fuel, three times a day, 365 days a year, year after year," she said. "Soldiers have to be fed or else they can't do the job."

"Food is also very important for morale, so we are there to deliver the best quality food possible."

Taking a humane approach

A stressed and unhappy animal will produce bad meat, explained WO1 Claude Preira, the Master Butcher in charge of the victualling department at the Army School of Catering.

Which is why, apart from the obvious humane reasons, it is important that animals which are to be killed for meat must be treated as well as possible before they are stunned and slaughtered.

Students attending the three-month butchery course at the victualling department learn that quality control starts in the farmer's field.

"We are meticulous about hygiene," said Mr Preira. "We always look out for any sick animals, we check the age of cows through their teeth, and we are not allowed to slaughter anything over 18 months old because of BSE."

An inspector from the Meat and Hygiene Scheme is always present when cattle are being slaughtered and all cattle come with their own passport. We are inspected in the same way as an independent commercial abattoir."

There is no denying that it is a gruesome business, but Army butchers have to be able to provide fresh meat in the field and this means that sometimes they have to do the killing themselves. It also trains them what to look for in a local abattoir and to recognise whether the standards are high enough to provide meat for soldiers.

PRIVATE COMPANY

The animals are provided for the course by a private company which then removes them once the students have gone through the process of care, slaughter and preparation.

When the cows, sheep and pigs arrive at the school they are able to wander around a paddock before they go into the resting place, known as the lairage.

"Animal husbandry is the name of the game," explained Mr Preira. "If an animal is stressed the adrenalin will affect the meat and keeping quality. A happy animal makes good meat."

By law, no animal is to be kept in lairage for longer than 72 hours and they are not allowed to see any signs of stunning or slaughter.

Animals are hoisted up while unconscious so that their throats can be cut and bodies eviscerated – the insides removed. Great care is taken with cattle so that any organs at risk from BSE are kept well away from edible meat. Pigs are lowered into a large vat of hot water so that all the hair can be removed and the skin is meticulously clean.

Meat is hung for 24 hours while rigor mortis sets in and it is then moved to the huge chiller room. Students also learn how to joint the meat and prepare it for eating.

It is not a job for the squeamish, but soldiers can be rest-assured that fresh meat supplied to them on operations or on exercise will have come through the safest possible processes.

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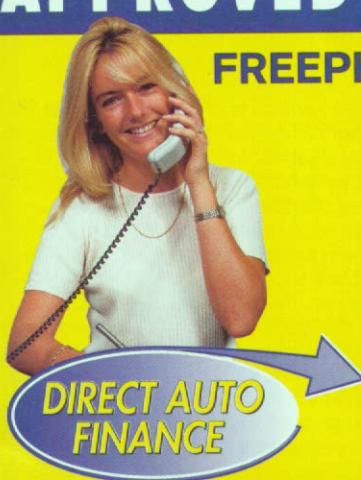
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Picture power

Photographic contest entrants will enjoy worldwide exposure on the Army's website

NO prizes for guessing which is the most popular part of the British Army website. The picture library scores the highest number of hits from both the Army and the public, writes Anthony Stone.

If you drop in and have a look it's not hard to understand why. Quality action shots and archive material, including a large input from this magazine, make this one of the most useful and entertaining sites around.

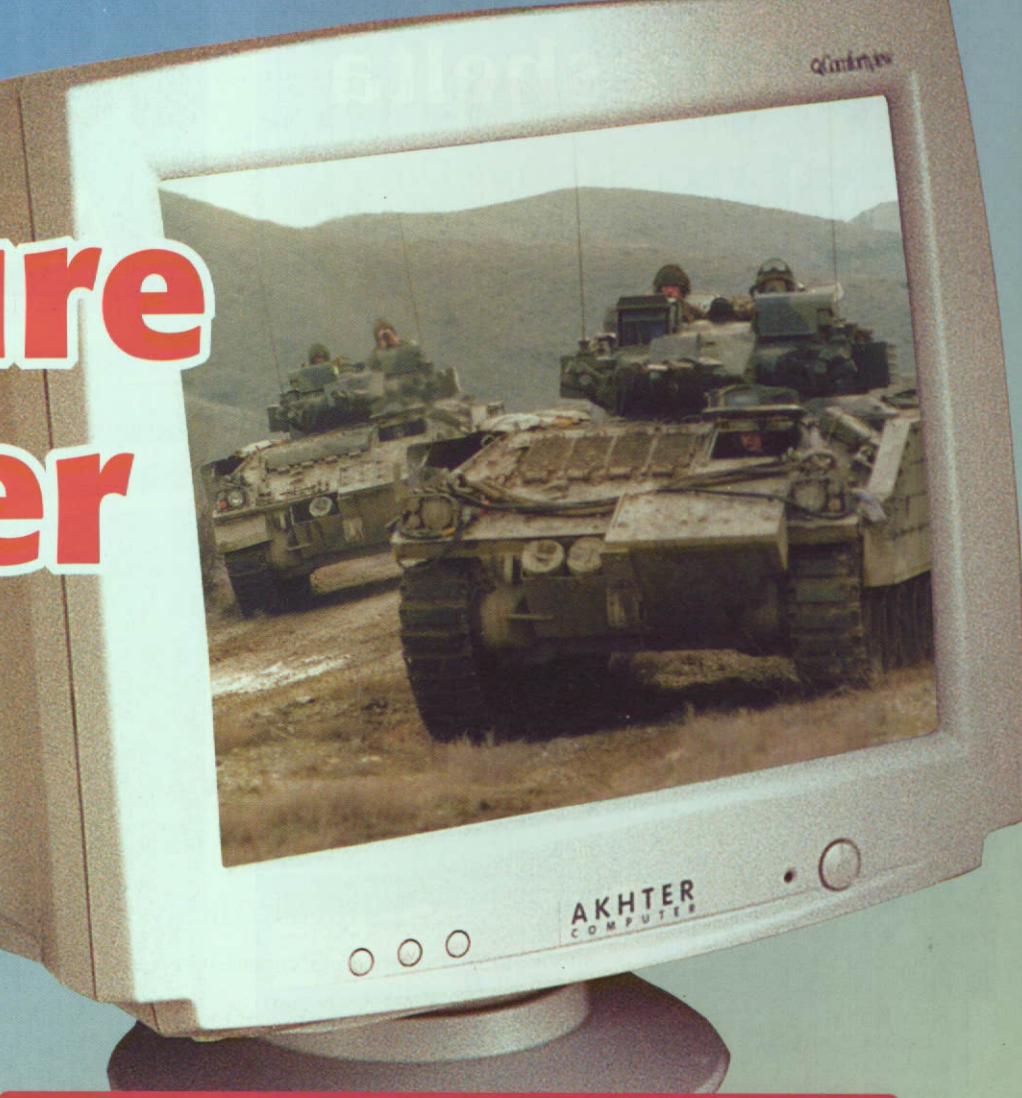
Now you have the chance to be published alongside the world's best. As a bonus, entrants to this year's Army photographic competition will have their work put on the site.

Since it went on-line in 1996 more than 75,000 registered users have accessed the database, which is run for the Ministry of Defence by Image Data Systems. It has certainly cut down the time spent handling the thousands of requests made each year for photographs and posters.

EASY ACCESS

Things are now much simpler, with one central point to view and order photographs.

Maj George Griffin of Defence Public Relations (Army) explained how the database works. "Images captured by front-line Army photographers are sent to Wilton where they are uploaded onto the server at IDS's offices in



How to get in the frame

Do YOU want to be an award-winning photographer? Army Photographic Competition details and entry forms

are available from local media ops staff, admin offices, or direct from Army Photographic Competition, DPR(A),

Rm 0364, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB. Tel: 0171 218 7953 or MB 87953.



From the archives: This image in the Army photo library shows surrender talks between the British and Italians in Abyssinia in 1941

London which stores images for the photo library," he said.

"As well as scanning in photographs from the Army's campaigns and deployments of the last ten years, we are plan-

ning to incorporate photographs that we have provided to the Imperial War Museum over the years.

"We needed an incentive for Army members to give up their own images for us to scan them into the system, so as part of the deal for giving up their photographs to be scanned, Army users worldwide are provided with the image database package."

DOWNLOADING

The images are available via www.army.picture-library.com. Civilians are charged a fee for downloading images, but the service is free to members of the Army or press.

For military presentations and civilian applications, which typically involve loading images into Powerpoint, medium resolution images are of sufficient quality. If higher quality is needed, high-resolution files can be downloaded.



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REME relies on huge **Airesheltas** as workshops in Bosnia and **Airesheltas** are also used by units as diverse as the Army Air Corps to protect Lynx helicopters, the Royal Military Police for roadside checkpoints and both the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy aircraft crash investigation and salvage teams.



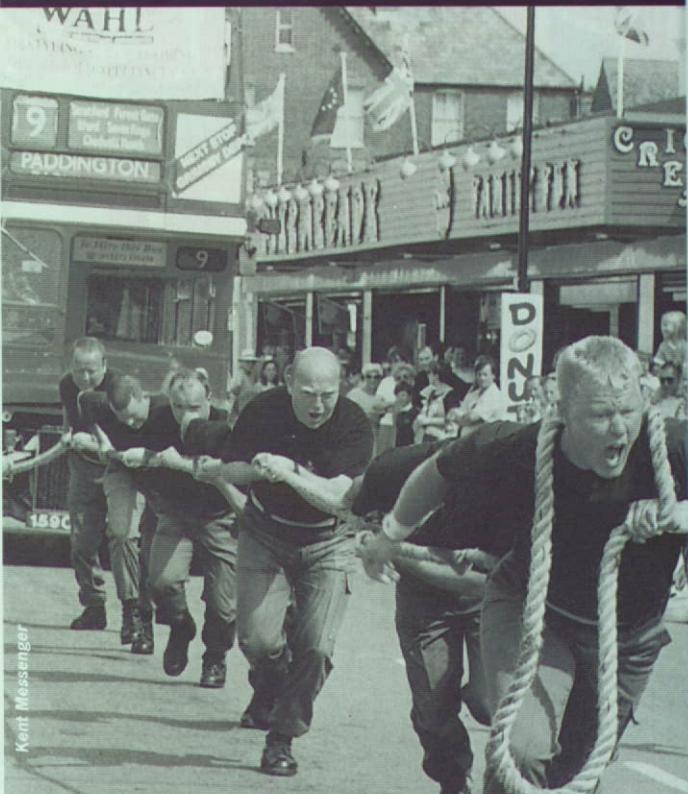
This amazing bird's-eye view shows the major incident set-up deployed by Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. **Aireshelta's** pioneering **Aireshower** inflatable decontamination unit – named as a Millennium Product by The Design Council for its role at the forefront of technology and creativity – is linked to several **Airesheltas** to provide a mobile mass casualty evacuation headquarters. This set-up would also make an ideal instant field hospital.

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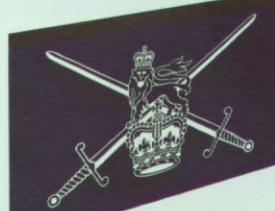
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Kitstop



On track: Brig Jim Campbell, Director of Armoured Systems Support, receives the first dieselised CVR (T) from Chris Rowe, managing director of Alvis Vehicles at Telford. The first 200 will be converted by the end of February. Conversion of the armoured vehicles to diesel will improve their durability and reliability and minimise the operational fire hazard and exhaust emissions. The Alvis contract is for 1,100 kits and factory vehicle conversions.

Tug for warmth

Clothing agency's insulation breakthrough

MOST soldiers will agree that their workaday clothing is well designed and good at keeping out the weather. But there is rather a lot of it, **writes Graham Bound**.

Combat 95, designed by the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency and now on issue to most units, is based on the layering or "onion-skin" principle: soldiers put on or take off six relatively thin layers of kit according to the weather. But, as senior manager Nigel Gaspar explained: "Although Combat 95 gives soldiers choices, they can only exercise those choices if they carry the kit."

It would be much better, the DCTA experts surmised, if soldiers could wear just one layer between underwear and outer garments and have the means to adjust it to provide varying degrees of warmth.

THE ANSWER

DCTA's experts took on the challenge. The answer was a new twin-layered fabric connected by thousands of fibres which lie flat and cool under normal conditions, but at the tug of one or two integral cords, separate to trap more air and give much greater insulation.

Garments made from the fabric are still some way off, but if the DCTA's optimism is justified soldiers of the new millennium may be wearing clothing that adjusts for warmth at the pull of a string.

The new all-weather fabric technology is also likely to be received with excitement in the civilian market. The DCTA could find itself with a textile product as revolutionary in design as the famous Gore-Tex – and every bit as valuable. The

agency is acquiring patents in this area of technology.

And the next step for the combat clothing designers? It could be "chameleon clothing", combat kit which changes colour automatically according to the environment. "The theoretical work is already being done," said Nigel Gaspar. But he conceded that so far it was the "stuff of *Tomorrow's World*".

So far. If the DCTA's track record is anything to go by, the scientists may well soon turn this fiction into fact.

● Coming soon: DCTA develops boots and trainers, military, for the use of ...



Flash fire: Flame-retarding garments are tested to destruction in the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency labs. Synthetic fibre suits for those particularly at risk from flash fuel fires are now able to protect wearers from the fierce heat for up to five seconds, long enough to allow a trained person to escape from a cockpit or a vehicle, or for fire extinguishers to be activated.

Easy-to-enter competition

A kettle to take you by storm

THERE you are, absolutely gasping for a cuppa, and the nearest electric kettle is miles away. Just to compound your sense of life's unfairness, the wind is howling about you, but not so loudly that it takes your mind off the rain lashing into your face.

And you would, without hesitation, sell your soul for sufficient hot water to heat that boil-in-the-bag curry.

Question: how do you brew up when you can't light a normal fire?

Answer: try the storm kettle, an astonishingly effective device traditionally used by fishermen

on Ireland's wet and windy west coast.

Stuff anything that will burn – twigs (if you can find any dry ones), paper, grass – in the base and "chimney" core of the kettle, fill the surrounding sleeve with water, add a match and sit back. If you position the fire hole into the wind for extra draught, boiling water will be yours in the twinkling of an eye. But don't forget to take the cork out!

The storm kettle uses so little fuel to heat up to four litres of water that it is also ideally suited to dry, desert conditions. The near-invisible fire is contained in the core of the kettle, which is added value for the soldier on exercise or operations. And he (or she) can stuff socks in the chimney when it is not in use. It's also great for picnics.

WIN A STORM KETTLE

We have one storm kettle, worth more than £40, to give away. Finished in olive-green (they are also available in black and silver) it was provided by expedition equipment specialists Black Wolf 4X4 of 16 Longfield Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9QT. The company can also be contacted on 01304 330512 or e-mail www.blackwolf4x4.com

To have a chance of winning the kettle, just tell us at what temperature in degrees Fahrenheit is water considered frozen. Is it: a, 3 degrees; b, 32 degrees; or c, 132 degrees?

Answers on a postcard to Kettle Competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU, to reach us by June 30. First correct answer wins the storm kettle. The Editor's decision is final and the winners' names will appear in the August issue.



Ghosts and goose-steps

Steve Foreman, who served with the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, and was stationed in Berlin from 1972 to 1974, recalls haunting memories of a rather unpleasant duty.

EVERYONE who served in the city will probably agree that Berlin was a great posting, whatever the year. I was lucky enough to spend most of my two years there in 1 WFR's Recce Platoon, the bulk of my time patrolling the British Sector of the Berlin Wall in stripped-down Land Rovers and fully-armed Ferret vehicles.

There was one aspect of Berlin, however, which I, and many others of my era, would have rather done without . . . the notorious Spandau Prison.

Although the prison no longer exists (it was pulled down in 1988), the name itself still evokes a strange kind of horror. It was, during my tour in Berlin and for many years prior to that, the place of incarceration for a solitary and infamous war criminal, Rudolf Hess.

It had been the policy of the Allies and the Soviets, for obscure political reasons, to maintain a 24-hour, high-profile, armed guard for the duration of Hess's confinement. Each of the four powers then maintaining the status quo in Berlin – Britain, America, France and the Soviet Union – would be the duty nation in turn. During the UK's stint, regiments were required, on a rotational basis, to provide a guard presence at Spandau.

TWO DUTIES

The frequency that a duty came around meant it was not a foregone conclusion that every soldier would have to mount guard at the prison during his regiment's posting in Berlin. I, fortunately or unfortunately, performed two Spandau guard duties during my two years there.

It was not a pleasant duty and most soldiers hoped they would not be chosen. Uniform to be worn on guard was an immaculate and oft-inspected No 2 dress, the best of best boots and a gleaming white rifle-sling and belt. For some peculiar reason known only to the higher echelons neither gloves nor greatcoats were permitted, even in winter.

While on stag, soldiers had live ammunition loaded into the magazine and fixed to the rifle, which of course in those days was the 7.62mm SLR. So sensitive was the Spandau issue that the slightest error

Rudolf Hess kicked me in the leg . . . then stood there and grinned at me

or mishap by a soldier could result in a court martial.

Spandau's long perimeter was formed by a very high brick wall, topped by guard towers positioned at the angles. These towers overhung the wall and were reached by iron ladders running up the inside of their cylindrical concrete stanchions. Spandau was not symmetrical, yet it was possible to have visual contact with



Right-hand man: Rudolf Hess, left, with Adolf Hitler. Hess committed suicide at Spandau in 1987, aged 92

at least one other tower when on stag . . . except, that is, the dreaded Tower Three.

Scene of several bizarre incidents and at least two rumoured "graveyard shift" suicides by soldiers of other nations, it was the object of much myth and legend. It was bad enough to be picked for Spandau guard, but to draw Tower Three . . . well, that was the worst of all duties.

In one incident, a squaddie emptied a magazine through the hatchway of Tower

Three. Naturally, the gunfire had the place in a riot. When the guard commander eventually got up into the tower, he found the soldier crumpled in a gibbering heap on the floor of the parapet.

Later, following his release from hospital and before being sent off to Colchester nick, it was leaked to us that in his statement the soldier had said he was firing at some dark, slithering creature climbing the ladder to his tower, and the last thing he remembered as he ran out of ammo and passed out, was the "thing" still climbing towards him.

Because we mounted stags alone in the tower and there were no radios, the only form of communication during the two-hour duty was the occasional thumbs-up to your fellow guard in the next visible tower. In Tower Three there was no such comforting contact.

