

The Daily Roar

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

January 21, 2009

Soldier, best friend save lives

By Staff Sgt. Brock Jones
MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Dogs have long been known as “man’s best friend.”

In recent years, dogs have also become the Soldier’s best friend, taking on the dangerous duty of finding weapons and explosives in the combat zones of the Middle East with their keen sense of smell, in the hopes of finding and eliminating them before Soldiers “discover” them the hard way.

Sgt. Jess Storie, a native of Claremore, Okla., who serves as an off-leash dog handler with 94th Engineer Detachment out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., currently attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Jose, his black Labrador retriever, spend their days front and center in the constant battle to eliminate dangerous weapons before they can be used to hurt or kill unknowing civilians and Soldiers.

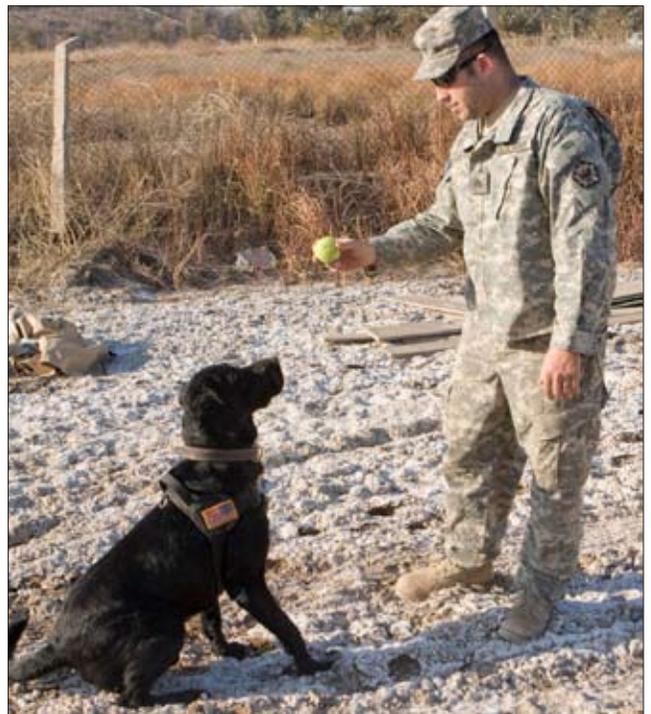
“Me and Jose have been together just a little over a year. This is our first deployment together,” said Storie. “He was a green dog

when I got him so this is his first deployment also.”

Storie, a combat engineer by trade, is in his third deployment to the Middle East and was involved mostly in raids and route clearance during his first and second deployments, respectively. He heard about the opportunity available to engineers to be involved in the Specialized Search Dog program and jumped at the chance to be involved in a job that few Army Soldiers get the opportunity to do.

“When this program popped up, I was at Fort Hood and it took me a year and a half just to get to Fort Leonard Wood to see if I could qualify to get into the dog program,” he said.

Getting into and qualifying for the SSD program is not a walk in the park by any stretch of the imagination. In fact, there is a very rigorous and demanding training process that both dog and handler must go through to be able to work in the equally rigorous and demanding world of an Army off-



by Staff Sgt. Brock Jones, MND-B PAO

Sgt. Jess Storie, a combat engineer who serves as a dog handler with 94th Engineer Detachment out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., currently attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Jose, Storie’s black Labrador retriever and battle buddy, take a break following an afternoon training session in front of the detachment’s kennel on Camp Slayer Jan. 16.

See Dog Pg. 2

Iron Gator starts project to widen Bawi Canal

By Spc. Kevin Holden
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces, local leaders and Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers participated in a ground breaking ceremony marking the widening of the Bawi Canal Jan. 18 in the Salman Pak region, southeast of Baghdad.

The ceremony is one of a series of ground breaking projects to

improve the infrastructure of the Mada’in and Marquez Qadas to improve the quality of live for the citizens.

Maj. Jason Joose, of Attica, N.Y., the executive officer of TF Gator, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad,

See Canal Pg. 3



by Staff Sgt. Brock Jones, MND-B PAO

Sgt. Jess Storie, a combat engineer who serves as a dog handler with 94th Engineer Detachment out of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., currently attached to Multi-National Division – Baghdad, rewards Jose, his black Labrador retriever, with some play time after a training session on Camp Slayer Jan. 16. Storie and Jose are part of the Army’s Specialized Search Dog program and are one of seven SSD teams currently assigned to work with units in the MND-B area of operations searching for weapons caches and improvised explosive devices.

