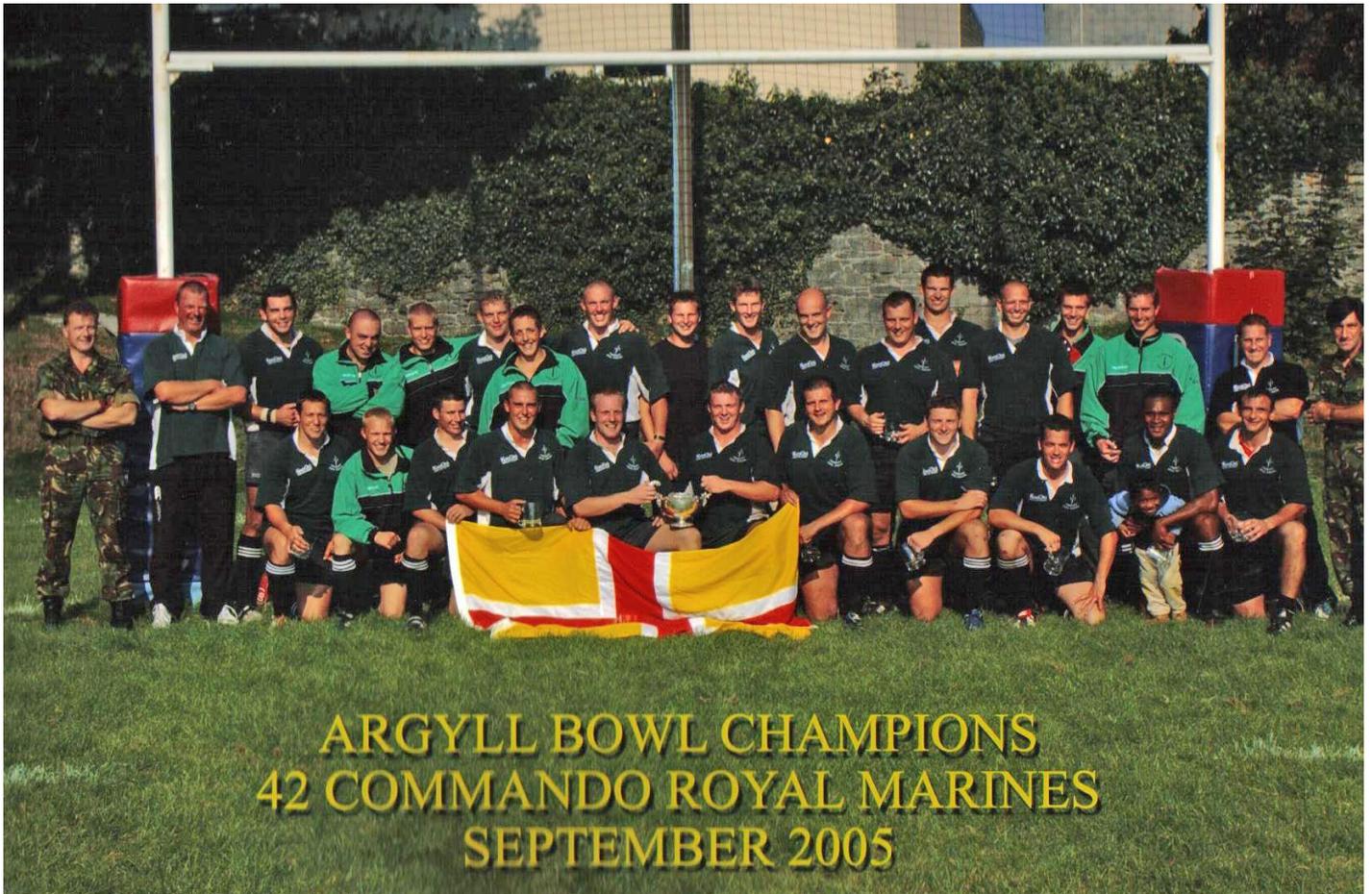


Letter from the Desert

News from Alan & Grace

October 2005

Congratulations!



Paul writes:

I'm sending you some photos of the recent tournament I played in for the unit. These are from the final against 40 Commando which we won 30-13. Its the first time we have won the cup for 18 years, so the CO was happy. I'm playing rugby for the Royal Navy next week, which will be my debut with the team.

The word Argyll is the name of the trophy - The Argyll Bowl. It was presented to the Royal Marines by the Royal Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1947 as a show of close relations between the units. It has been competed for by all the Commando units within 3 Commando Brigade every year since.