NO ESCAPE

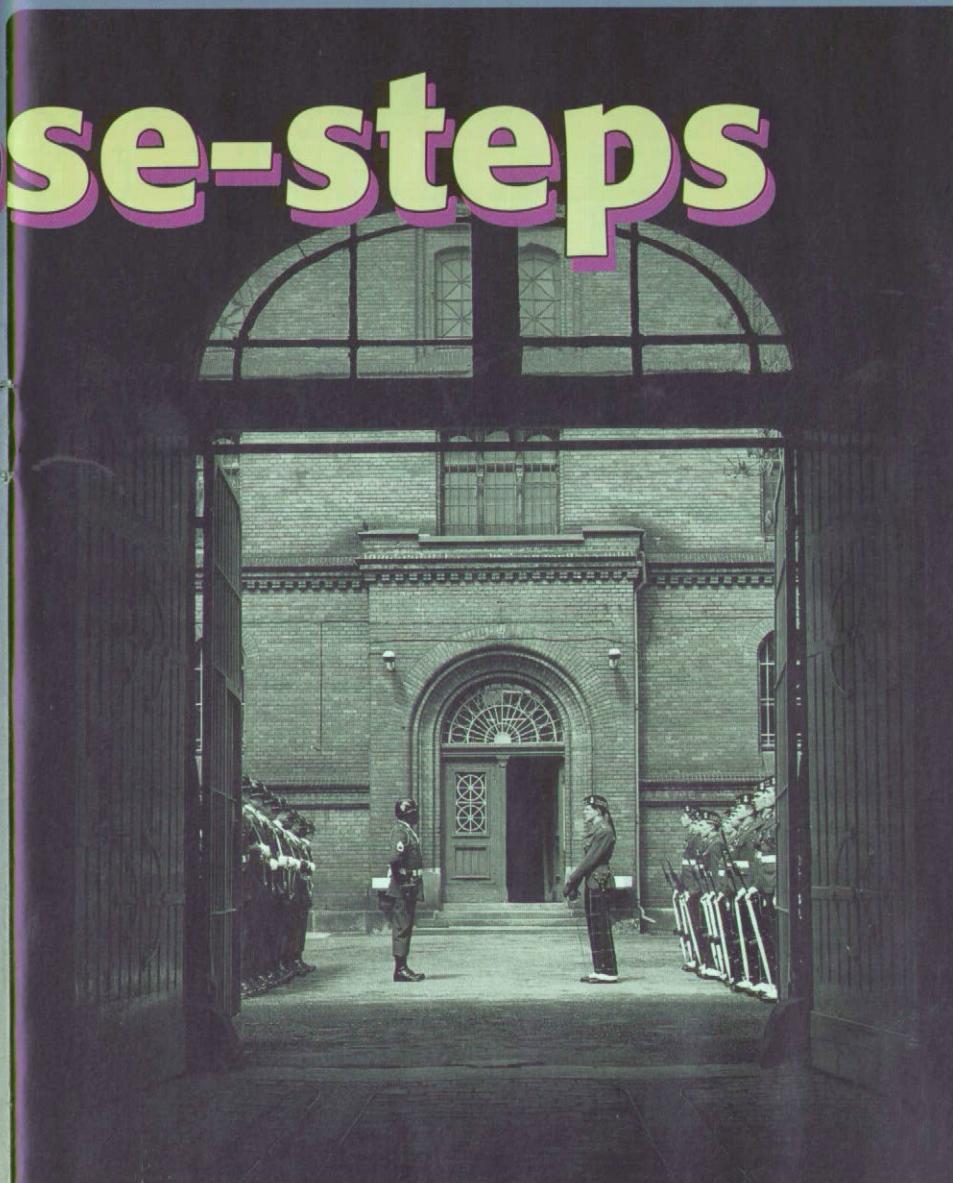
One could not escape the loneliness by going inside to warm up at the small electric fire because the whole of the stag had to be spent outside on the parapet.

This was not a problem during daylight, but at night, when the wind stirred the long, unkempt grass below, and broken windows in the deserted buildings stared back like black, empty eye-sockets, hanging chains swung slowly, clinking against each other in the darkness, and Rudolf Hess, imprisoned in the only wing of the prison still maintained, began screaming from his cell window . . . then you could be in trouble.

I had a much closer encounter with Hess than merely hearing his vocal taunting. As the new guard marched in single file through the grounds of Spandau on its way to go on stag, it was customary to pass through what had once been a well-maintained garden, and what was then Rudolf Hess's exercise area.

On this particular day, Hess, and his decrepit custodian – an old soldier engaged to monitor the prisoner – were taking exercise on a pathway that intersected our route. As we drew near, Hess began a feeble imitation of the goose-step along his track. His performance was ill-timed enough to bring him on a collision course with our file, and the inevitable crossing of paths occurred just as I reached the junction.

Our standing orders were absolutely clear. At no time were we to have physical



Where ghosts once passed: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers take part in the international changeover of the guard at Spandau Prison in Berlin, May 1985

or verbal contact with Hess and eye contact was to be strictly avoided. I would have been able to comply with this had Hess not actually kicked me on the side of my lower leg, causing me to stumble and glance automatically at him.

He had stopped and was just standing there, grinning at me. I presume he was grinning, for his face had the appearance of a skull and his sunken eyes were no less haunting than the empty windows viewed from Tower Three. As I was regaining my step I had to tear my gaze away from him with great effort. It was a bizarre and frightening moment. Twenty-eight years after the war had ended, I had been kicked by a Nazi war criminal.

I am pleased, in one way, that I was able to experience such a strange moment and to have taken part in a unique and historic guard ceremony.



Steve Foreman: 1 WFR

But I am glad it is all gone, along with Rudolf Hess . . . if not for him and the memories he evokes, then for the soldier who will not have to suffer freezing conditions, numb fingers, hours of loneliness and the fear of court martial for the most minor offence or mistake.

He will not have to watch, through tired and night-blind eyes, the slinking shadows crawling towards his tower before disappearing from his view beneath the parapet.

He will not have to stand, with bated breath, listening for a footfall on the first metal rung of the ladder.

Nor will he have to listen to an old man's maniacal screams echoing across the dead ground towards the dreaded Tower Three.

Steve Foreman is now an Adult Instructor with Tuxford detachment, B (WFR) Coy, Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force.

Parking pointers

IN OUR final extract from the Forces' Discount Brochure, the booklet full of money-saving tips for Service people, we take a look at long-term car parking and leisure attractions.

Long-term car parking

Gatwick Parking Service Ltd. Ten minutes from airport terminals and near the M23. 24-hour-a-day service and complimentary shuttle coach. Further details, contact 01293 771581 quoting Forces Discount.

BCP Airport Parking and Chauffeur-Driven Cars

Secure parking from £2.60 a day at main British airports. Ten per cent discount offered on parking and on chauffeur services to and from airports. Call BCP reservations on 01293 594500 quoting reference BF1.BCP.

Dover Long-Term Parking offers 25 per cent discount for ferry users at Dover. Telephone 01304 201227.

Carbank Ltd provide secure warehoused car storage for periods in excess of three months. National collection and delivery services available. Discounts of up to ten per cent. For a brochure call 01903 893000.

Flightparks Ltd. Secure off-airport parking at major airports. Varying discounts available depending on location. Call 08705 084242 quoting "force" for details.

Leisure attractions

Vardon Leisure Pass. The Discount Brochure contains a cut-out voucher giving up to £10 off entries to any of the UK Sea Life Centres, the National Seal Sanctuary, Cornwall, or the London or York Dungeons. There's also a free cup of tea or coffee on offer! More details on Talking Pages 0800 600 900.

Disneyland Paris. Significant savings on normal high-street prices are available through special packages which include on-site accommodation, theme park entrance passes and continental breakfast. Travel by ferry, Eurotunnel (Le Shuttle), Eurostar or flight can be included. Contact UK 01727 865112 (fax 01727 854087) or E-mail fdb@forcessholidays.co.uk or <http://www.forcessholidays.co.uk>

• Soldier does not guarantee the accuracy of this information and does not endorse products or services. Comments or queries on any offer should be addressed to the business concerned.



On top form

Welbeck College prepares young people (with marked success) for a future in today's technical Army

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE GYM is situated in an underground ballroom, the confidence course set amid ancient cypress trees, and the swimming pool in an Italian sunken garden.

The students of Welbeck College are aware of their historic surroundings from the moment they arrive at the Army's own sixth-form college just outside Worksop in north Nottinghamshire.

"As soon as I saw this room I knew Welbeck was the place I wanted to be," said pupil Jack Crossley, the deputy Head of College, gazing up at the magnificently carved ceiling in the ballroom, which, incidentally, has the largest unsupported roof in Europe. As well as being pressed into service as a temporary gym, the room is also used for badminton, table tennis, roller-blading, as the exam room and the venue for the summer ball.

MODERN

But although situated in a beautiful old mansion which once belonged to the Dukes of Portland and set in acres of park land on the edge of Sherwood Forest, there is nothing old-fashioned or dated about the teaching and atmosphere of Welbeck College.

The aim of the establishment, which was founded in 1953, is to provide bright young technical officers for the Army. To this end the curriculum is heavily weighted towards mathematics and the sciences. Technology laboratories, situated in converted stable blocks, bristle with computers and the latest technological teaching aids.

Welbeck is run as a normal boarding school, with 80 per cent of the pupils coming from comprehensive schools and only a tiny minority having boarded before. Girls were first admitted in 1991, and of the current 200 students 40 are girls, one of whom is presently Head of College.

The principal is Mr Tony Halliwell, who describes himself as "an academic with an interest in the military". There are 17 teachers, only three of whom are serving in the Army.

Welbeck College is funded by the MoD, and costs to parents are minimal. Tuition is free, but parents may be asked to contribute towards their children's maintenance. This includes board, lodging, clothing, stationery, travel and sports equipment.

No fees are charged where a parent's disposable income is less than £14,000 a year, and individual parental contributions are determined on how much they can afford after other expenditure has been taken into consideration.

"Some prospective parents come along to see us expecting a 'boot camp' with everyone marching around in uniform," said Mr Halliwell. "But the only place you see uniforms is at the Combined Cadet Force on Friday afternoons and leadership and adventurous training on Monday afternoons."

Everyday wear for the pupils is a comfortable tweed jacket with grey trousers or skirt, or a smart blue blazer for more formal occasions.

"Like any other sixth-form college the academic side is very important," the head continued, "but we also place great emphasis on personal and physical development. All students should reach the physical standard required by Sandhurst by the time they leave Welbeck – and if they arrive with any extra weight it has certainly disappeared by the time they leave."

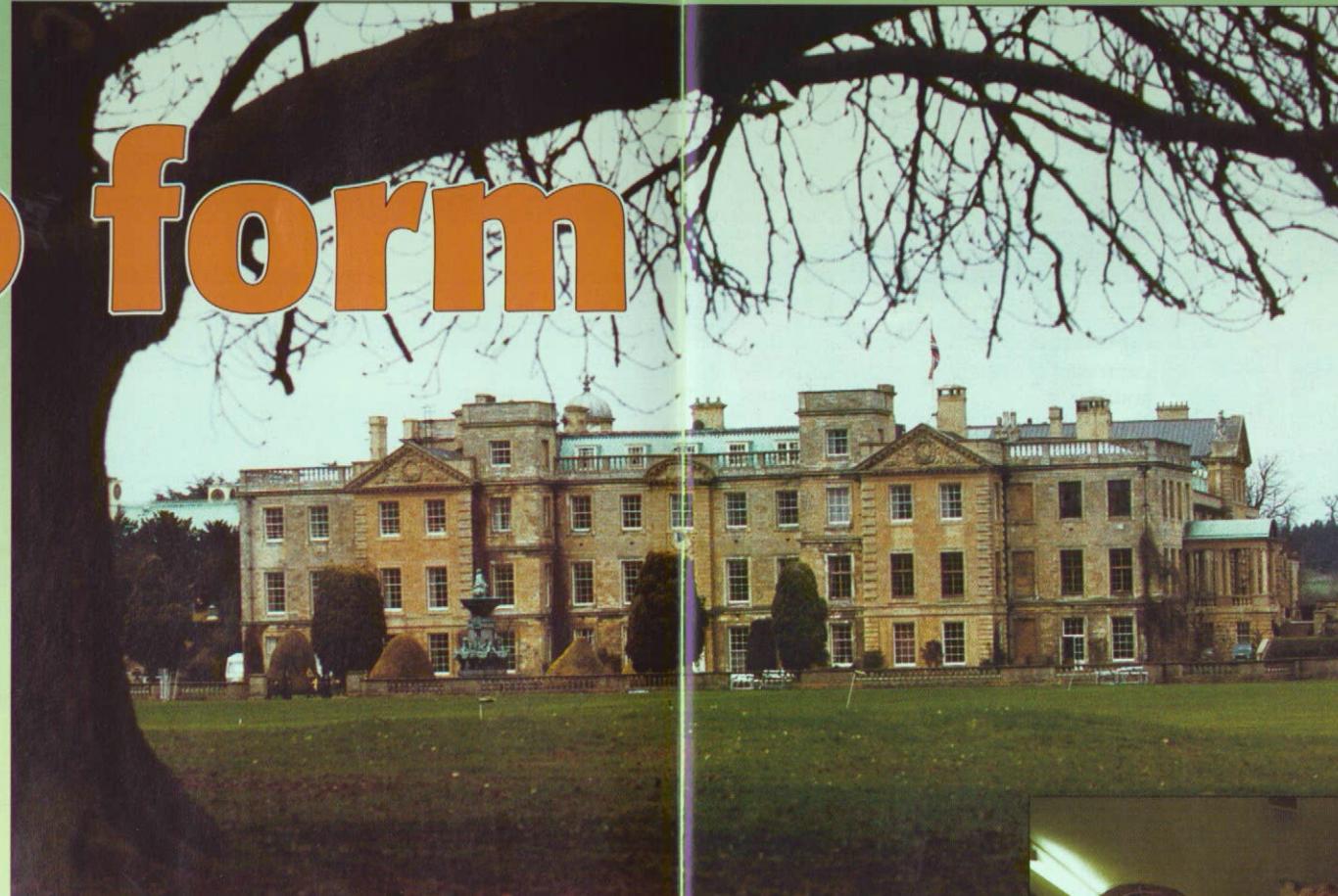
There is no doubt that Welbeck's stan-



dards are high, and there are usually three or four applicants for each place. The average A-level pass rate is 96 per cent and the college is fourth in the league table. The selection board, held twice a year for the September intake, condenses all aspects of the Army's Regular Commissions Board into a 24-hour period. Welbexians, as they are called, are expected to get between eight to ten GCSEs with at least Bs in maths and the sciences.

CORE SKILLS

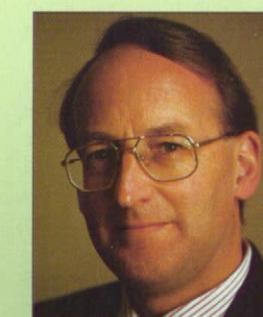
Once at Welbeck most students take four A levels – all must take maths, a science subject, usually physics, and general studies as part of the core skills programme. "The motivation is phenomenal," said Mr Halliwell. "All the students are fully focused and motivated, with huge get-up-and-go. They are allowed lie-ins on Sundays, but the majority will be running,



The old school: Welbeck College, above, was the former home of the Dukes of Portland

No quarter given: House football matches, left, are particularly keenly contested

On screen: Kady Leather and Jack Crossley, right



Man in charge: Tony Halliwell, left, principal of Welbeck College

cycling or organising team practices for themselves."

Jack Crossley, who takes his A levels this summer, has a place at Cambridge University to read engineering before joining the Royal Engineers. Since arriving at Welbeck he has been to Morocco to climb in the High Atlas Mountains, skied in Italy, Bavaria and Austria, and gone caving, hill-walking, rock-climbing and sailing in the UK. Pupils attend compulsory Outward Bound courses during their summer holidays.

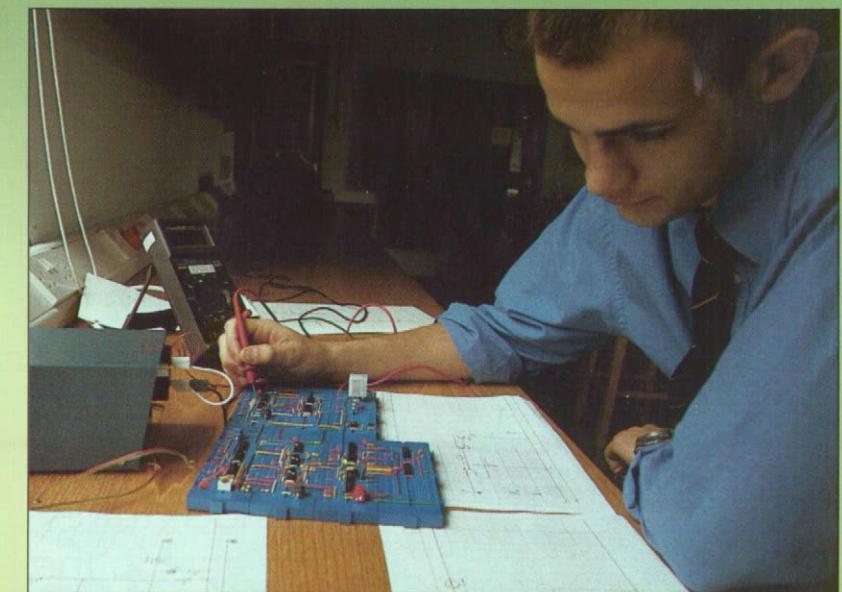
There are various routes students can take once they have left Welbeck, and an important decision is whether they go

first to Sandhurst or university. All Welbexians can proceed to Sandhurst without having to pass RCB, on condition they have received the principal's recommendation at the end of their two years. The majority of pupils go to REME, Royal Signals, the RLC and the RE.

A large majority of candidates for in-service degrees will go to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. Sometimes students decide they would like to read a subject not available at RCMS, and are able to apply for an undergraduate cadetship at another university of their choice. Others with excellent results can be considered for sponsorship to Oxford or Cambridge. There are four Oxbridge students this year.

Although the college maintains that discipline is no different to any other sixth-form college, there is a definite military flavour to keeping order.

Kady Leather, the Head of College,



Taking it all in: Pupil Nick Crouch, above, in the electronics lab

who plans to join the RLC, said there were both adjutant's inspections and nightly inspections by the prefects. "If your room is not tidy you can be 'squared,'" she said. "It means that you have to sleep in sheets and blankets with hospital corners, and everything must come off your shelves except books, which must all be in height order."

Relationships between the boys and girls are not discouraged by the college. "It is all part of helping us to grow up," said Kady.

Of course, there are rules. There should be "no public shows of affection", and members of the opposite sex in dormitories or bedrooms could result in expulsion.

SUPPORT

The two houses, Harland and York, each with its own housemaster, tutor and matron, are supported with a passion, which becomes particularly apparent when house matches are played. Supporters dress in their house colours – red or blue – and appear on the sidelines with flags and banners. The girls have their own building under the care of a housemistress, but still belong to one of the houses.

Next month, after the A levels are done and dusted, Kady, Jack, and the other seniors will form up on the Mall for the final passing-out parade. It will be the end of their school days and the beginning of a new life, but the start Welbeck College gave them will never be forgotten.