Soldier’s best friend sniffs out danger, saves lives

Dog, From Pg 1

leash dog handler.

“You go through a selection process to even be considered to be a dog handler,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Harmon, a native of Great Falls, Mont., who serves as kennel master, 94th Eng. Det., MND-B, at their field-expedient kennel on Camp Slayer. “It’s pretty intense.”

“Once they’re accepted (into the program) they come to the kennels at Fort Leonard Wood and go through a week-long training process where further we weed out whoever can’t be a dog handler. Once that’s done, they go to Lackland Air Force Base for a four-and-a-half month training with the dog.”

Once dog and handler graduate the course at Lackland, they return to Fort Leonard Wood for another month or two of training before they go through a validation process.

“If they pass the validation, they are certified for one year,” said Harmon.

Following certification, there are quarterly validations that the Soldier-dog teams must pass, in addition to six hours per week training they must conduct.

“Part of the Specialized Search Dog program is a ‘one dog, one handler’ concept where once you train with that dog and certify with that dog, you’re the only one

that can handle...or work that dog whatsoever,” said Harmon.

The reason for the tough training and certification process and for maintaining the strict relationship between Soldier and dog is obvious when one understands the dangers involved for both dog and handler in searching for hidden weapons and explosives.

“We work off-leash so you’ve got to have a better bond with the dog working out at distances anywhere from 100 to 200 meters. The dog’s got to be able to trust you and you’ve got to be able to trust the dog,” said Harmon. “That’s why the biggest focus is on spending time on building up that rapport, that relationship.”

On a recent mission in Baghdad, the months of training and living together paid off not only for Storie and Jose, but members of the MND-B unit they were attached to.

“We got out of the vehicle and I was somewhere in the middle. The commander’s humvee was somewhere up front,” Storie said. “First thing we did was search around the commander’s humvee... There was a pipe laying there on the ground and the dog showed some interest so I pulled him back and moved the humvee back and got (explosive ordinance disposal experts) to show up. They picked it up and...it had wires sticking out of it and they assumed it

was an improvised explosive device.

“After I did that immediate sweep, we found two more artillery rounds there laying on the ground, laying out in the field not 15-20 meters from where we found the IED that was right by the commander’s humvee.”

After EOD was able to take care of the IED and the artillery rounds, the unit Storie and Jose were riding with was able to continue their mission without major incident. A potential disaster had been averted and the training and long hours had paid off in priceless dividends – lives and continued health of Soldiers.

“When he finds something, I don’t really honestly know how to explain it,” said Storie about Jose. “We continue to train daily, mission or not, we still train. So when you find something, it definitely feels like all the hard work that you put into it is paying off.”

“It’s a really satisfying job.”

The missions are arduous and taxing on Storie and Jose and other SSD teams as there are only seven dog teams that support the entire area of Baghdad and the outlying province.

Both Storie and his “best friend” Jose find great satisfaction in what they do as teammates on the battlefield, relying on each other’s strengths to sniff out dangers and save lives.



by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner, Combat Camera

1-10 Cav. Regt. conducts patrol in Haswah

Staff Sgt. David Fine, native of Phoenix, with 2nd Platoon, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division looks a market display during a joint patrol with Iraqi police officers in Haswah, Iraq on Jan. 13.

Widening of canal brings more water to locals

Canal, *From Pg 1*

welcomed Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Hussein, commander, 45th Brigade Iraqi Army, Sheik Qais, the chairman of the Mada'in tribal council, and other representatives of the area to another project of Operation Iron Gator.

"Water goes from the water station to Salman Pak and flows from Wahida to Narwhan, so this benefits a large amount of people and land," said Capt. Dustin Gray, of Williamsfield, Ill., the battalion fire support officer.

The widening of the canal will enable the water from the Bawi pump station to reach more people in the Salman Pak and Wahida area.

"The Bawi water pump station does not work at full capacity. It has four engines, able to put out five cubic meters of water per minute into the irrigation canal. Because of the size of the canal feeding water to the engines, only one or two engines can run at a time. By widening the canal, all four engines can run at once," said Sadiq Hassim, the contractor of the project.

The expansion will provide the area of Wahida with more irrigation and drinking water. The project will increase the overall capacity of the Bawi Canal an additional four cubic meters per second as the water moves through it, which is fed from the Bawi pumping station.