We won our other games easily, beating Stonehouse 101-0 and 45 Commando 55-10.

We also played in Germany, which was good, and we won our game against the Royal Dragoon Guards by a small margin.

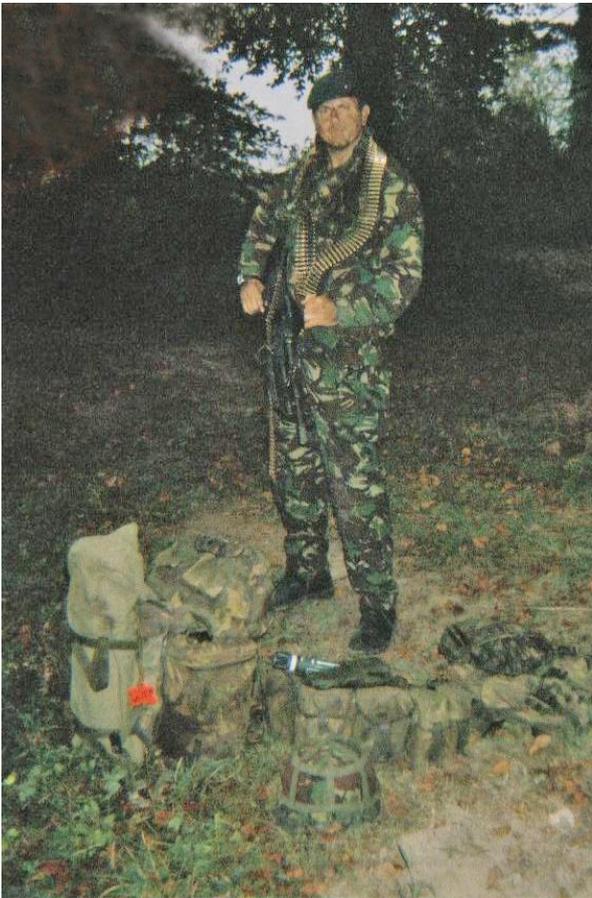
Paul is 5th from right in above photo - holding the flag.

More photographs inside



The Argyll Bowl Tournament





*On
Exercises*





Above - Paul representing the Royal Navy team at rugby - his first match for them.



Left - Taken from the inside of a CH-47 (Chinook helicopter) looking out to another - on board HMS Ocean.

*Onboard
with the
Royal Navy*



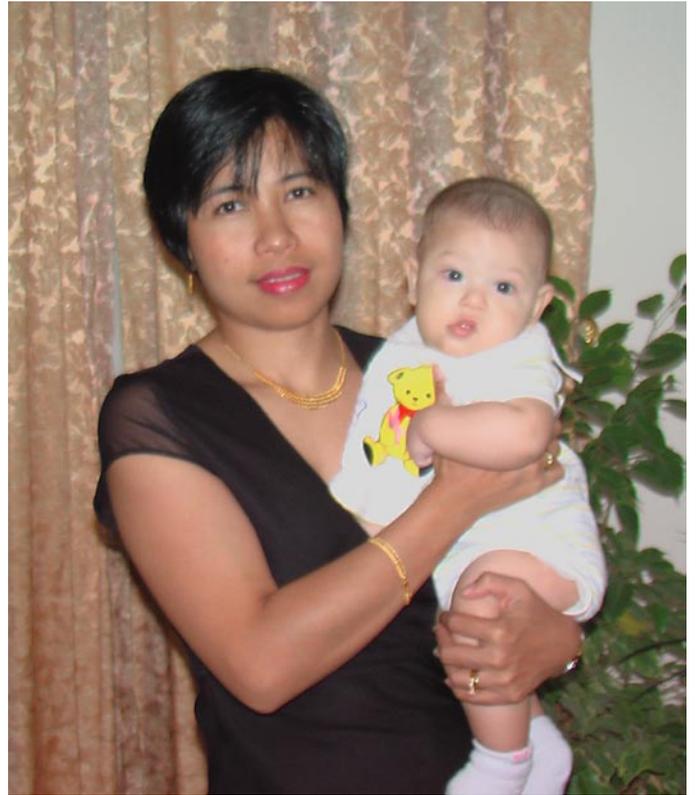
A fond farewell



Our dear friend, Vonnie, has left Doha (temporarily, we hope), for the UK where she is going to study for her Masters Degree in Psychology and Music - the effects of music on the mind. She is studying at Keele University in Staffordshire. Perhaps we'll now find out if "road-rage" is caused by people playing pop music in their cars! The photograph above was taken in our flat. The pictures below show Vonnie at just one of the many farewell parties thrown for her.



