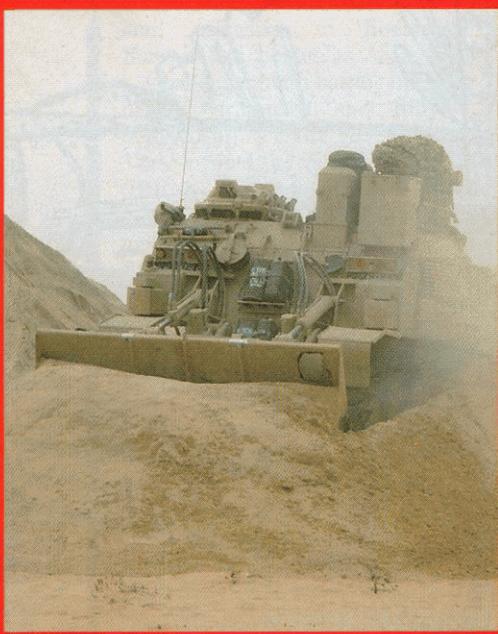
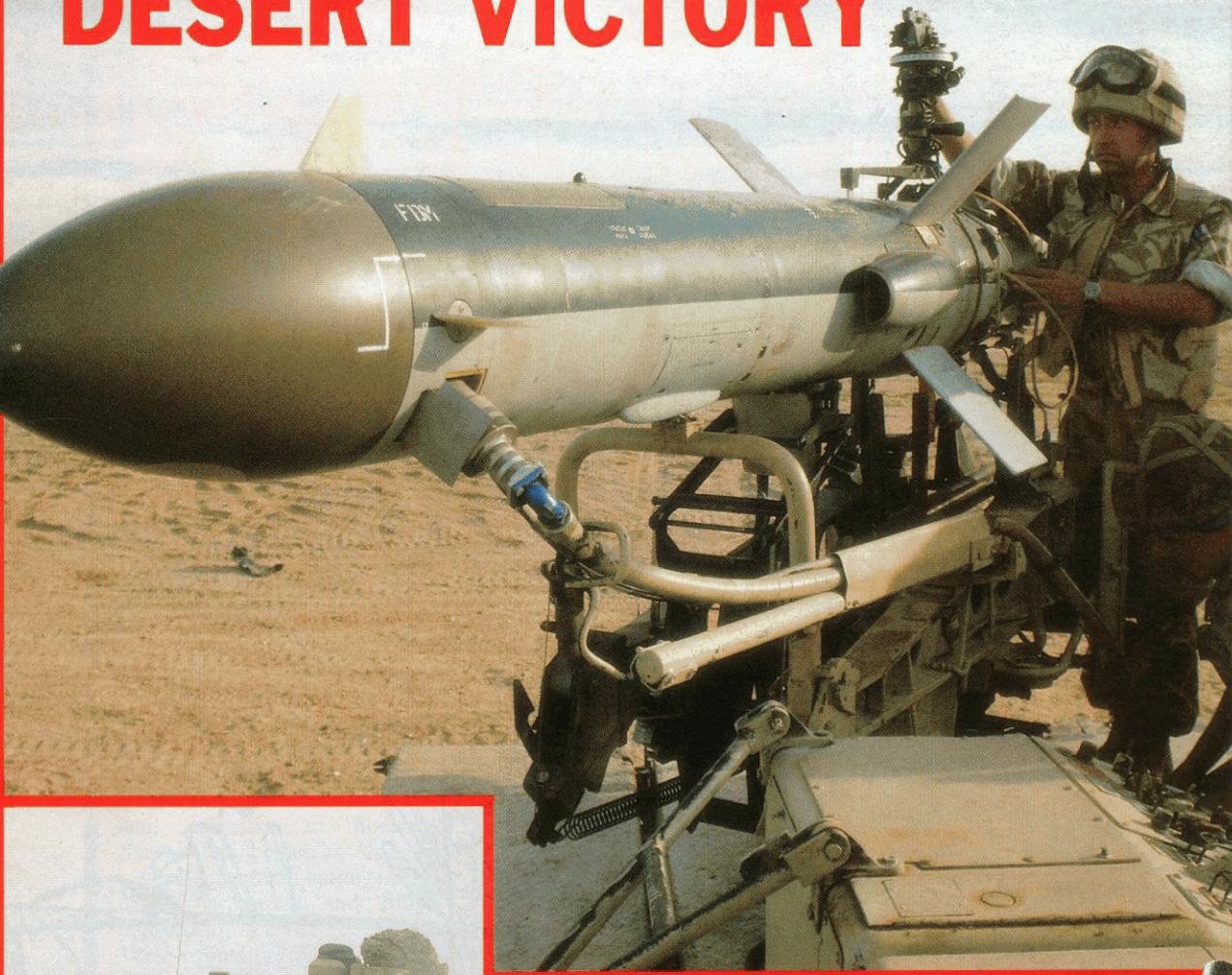