"This is a great day for all the citizens of the Mada'in," said Joose. "Soon water will flow to arid areas due to the hard work by an Iraqi company, with local Iraqi labor, secured by Iraqi Security Forces and the Sawah. I am pleased the Coalition Forces can play a part in this brighter future."



by Staff Sgt. Scott Wolfe, 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Hussein, (left to right) commander of the 45th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, Engineer Sadiq Hassim, the contractor of the Bawi canal project, Engineer Ahmran, the Director of Energy for Water Resources, and Maj. Jason Joose, executive officer of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad prepare to dig the first shovel of dirt at the Bawi pump station in Salman Pak, southeast of Baghdad, Jan. 18.



by Pfc. Lyndsey Dransfield, MND-B PAO

Player of the day

Today's player of the day is Spc. Ryan Waters, a Sewickley Penn. native. He is an instrumental part of the G2 EPEIC section because of his ability to compile, organize and accurately portray the political and social-economic situation into predictive analysis and reporting on the non-lethal aspects of the operational environment. He maintains the attitude of a humble professional, serving selflessly and without thought of personal recognition. His infectious attitude greatly increases the morale of all who work along side him.



This Week in 4th Infantry Division History

WWII 1945 – The Division continued its attack to the north with the 8th and 12th Infantry abreast capturing the towns Longsdorf and Kleinreisdorf and continuing to the high ground facing the Our River. By the close of the week, the Division was making preparations for moving to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Trois Vierges.

Daily Iron Games

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

7	3	6						1
9								6
1		8			9	2		
					1	3	4	
			1	2				
3	1	8						
	8	4		7				2
6							4	
2			4	8			1	

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Tuesday's cross word puzzle results

D	O	Z	E	N		C	A	C	H	E	
I		O		I		O		R		A	
A			O	B	L	I	V	I	O	U	S
R				E		E		W		E	
Y	A	W	N		E	R	O	D	E	D	
		A		L		T		E			
E	A	G	L	E	S		I	D	E	A	
A		E		A		A				D	
T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A		E	
E		E		E		N		R		P	
N	A	D	I	R		T	A	C	I	T	

Safety Sense

Pen Flares –

Pen Flares are currently being used as part of escalation of force and are extremely dangerous if not used properly. The pen flare was primarily designed to be used as a signal device for downed aircrew members. Each signal contains a single star. Upon activation, this star is propelled outward to a distance of between 250 and 650 feet and burns extremely hot for a minimum of 4.5 seconds. Great care, eye protection and leather gloves should be used when firing a pen flare.

David Letterman's Top Ten Signs Your Cat Is Too Fat

10. Gets winded purring
9. Instead of trying to run from dogs, sits on them
8. The Maury people call every damn hour
7. Ears perk up whenever you mention Wendy's Free Fixin's Bar
6. He used 8 lives on heart attacks
5. Cat carrier is a Ford Escort
4. Richard Simmons' cat staged intervention
3. Can only wear cute sweaters from the Big and Tall Kitty Shop
2. Litter box so huge, it has nude bathing section
1. Instead of "meow" he says, "mayo"

Daily Laugh

What happens if you sing country music backwards?
You get your job, your truck, your dog and your wife back.

Chaplain's Inspiration

There are no shortcuts to victory. The same is true in our spiritual life. There are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity and character development. While we worry about how fast we grow, God is concerned about how strong we grow. God views our life from and for eternity. Let us grow strong in his strength as we lead our Soldiers this week.

Philippians 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of our Lord.



beetle bailey

Mort Walker




Hometown Briefs

Peanut butter recall expanded
The Gazette


The recall of peanut butter products related to a national salmonella outbreak has been expanded to now include numerous products sold by major retailers and food companies.

Peanut Corporation of America initiated the original recall, which began with peanut butter sold to institutions such as nursing homes. But peanut butter and peanut butter paste in products such as cookies, cakes, crackers and ice cream are also being recalled, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Although national brands of jarred peanut butter are not affected, products containing peanut butter made by Keebler, General Mills, Kroger and others are included in the recall.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Monday that salmonella was found in a package of peanut butter sandwich crackers made by Kellogg, according to USA Today. It was the first product sold to consumers known to have tested positive, the newspaper reported.

The outbreak has sickened hundreds in 43 states. At least one person in El Paso County has been linked to the outbreak, and a total of 11 in Colorado. Salmonella can cause cramping and diarrhea and last for 4 to 7 days. In severe cases, diarrhea can lead to hospitalization.

Soldier comes home to a wagging tail
Killeen Daily Herald


It was dark Monday, but Zeus could hear a lot of commotion outside. He saw people's feet shuffle by and sometimes he could feel a jolt as someone ran into him.