"Welbeck gives you a real feeling of belonging," said Kady. "Everyone is made to feel welcome, and there are so many people to help if you've got a problem. It doesn't matter where you came from or what your parents do, we all got here through our own achievements."

"You leave Welbeck with a lot of self-confidence and able to take on responsibility. It's a great place."

A life at the top

Interview: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion and
Chris Bonington photo library

THE WORLD of adventure had a very close call back in the early 1950s. If Chris Bonington had passed his A level English exam and taken a place at London University to study history, as he planned, he would have gone on to join the Civil Service and spent the next 40 years scaling the Whitehall promotional ladder instead of the world's highest mountains.

And that would have been a great shame, because without Bonington among their number, the exploits of a remarkable generation of British climbers might have slipped by unknown outside the mountaineering world.

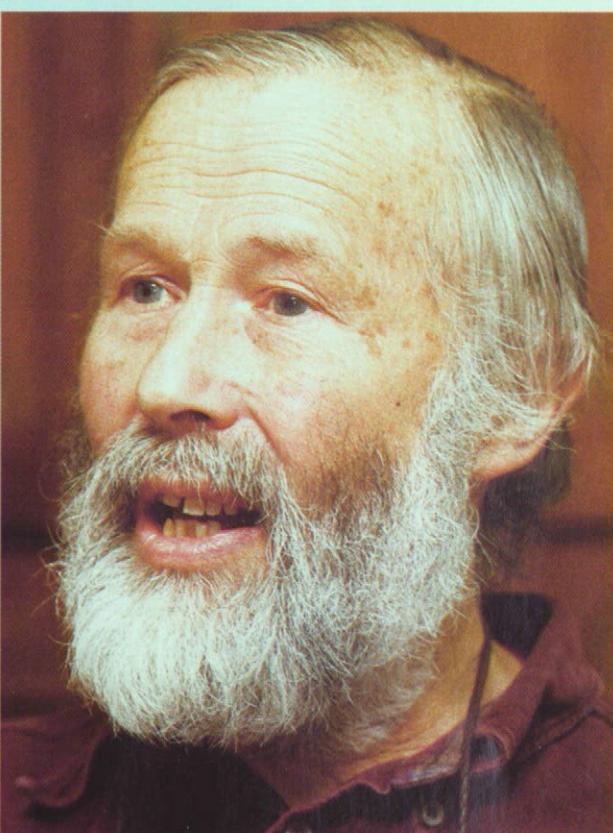
Bonington always seemed to be a part of those great ascents (or attempted ascents . . . even the failures were heroic) of the 1960s and 70s: the Eiger; K2, Annapurna and (of course) Everest in the Himalayas; even the Old Man of Hoy in Scotland. With notebook and camera stuffed in his rucksack along with crampons and ice axe, he would rope himself to the likes of Joe Tasker, Pete Boardman, Don Willans and Dougal Haston, and together they would push back the barriers of ice and rock.

LEGENDS

They became legends, although many paid the price for taking on nature with such apparent impudence. Tasker and Boardman, and so many of their contemporaries, challenged the mountains once too often and are gone. Willans died of a heart attack. But Bonington survived, and thanks to his real-life thrillers, neither the lost climbers nor that golden age of British climbing are forgotten.

So how did the failed A level contribute to all of this? Because, as one does, Chris said: "To hell with all this", and decided to exchange his public school for National Service.

At his desk in his Lakeland home and surrounded by souvenirs of his adventures and shelves packed with mountaineering books, many of which he wrote, Sir Chris (he was knighted in 1996) smiles at the impetuosity of it all. With his appropriately Yeti-like, grey beard, the 65-year-old should look his



Sense of debt: Sir Chris regretted leaving the Army

age. But his lean physique, shining eyes and smooth skin ensure that he does not.

Young Bonington opted for the Royal Air Force because it had a mountain rescue team and, as he was already an experienced climber – holidays were spent clambering around the Cairngorms or Cumbria – he thought he might join the team and while away a pleasant two years.

But back in those more class-conscious days, his public school background did not go unnoticed and soon he was being groomed for something which the RAF considered more important than climb-

ing: a commission and pilot's wings. Officer training, coming as it did just after the square-bashing of basic training, was tough. But flying was harder. "I ran up 17 hours of dual flying," he remembers, "and they told me they would be able to teach me to fly – eventually."

It was one of those moments of sudden, glaring clarity that happen only rarely in most people's lives. The cadet pilot knew that he was in the wrong service. He had been denied the opportunity to climb, and he wasn't very good at the very thing the RAF was all about:

flying. "I couldn't see any way of making a living out of climbing, which was what I wanted to do, but at least the Army seemed to offer much more potential for outdoor adventure.

He took the plunge; applied to go before the Regular Commissions Board and to his surprise was soon revelling in 18 months at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. "It was great. I really enjoyed it," recalls Sir Chris, his bright, toothy smile suddenly dividing the Yeti-like beard.

TANKS

His self-confessed mechanical ineptitude had not got in the way of flying training and neither did it seem to affect his next career move: a commission into the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

In 1956 Bonington travelled to Münster, first to command a troop of three tanks, and then as a signals officer. He quickly found that he had to un-learn a few of the lessons of Sandhurst. Authoritarian command did not work in the tanks, just as later in life it would not work during the great climbing expeditions.

He says: "Being in the tanks is more like a climbing expedition than in any other part of the Army. You are a tiny team, and each member of the crew has a different but essential skill. Driving, loading, aiming, firing and running the radio all become inter-related.

"I found it was necessary to inspire

rather than simply issue orders." And rank cut little ice. "You didn't expect to be fed. You took your turn to do it."

"There was responsibility without privilege, which I think the Army is very good at, and the awareness that true leadership is nothing to do with the pips on your shoulder. The moment you have to rely on



Survivor: Sir Chris Bonington, second left, with Joe Tasker, Pete Boardman and Al Rouse, now all dead. Their legendary feats live on . . .

your badge of authority, you have failed."

Service with the Royal Tank Regiment was an experience, but climbing remained a passion. Lt Bonington heard about the Outward Bound School, and decided to bid for a two-year attachment as an instructor. Senior officers told him it would not be a good career move, but he applied anyway, and the school snapped him up.

This was another world and one which the climber took to with undisguised relish.

Chris was in his natural habitat: mountains, moorland, rock and ice. Already a highly-accomplished climber, he gradually improved his skills. By 1960, when he was to rejoin the tanks, he was recognised as one of the most advanced climbers in the country – civilian or military – and expedition organisers were anxious for him to join them. An expedition to the Alps convinced him that it was time to leave the Army.

A short career in management with Unilever followed, but the truth was that this was just a means of funding his climbing. So, in 1962, he took a massive gamble and left to climb professionally.

That year he and Ian Cluff made an attempt on the North Face of the Eiger, the holy grail of Alpine climbing. On the way up they met a Briton and an Australian, who bivouacked with them for a night. What followed was a typical mix of triumph and tragedy, the kind of account

which would become so common in Chris Bonington's writing.

"You've got to time yourself on the north wall of the Eiger," he recalled. "You must not be in the centre of the ice field in the late afternoon because it gets warm,

● We have five copies of *Tibet's Secret Mountain*, by Chris Bonington and Charles Clarke, to give away. This lavishly-illustrated hardback book about high adventure is normally priced at £20.

To have a chance of winning this superb prize, just tell us on a postcard, to reach us by June 30, who appeared in the climbing thriller *The Eiger Sanction*. Was it: a, Sean Connery; b, Clint Eastwood; c, Dustin Hoffman.

Address the card to Bonington Competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

First five correct answers drawn out of the hat will win the books and the Editor's decision is final. Names of the winners will be published in the August issue.

the ice melts and there are too many stone falls. The other two were going slower than us and they were killed."

Bonington and Cluff got to the top and made climbing history. He was asked to write a book about the climb and has been climbing and writing ever since.

But no matter how much Bonington climbs – and he is still taking part in major

climbs (Soldier readers have a chance to win the account of his latest expedition to the Himalayas) he never forgets the skills of organisation, leadership and mutual support that he learned in the Army. Quite simply, they keep him alive.

"The qualities of a good soldier and a good climber are very similar. You need to be a good team person, and some of the most vital people on an expedition are not the people doing the dramatic things. They are the people in support: among climbers they are those who will sacrifice their own chances of getting to the top of the mountain for the good of the team."

SWORD SECRET

A sense of debt to the Army is combined with a degree of nostalgia. Sir Chris has always regretted that when he left the Army, he and his wife, Wendy, were so hard-up that they had to sell his sword. So he was delighted two years ago when Wendy and their son secretly bought him a replacement and arranged for it to be presented to him at a special ceremony hosted by his old regiment.

He joined many old-timers, Second World War veterans among them, on Cambrai Day. He recalls that because he had been with the regiment only three years he didn't think he deserved a place in the parade. But the others insisted.

"I had a tear in my eye. It was a smashing weekend. They are part of my past and I learned a heck of a lot in the Army. As I get older I appreciate that."

It's the walk of life

Army medics from Colchester have been testing their life-saving skills in the Kenyan bush

Report: Simon Smith
Pictures: Chris Fletcher

THOUSANDS of tribesmen in a remote corner of north-east Africa have benefited from the expertise of Army medics.

Many of the Kenyans walked for hundreds of miles over several days to attend one of the dozens of health clinics set up in the bush by Colchester-based 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance.

In Exercise Sharp Point 99, 100 medics offered natives, young and old, vaccinations against prevalent diseases such as polio, diphtheria, typhoid and measles. Primary health care was also on offer.

For the vast majority of tribesmen, the treatment was the first such medical attention that has come their way. Their far-flung locations mean they are completely out of reach to aid agencies and to Kenya's health ministry.

But the life-saving care is only one side of the Sharp Point story, for the five-week annual exercise provides invaluable training in tough conditions for the medics.

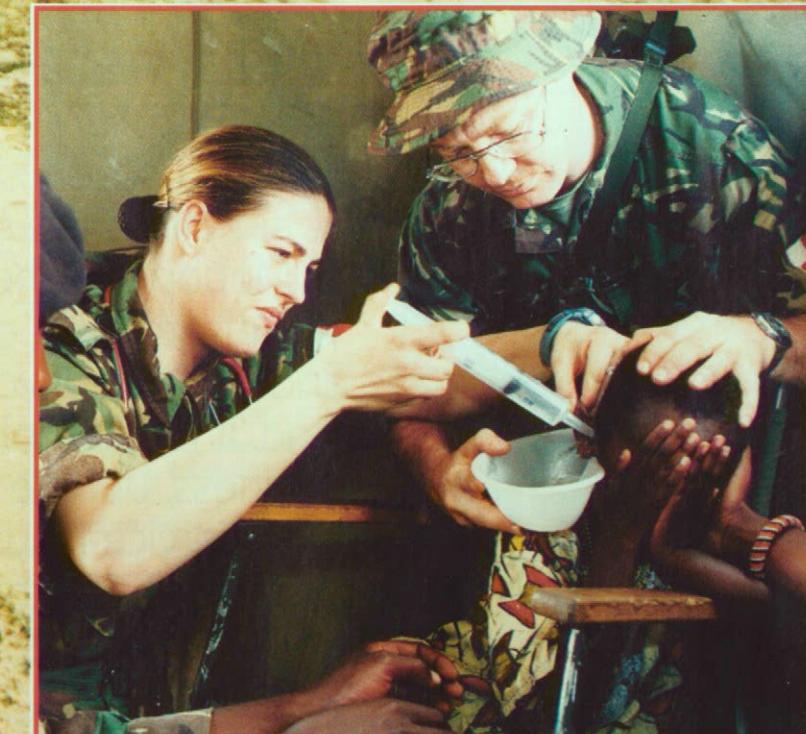
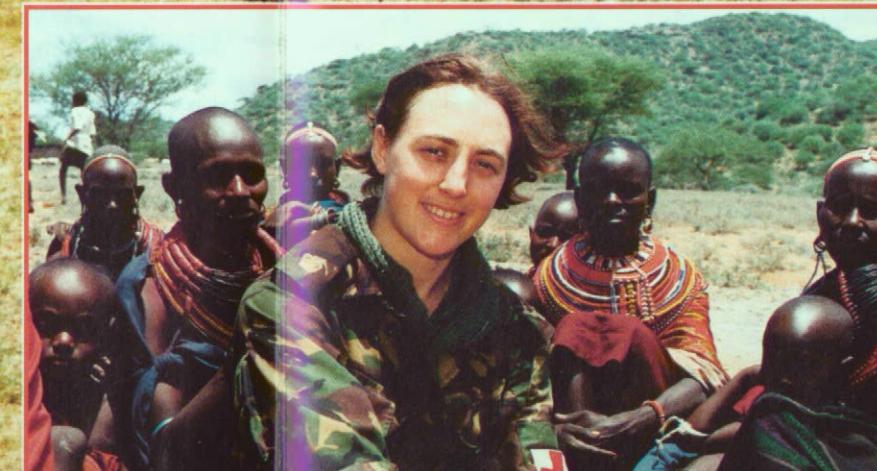
NEW EXPERIENCE

Maj Nikki Mitchell, a doctor in charge of one of the ten-strong health teams, said: "Back home in a barracks situation, the soldiers are used to treating a healthy, fit population.

"Getting them to Africa gives them a whole new experience, dealing with infections and wounds they are unlikely to come across in the UK. This makes them more clinically aware and has to be good for the Army in general."

The extreme heat proved an extra test for the troops, she said. "The temperature was often near to 45C, and at times it was very tough going. But each member of our team had a specific job to do and we pulled together to make sure we gave the best service possible to the natives."

Among the most common complaints were eye infections, skin diseases, worms and malaria. Several women reported severe neck and chest pains which Maj Mitchell and her team put down to the heavy necklaces and beads worn as part of



Left: A year after receiving major plastic surgery to his right leg, Karoli shows off his new-found mobility. Following serious burns, he was treated by the field surgical team from 23 (Parachute) Field Ambulance during last year's Exercise Sharp Point

Above: Army doctor Maj Nikki Mitchell with patients who had walked for up to

three days to attend the clinic at Lukunkum

Right: Capt Linzi Miller attempts to syringe a decomposing fly from the ear of four-year-old Dana

Main picture: 19 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance's forward operating base at Lesirikan, northern Kenya

the tribal dress. Mary, in her sixties and a member of the Samburu tribe, wanted a cure for headaches which had been giving her misery for months. The medics believed a snakebite was to blame and administered painkillers.

Mary said: "When I heard the British Army were coming to the area, I knew they

would be my only chance of help. We do not see doctors or get any other medical help here."

Imugaine, a 16-year-old boy, limped to the field clinic with one knee badly gashed in a fall. "The wound has not got any better so I wanted the British Army to help me," he said. "They have put a bandage on

my knee and given me some tablets. If the Army were not here to help, I would have had to pray for help from an aid agency. But no one has been able to reach us for a long, long time."

Sharp Point has been running for five years and word is slowly spreading throughout the remote settlements in

northern Kenya about the friendly and professional service provided by Army medics.

During last year's exercise, which involved Aldershot-based 23 (Parachute) Field Ambulance, a seven-year-old boy called Karoli was operated on to straighten his right leg. Badly burned as a baby, he

could walk only with the aid of crutches. But 12 months on he returned, walking unaided, to pay special thanks to the British Army. "I never thought I would be able to walk on two legs like my friends," he said. "But thanks to the British Army doctors I can now be like them and play with them properly."

Home sweet home

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

AFTER death and divorce, it is said that moving house is one of the most stressful events in people's experience. It can be even worse when the move is combined with leaving a job and a familiar way of life.

For those leaving the Army after many years in Service accommodation, the search for civilian housing can come as a shock. The potential minefield of mortgages, surveys, and solicitors, or finding a suitable and affordable place to rent in the right area, is almost as frightening and confusing as the real thing many soldiers faced while serving.

It was a problem recognised by Service chiefs, and in 1992 the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) was set up to help. Now operating out of Headquarters Land Command at Wilton, it is the only one in the country. Although the organisation is tri-Service, about 80 per cent of its work is for Army personnel. SSAFA Forces Help's Housing Advisory Service is collocated with JSHAO to provide help to people who have already left the Forces.

"We are here to provide housing advice and information to Service personnel and their dependants," explained Cdr Bob Cribb RN (Retd), who leads the small team. "We help people who are still serving and those who are about to leave, as well as separated wives. We probably do as much with dependants as anyone else."

It is here that anyone interested can get information on MoD nominations, housing association rental and shared ownership opportunities, ex-married quarter sales in England and Wales (Annington



Housing team: from left are Libby Barnes, Cdr Bob Cribb, Fit Sgt Mike Raffree and Jan Pool. About 80 per cent of their work involves Army personnel

Buying a house is not as simple as the game of Monopoly, where you just throw a dice and see where you land. It is a complex business, but the Joint Service Housing Advice Office can help you to pass "Go"

Homes) and surplus Scottish married quarters, and advice on the best types of mortgage and in-Service saving schemes.

JSHAO has a database of accommodation available from every local authority in the country, of which there are about 400. Another database provides information on all the housing associations (HAs) – the present-day providers of low-income housing. There is also a comprehensive list of estate agents and residential letting agents.

Every year more than 2,000 forms are sent out to people wanting housing information. When these are filled in JSHAO will know what type of accommodation the person is looking for, how large, where they want to live, if anyone in the family has disabilities, and so on.

An example of helpful information given by the office which might not be so well known is that council housing is extremely difficult to obtain, but housing associations provide long-term rented accommodation to those in need, including single people. Housing association properties are newer than council houses, generally built in the 1980s and 1990s, and you do not have to have a local connection to live in them.

"If you want a house in the north of England it is not difficult," said Cdr Cribb. "For example, you can virtually guarantee housing in Newcastle, but it is a different story in Reading or Salisbury."

Expert advice on what HAs can offer is on hand at JSHAO. Marion Freeman, from the North British Housing Association in Preston, has been working with the team since last June.

"My main function is to help place Service leavers and dependants in 45,000 properties we have across the country," she said. "I do feel sympathy for Service leavers as they have no experience of seek-

ing accommodation outside and it can be a bit of a culture shock.

"A lot of housing associations are very keen on ex-military personnel. There's a fair chance they are a bit older, they will pay their rent and behave themselves, and possibly get other people to behave themselves as well."

There are about 3,000 HAs in the country. Some are small with only a few properties, some like North British are major landlords, and others, like Haig Homes, cater specifically for ex-Forces families. JSHAO can provide contact addresses.

Sometimes people find the many options confusing. Getting in touch with JSHAO is the logical first step to sorting out priorities.

"We would send them the information they need along with a letter giving some alternatives," said Cdr Cribb. "We ask them to fill in a pro-forma giving all the information about themselves, and send them the monthly newsletter and yearly magazine, as well as providing details of any ex-married quarter sales."