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● Reports from Saudi Arabia in this issue were filed by **Bill Moore** and **Laurie Manton**. Photographs were taken by **Mike Weston**, **Sgt Dave Miles** of the UKLF Mobile News Team, **Sgt Steve Dock**, RAOC, **Cpl Simon Scott**, RAOC and **Sgt Anthony von Roretz**, RAOC.

FRONT COVER – (Main picture) Midge, the 57 Loc Bty RA pilotless drone, with handlers Bdr Tony Perry and Gnr Steve Clayton (picture by Mike Weston). **Inset: A Combat Engineer Tractor of the Royal Engineers smashes its way through a sand berm in a rehearsal for the ground offensive** (picture by Mike Weston). **Lower picture: M100 8-in howitzers of 32 Heavy Regiment just yards from the border berm fire on Iraqi positions in Kuwait in the first ground action by British artillery** (Pool picture by Ken Lennox).

SOLDIER

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WELL DONE ALL

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig sent the following signal to the Joint Commander Operation Granby, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine:

"Personal for Joint Commander from CDS. Today's suspension of hostilities after one of the most outstanding, successful and impressive campaigns in warfare is a moment for congratulation and thanksgiving.

"Under your leadership all

the forces and staffs of Operation Granby have performed superbly. Their contribution on land, sea and in the air to the operations to liberate Kuwait and destroy the RGFC has passed all my highest hopes and expectations.

"The determination and competence of commanders at all levels; the professionalism, dedication and determination of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and servicewomen and the civilians who have sup-

ported front line operations have been universally admired.

"Much still remains to be done to regroup and recover our forces and their equipment and stores. But this moment of victory only 100 hours after the start of the final phase of Desert Storm is one to mark with joy and pride. My admiration and congratulations to you and all in your command for a superb and historic achievement. Well done all."

AWESOME

From Laurie Manton with 1 Armoured Division in southern Iraq

IT WAS an awesome sight as the might of 7 and 4 Armoured Brigades left their staging areas on G-Day to start their advance across the Iraqi border. The land offensive to liberate Kuwait had begun.

Challenger main battle tanks, heavily armoured and fully bombed-up, clattered past. They formed the van of the 1st (British) Armoured Division as it struck swiftly into mechanised elements of the Iraqi Army.

Tank units involved were from British regiments steeped in tradition and gallantry – The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the 14th/20th Royal Hussars. Among them were crewmen drawn from the best of the Royal Armoured Corps.

Close in their wake, rank after rank of Warrior infantry vehicles carried other fighting units.

In the fore were the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, expert after months of training in mopping-up and clearing enemy fortifications and trenches with bullet, bayonet and grenade. With them were the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Backing them up, A1 and A2



British soldiers secure Iraqi prisoners of war during the final phase of the battle to liberate Kuwait

Echelons carried the stores of war to the hungry guns and men of an armoured division. Their work in support proved as vital as any.

By G plus 2, SOLDIER had joined the divisional tail supporting the forward fighting elements.

"Form up. Move out. Press on!" was the cry as large snaking convoys of vehicles of many shapes, sizes and types motored towards breaches made by engineers in the border defences.

At the massive berm, a sign, its paint still tacky, proclaimed: "Welcome to Iraq".

There was barely time to pause as the division moved on

to perform its mission.

Fluorescent light sticks marked safe lanes of passage through the twisting route. Tracks were not all smooth and many experienced the roller-coaster ride of a lifetime as hundreds of Allied vehicles thundered on.

As SOLDIER's packet closed alongside US Army supply trucks moving ammunition and fuel to the front, glances, waves and smiles passed from cab to cab. Troops with a common purpose and determination greeted each other as old friends.

Hours later, as the convoys reached their destination, vehi-

● Turn to Page 4

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THE FINAL THRUST

VICTORY in the Gulf War came just 100 hours after the start of the long-awaited land offensive in which the 1st (British) Armoured Division played a key role.

After slicing through enemy defences, the British armoured force destroyed a 10,000-strong Iraqi division and more than 40 tanks before joining an Allied thrust to cut off Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard north of Kuwait.

As part of a massive, text-book operation which started on February 24, 1 Armd Div crossed the border between Saudi Arabia and Iraq west of Kuwait after the Allies had cleared a path through enemy defences.