Then there was shouting and screaming and the thudding sounds of boots echoed on the tarp-covered wood floor. It wouldn't be much longer until Zeus knew what was happening around him. Surely it would be worth the confusion and wait.

At long last Zeus heard a zipper opening and was lifted out of the darkness. It was mom! Zeus' little body shuddered as he caught a glimpse of mom: Spc. Ayla Haller. His brown tail wagged uncontrollably and he showered her face with licks. It had been much too long without mom. Zeus yelped with excitement and mom cried.

Haller returned to Fort Hood Monday with nearly 500 soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Haller was greeted not only by her chihuahua Zeus, but her mother, Monica Juarez; 12-year-old sister Samantha; and friend, Spc. Jennifer Bakeman.

Bakeman and Haller are medics in Medical Troop, Regimental Support Squadron. Bakeman returned to Fort Hood two weeks ago and has taken care of Monica, Samantha and Zeus since they flew from California to Killeen on Friday. Monica has only seen photos of Bakeman and was worried whether she would recognize her at the airport.

Haller would have done the same, Bakeman said, "in a heartbeat."

It was extremely important for Haller to have someone like Bakeman to rely on during the deployment, Juarez said. It made it easier knowing her daughter had a friend like Bakeman while she was halfway across the world.

MLK's vision is alive
The Honolulu Star Bulletin


For years the Rev. John Lee Parish honored Martin Luther King Jr. on his birthday and hoped that the historic leader's dream could one day come true.



Today, Parish and many other African-Americans look at today's inauguration of Barack Obama and think about King's dream.

"It's historic," said Parish, 62, of Ewa Beach. "Martin Luther King Jr. was a symbol not just for black people, but for everyone that was oppressed. Barack Obama is not the fulfillment of the dream. He makes the dream alive. I never thought I would see anything like this. We're not finished yet but we've come a long way."

Yesterday's annual Waikiki parade and concert for Martin Luther King Jr. Day was a tribute to the fallen leader's 80th birthday as well as a celebration of Obama, who becomes at noon today the 44th American president.

"Simply due to the fact that Dr. King's celebration culminates with the inauguration of the first African-American president, it's not just historic, it's overwhelming," said Alphonso Braggs, president of the Honolulu branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"His accomplishment tells people from all the ethnic groups, all socioeconomic groups, that you can achieve. It's been a long time that people have the opportunity to be so inspired, to have so much hope in such a desperate time," Braggs said.

The Rev. Dwight E. Cook of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Honolulu brought about 30 to 40 members of his church to march in yesterday's parade. They sang songs of

Passengers at airport, hoping for flights
The Fayetteville Observer


As snow fell at the Fayetteville Regional Airport late this morning, Airport Director Brad Whited ran a snowplow up and down the runways.

And a half-dozen stranded passengers settled into the airport lounge for a long wait.

Flights in the morning had been canceled or delayed, according to the airlines' Web sites. A snow-covered plane was parked at the end of a boarding concourse. In the airport, US Airways and Delta passengers waited to see which flights would take off in the afternoon.

"I just want to go home," said Cindy Eckersley, who is from Robertsedale, Ala. She had made an emergency trip to Fayetteville to be with her daughter, who delivered a premature baby last week.

Marie Millard of San Diego and Diana Chase of Madisonville, La., and several others were ready to go, too.

Chase filled the time with a book of Sudoku puzzles. Millard used the airport's free wireless Internet service to surf the Web.

Eckersley watched some of the coverage of President Barack Obama's inauguration on TV.

"It's going to be a long, boring day," Eckersley predicted.

The group said Delta told them it would try to get them on a flight Tuesday afternoon. Barring that, it promised them flights on Wednesday. They had not been told whether the airline would cover any hotel costs.


Hometown Briefs

Commissioner questions county clerk
The Capital Journal


Shawnee County Commission Chairman Vic Miller contended today that County Clerk Cynthia Beck knew the county was paying steadily increasing amounts for appeals work to District Attorney Robert Hecht but failed to let commissioners know.

“People in her office called it to her attention and she still did nothing,” Miller said in an interview. “She had a duty and responsibility to report it to us.”

Beck responded today that she did nothing wrong.

She said she learned about the increasing payments to Hecht during “normal office conversation” with one of her employees, who did not mention the matter with great alarm or suggest they needed to do something about it.

Beck, who has been county clerk since 1997, added that her office had been under direction from commissioners since even before Hecht took office in 2001 to pay money to the district attorney’s office for completing appeals work. She said she presumed Hecht was acting within the law.