Annington Homes, which bought the married quarters estate in England and Wales in 1996, offers surplus houses for sale to Servicemen at a discount. Other

organisations such as banks and building societies have also put together special schemes and packages for Forces personnel.

JSHAO also advises on the Long Service Advance of Pay scheme and the Services Home Savings Scheme, under which soldiers can save directly from their pay each month and after 60 payments be granted an additional allowance by the MoD.

Although advice and information are the mainstay of the organisation, the MoD nomination scheme actually enables some people in particular need to be placed in properties. The scheme is based on surplus MoD married quarters sold to housing associations over the last few years. The properties were sold at a discount on the understanding that Service leavers could rent a certain percentage of them at a low cost.

EASE THE PATH

It means it is possible for Service leavers and irregular occupants (usually women separated from their serving husbands) to be nominated by the JSHAO for low-cost rented accommodation with these associations. The organisation now has more than 1,000 nomination rights and deals with 26 HAs in England and Scotland.

"At the beginning we just gave advice," said Cdr Cribb. "But then we thought, this is crazy, we need to be more proactive in helping people.

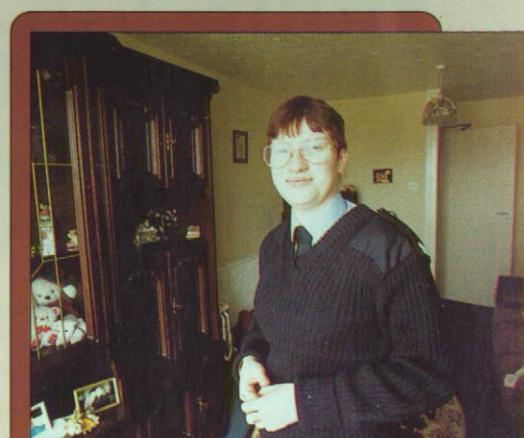
"We often deal with families going through divorce. They are difficult times for people, and housing is just one of the things they have to deal with. We can ease the path with the nomination scheme."

The scheme is run by Libby Barnes, who has already been responsible for housing hundreds of people. She advises people not to leave their applications too late.

"Unfortunately sometimes people are unaware of the scheme until time is getting very short," she explained. "It then becomes a race against time to find suitable housing for them. Ideally about three to six months notice is about right."

Cdr Cribb, who spent much of his time while serving in the Royal Navy in education, training and resettlement, runs regular "Housing: the Options" resettlement briefings in the UK, including Northern Ireland, as well as two in Germany and one in Cyprus each year.

"Buying a house is a stressful time for everyone," he said. "But the advice I keep giving over and over again is that people must start thinking about housing options early. It is never too soon."



Life is better: Kate Holmes in her flat

Home alone – and loving it

A YEAR ago life was looking grim for Kate Holmes. Her marriage to a soldier had broken up, she had no job and she was homeless.

She now works as one of only three women in the Tidworth Garrison MoD Guard Service, has taken computer and security training courses, and, thanks to the MoD nomination scheme, has assured tenancy of a comfortable flat she really likes.

"I was very scared," she remembered. "Moving out of my parents' house was not a problem, but leaving Germany and starting out again on my own was really frightening."

The regimental families' officer suggested she went to the Services Cotswold Centre, the Wiltshire haven for Forces families who need temporary accommodation. She stayed only a week, but the helpful staff contacted Libby Barnes at JSHAO and told her that Kate wanted to move to the Tidworth area, where she had friends.

EMERGENCY CASE

After filling in an application form, Kate was told she was considered to be an emergency case and that accommodation would be found for her as soon as possible.

On October 1 last year she moved into the two-bedroom flat she now lives in, and best of all, can stay there for as long as she wishes. Previously a married quarter, it was sold to the Sarsen Housing Association three years ago and is one of the properties in the nomination scheme.

"The flat is fantastic," she said. "I'm really pleased with it, and could not have asked for anything better. It's very cosy with a nice view over the hills."

"Everything has worked out for me since I moved in here."



Expert advice:
Marion Freeman

Issues

Army's videos win top awards

TWO internal communications videos produced for the Army have won recognition in the 1999 International Visual Communications Association Awards, regarded as among the most prestigious in the industry.

Zero Tolerance and *The Invisible Wound*, both produced for the Directorate of Individual Training Policy (Army), were among 650 entries submitted for their effectiveness, creativity and originality in conveying a corporate message.

Zero Tolerance, a 35-minute video made by Interlink to accompany the Army's equal opportunities training package and stimulate debate, won the silver award in the motivational training category.

CONFIDENCE

The judges said of the video: "It may not stop the bullies, but it will give confidence to the victims, and those in command, that something can be done to stamp out bullying. At the same time, it does not offer easy solutions."

The Invisible Wound, produced by Visua, was a runner-up in the documentary category. Aimed at young recruits, the public, doctors and psychiatrists, it points out that nearly all post-traumatic stress reactions are normal, and will usually be worked through with the help of family and friends.

"There are obviously sensitive relationships between programme makers and interviewees," said the judges.

"Tragic personal stories are not sentimentalised, reconstructions are used sparingly and the music is outstanding."

IN BRIEF

● Service families were able to discuss some of the issues and problems unique to Service family life direct with Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson for the first time at the inaugural meeting of the Families Forum, part of the Service Families' Task Force (SFTF). Mr Henderson told heads of the Service families' associations that he had directed the task force to focus initially on six key areas: schools admission policy, eligibility for student loans, access to dentists, NHS waiting

In-law problem

If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o Soldier, or BFBS, BFPO 786

Dear Cari I asked my girlfriend to marry me and she said yes. The problem is her parents. They say the Army is not a good life and are making her life very difficult. She has a son and they say they don't want him moving away from home. – Young soldier in the UK.

Cari replies: If you are certain that the problem with your girlfriend's parents is the prospect of Army life you must understand that they probably don't know much about it. Try to find ways of introducing them to married friends of yours in the Army and let them talk about the life. Your girlfriend's mother will have been helping to bring up the child. She is probably very worried both about her daughter and her grandson. Try to reassure her that she is welcome to carry on being a big part of your life together. There might be an opportunity for them to visit the unit – perhaps an open day – and you could ask your families' officer to have a chat with them. Give them as much information as possible to allay their fears, and remember to stay calm and reassuring.

Dear Cari I heard the interview you did (on BFBS's *Counterpoint* programme) with a psychiatrist who said he knew of a marriage that broke up because the wife nagged her husband about his

A friend of mine who is a doctor says he dreads medical programmes on television and medical articles in magazines. They invariably lead to a flock of people turning up fearing the worst.

The woman who contacted me after the interview with the psychiatrist is trying her best to take all the advice the medicine-obsessed media has to offer.

Life with the Army means surrendering a certain degree of control over one's life. If



Cari Roberts

health. I've banned smoking from the house and insist my husband eats healthy food at home. I won't have alcohol in the house because I know how much he drinks with his mates. Am I going too far? – Wife (BFG).

Cari replies: If this is really about you trying to look after him, I suggest you ease off a bit. He is an adult and must take responsibility for his own health. If you banned smoking because you find it personally uncomfortable he would be unreasonable not to respect your wishes. The same applies to alcohol. If, however, you are depriving yourself, you run the risk of

becoming a martyr . . . and most people find martyrs irritating. It will seem like repression to your husband. If you are trying to exert control over his life, you should think about what is really troubling you. You may, deep down, be very worried about not having control over your life in general. Army life is unpredictable and you may feel that you are at the mercy of factors you cannot influence. Be honest with your husband . . . and keep telling him you love him.

Dear Cari I returned to the UK after ten years overseas and tried to open a store account. I was told I had to have a UK address for two years at least before they would give me one. This is discrimination, isn't it? – Wife (UK).

Cari replies: I had the same problem after 13 years away. Fortunately, mention of the Army had a magical effect. "Just put HM Forces," I was told, and it worked. A financial adviser tells me you should not take no for an answer . . . rules can be renegotiated.

Cari comments

you find it difficult to deal with unpredictable events it is likely that you will try to assert control over the bits of your life that remain in your hands. Your health – and that of your family – is one of those bits. The best advice I've ever had was handed me be a padre in the form of an old prayer. To paraphrase it: "Give me the strength to change the things I can change, the serenity to accept those things I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference."

lists, eligibility for Job Seekers Allowance and the registration of child-minders. He also reported that the Government's new code of practice for schools admission guidance contains, for the first time, specific reference to Service children.

● British Aerospace has donated £30,000 towards the cost of the national Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel being constructed on land donated by Pangbourne College in

Berkshire and due for completion in November. British Aerospace recently committed £100,000 to SSAFA-Forces Help, £10,000 to the Royal British Legion and £5,000 to each of the three Service benevolent funds.

● Free advice and information about being your own boss is available from the National Franchise Exhibition at Birmingham's NEC from October 1-3. The second National Franchise Week, an industry-wide promotion,

Could you cope when the pack closed in?

Upavon unit helps commanders caught up in media spotlight

LESSONS learned during the Gulf War, in Bosnia and now in Macedonia are providing the main focus of work carried out by the Army's Media Interview Training Consultant, Maj Ken Molyneux-Carter, RRF, at Upavon.

Skills needed to equip soldiers to cope with the media at times of crisis are becoming an increasingly vital part of an officer's armoury on operations... and help is on hand at the Army School of Training Support (ASTS) at Upavon.

ASTS moved from Beaconsfield to its present home at the end of 1994 and, although it had run media training for some 20 years, the relocation coincided with a greatly-enhanced awareness across the Army of the need to work with the media on operations.

Maj Molyneux-Carter's mission is to provide the knowledge, practice and confidence needed to make use of the opportunities offered by radio, television and the printed press.

Media training is now an integral part of pre-deployment work-up, and usually involves a two-day course at Upavon. As they prepared to deploy to Macedonia, staff from Headquarters 4th Armoured Brigade and its battle-groups were put through their paces by the team at the Command and Staff Trainer at Senneker.

Camera and studio support was provided by the ASTS Media Section.

ASTS provides pre-deployment train-



Pressure point: The media gathers during the run-up to Britain's departure from Hong Kong

ing for all theatres, including UN operations, Cyprus and Georgia. In the past it has advised units going to Rwanda, Zaire and Hong Kong.

A well-known journalist is usually brought in to head a small media team led by ASTS to put commanders through their paces. They "do" local radio interviews using interpreters, TV interviews in the open air, and full-blown press conferences. And the results are broadcast for all to see. Roy Watret, the studio manager and editor, enjoys seeing how similar questions trigger amazingly different answers.

Officers particularly vulnerable to media attention are given individual training at Upavon. They include spokesmen and women who work for SFOR in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.

Demand on the school's services has risen dramatically, with individual spokesmen, many from within the Adjutant General's area, required to cover areas as diverse as equal opportunities and individual training. Students range from brigadiers to soldiers on the Ethnic Monitoring Recruiting Team.

Director of Public Relations (Army) and the Army's Training and Recruiting



On camera: Cpl Stephanie Allen, who works at ASTS Upavon, films an interview

Agency sponsor one-day courses, often involving national and regional journalists, in the Upavon studio.

Instruction provided at Bracknell for the higher command and staff courses and the advanced command and staff course helps to spread media awareness throughout the Services.

"One of the key elements of the job," said Maj Molyneux-Carter, "is to make use of the experience of the many soldiers who have worked with the media and built up a reputation for co-operation rather than confrontation.

"It is as much a question of attitude as it is of skill. The part I most enjoy is to see the many soldiers who appear on our television screens giving a good account of themselves."

Maj Molyneux-Carter can be contacted on Upavon Mil (94344) 5481 or 01980 615481.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

Confidential support lines:

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Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 01980 630854

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

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

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Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

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WRVS 01235 442954

begins a week before the exhibition, on September 27. Discounts are available for advance bookings, with details available on the franchise hotline, 01203 426452, and on www.nfe.co.uk

• Mrs Gill Milward, whose RMP husband wrote home about the plight of children in a primary school at Glamoc in Bosnia, has received a GOC's Commendation from Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, UKSC(G), for her

efforts on behalf of the children. She single-handedly organised the supply of stationery and other much-needed items.

• If you live in Germany and have concerns you wish to raise, make sure you attend the Naafi-sponsored Army Families Federation conference at Roberts Barracks, Osnabrück on June 17 (0900 to 1345). Tickets cost DM 10, include coffee and lunch, and are available from AFF co-ordinators and HIVES.



Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

RUGBY

Virtuoso Army reign supreme

Army 24, Royal Navy 13

THE Army retained the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham, beating the Royal Navy by an emphatic 24 points to 13, writes Roger Thompson.

Before a crowd of nearly 30,000 the Army scored three tries to the Navy's one. It could have been more emphatic had the Navy not played a "hearts of oak" game to keep the score within respectable bounds.

The Navy kicked off by switching direction to target new cap Spr Bruno Green, who fielded superbly with Mne Spencer Brown (England) breathing down his neck. It was a testing moment but served only to heighten the Army's alert state at the start of battle.

The Army responded with a series of devastating rucks to create a platform 20 metres out. Crisp handling provided Capt Brian Johnson (R Signals) with an outside chance on the left. The Gloucester player showed his England A form to race home untouched under the posts. Capt Howard Graham (AGC) converted.

PUNCH-UP

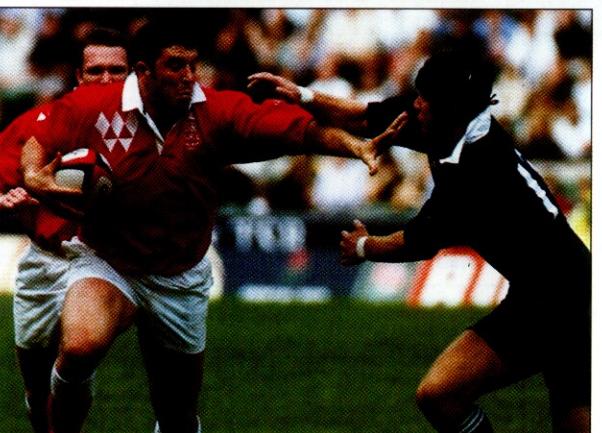
Not even the predictable Navy punch-up after five minutes, a little earlier than usual, could knock the Army from their stride and a second try soon followed. A dominant pack provided swift ball and, with the Navy stretched to cover the width of Twickenham, Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones wrong-footed the back row and, in a beautifully-balanced movement for a man approaching 16 stone, cruised in under the posts.

With a 14-3 lead, the Army either stepped off the gas or, in key areas, forgot the plot, providing breathing space for a naval mini-revival. Their pack, all eight of whom would feature towards the bottom end of a "shrinking violets" competition, were again led by CSgt Bob Armstrong and Mne Dale Cross, emphasising their outstanding Combined Services and club form.

Shortly into the second half, Graham charged down a naval Garryowen and ran 40 metres to score under the posts, converting his own try to virtually seal the match. The Navy came back spasmodically but their pack was no match for an



Pictures: Mike Weston



omnipotent Army eight containing internationals Capt Tim Rodber (Green Howards) and Cpl Matt Stewart (PWRR).

The defence was solid yet it was in attack that the Army sparkled. Sgt Andy Sanger, if not quite Man of the Match, was a constant thorn in the naval defence. He darted, teased, confronted, exploded at the right moment or off-loaded in the

● Coverage of the Army Rugby Challenge Cup and Shield finals at Aldershot will appear in the July issue.

Breaking away: Sgt Andy Sanger, with Sgt Giles Powell and Fus Chris Budgen in support, splits the Royal Navy defence

Take that: Centre three-quarter Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones shows the aggression that has brought him to the attention of the Welsh international selectors

best traditions of a Welsh centre. This was in contrast to Greenslade-Jones, another Welshman. He is a lump of a centre, with a huge power-to-weight ratio and must, in the near future, be the next Army player to achieve representative honours.

Cpl Mal Roberts (RLC) deserves huge credit for his first game at Twickenham, fielding treacherous high balls with confidence and courage. His urge to counter-attack, as becomes a natural fly-half, is ever-present, and there is no doubt this young Cornishman is a vindication of the Army's U-21 system of development.

The back row was thundering in attack and defence. Cpl Cuddy Cadwallader was, at No 7, rightly named Man of the Match by the Meridian TV team covering the game. His second-half sprint away from England winger Brown was probably the champagne moment for eagle-eyed connoisseurs in the East Stand.

In retaining the Willis Corroon Bowl, this Army team showed glimpses of brilliance and a clear indication that they would be capable of holding their own in the nether regions of the Allied Dunbar Premier League. What must be remembered is that compared to top clubs such as Leicester and Northampton, the Army cannot purchase talent and must grow their own.

Skipper Maj Julian Brammer and coach Col Ken Lawson have contributed hugely in this direction and achieved a third year of success as Willis Corroon Inter-Services champions.

STALEMATE

Realistically, the Navy did not have the firepower to play effectively and yet their troops were gallantly allowed to pound away at an impregnable defence. Self-induced stalemate in front of 30,000 needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency, as does the use of the white card for persistent offenders.

If the game is not allowed to flow the spectacle disappears and the Army-Navy game might as well be played behind the Aldershot or Portsmouth bicycle sheds. The Services must now start to think rugby.

RUGBY LEAGUE

French élite cracked – at long last

Combined Services 42, Equipe de Sport Militaire 12

SERVICES Rugby League took a giant step forward when the Combined Services team overcame the previously unbeaten Equipe de Sport Militaire by 42 points to 12 in the Naafi-sponsored Test at RAF Uxbridge on the eve of the Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

The hugely-successful French Armed Forces representative side has remained unbeaten for the past five years as Service teams have attempted to win the Grant Cup.

SUPERIORITY

This time the physical superiority and fitness of the Great Britain side paid dividends against a lighter French team packed with pace and flair.

Richard Naivalurua ended a marvellous Rugby League career on a high note and was presented with the Naafi Combined Services Player of 1998 award. Sanger was named the Naafi Man of the Match.

CS tries were scored by Naivalurua, Cooper, White, Clayton, Yeomans, Nelson and Fanning, with Hicks kicking six conversions and two penalties.

HOCKEY

Bru's award

ONE of Army hockey's most coveted awards, the Charlie Woods Memorial Salver for outstanding contributions to Army hockey, has been presented to top coach SSgt Bru Baker.

SSgt Baker, serving with 3 UK Div and Signal Regiment at Bulford, has built a formidable reputation. As well as coaching the Army and Combined Services U-23 teams, he assists the Army women's team, his corps sides, and club side Chippenham Ladies, who reached the last 16 in the national cup competition and were runners-up in their regional league.

SSgt Baker himself plays at county level, has represented the Army and is in the squad of national league team ISCA.

"It is an honour to be awarded the Charlie Woods Memorial Salver and is something I wasn't expecting," he said.

FOOTBALL

Sappers sweep all before them

A CLEAN sweep of victories at the Inter-Corps quadrangular football tournament carried the Royal Engineers to a record-breaking triumph.