Family portraits



A few recent photographs showing Grace with her new, short, hairstyle. Also shown are John Paul Alan (with Grace, above) and Nadia, Grace's sister (below). All photographs taken on 20 October 2005.



Lunch at the Ramada



Above: John, Stephen, Martha, Nadia, Grace having lunch - John Paul Alan is also shown having lunch!.
Below: Martha, Grace and Nadia in the Ramada Hotel pool after lunch.



Cream Tea at Home

Having learned scone making from Alan's mum, Grace's cream teas are gaining in popularity - and fame! We recently enjoyed the company of our friends, Chris and Mam with their children. The photograph (*right*) shows Mam and the children with John Paul Alan, in our flat in Khalifa.



Ramadan Fun



Although, of course, the Holy month of Ramadan, doesn't have any significance in the Christian Calendar, there are many activities taking place in Doha that non-muslims can enjoy. The photograph above shows us inside the "Ramadan Tent" at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, enjoying a meal with (L-R) Martha, John, Stephen, Nadia and Grace. The buffet meal was fantastic and the traditional entertainment really enjoyable. Other photographs shown on this, and the following page, were also taken at the same event.



Above: Anyone for coffee?



Above: John Paul Alan being looked after by the lovely ladies at the Ritz-Carlton - Hind, Esther and Pet.



Fun at Sea Line Beach Resort



Main photographs: Alan and Grace enjoying Jet Skiing.

Top Left: Grace with John Paul Alan

Left: Stephen and Martha - Stephen's the one wearing ear warmers!

International Pot Luck

at the College of the North Atlantic - Qatar

Thanks to Dr. Glenn Dicks, the Dean of Student Services and Rania (a CNA-Q student - *see photograph, bottom left*) for hosting an International Pot Luck evening at the college campus which was attended by many staff and students. Lots of kind folks set up their own stands representing their countries cuisine and displayed some national artifacts. Grace took along a large pot of Minodo, to share, and we joined forces with David, who was representing Korea (*see photograph, right*). There was also a variety of musical entertainment ranging from rock and roll to ethnic types. A great time was enjoyed by us all. One of the greatest pleasures was seeing so many young people dancing, and thoroughly enjoying themselves, without the 'necessity' to first tank themselves up with alcohol - something many western youngsters don't seem to be able to do.



A Special Day *in the life of John Paul Alan*



On 28 October 2005, John Paul Alan was dedicated to God at our church in Doha under the leadership of Dave Wallen. We were pleased to welcome our friends Stephen and Martha to the church.



As befits such a special occasion as a dedication, we had a small party in the evening. Here are few photographs of the celebration in our flat.



Tess, Nellie, Nadia and Grace



John and Nellie



Martha, Grace, Nadia and Tess



Martha, Grace and Nadia



Stephen and Ivan



Tess

ALAN'S REFLECTIONS

ALAN'S REFLECTIONS



A photograph from the history books! Taken during the late 1950's this photograph shows the Clans of the Campaigners at the Evangelical Free Church in New England Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, England.

The two Clan Chief's on the left of the photograph are my mother and father. I'm located on the second row from the back, in the centre of the photograph, next to a rather stern looking young lady, obviously trying hard to keep me under control. I'm the one with the grin!

Seeing the photograph above, made me think about how much the world has changed during the last 45-50 years since it was taken. And, of course, how much my own life has changed and the adventures I've had along the way during nearly half a century. I feel rather sad to think about how organisations such as the Campaigners, Boy's/Girl's Brigade and the Scouts/Guides have waned in popularity since those days. I feel that they were a very beneficial part of our society as they gave youngsters a sense of right and wrong and discipline that is sadly lacking in many of our young people today. It also gave many of them a sense of belonging to a family - especially those from broken homes (comparitively rare in those days - how much more important this would be now). These organisations also taught

the youngsters useful skills not taught at school (or anywhere else) - and social skills beyond meeting in the pub and getting drunk! How our young people are missing out by not joining these organisations. In the days before TV became popular, well before video/computer games were invented, youngsters were encouraged to DO something useful, instead of becoming loners in front of a screen or drunken louts on the streets. What a contrast it is to live in the Philippines, where TV's and computers are comparitively rare and where youngsters are taught discipline and to actually DO things - as well as respect other people, instead of being part of the *Yob Culture* that has become prevalent in the UK since these organisations declined in popularity.

Alan