At the request of commissioners Miller, Shelly Buhler and Ted Ensley, Kansas attorney General Stephen Six initiated an investigation last week into actions taken by Hecht, whom commissioners say was reimbursed more than \$480,000 for prosecuting appeals before leaving office when his second four-year term ended last week.

German hostage freed in Yemen
The Local


A German contractor taken hostage in Yemen has been released, a tribal source close to the kidnappers said on Tuesday.

“The kidnappers handed the German hostage over to tribal mediators an hour ago,” the source told news agency AFP. “They are now on their way to the city Ataq, capital of the eastern province of Shabwah.”

Army and security forces said earlier on Tuesday said they had located the German oil pipeline engineer and two locals who were kidnapped in Yemen over the weekend.

The three captives were being held by armed tribesmen in a remote mountain village in the province of Shabwah, security forces said. The governor of the province, Ali Hassan al-Ahmadi, had said that he expected the prisoners to be released within the next several hours, news agency DPA reported.

Authorities believe the hostages are in good health.

The engineer, who had been working on a large gas pipeline project in the region, was abducted along with two Yemeni colleagues by tribesmen who demanded the release of an imprisoned clan member.

According to daily Bild on Tuesday, the oil expert is a 56-year-old father of three from the German state of Saxony.

The abduction reportedly took place some 30 kilometres from port city Balhaf, the final destination of the 300-kilometre pipeline the German is said to have been working on.

In December 2008 tribesmen kidnapped a German family of three, also demanding that the government release an imprisoned clan member. The family was released after five days.

Event marks general’s 202nd birthday
The Montgomery Advertiser


Robert E. Lee’s 202nd birthday was celebrated Monday with cake and kind words from admirers who maintain that his many achievements are still worthy of emulation two centuries later.

Cameron Napier, regent of the First White House of the Confederacy, said the Confederacy’s most famous general had high standards to follow and he expected much the same from those he led.

“His character was molded by generations of clean living, wise matings, hard work and restraint,” Napier said during a ceremony on the second floor of the historic building.

Napier, who focuses on different aspects of Lee’s life each year on the anniversary of his birth, chose this year to trace his ancestry and how that had a bearing on his life.

Many generations of the Lee family had distinguished themselves, dating back to 1638, when Richard Lee arrived from England and immediately became a successful lawyer and businessman, she said.

During one long period in the family’s history, said Napier, who stood in front of a large portrait of Lee, 50 members of the family had held 72 different public positions.

“Historians agree that no other American family has produced such distinguished service to their country,” she said.

She noted that two Lee brothers signed the Declaration of Independence and five descendants were leaders in the Revolutionary War, including the future general’s famous father -- Harry Lee.

At an early age, Napier said, Lee found himself virtually the head of his household when his father left home in an effort to try and recoup financial losses due to bad investments.

Dallas-area utility bills among highest
The Dallas Morning News


Dallas has long been lauded as one of the most affordable big-city housing markets.

But North Texans make up for low home costs in part with higher utility bills.

Dallas homeowners had the highest average utility bills in the country last year, according to a report released Tuesday by WhiteFence.com. The Internet site tracked utility costs in more than 20 markets for its comparison.

In Dallas the average monthly bill for all utilities last year was \$378.27. That compares to the national average of \$289.86, according to the study.

The comparison “shows how dramatically utility costs can vary across the country,” WhiteFence CEO Jeff Wagoner said in the report.

The lowest average monthly utility bills were in Los Angeles (\$234.81) and Denver (\$238.43). Along with Dallas, Houston was also one of the most expensive markets on the list at \$374.46 a month. The comparison is based on the combined average cost and monthly usage of electricity, natural gas, telephone, Internet and cable television.

The event, the first of its kind at the venue, gave children the opportunity to learn about the civil rights leader and to showcase their abilities in honor of him, said Nazanin Fatemian, the International House of Blues Foundation’s director.

Sports

Ronaldo makes Derby pay the penalty

AFP

MANCHESTER — Cristiano Ronaldo scored a late penalty to secure Manchester United's place in the English League Cup Final as they survived a late Derby rally to seal a 4-3 aggregate win at Old Trafford.

Tuesday's 4-2 second leg victory was secured when Ronaldo, a second-half substitute for Ryan Giggs, netted from the spot after Carlos Tevez had been felled by former United goalkeeper Roy Carroll in the closing stages.

But although United ultimately cruised to the victory, the sight of Anderson being stretchered off at the end of the game took the shine off the result for Sir Alex Ferguson's English, European and world champions.