In their annual meeting with the Royal Signal, Royal Artillery and REME, held this year at Blandford, the sappers have all too often contested the wooden spoon. Not this year. They beat REME 2-1, overcame the signallers 3-2 and edged out the gunners by a Cpl Bomber Brown goal to become the first side to win all three matches in the quadrangular tournament.

They also received the new Vickers Trophy, presented by Vickers Defence Systems for RE-RA matches.

In the inter-corps league, played for the Massey Trophy, the sappers beat AMS 4-0, the APTC 2-1, the AGC 4-0, the RAC 6-1, the AAC 2-0 and the RLC 5-1. Their only defeat was by the Infantry, 1-2.

REME retain Army Cup

3 Bn REME 2, 1 Cheshire 1

A SECOND-half goal from Cfn Ashurst helped 3 Bn REME retain the Army Challenge Cup with a 2-1 win over 1 Cheshire in the final at Aldershot. The Cheshires had taken a deserved lead through LCpl Mazzoni on the half hour before REME equalised through Cfn Downs.

Mazzoni thought he had won the game for the Cheshires with a goal in the 78 minute, only to see it disallowed. Ashurst struck the winner and for the last ten minutes the REME side held on desperately.

Belgians' Cup as CS see red

FOLLOWING a 0-0 draw against the Netherlands Armed Forces at the Genk VV stadium, Combined Services failed to retain the Kentish Cup when they lost 5-2 to Belgium at Aldershot Military Stadium, writes Derrick Bly.

But the game was reduced as a spectacle by the Dutch officials who sent off three Combined Services players.

Three goals ahead at half-time, by which time Services were down to nine men, the visitors scored twice more after the break. Ironically, the depleted hosts also found the back of the net twice, both through substitute CPOWEA Steve Johnson (RN). For a time the nine-man Services more than matched the Belgians, before another off-the-ball incident left them with just eight players on the park.

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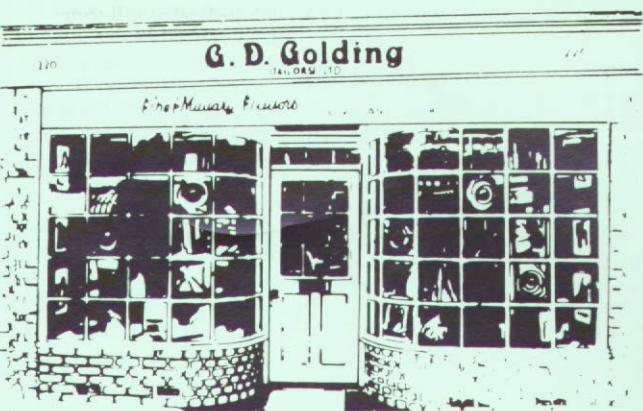
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BOXING

Joe's shot dims as lights go out

BOXERS love nothing more than to put someone else's lights out, but when the power failed and the ring lights went out at an ABA quarter-final bout, it cost Pte Joe Briggs (1 PWO) the fight.

That's the opinion of former Combined Services champion Sgt Neil McCallum (APTC), who coaches the Army squad, **writes Ray Routledge**.

"The power-cut meant that the computer failed and the decision on the fight had to be made without the technical aid," he told *Soldier*. "I am convinced Briggs won. Unfortunately the judges saw it differently."

It was not the only controversial decision on the night. Light-heavyweight LCpl Lee Spare (3 Regt AAC) lost a decision that had the crowd disputing the result. Despite these setbacks, the Army's ABA results were very encouraging as McCallum continues to build a new squad of boxers.

Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC) was the star, winning his fifth ABA title, but McCallum points to the potential of other members of the team.

"Pte Naz Sarwar (23 PFA) boxed very well in the semi-finals of the ABA and Pte Meatball Johannesson (1 DWR) lost in a tough featherweight semi-final," he said.

EXCELLENT

The coach was also pleased with the form shown by Gnr Dave Smith (7 Para RHA) against the Police at Heathrow Park. "He won a welterweight bout with a convincing points win which was an excellent result considering he had not boxed for two years."

Middleweight Pte Mark McMahon (1 PWO) put behind him the disappointment of a decision against him in the ABA quarter-finals when he knocked out an opponent in the first round of an invitation match at HMS Nelson.

The boxers McCallum has assembled so far have already scored considerable success in matches up and down the country and will soon be taking their skills abroad.

They notched up a superb 5-4 win over London, a notoriously difficult district to beat. There was also a 4-1 victory over Basingstoke in a charity fixture and an outstanding 9-2 thrashing of Devon in Torquay.

Overall McCallum says it has been a fantastic season but it is not over just yet,

Fifth ABA title puts Bessey in class of his own

ONE of the finest boxers of his generation has knocked over another record. Light-middleweight Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Tpt Regt RLC), right, has won his fifth Amateur Boxing Association title, a unique achievement for a serving soldier.

Bessey outpointed Karim Hassine in the ABA national finals at Barnsley. "He caught me with a good shot at one stage and gave me a bit of a buzz," Bessey said back in training at the Army Boxing Centre, Aldershot.

His one remaining ambition is to be selected for the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia next year.



as the squad plans a visit to Cyprus to take on the island's boxers. Three more of the team – Sarwar, Spr Duncan Barriball (3 RSME) and McMahon – have been selected by the Police to join their own very strong squad to box, also in Cyprus.

With one eye on the future, McCallum reckons that some potential stars emerged from a highly successful novices championship.

All in all it has been a hectic period for the boxing squad and the coach said special thanks should go to COs of the units releasing boxers. "It is not always easy to obtain a boxer's release and a major contributing factor to the success of our squad has been the co-operation of the COs who release the men," he said.

It is all very encouraging for McCallum, who recognises the dedication and hard work the fighters put into their sport.

"Boxing is serious," he said. "It takes an awful lot of commitment. You can't play at boxing."

"We are assembling a potentially very good squad here. We have fighters who could go all the way. The Olympic Games is a realistic goal for some."

"That would bring honour on the soldiers concerned, boxing and the Army."

SHORTS

Signals' hockey crown

FOR the second successive year the Royal Signals women's hockey team have won the Inter-Corps championships. Led by Lt Caroline Woodbridge, from RMCS Shrivenham, the team beat REME 7-1 in the semi-final and the AGC 2-0 in the final. Top player was Cpl Tracy Hoffman and the squad was strengthened by Cpl Sue Neate, returning to action after long-term injury.

Cyprus's best

THE 1999 Cyprus Inter-Service netball championship was won by the Army. Under the leadership of SSgt Ann Coffey, the Army beat the RAF 34-27 in the final at King Richard School, Dhekelia. The Army team was Maj Jackie Gilbert, Lt Sarah Pedder, Sgt Clare Hubbard, SSgt Ann Coffey, LCpl Sue Branch, SSgt Sue Powell, Sgt Nicky Pearce, Capt Ally Palframan, Cpl Sharon McQuade, and Sig Rachel Hulland.

Disabled boost

ONE sport benefited another when the Northern Ireland Knights wheelchair basketball team were the grateful recipients of a cheque for £2,146 raised at the Ballykinler Trappers charity clay pigeon target match. Range foreman Hans Johnstone called on the help of WO2s Bud Beattie and Dean McGucken and Cpl Tom Greer to supervise the events. Money raised will go towards hosting an international wheelchair basketball tournament at Antrim in September.

New York marathon

MENCAP is looking for volunteers to take part in the 30th New York marathon in November. There is a catch – competitors must raise at least £1,900 for the charity. In return they will receive free flights, accommodation and race entry. Entries must be in by July 5. Telephone 0645 777 779 for details.

Air pistol record

Cpl Robert Doak (C Coy, 3 R Irish) won the Army target pistol championship at Bisley with a new record score of 567 from a possible 600. The ISSF centre-fire championship, fired two-handed with an L9 service pistol at 25m, was won by Lt Col Richard Hoole (R Signals), the overall Army champion for the second successive year.

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REDUCED green fees at nearly 550 courses around the UK, plus some in Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal, are available to Service golfers through the 2-FOR-1 golf scheme. Details of the voucher scheme are available on 01908 242400 or e-mail 2for1@rightpr.co.uk

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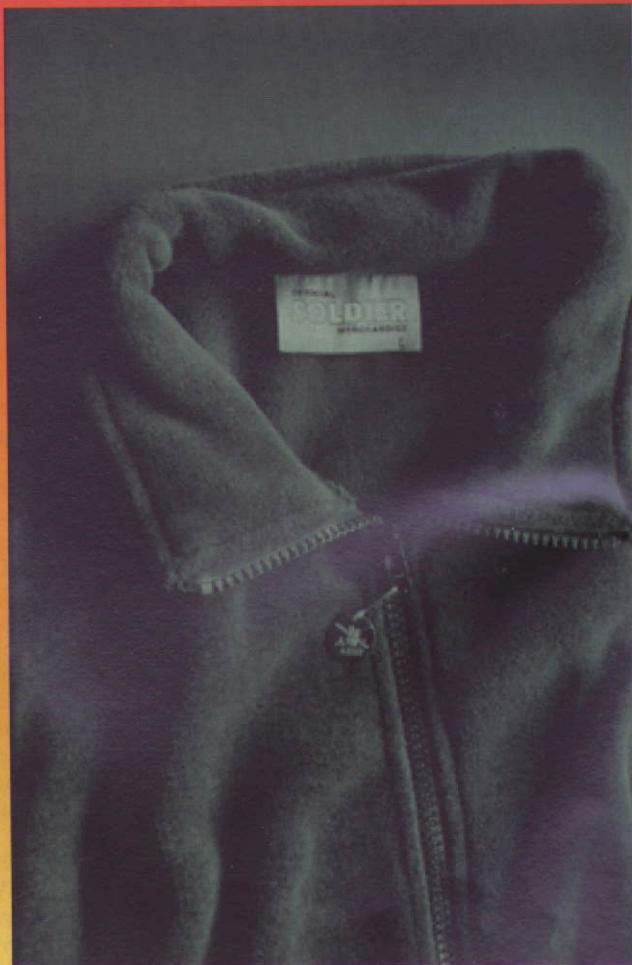
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BIATHLON SKIING

Ski girls set sights on Salt Lake City places

THE four Army girls in Britain's first national women's biathlon skiing team are determined to make the grade at international level in their bid to qualify for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

One member of the squad, LCpl Jackie Hodgson (RAMC), was called away to Macedonia just days before the team went into a gruelling sequence of eight Europa Cup races. At the final Europa event the top five athletes receive prizes.

Pte Emma Fowler (1 RHA) finished fourth in the junior female category, Pte Beverley Robinson (2 CS Regt RLC) was fifth in the senior female class and LCpl Vicky Gray (24 Armd Fd Amb) won the senior women's bronze medal.

Other notable results on the Europa Cup circuit included Fowler's fourth place in the 7.5km sprint race in Switzerland behind three leading World Cup competitors.

The opportunity for the four skiers to train and compete at the highest level has been made possible by the support of their units, the Army and British Army (Germany) Sports Control Boards and sponsors Bee Health Ltd.

Biathlon combines .22 smallbore rifle shooting with the physical demands of cross-country skiing. The team will be looking for new recruits during the summer biathlon (running-shooting) season, with the first Army Biathlon Cup due to be staged in Aldershot from June 10-13.

Contact is SSgt Bob Anderson on 01249 652101 or mobile 07970 446293.

Fourth: Pte Emma Fowler



Fifth: Pte Beverley Robinson

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Contact is SSgt Bob Anderson on 01249 652101 or mobile 07970 446293.

SAILING



Little sister: *Fusilier*, the Infantry Sailing Association's new 34ft yacht, sails past HMS *Nottingham* in Portsmouth Harbour after her naming ceremony by Mrs Carol Biggart, whose husband, Brig David Biggart, is Regimental Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The RRF provided

much of the £120,000 needed to buy the yacht, with the balance coming from a variety of sources, including the Nuffield Trust. The state-of-the-art *Fusilier* replaces *Bold Fusilier*, which covered 43,000 sea miles and introduced almost 1,500 infantry soldiers to sailing.

Picture: Terry Champion

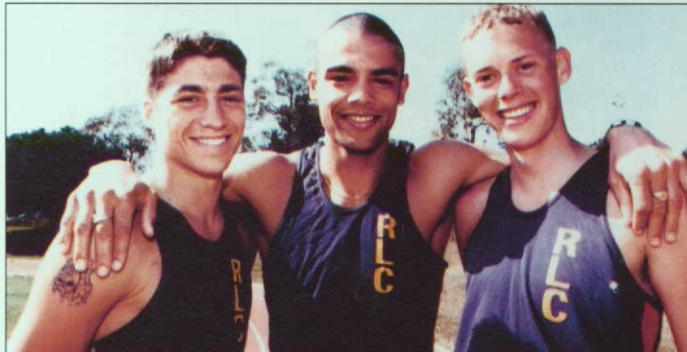
ATHLETICS

RLC runners break two-minute barrier

BRITISH middle distance star Mark Sesay helped out at a training camp for runners in the Algarve, Portugal in which 14 RLC athletes took part.

Pte Alan Hine and Pte Kevin Sheppard were two of those who joined more than 100 other British club athletes to take part in twice-daily training sessions and evening discussion groups. The camp was run by former London Marathon winner Mike Gratton with the help of former European 5,000m champion Bruce Tulloh.

Sesay, who won the 800m bronze medal in the 1997 Gold Cup, was a huge influence at the camp, even volunteering to pace an 800m time trial with an eye to eclipsing the two-minute barrier for anyone prepared to go with him. Both 18-



Fast crew: Alan Hine, left, Mark Sesay, centre, and Kevin Sheppard

year-old Hine and Sheppard, currently the Inter-Services' junior cross-country champion, broke the barrier for the first time, a remarkable achievement considering their strenuous training efforts over the previous four days. Hine clocked 1min 58.7sec and Sheppard 1min 59.6sec.

Sesay described the two Army athletes as having "phenomenal talent".

Sport

MOUNTAIN RACE

Grin experience

Step in the right direction: Sgt Geoff Tumelty, of 16 Flight AAC, finds the energy for a smile during the gruelling Troodos Mountains Walkabout race organised by 12 Signals Unit RAF. The annual race gives runners an insight into the terrain they will have to tackle on the two-day Cyprus Walkabout later in the year. Twenty-eight three-man teams from throughout British Forces Cyprus competed over a tough orienteering course covering between 25 and 30 miles. Winners were the HQ British Forces Cyprus team of Capt Colin Dickson (SASC), Cpl Adie Dance (RLC) and



civilian Simon Crampin, all members of the Epi Runners Club. Their closest challenge came from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglians.

JUDO

Army first in kyu

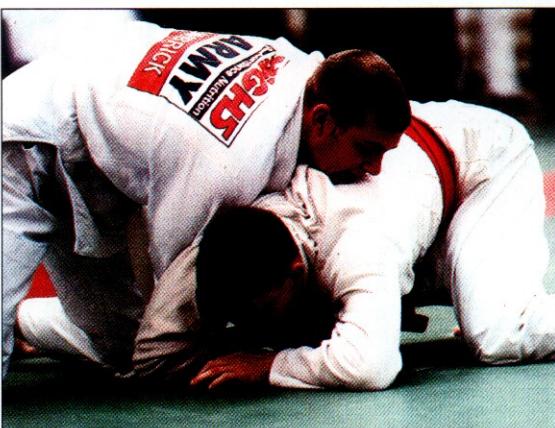
DESPITE an intensive build-up in training by the Army squad, the Royal Air Force proved to be the stronger at the Inter-Services judo championships staged in the newly-refurbished Fox Gymnasium at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, writes Tom Parker.

In an atmosphere of tense excitement, the airmen beat both Army and Royal Navy to retain the dan grade team trophy, the Pretoria Cup. Team scores were Army 20, RAF 50; Army 60, RN 10; RAF 62, RN 0.

But there was considerable compensation for the Army players in the kyu grade team event which they won convincingly to retained the Kyu Trophy. They beat the RAF by 50 points to ten and the Navy by 60-10. The RAF overcame the RN 40-20.

As a physically demanding contact sport, judo has an ever-present risk of injuries. The championships were no exception as a steady flow of competitors sought first aid and a few needed hospital attention. No one was seriously injured.

Two recruits to Army judo produced outstanding displays. OCdt Childs



Getting down to it: Spr Steve Limbrick (9 Sqn RE) in action during his drawn contest with JT Holmes (RAF)

(RMAS) won all his fights in the dan grade team event and took gold medals in the Under 90kg and open individual championships, while Pte Andrew (2 PWRR) won all his kyu grade fights and earned a gold in the U60kg category.

Army individual placings – U60kg: Pte Andrew; 2, Gnr Clash; 3, Pte Rhodes. U66: 3, Sig Hart. U73: 3, Gnr Behan. U81: 2, Capt Platt; 3, Cpl Perkis. U90: 1, OCdt Childs; Spr Limbrick, 3, Cpl Wain. U100: 1, LCpl Limbrick; 3, Sgt Burge. Female open: 1, 2nd Lt Purvis; 2, LCpl West. Male open: OCdt Childs. Veterans open: 2, Maj Williams.

SHORTS

Tenth title . . . and out

C COMPANY, 4/5 Rangers beat Scotland area winners 125 (Glasgow) Ration Squadron RLC (V) 7-1 in the final of the TA Football Association Challenge Cup at Ballymena. It was the tenth consecutive year that C Coy, which is due to be amalgamated on July 1, had won the trophy. In the semi-finals, the rampant Rangers fired six past D Coy, 3 RWF, while 125 Sqn needed extra time and penalties to see off C Coy, 5 LI (V).

Orienteering to success

THE combined Royal School of Artillery and 14 Regiment RA team won the Army orienteering title at Barry Budden, Scotland, with 2nd Lt Andy Howell putting in an excellent run in the individual relays on the first day. The team also won the 3 (UK) Division title and were confirmed as the 3 Div league winners. The Army women's team title was won by 3 R Irish, with the battalion's men finishing second in their competition.



Picture: Mike Weston

On the ball: 2nd Lt Naeem Ahmed, centre, and the 1 R Irish football team, get ready for a game against Leyton Sixth Form College, East London, during a UK recruitment tour. 2nd Lt Ahmed grew up in the area

Royal Irish on target

THE Royal Irish Regiment won the 27th Inter-Corps target rifle match at Bisley, taking an early lead over the Royal Engineers and Army Air Corps. The R Irish score of 760.75, 18 more than the sappers, bettered by five the record set by Medical Services in 1982. They also set new range records at 300 and 900 yards.

First past the post

MAJ Dominic Alers-Hankey (Royal Wessex Yeomanry) recorded his 25th win as an amateur jockey when he rode Court Melody, owned by retired Gurkha officer Tim Chappell, to victory in the Horse & Hound Military Gold Cup at Sandown.

Cyprus marathoners

FIFTEEN runners from 1 LI did well in the Paphos marathon in Cyprus, finishing second in the team event and taking the third individual place. They also raised £264 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

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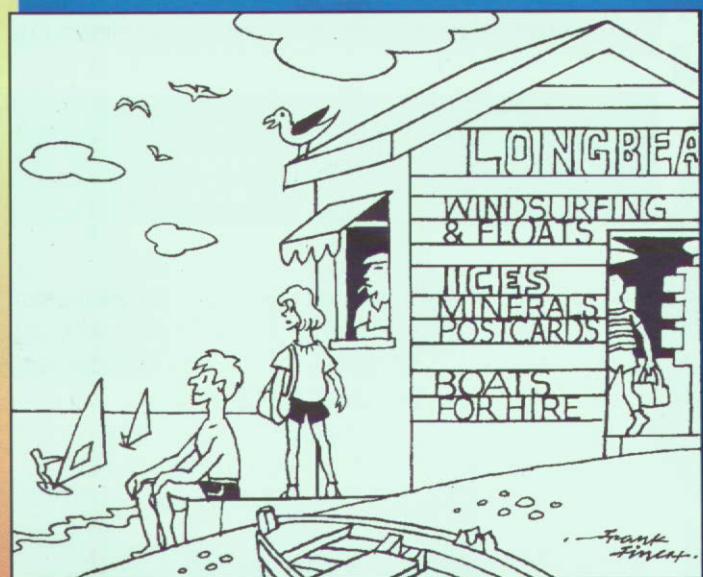
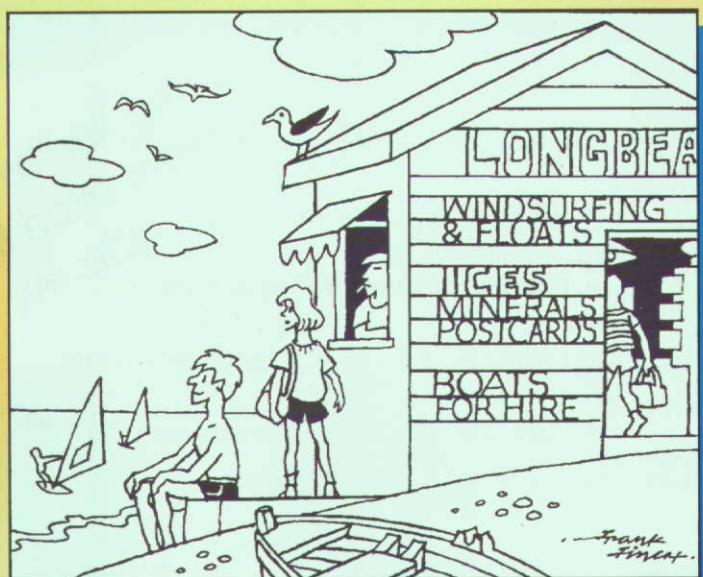
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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 691, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by July 2.

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 August issue.

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Address :

Competition No 689 (April issue): First correct entry drawn was from WO1 P J Richards, of the ACIO, St Giles Court, London, who wins £100. Runners-up SSgt A Ford, ACIO, TA Centre, Hordan, Co Durham and Mr D Drummond, of Blantyre, Glasgow, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: "A" in "Tropical"; "R" in "Aquarium"; shape of vegetation; shape of seahorse; bubbles beneath seahorse; fin of lowest fish; boy's thumb; woman's hair-style; swordfish; starfish.

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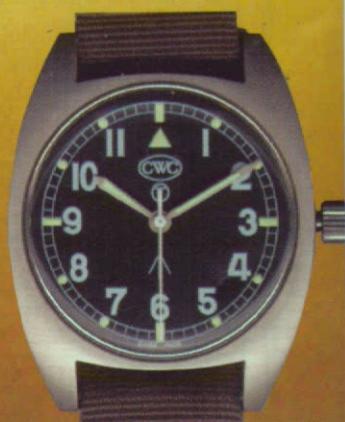


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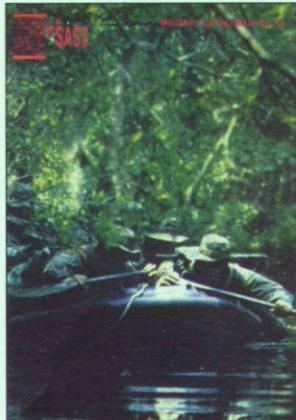
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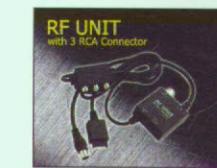


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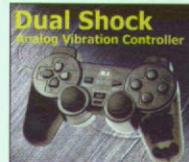
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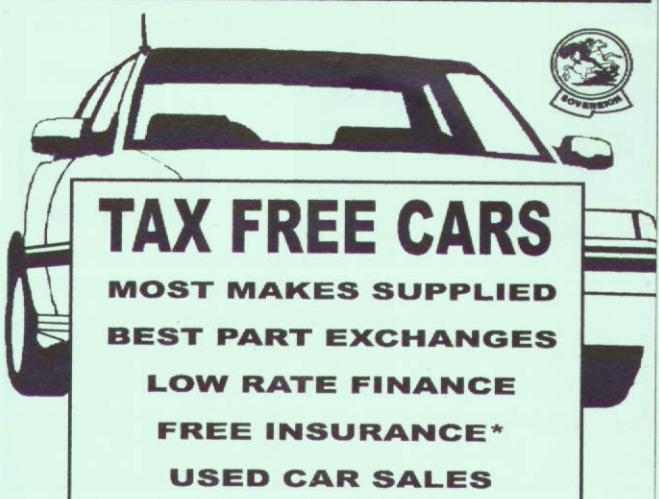
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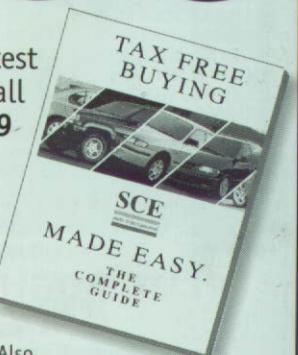
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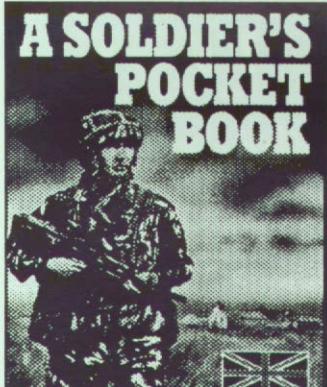
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Brecon Beacons National Park. Refurbished Victorian holiday villa. CH, pool table, sleeps 9. Close to mountains, lake and rope centre. Ring for details, bookings, etc. Tel: 01874 658472 - leave message or after 8pm. 05/00

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Chris Hopkinson Telephone: (01253) 625977

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

APRIL 24, 1999

Four-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,900 each): Capt TJ Brunton, HQ Land, Wilton; Sgt JA McDonald, 16 Armd Fd Amb, Tidworth; Pte H Stephen, 24 Armd Fd Amb, Catterick; SSgt GAD Thomas, 36 Signal Regt (V), Ilford. **24-way tie for fifth prize (19 goals, £87.50 each):** Tpr DJA Abrams, KRH, Münster; Capt HS Anderson, 24 Airmob Bde CSS Bn, Colchester; Brig JM Arigho, MoD, London; Lt TE Ash, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford; SSgt D Bagnall, AFCO, London; Cpl NA Bailey, 1 RWR, Paderborn; Gnr RS Coleman, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; SSgt RB Cooke, 83 PC Sqn RLC, Dhekelia; Bdr CO Davies, 7 Cdo Bty RA, Arbroath; WO2 IH Falconer, Lowland Band, Edinburgh; Csgt A Haines, 1 IG, Münster; Lcpl TA Hobbs, 1 IG, Münster; Sgt SC Kimmitt, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Atpr CF Kirby, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Cpl SM Kirby, 9 Dental Gp; Lt DJ Marsh, 9/12L, Swanton Morley; Cpl JS Martinez, 1 KORBR, Catterick; Lcpl I Muncie, 1 KOSB, Episkopi; Lt VP O'Brien, 22 Engr Regt, Andover; Capt GC Porter, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; SSgt DC Samanjou, 24 Armd Fd Amb, Catterick; Cpl S Shaw, 1 Hldrs, Catterick; Bdr BD Wade, 47 Regt RA, Thorne Island; WO2 A Williams, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager.

With effect from May 1, and for the rest of the summer, results are based on county cricket scores, in accordance with the rules on the new (blue)

tickets which started with the matches played on April 28 and 29.

MAY 1, 1999

First (399 runs, £3,600): Cpl KG Inglis, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh. **Second (395 runs, £1,800):** WO2 PR Eagle, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston. **Third (385 runs, £1,300):** Lcpl DA Giles, 2 Armd Fd Amb, Münster. **Fourth (382 runs, £900):** Spt SP Valentine, 3 RSME Regt, Minley. **Fifth (381 runs, £600):** Cpl SF Lengard, 623 Veh Tp RLC, Mönchengladbach. **Sixth (379 runs, £500):** WO1 JD Heath, HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick. **Seventh (378 runs, £400):** Cpl DJ Butcher, 35 Eng Regt, Hameln. **Eighth (377 runs, £300):** Sgt SA McVitie, ITC Catterick. **Ninth (371 runs, £200):** Lcpl RJ Torrance, 1 WFR, Tidworth. **Tenth (370 runs, £100):** WO2 CGM Macklin, AFCO, Glasgow.

MAY 8, 1999

First (320 runs, £3,600): WO2 PA Winter, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham. **Second (308 runs, £1,800):** WO2 MAJ Whiley, HQ UKSC (G), Rheindahlen. **Third (299 runs, £1,300):** Sjt MW Murray, KOYY (V), Wakefield. **Fourth (297 runs, £900):** SSgt GSC Marks, 21 Signal Regt (AS), Cologne. **Fifth (292 runs, £600):** Sgt ERR Ellis, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon. **Sixth (291 runs, £500):** Maj RS Appleton, MOD, London. **Seventh (290 runs, £400):** WO1 AE

Hall, SEAE, Arborfield.

Eighth (289 runs, £300): Pte K Eglington, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Fallingbostel.

Ninth (286 runs, £200): Spr PJ Somers, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down.

Tenth (283 runs, £100): Col AH Goldsack, HQ AFCENT.

Rules 6 and 7: The 50-run rule will only apply if a county has not started any innings in any match started during the period of the lottery (Monday - Sunday); thus, if a county does not bat in its first designated match (even if its opponents have batted) then scores made in matches played later in the week will count.

MAY 15, 1999

First (334 runs, £3,600): Sgt SP Holman, HQ York Garrison. **Second (324 runs, £1,800):** Lbdr RJ Abraham, 5 Regt RA, Catterick. **Third (322 runs, £1,300):** Sgt MP Burgess, 34 Cadet Trg Team. **Fourth (319 runs, £900):** Cpl NJ Stoddart, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen. **Fifth (313 runs, £600):** WO2 A Smith, 238 Sqn RLC (V), Liverpool. **Sixth (312 runs, £500):** Spr GA Belcher, 3 RSME Regt, Minley. **Seventh (309 runs, £350):** Lt PJ Tattersall, 6 AEC, Warminster; Sgt DB Wood, KRH, Münster. **Ninth (307 runs, £200):** Lcpl SG Bowen, 1 WG, London. **Tenth (306 runs, £50):** Capt JA Duncafe, 125 Fd Sqn RE (V), Stoke on Trent; Tpr LC Hoyer, QRH, Sennelager.

NOTICES

Congratulations to the two lucky winners of the Harlequins competition that featured in the April issue of *Soldier*.

The winners are: SSgt Voss, TAC-QOY(V); Lcpl Parsons, 26 Regt RA.

They each receive a superb Harlequins rugby shirt.

The correct answer was 'Jason Leonard'.

Didn't win a Harlequins rugby shirt?
Console yourself with a fabulous Polartec 200 fleece jacket, marked with the British Army logo on the zip pull - exclusive to the readers of *Soldier*. See page 46 for details.

PERSONAL

Sgt Daniel Johnston, Gornji Vakuf, Bosnia. Darling - happy birthday for 4 June. Missing you very much. Love you loads, so keep smiling. Lynnie girl.

Use our address for your private and personal correspondence. All AA services. Established. Reliable. Confidential. Discreet. Affordable. Tel: 0121 328 2878. 06/99

WANTED

Bandmaster or former military musician to assist with music training in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight ACF. Evenings and some weekends for which allowances are payable. Apply with CV to: Commandant, Newburgh House, Winchester, Hants SO23 8UY. 07/99

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The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated by an agency or advertiser shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.

Diary

Top honour for 8 R Irish

THE 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, based in Armagh, has scooped top honours at the Institute of Public Relations' Sword of Excellence Awards for its "Attrition by Charm" campaign.

Carried out during a time of great political uncertainty in Northern Ireland, the campaign was unanimously voted the overall 1999 Sword of Excellence winner by a panel of 12 international judges.

The Royal Irish Regiment won the community relations category and then beat off stiff competition from eight other finalists to take the top award. Maj Leo Callow, battalion second-in-command, and RSM Paddy Shields, accepted the award at the Hotel Inter-Continental in London in front of a 400-strong audience drawn from ten countries.

Judges described the entry as "gutsy, focused and a genuinely grassroots community campaign in a very difficult environment... it was impossible to ignore the energy and commitment behind the regiment's activities."

DATES

JUNE

- 5: Colonel's Review (1 Coldm Gds), Horse Guards Parade.
- 9: Military concert (Queen's Minden, RL, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.
- 12: Queen's Birthday Parade (1 Coldm Gds), Horse Guards Parade.
- 23: Military concert (Coldm Gds), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.
- 27: Catterick Garrison open day, Marne Barracks, Catterick Village.
- 27: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, 1300. (Tel 01252 314598).

JULY

- 4: Sandhurst open day, military and sporting displays. Entrance free.
- 7: Military concert (HC, R Irish), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.
- 11: Airborne Forces Day South, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, 10am-5pm.
- 17: Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Band gala charity concert, Colesbourne Park (on A435 between Cirencester and Cheltenham), 6pm. Tickets on 01242 227979.
- 18: ATR Pirbright open day.
- 20-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Ticket office 0171 244 0244.
- 21: Military concert (Highland and Lowland Bands), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.
- 23-25: Invicta Military Preservation Society's War and Peace Show, Beltring Hop Farm and Country Park, Kent.
- 29: Military concert (Music in Youth Summer School, incl ACF), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

AUGUST

- 4: Military concert (WG, Queen's Normandy), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.
- 6-28: Edinburgh Tattoo.

SEPTEMBER

- 4-5: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.
- To include public events, contact the Editor.

Macedonia major's uniform approach to PR award

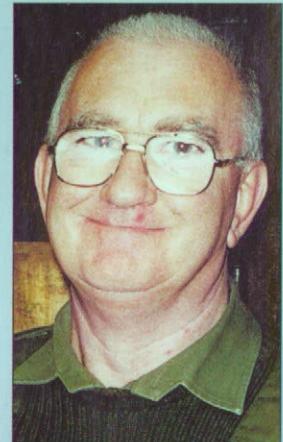
ARMY press officer Maj Marco Ciotti, right, caused a bit of a stir at the annual presentation ceremony of the Communication Advertising and Marketing Foundation (CAM) in London. After flying in from Macedonia, he collected a top award... still wearing his military uniform.

Marco, OC 79 Railway Squadron of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, won the Institute of Public Relations special award for an outstanding result in CAM examinations. Following a brief reunion with wife, Kerry, he returned to Macedonia the next day.



Last in his line

Sgt Ronnie Phelan, right, is retiring after 40 years' service, the last member of St Helen's-based 436 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Volunteers). In 1967, it and other units formed 103 (The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers), which has a battery and RHQ in St Helen's, Merseyside. Ronnie became a chef in 1979, a move which allowed him to serve beyond normal retirement age. He bows out on a high note, having won a competition to design a new plaque for the battery. Following official approval, the plaque—which features the gun badge above the Prince of Wales's Feathers—has been adopted by the St Helen's battery.



Honour her name with pride

If sufficient funds can be raised, a museum dedicated to Violette Szabo, one of Britain's most daring secret agents of the Second World War, will be created at Wormelow, Hereford, where she was once a popular visitor to Cartref, home of her aunt and uncle.

Violette—whose exploits were brought to the big screen by Virginia McKenna in the film *Carve Her Name With Pride*—was captured by the Nazis, tortured and eventually shot at Ravensbrück prison in January 1945 at the age of 23. She was awarded a posthumous George Cross.

An appeal launched by Miss McKenna last year has so far raised £2,500 towards the £18,000 target to create a museum at Cartref, where Violette recovered between missions to

Snake man of Medway

CPL Simon Toase, right, has an unusual hobby... snakes. He's fascinated with them, particularly the constricting variety. Simon, who is serving at the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham, is down to 11 at the moment (he has shared his life with as many as 60 at one time), which he keeps as a hobby, interest and business.

"They're not pets," says Simon. "I breed and sell in what can be a lucrative market." His oldest snake is a 7ft-long yellow albino Burmese python, which could live another 20 years.

SCHOOL TALKS

He has raised hundreds of pounds for charity by letting people be photographed with the pythons and takes them into local schools to give talks to children, "99 per cent of whom are fascinated" by the creatures, he says.

Simon, whose interest in reptiles began when he was growing up in a farming community in North Yorkshire, says his pythons are dangerous only at feeding time but admits to having been bitten and constricted. "Pythons have two bites, one defensive and one for feeding. Their teeth are like needles. If I get bitten or constricted I have to stay

calm and wait for the snake to let go, otherwise it will tear my skin and flesh without letting go, and tighten its coils if I move a muscle."

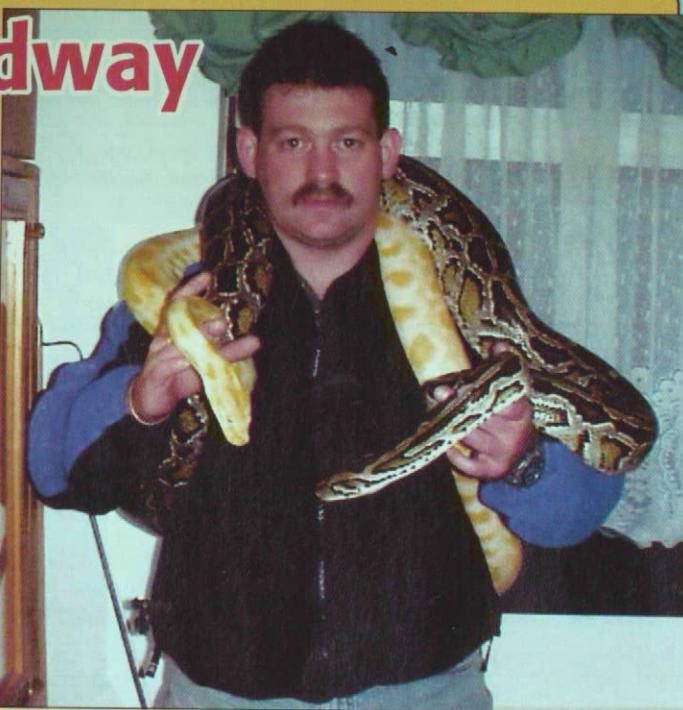
His first snake, a gold and brown royal python bought in Germany, died of 'flu.