United's uncharacteristically poor showing at Pride Park in the first-leg ensured the Championship strugglers arrived at Old Trafford with a 1-0 advantage courtesy of a Kris Commons wonder strike.

Few gave Nigel Clough's team any hope of holding onto that lead and booking a place at Wembley for the final on March 1.

But United's youngsters have displayed

fallibility in cup competitions in recent seasons, with the likes of Exeter, Southend and Coventry all inflicting embarrassment on Ferguson's team, so Derby had something to cling to.

Clough had urged his players to take the game to United after warning that defensive tactics would merely encourage the home team to attack at will and they almost profited from their ambitious approach as early as the sixth minute when Commons went close to scoring again.

After being released by Rob Hulse, Commons shrugged off the attentions of midfielder Darron Gibson and bore down on goal before sending a 30-yard effort inches wide of Ben Foster's right-hand post.

It was a warning for United and one they heeded because, from that point on, they dominated and had the tie won by half-time.

The breakthrough goal came in the 16th minute when Portuguese winger Nani, whose future at United has been placed in doubt following reports of a move for Wigan's Ecuadorian midfielder Antonio Valencia, levelled the aggregate scores

with a stunning strike from 25 yards.

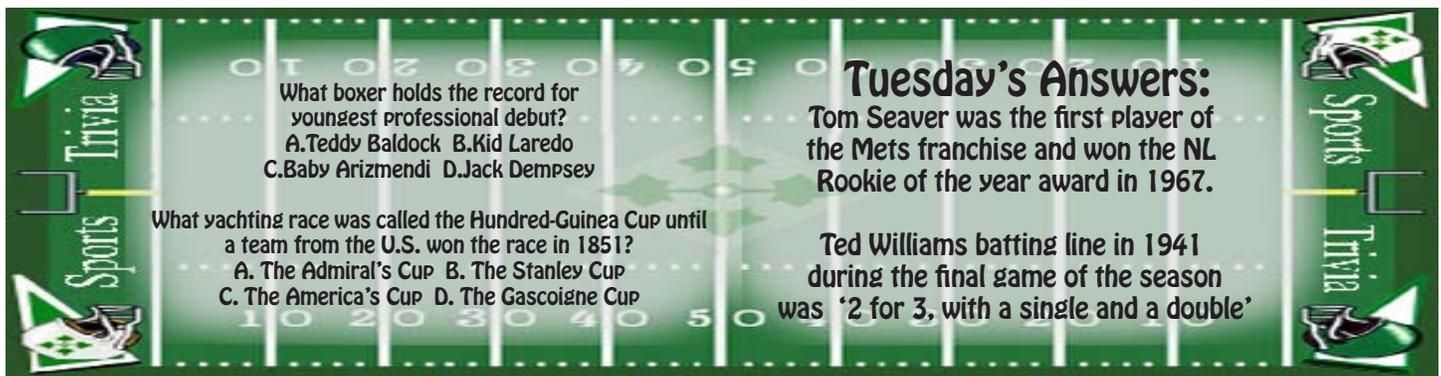
United still needed to get their noses in front in the tie, however, and they were able to do that six minutes later when poor Derby defending allowed John O'Shea to score from 12 yards after he had been teed up by teenage striker Danny Welbeck.

Derby were now faced with a damage limitation exercise, but United continued to pour forward and Ferguson's men looked likely to score at every opportunity.

Carroll denied Welbeck from close range before the inevitable third goal arrived in the 34th minute when Tevez headed in Rafael's cross from six yards to claim his ninth goal of the season.

It was also Tevez's sixth goal in the League Cup this season, which reflects his increased involvement in this much-maligned competition.

The fans might want him to stay beyond the expiry of his loan deal at the end of the campaign, but whether Tevez is content with a diet of League Cup outings and a substitute role when the big games come around is another matter.



Trivia

What boxer holds the record for youngest professional debut?
**A. Teddy Baldock B. Kid Laredo
 C. Baby Arizmendi D. Jack Dempsey**

What yachting race was called the Hundred-Guinea Cup until a team from the U.S. won the race in 1851?
**A. The Admiral's Cup B. The Stanley Cup
 C. The America's Cup D. The Gascoigne Cup**

Tuesday's Answers:
 Tom Seaver was the first player of the Mets franchise and won the NL Rookie of the year award in 1967.

Ted Williams batting line in 1941 during the final game of the season was '2 for 3, with a single and a double'

Sports Trivia



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