"When I lived in Brompton Barracks, Chatham I kept a reticulated python in a tank in my room. When the tank needed cleaning I would put the python in the ablutions block with a notice outside:

SNAKE IN SHOWER." He now has a snake room in his own home.

Simon, who is chairman of the Medway Reptile and Amphibian Club, is

happy to talk to anyone interested in snakes. He can be contacted c/o CTSW, Lodge Hill Camp, Chattenden, Rochester, Kent ME3 8NZ.



Ted Tresise got us off to flying start

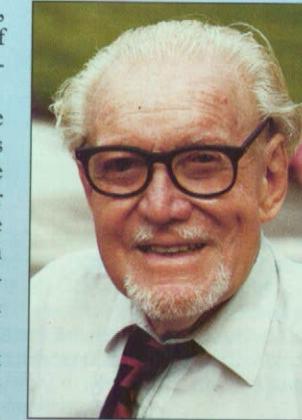
CHARLES "Ted" Tresise, who has died at the age of 82, was *Soldier*'s first circulation officer.

In the spring of 1945 the then Capt Tresise was charged with setting up the first distribution chain for the magazine around the 21st Army Group in Europe... and for collecting the sixpences that each issue cost.

He used every means at his disposal—including the rear gunner's seat of a Boston bomber—to get the magazine, then printed in Brussels, to its readers. He flew to Copenhagen, Vienna and even Berlin to deliver the first editions of *Soldier* to troops of the British Liberation Army.

In a special 50th anniversary supplement published in the magazine in March 1995, Ted recalled his time on the magazine in Brussels and subsequently Hamburg in the closing months of 1945.

Following service in the Western Desert, Ted was chosen, on the strength



Boston bomber: Ted Tresise

of his family background in printing, to act as a "minder" for war correspondents covering the D-Day invasion. He went ashore on the Normandy beaches in the immediate aftermath of the landing. Mission accomplished, he was seconded to the magazine until he was due to be demobbed.

In December 1997, Ted became a resident at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, from where he was soon in touch with *Soldier* to tell us about a fellow

resident, legendary Chindit leader Brig "Mad Mike" Calvert, with whom he had struck up a friendship. A picture of the two of them, captioned by Ted, appeared in the November 1998 edition, not long before Brig Calvert passed away.

Following a funeral at St Alfege's Church, Greenwich, Ted was cremated and his ashes sprinkled on the Thames. He leaves five children and nine grandchildren.

Treasures of the National Army Museum



12



Close call: Lt John Hewson's beret, holed when he was shot in Cyprus

Close shave for a brave patrol leader

JOHN HEWSON's courage—and his luck—stood him in good stead on the night of August 31, 1958. Then a lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment, he was leading a patrol in Cyprus when he and his soldiers were ambushed by EOKA terrorists.

A bullet passed through Lt Hewson's beret but, despite his wound, he led an immediate counter-attack during which one of the terrorists was shot dead. Lt Hewson, later to rise to the rank of colonel, was awarded the Military Cross for his actions.

HOSPITAL USE

His bullet-holed beret is to go on show at the National Army Museum, Chelsea next month in a refurbishment programme featuring new displays on the post-1945 period and the opening of a major new gallery, which will take a close look at the organisation, role and capabilities of the modern Army.

The EOKA campaign began in April 1955 and in November 1956 there were 416 bombings and shootings. By then there were 25 battalion-sized units and 20,000 British troops stationed on the island to contain the threat. By the time the emergency ended in December 1959, there had been 118 British fatalities, including Servicemen, dependants, civil servants and police.

Admission to the museum is free.

Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

Have you served in **Western Command Signal Regiment**, Chester or **241 Signal Squadron**, Donnington? The current OC is compiling the regimental/squadron history and seeks photos (which will be returned), articles and briefs on equipment, personnel. Contact OC 241 Sig Sqn, Venning Barracks, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8LG.

Hants and Isle of Wight ACF seeks part-time help to instruct cadet musicians with marching, concerts and so on. Telephone 01962 865711 or 863277.

Peter Daynes (formerly R Anglian) wishes to contact **Gibraltarian Mick Caines**, whom he met in basic training with C(QD) Coy, Burma Platoon, ATR Bassingbourn, June 17-Sept16, 1994. Replies to 9 Kingsdown Parade, Bristol BS6 5UE (tel 0117 922 0391).

Relatives and information on **Maj Gen Frederick Drummond Vincent Wing**, late RA, 1860-1915, sought by Sgt Peters, Bulford Mil 2277 or 01980 672277.

● "Your Armani Army story (April) had me climbing the walls with rage," writes Tony Farrell, ex-RAF and R Signals. "Then the penny dropped with a resounding clang when I looked at the date on the cover and realised the story bore all the hallmarks of a wind-up.

"I am in the process of producing a directory of stable belts and their origins and would be grateful for help, particularly with defunct regiments and yeomanry. Replies to me at 2 Tiptree Close, Cambridge CB5 8UL please."

D Drewery seeks examples of **military wit** and humour for a book. He can be contacted at 43 Portlee Walk, Parkhall Estate, Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 1EL.

A new, unofficial **AGC (SPS)** website, run by members of the corps, has been created to provide a focal point for military clerks. For details of it and other relevant newsgroups contact Iain Frame at agcsp@bigfoot.com

Information sought about **1st Surrey Rifles** which disbanded after the First World War, and specifically any soldier named Hodnett or Bunn. Contact A J S Bunn, Officers' Mess, Somme Road, Colchester CO2 7TH.

Ex-Serviceman Ken Lloyd seeks former RAOC members who served at **HQ 17 Vehicle Co (Normandy-Hamburg), 1944-45** or at **611/612 Veh Gp, Haifa, Palestine, 1945-48**. Replies to 53 Southlands Drive, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5RJ.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: G G Davies – To be Defence Attaché Lagos, May 1; A H Goldsack – To be ACOS RSC HQ ARRC, Apr 26.

Lt Col: T C Allen, KRH – To HQ TSC(G), Feb 1; C G Allison, RHF – To BMM Sang, May 1; B J Barton-Ancliffe, R Signs – To MoD, Mar 22; R F Binham, R Signs – To DERA, Mar 1; J J Bywater, REME – To JHC, Apr 19; C J Drapper, REME – To DGES(A), Apr 19; H W R Eagan, RRW – To HQ RAO, Aug 21; E C Feldmanis REME – To DGES(A), Dec 14, 1998; D R K Francis, RA – To APC, Mar 1; P Gillespie,

Recognise these badges?



John Gaylor, the military badges authority and author, has a small problem. Well, two small problems to be precise. He picked up these brass die-struck badges in an old military tailor's shop in Rawalpindi, Pakistan earlier this year but hasn't a clue what they are.

John reckons they are of UK manufacture but the present shop-owner, whose father fled west from Ludhiana in 1947 with his stock, had no idea of their age or original purpose.

"The oak leaves present a problem," said John. "Laurel leaves are the more usual British military garnish and the plain star is also something of a challenge."

"At the same shop I found crossed swords, crossed flags and crossed rifles with a star above but no wreath, although we may reasonably suppose that a version of crossed rifles, with star

above, within an oak-leaf frame, existed."

None of the old Indian Army officers to whom he has spoken can remember the badges in use, and they are not, apparently, from either the post-Partition armies.

"I have attempted to check in the established publications covering trade and skill-at-arms badges, but have drawn a blank," added John. "Incidentally, there are no longer any of the badges left in the shop. The majority of military tailors in India before Partition appear to have been Muslims, which probably accounts for the fact that very little pre-Partition militaria ever seems to come to light in India."

John Gaylor would welcome any information or reasoned hypotheses. Write to him at 30 Edgeborough Way, Bromley, Kent BR1 2UA or ring him on 0181 325 1391. Over to you ...

Any relevant information sought on **A/Sgt 23220534 Arthur Osborne**, Royal Engineers, a quantity surveyor who died aged 22 while serving with CRE British Gurkhas India, RE Stores, Jobgani, Bihar, India, 1959-60. Death was registered by Maj A Lynex-Hopkins. The grave has been lost and a headstone erected

in Dharan Cantonment. Replies to Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrech, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

Kenneth E Pottle Carman seeks news of **SSgt Tom Baldwin** of the R Signals, with whom he served in Malaya on National Service in 1949-51. Both were members of the Sergeants' Mess at Taiping, HQ North Malaya Sub-District. Kenneth Pottle (as he was then) was a sergeant instructor in the RAEC. Replies to 17 Witchards, Essex SS16 5BG.

Jim Faggotter seeks news of people for whom his father, Australian jockey **Val Faggotter**, rode, including Col Lyde (who trained horses in Yorkshire), Harry Whiteman in Scotland, the Fowens brothers (a major and a captain) in India, and Sir Cavendish Bentik in Nairobi. He would also like a photo of a house he lived in: 2 The Avenue, Richmond, Yorkshire. Replies to Private Mail Bag 11, Rockhampton Mail Centre, Queensland, 4702, Australia.



On his way: Maj Gen Robin Short leaves Keogh Barracks near Aldershot in an armoured ambulance after being dined out by the officers of the Army Medical Directorate to mark his retirement as Director General Army Medical Services. Gen Short, who is leaving the Army, was played out by a piper to mark his first post, as a young doctor with The Black Watch.

Fancy a tour with the Flying Gunners?

THE Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team – better known as the Flying Gunners – are looking for volunteers to join the squad. Two selection periods are being held, from Sunday, Nov 21 to Friday, Nov 26 and from Sunday, Dec 12 to Friday, Dec 17. To be eligible you have to be a serving member of the Royal Regiment of

Artillery. The team is open to male and female candidates and no previous riding experience or licence are necessary.

Successful candidates will sign on for a two-year tour of duty with the Flying Gunners. Anyone interested in attending the selection camps should contact WO2 (TSM) Jones on Woolwich Mil 3284.

REUNIONS

RGBW Freedom: The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment is to receive the freedom of Windsor and Maidenhead on June 9 and parade on the Long Walk in Windsor at 11am. After exercising its right to march through Windsor, the 1st Battalion will be "At Home" afterwards on the sports field to former members of the regiment and its forebears. Come along and bring a picnic.

Royal Leicestershire Regiment: Annual meeting and reunion of Royal Tigers' Association will be held in Leicester on June 19-20. A memorial plaque to all killed in Korea will be dedicated in the regimental chapel. Details on 0116 262 2749.

Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association: Annual Crich dinner takes place on July 3 at Royal Regency Banqueting Suite, Ilkeston. Annual pilgrimage to the regimental memorial at Crich will be held on July 4. Contact RHQ WFR, Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Notts NG9 5HA (tel 0115 946 5415).

Para spectacular: Airborne Forces Day South will be held on Southsea Common, Portsmouth on July 11.

JSMTC(S): Reunion on Sept 3 at TA Centre, Gordonville Road, Inverness. Tickets (£15) to

JSMTC(S) Reunion Fund, Mrs A Baldwin, 8 Wyvis Drive, Achareidh, Nairn. Details from Ms E Wood on 0131 310 8675.

4th Regiment RA: All ranks reunion at Walsall on Sept 25. Contact Pete Lazell on 0171 341 5278 or Mick Avery on 01902 570942.

Sapper railwaymen: A reunion for ex-RE rail-waymen, including movement, control and port operating, is planned at the Army Museum of Transport, Beverley, North Yorks, on Oct 6. For details, send sae to Robin Thorne, 18 Primrose Acre, Deanland Wood Park, Golden Cross, Hailsham, E Sussex BN27 3SD (tel 01825 872629).

National Ex-Prisoner of War Association: Annual reunion at Warners Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants, Oct 8-11. Details: C F Jago, 01722 333599 or Les Allen 01873 818308.

7th Field Company/Squadron RE: Annual reunion at Leicester in Oct. Details from Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark NG23 5BJ.

Arborfield Army Apprentices: Intakes 50A and 50B reunion planned for Oct 2000. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

Long voyage of the Rifles' memorial

NINETY Korean War veterans of The Royal Ulster Rifles gathered at the Depot of the Royal Irish Regiment, Ballymena at the end of April to pay their respects at the Korean Memorial on the 48th anniversary of the Battle of Imjin River.

First dedicated in July 1951 at a spot with a view northwards towards Chancqueghyou – Happy Valley – where 1 RUR's many dead had been buried, the pillar of pink granite has a history of its own. For a time it travelled with the battalion as the war ebbed and flowed. Subsequently threatened by the urban sprawl of Seoul, it was removed in 1962 by sailors from HMS Belfast and transported to Londonderry on a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship.

Two years later it was unveiled on the south side of the parade square in the then new depot. Today the Korean Memorial in St Patrick's Barracks is flanked by two new memorials, fashioned in the same style, for the Ulster Defence Regiment and The Royal Irish Regiment.

The Ulster Rifles suffered 208 casualties in the fierce battle at Chancqueghyou between the Imjin and Han rivers in January 1951, but were unable to recover their dead until three months later when the United Nations reclaimed the area.

PINK GRANITE

While in reserve on the south side of the Han, an area in danger of being overrun again by the Chinese, the Rifles decided to erect a memorial stone on the spot where their dead were buried and located a block of pink granite and a stone mason in Seoul. Before anything could happen, the battalion was sent back into the line. The stone mason and his block of granite went too, and whenever B Echelon stopped, the memorial was worked on under the supervision of the padre.

In the meantime, those buried at the head of the pass overlooking Happy Valley, including soldiers of 8 KRIH and 45 Fd Regt RA, were re-buried at the UN cemetery at Pusan.

It was not until July that year, following the Battle of the Imjin River during which the Glosters were surrounded and the Rifles forced to withdraw with more casualties, that the memorial was finally unveiled on its original site at Chancqueghyou.



Somme casualty found 82 years on

PRIVATE George Nugent, of the Northumberland Fusiliers (3rd Tyneside Scottish) went missing in action after the opening attack of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916. Last October, 82 years later, his body was found near Lochnagar Crater. Until the recent publication of *Tyneside Scottish* (Leo Cooper, large-format paperback, £18.95), one of two recent additions to the awesomely detailed "Pals" series, no living relative had been found by the MoD, so authors Graham Stewart and John Sheen, who had helped confirm Nugent's identity, were given permission to release details of the story with the book.

Hull Pals, heroes of Oppy Wood

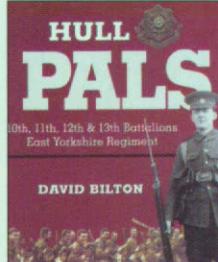
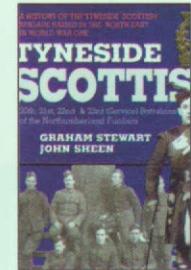
SECOND recent addition to the Leo Cooper "Pals" series tells the 1914-19 story of the 10th, 11th,

12th and 13th Battalions, East Yorkshire Regiment which, although active both against the Turks and in the Somme offensives of 1916, were known as a "lucky brigade" because they did not incur such horrific casualties as some other units. Apart from the wealth of records and photographs reproduced in David Bilton's *Hull Pals* (£18.95), their fame lives on in the form of two VCs and the distinction they earned in the heroic capture of Oppy Wood.

First World War's 'forgotten army'

BRITAIN'S First World War conscripts – 2.5 million of them – were unfairly viewed as less patriotic than the volunteers celebrated in the "Pals" books (see above). They were the post-Somme soldiers of the second half of the war and in a remarkable first book, *Conscripts: Lost Legions of the Great War* (Sutton, £19.99) Ilana Bet-El argues that they were

the forgotten army of that campaign. Drawing on diaries, letters and other unpublished accounts, she has crafted a substantial contribution to the social analysis of this much-studied conflict.



The tank that came good



Going ashore: A Churchill on a Combined Ops exercise in the UK

DURING the Second World War, the British Army operated three classes of tank.

The roles of the light and medium-weight cruiser classes generally corresponded with those of other nations. In the heavier class, however, the British Army employed the infantry tank, designed purely for support of infantry in the attack and to move at the general pace of a foot soldier.

Its armour was usually heavier so it could withstand anti-tank fire as it lumbered forward. The Churchill was born out of a design which owed much to the first heavy tanks of the First World War.

Times had changed, however, and Vauxhall Motors was asked to design and act as technical experts on the new series, which first appeared when Britain's tank resources and general fortunes were at a low ebb.

Built without the usual interminable cycle of prototypes, it entered service with many problems still un-

Mr Churchill's Tank by David Fletcher (Schiffer USA, £39.95).

solved. The tank's fortunes waxed and waned and it came close to being taken out of production more than once, only to be reprieved and improved before eventually becoming a useful vehicle in the field.

Its story is intertwined with that of British tank development during this period.

David Fletcher is very well placed to write about the Churchill. One of our leading authors on tank matters, he is also librarian and curator at the Tank Museum at Bovington, which gives him ready access to a fund of information on the vehicle.

He sheds light on the development of armament and the often conflicting demands, confusions and interference in design and production. Some interesting might-have-beens are documented.

He describes the original "shelled area" tank which

spawned Churchill and ended with Black Prince, a sort of Super-Churchill.

The author covers the tank in action, from a less-than-auspicious debut at Dieppe to more successful appearances in Tunisia, North West Europe and Italy, and on to its final deployment in Korea.

Details, still sketchy, of its use in Russia and peacetime service in Australia and Eire, are also included.

Many Churchills were converted or built as specialist armour, wisely not covered here apart from the unusual 3in gun carrier. This leaves the way open for a full and detailed study of them later.

Some unusual field modifications are, however, covered. The book contains a fine collection of photographs ranging from factory views to the tanks in action. More detail is shown through original stowage diagrams and handbooks.

While most wartime British armour had a bad press, and the Churchill itself attracted adverse comments, it generally came through with a good reputation. Its full story has waited a long time to be told, and deserves its place among worthy studies of major armoured vehicles. – PB

Soldier ordering service

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They do it for love as well as money

NOT all mercenaries do it for the money, according to Anthony Rogers. Boredom with civilian life, a craving for the adrenalin rush of combat and the comradeship of like-minded individuals also figure on the list of motivations.

As does, somewhat surprisingly, the simple desire to support a cause.

When war broke out in former Yugoslavia in 1990 (one of many conflicts covered in this book), volunteers from all over the world arrived in the Balkans to help Croatia thwart Serbian ambitions.

Some, writes Rogers, formerly of the Royal Marines and the Rhodesian Special Forces, "looked on Croatia as some kind of romantic crusade, while almost all of them enjoyed the macho 'merc' image. But anybody could take part".

There was 23-year-old Karl from Birmingham, a former electrician and pizza-delivery man. He was horrified to hear that, if captured, he would have his eyes, ears, nose and other delicate bits of his anatomy cut off. Soon

Someone Else's War: Mercenaries from 1960 to the Present by Anthony Rogers (HarperCollins, £16.99).

afterwards he laid down his assault rifle and left.

Andrew, a 19-year-old from Truro, was adamant. "We're definitely not mercenaries." On about £100 a month at the time, he had a point.

"John Ward", believed to have served with the Paras in the Territorial Army, and Raymond Jeffrey, once of the Scots Guards, were said to be the first mercenaries to have joined the Croatian Defence Force. Not far behind them was "Dave Tomkins", late of the Royal Engineers.

A pay dispute is believed to have prompted their departure, or perhaps it was the haphazard prosecution of the war... "like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with AK47s", according to one disillusioned idealist.

Bosnia quickly developed into a much bloodier, full-scale conflict, no place for inexperienced pseudo-mercenaries. Paul, a former

Royal Green Jacket, was unique in being "probably the only black volunteer to have fought in both Croatia and Bosnia".

Mercenaries, few of whom could have envisaged becoming rich on the proceeds, joined both sides as the war escalated. Alan Bowen, another Briton, described to the author a prolonged fire-fight he was involved in at Lokve, after which papers on the bodies of dead Chetniks revealed their numbers to include Russian and Romanian mercenaries. Two years later Bowen killed a Chinese volunteer when Muslim forces captured heights overlooking the strategically important town of Trnovo.

A chapter on the Balkans ends with the signing of the American-brokered ceasefire in October 1995, an agreement which brought "to an end Europe's most protracted conflict" since the Second World War. A somewhat premature assessment in the light of recent events in Kosovo, already fertile new ground for mercenaries. JNE

IN BRIEF

The Illustrated Red Baron by Peter Kilduff. Compilation of 200-plus pictures and extended captions on Manfred von Richthofen, still the most celebrated fighter pilot of them all. (Arms & Armour, £20.)

The Western Front from the Air by Nicholas C Watkis. Before, during and after photo-reconnaissance of seven major battlefields, from the Imperial War Museum archive. (Sutton, £20.)

Journal of a Horse Gunner by Brig Robert Daniell. Fondly-remembered life in the Royal Horse Artillery, from India to the Baltic, via Alamein. (Buckland Publications, Dover, £14.95.)

The Home Guard by David Carroll. TV's *Dad's Army* was pretty accurate, judging by some of the 200 or so photographs in this book, including a roller-skating platoon and an immovable "Nazi" corrugated-iron tank, "captured" in an exercise. (Sutton, paperback, £9.99.)

The Marines. This huge and lavish tribute to the US Marine Corps is one for collectors – but make sure the coffee-table is strong enough to take it. (Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, £49.50; Gazelle Book Services, Lancaster, 01524 68765.)

Fortress Europe by J E Kauffmann, illustrations by R M Jurga. Comprehensive and detailed

430-page survey of European fortifications of the Second World War. (Greenhill Books, £25.)

The Victors by Stephen E Ambrose. Subtitled "Eisenhower and his Boys: The Men of World War II", a formidable American writer's stirring account from D-Day to VE-Day told through the words of ordinary soldiers. (Simon & Schuster, £20.)

The Queen's Royal Lancers by David J Hunter. Third and latest (the Scots Guards are at the printers) in a series of famous regiments as depicted on cigarette and trade cards. (Available from the author, 11 Sunningdale Drive, Tollerton, Notts NG12 4ES, £7.95 plus 50p p&p.)

Desert legion that became a legend

AUTHOR James Lunt tells us in

The Arab Legion 1923-1957

(Constable, £18.99) that of his

35 years of military

service (mostly with the British Army), the

best three were

spent on second-

ment to this élite

desert force in the

1950s. The enviable

reputation of the

Legion, which later

became the highly-

respected Jordanian

Arab Army, was

forged during the Second World

War years by John Glubb (Glubb

Pasha), a one-time Royal Engi-

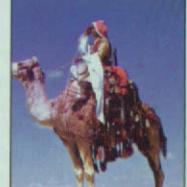
neers captain, who failed to per-

suade the British Government to

employ his legendary fighters in

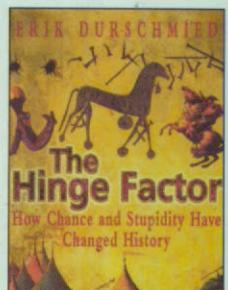
the European theatre.

The Arab Legion
1923-1957
JAMES LUNT



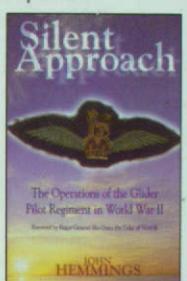
When air superiority got a fast result

THOSE who cite the air bombardment in the Gulf War as a precursor of recent events in the Balkans cannot avoid drawing the conclusion that in the earlier conflict the strategy proved far more effective in achieving the desired result. In **The Hinge Factor**, a study of how unpredictable events have changed history (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99), Erik Durschmid concludes that the decisive factor in 1991 was "a blatant technological superiority in the first hour of the attack". His book is entertainingly readable, if in places a little simplistic.



Gliding into danger: the human stories

AS BOTH skilled airmen and soldiers, glider pilots were among the bravest and most respected of Second World War heroes. Their missions behind enemy lines, in flimsy contraptions and without parachutes, were perilous to say the least. In **Silent Approach** (The Book Guild, £15) John Hemmings MC, himself one of this fearless breed, does not attempt a definitive history of the Glider Pilot Regiment; instead he tells vividly the human stories, relating in a straightforward style the wide-ranging experiences of some of the surviving pilots. Recommended.



Silent Approach
The Operations of the Glider Pilot Regiment in World War II
JOHN HEMMINGS

Mailbag

Will we get a medal for Macedonia?

I AM serving with the Royal Artillery in Macedonia. Morale is high and soldiers are eager for the outcome: will we go into Kosovo or won't we? Which brings me to my reason for writing. The biggest thing on many of our minds (besides our families) is, will there be a medal for service in Macedonia? According to rumour:

- Those who already have the blue Nato medal for SFOR-IFOR operations won't get anything;

- Those who have the above may get a clasp;

- A new medal will be struck.

Can you shed any light on the issue, which is a big morale factor among troops. – Bdr (name and address supplied), Op Agricola, BFPO 559.

● Soldier has been told by Personal Services 12 (Army): "Currently all those involved on operations, or in direct support of operations, in the Kosovo region are entitled to the Nato medal with clasp 'Former Yugoslavia'. However, the Defence Services Secretary, the MoD tri-Service focus for medals, has written to Nato about the possibility of a Nato medal with a different ribbon for this operation. We fully support this initiative and, if agreed, we will issue details." – Editor

Campaigners . . .

LIKE Mr Mitchell (April) I became aware of the Accumulated Service Medal not long ago and wonder which campaigns count, which do not, and how long you have to serve to qualify. I have tried to find out through my own unit but have so far drawn a blank. Can you help? – Cpl M Eades, 37 Fd Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln.

● Holders of the General Service Medal 1962, with one or more clasps, who satisfy the criteria, will receive the new medal. Qualifying theatres of operation are: Northern Ireland (Aug 14, 1969 and continuing); Dhofar (Oct 1, 1969-Sept 30, 1976); Lebanon (Feb 7, 1983-March 9, 1984); mine clearance Gulf of Suez (Aug 15, 1984); Gulf (Nov 11, 1986-Feb 28, 1989); Kuwait (March 8-Sept 30, 1991) and Northern Iraq/Southern Turkey (April 6-July 7, 1991). Apply through admin officers on Form AFS9983. – Editor

DOWNLOAD . . .

SERVICES trying to improve recruiting should give younger people the "bug" at an early age. I had no insight into the Services until I joined the Army cadets, and I am now planning a career out of it. I believe that with better funding and better-trained instructors in the ACF, the Army would receive more recruits and recruits of a better quality. – LCpl S Brown (15), Oxon Cadet Force.

Mess system is food for thought

THE debate on Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) and what such a system entails is dragging on. In the meantime, soldiers are paying for food they are not consuming.

I live in the Sergeants' Mess, Imphal Barracks, York and, as a married unaccompanied soldier over the age of 37, pay for the food element. There are about 50 in the mess, 96 per cent of whom travel home at weekends, so from Friday lunchtime until the following Monday morning, only a handful are actually dining.

In an average month each member pays about £90 food charge, even though they are consuming only £62 worth. With, say, 30 personnel regularly away from the mess

Prize letter

every weekend, this amounts to £840 going towards food we don't eat. My question is: Where does this money go?

Surely if the mess can run a booking-in-and-out account for the deduction of extra messing, why can't the Pay Office simply copy this information and deduct money only from those actually consuming the food. Or is that too difficult? I queried this point with Pay Office staff, who were sympathetic but said that until the introduction of PAYD the only way of getting out of paying for food was to leave.

The £28 I pay every month for food I don't eat is going somewhere. But where? – SSgt G Mason, HQ 2 Division, York.

Give us a break on terminal leave

FURTHER to Sgt C M Cooke's letter ("Terminal leave is totally inadequate", April), I too feel there is an injustice in stopping a soldier who has served less than 22 years from finishing his career in the UK. When I leave the Army in December I will have completed 12 years and eight months of colour service all, less a two-year ERE (extra-regimentally employed), in Osnabrück.

After giving the Army nearly 14 years of my life, is it wrong to expect something in return? A final posting to the UK would

certainly make the transition to civilian life easier. I applied for my last six months to be in the UK but the paperwork did not leave the regiment.

I understand the Army's problems with retention, but as Sgt Cooke rightly said, it leads to a lot of resentment. Twenty-eight days is nowhere near long enough to find a job, somewhere to live, schools and so on. Come on MoD, you're always saying how much you think of the troops. Prove it. – Bdr D P Bate, 94 HQ Battery, 4 Regiment RA, Osnabrück.

Terrier gives up a lot to serve

FURTHER to SSgt Anderson's letter (Feb) on "age discrimination" on length of service between the Regular Army and Territorial Army, and SSgt Sayer's response (April), I'd like to point out that it takes five years to earn a bounty of £1,050.

The major difference is that there is no "baggage" with the TA – no accommodation or schooling costs and so on.

I agree that at the end of 22 years there should be either a loyalty payment or gratuity. I have served with 4 RGJ from the rank of rifleman to captain – 21½ years in all – and if I leave tomorrow there is nothing at the end of it. Regular attendees in our battalion do roughly two weekends each month plus a two-week camp plus a

course now and then, which all adds up to quite a lot of time out of civilian life.

With our Regular battalion being so short of manpower, it is more than happy to have the TA supply keen, willing manpower. Many Regular instructors comment that they would not work through the week and give up their weekends to go away with the TA. – Capt Michael Blake, 4 RGJ, West Ham, London.

REFERENCE SSgt Anderson's letter on Territorial Army soldiers being allowed to serve past 50 while Regulars have to leave at 40, Regulars get a pension but TA soldiers do not. – Barry Aitchison, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear.

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*, June 1949
British troops, who landed at Akaba, the Transjordan port, to guard against incursion by Israeli forces, are discovering what the Arabian sun can do. Refrigerators are being brought in to keep the food fresh. Tents, which already have an extra flap to keep out the heat, will get a second, and electricity will be laid on for light and fans.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1974
Lord Mountbatten, (above), takes the salute as the last nine Army DUKWs sail into history at Marchwood near Southampton. The remarkable wartime amphibious vehicle was bowing out of service after 30 years. Mountbatten, as wartime Chief of Combined Operations, chose the US-built DUKW for British invasion forces.

Don't blame it on the Marines!

WITH reference to recent letters on the position of badges on berets, and in particular the remarks of R F Cooks (April) concerning the Royal Marines, I hope you will allow me to put the record straight.

When the blue beret was introduced in the Royal Marines in August 1943, it was manufactured with a scarlet semi-circular patch behind the badge and a built-in stiffener. If the opening for the draw-string ribbon at the back was worn in the centre of the head, the badge was positioned half-way between the left eye and the left ear.

At this time on the green Commando beret, Royal Marines always wore their badge over the left eye. In 1949 instructions were issued in the Corps for the badge on the blue beret to be worn over the left eye also, the ribbon at the back was to be tied in a knot and the loose end tucked into the opening out of sight.

Blue berets manufactured after that date were made with the stiffener and patch over the left eye. I have examined a number of present-day photographs of

Royal Marines, have found very few with the badge anywhere but over the left eye and therefore consider it unfair to put even part of the blame on us for today's practice in the Army.

The origin of the scarlet patch may be of interest to your readers. Before being worn on the blue beret, it was worn on the khaki side cap in the Royal Marines from 1940.

It was a "relic" from the old Brodrick cap, on which various Army regiments wore different coloured semi-circular patches.

This headdress was most unpopular in the Army, lasting only about five years and abolished in 1905 in favour of the peaked forage cap. However, it continued to be worn in the Royal Marines until 1923 and consequently to many people became almost synonymous with the RM. The scarlet patch was even worn on the forage cap until 1933, when a new cap with red band was introduced in the Corps. — AJ Donald, Chairman, Royal Marines Historical Society, Horn-dean, Hants.

PS...

Die Hard didn't die

CONCERNING MA Sampson's letter on The Die Hards (May), I served with the 1/7th Middlesex (1939-45) and also believed that Lt Col Inglis died at Albuhera in the Peninsular War. I have since discovered that he survived his wound (a four-ounce grapeshot in the neck). He was operated on two days later and, after home leave, returned to the Peninsula to fight again. He finished the war with the rank of major general and married at the age of 58 in 1822. He had two sons who followed him into the service. — F W Edwards, Enfield.

AFTER surviving his grievous wound, Col Inglis (who was to become Sir William Inglis KCB, seventh Colonel of the 57th Foot, 1830-35) returned to the Peninsula to command a brigade between 1813 and 1814, and was promoted lieutenant general in 1825. He died in 1835 and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral. — Don Barrett, Twickenham.

Two-can sense

GNR Peter Coleman (May) argued that alcohol should be banned on operations, but I think he is out of touch. It is up to the CO or RSM to ensure the two-can rule is enforced. During my 11 years' service I have never seen any trouble with the two-can rule, especially in places such as Northern Ireland. You need a couple of beers once in a while to unwind after operations. — Pte Simon Robertson, 1 RS, BFPO 811.

I AM seriously considering joining the British Army. I find it refreshing that although those who wish to, are allowed to relax with a couple of cans of beer, those I hope soon to be serving with will also be ready for the unexpected. — Adam Deeley, Victoria, Australia.

Best man found

WE asked you for help in tracing my best man from 1949 so he could attend our golden wedding celebrations. You put us in contact with the MoD Records Office, where we soon tracked him down. After 50 years my name didn't register with him, but a wedding snap showing me, my wife and him certainly did and he will be at our celebration. Many, many thanks to *Soldier* for your help and guidance. — D A Huxley, Somerset.

Leap of terror

IN your review of the book *True Stories of The Paras* (April), the author says, as many have before him, that the second jump is the worst. Am I unique? For me, the first jump — from a balloon at Weston-on-the-Green — was the worst, accompanied by abject terror and a feeling of "what-am-I-doing-here". The second, later the same day, was a breeze. I was an RAF signaller working with 16 Para Brigade. — Chris Allen (Membership secretary, RAF Boy Entrants Association), 3 Eskdale Road, Wakefield WF2 9HF.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

It's so good to talk

British troops in Macedonia are using a mixture of old and new technologies to stay in touch with friends and family. They are now entitled to one free ten-minute phone call each week. We asked soldiers with the Irish Guards battle-group how they managed to stay in touch.



**Cpl Anna Harris,
KRH**

The satellite phones at the camps are good but there are not enough of them. The queues in the evenings are horrendous.

**Tpr Steven
Sheppard, KRH**

I haven't used the telephones yet but I intend to by the end of the week. They seem to have sorted out the camp very quickly and well. There is a good supply of blueys.



**Spr Patrick Baxter,
26 Armd Engr Sqn**

I've got a friend who has a mobile and I have been using that. My wife is sending me a mobile.



**Cpl Jay Bartlett,
1 IG**

I think a lot of people have taken it into their own hands now and bought themselves mobile phones. I remember in Bosnia you used to just see a few senior officers with them. Now everybody has them. I phone my wife once a month. Last time I was away in Bosnia I got quite good at writing letters over the six-month period. The free letters and phone calls are good but there is not much privacy when you make the calls. But at least they are trying something.



**Cpl Richard
Thompson, 1 IG**

I do believe the Army is on the right track with the welfare phones as it is important to stay in touch with family, friends and loved ones. I know the majority of guys out here have

mobile phones. We get ten free minutes a week, which is good but not enough.

LCpl Pete Squires, 26 Armd Engr Sqn

I am saving my cards up. I write letters but it is hard to explain to my wife what we are doing when we are training. I prefer writing to using the telephone. People back home just want to know they are loved and are being missed.



**WO2 Mick Hansekowitsch,
26 Armd Engr Sqn**

I have not used the telephone yet because I have my own mobile. There are 750 people here trying to use the few phones and many of them try at the same time after training. I am not a brilliant letter writer but my children send me letters and that is a good morale-booster. We are getting some wood to separate the phones and give more privacy. Soldiers are not that keen on saying "I love you" when they are standing by their mates.

LCpl Mark Rochester, KRH

I've got a mobile phone which I bought a

couple of weeks back. I have been in Bosnia on a six-month tour so I know the score. I only use the mobile in emergencies but at least my mum and dad have comms with me. I am a good letter writer when I have time but it's very busy at the moment.



**SSgt David Hudson,
26 Armd Engr Sqn**

I am quite impressed with the system. It was set up very quickly compared with Bosnia. I write every day if I have the time. It was only four days before I got my first letter.

**Tpr Brian Webster,
KRH**

I have my own mobile. I write home to my parents once or twice a week and write two or three letters a day to various people. The mobile is expensive but I use it every three days or so. People also phone me.



**Cpl Geordie
Adamson, 1 GH**

I have bought a mobile and I use it once a week on a Friday; my wife phones me from Germany. The queue for the camp phones is very long but things are getting better – they are just teething problems.

● Soldiers featured on this page may have been attached to units other than their own at the time the interviews were conducted

Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Mike Weston

COMING SOON

Maj Leo Stanton has proved that where there's life there's hope. He has resumed full military service and completed an Open University degree course despite a diagnosis of cancer and being given just a ten per cent chance of survival.



Also:

Inside Kneller Hall, the elegant home of Army music

Our man reports from Broadsword, the Army's round-the-world race yacht

Here comes Summer



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