Three hours ahead of schedule despite heavy rain which restricted air support, the 7th and 4th Armoured Brigades outflanked the Iraqi mechanised division west of Wadi al-Batin on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

About 70 enemy soldiers, "wandering about the battlefield" were almost immediately taken prisoner by the Royal Corps of Signals.

Many more prisoners were to be taken as the action continued. The 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment took more than 300 as they

attacked Iraqi dugouts. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots overran an artillery battery, capturing all its equipment and 50 men, and The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards took out two companies of tanks.

Four more Iraqi tanks, plus several other tracked vehicles, were destroyed with TOW missiles fired from Lynx helicopters of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps as the 16/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers identified enemy positions and Challenger tanks of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars overran tank and infantry

units. In all about 1,500 prisoners were taken in the first part of the action.

As the battle entered its second phase on February 26, British forces, including the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, completed the destruction of the Iraqi division before heading north-east to take on the Republican Guard as part of a classic Allied pincer movement.

As elements of 1 Armd Div turned south into the newly-liberated Kuwait, President Bush announced the cessation of hostilities in the early hours of February 28.

Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander-in-Chief Operation Desert Storm, described the Allies' thrust into Iraq to neutralise the enemy threat as an "absolutely extraordinary movement".

He said: "I can't recall any time in history when this number of forces has moved this distance." At one time US and French forces were just 150 miles south of Baghdad and enough food, ammunition and fuel to support the Allied forces for up to 60 days had been moved out into the desert - a "gigantic accomplishment".

As Iraqi troops retreated towards Basra, British forces were involved in screening them to weed out any who committed atrocities.

AWESOME

From Page 3

cle packets were marshalled into parking areas with quiet, undramatic efficiency - and it was time for the men to refuel, feed, prepare for the next day, and sleep.

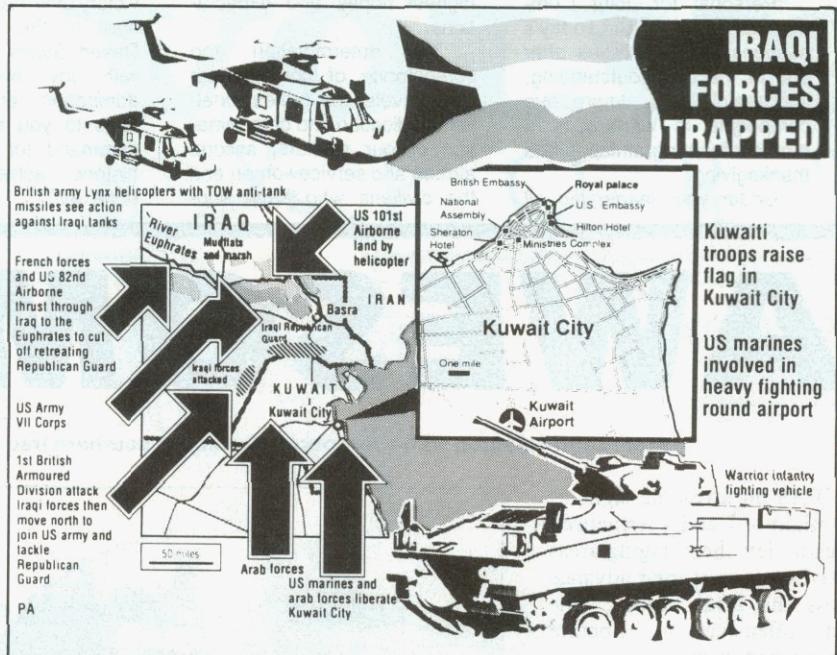
On G plus 3, as small groups of soldiers gathered around short-wave radios to hear the liberation of Kuwait City announced on the BBC World Service, a nearby hillside was alive with a swarm of ant-like figures.

Enemy prisoners-of-war were being processed before being transported to the relative haven of the camps a

safe distance behind Allied lines. They had surrendered in their thousands as coalition forces, including 1 Armoured Division, over-ran their positions, and they were waiting to be airlifted out of the fighting area by RAF Chinook helicopters.

A chill wind and drizzle swept the temporary compound but the prisoners were not to suffer for long. Shelter was provided by thick plastic sheeting.

For them, the war was over. For the fighting men of 1 Armoured Division, victory was not far off.



Diary of war

DAY 32 (February 18)

MLRS fired in anger for first time during "shoot and scoot" operation by Royal Artillery on Kuwaiti border. Three Iraqi tanks, three guns and gun positions destroyed. Screen provided by QDG.

DAY 34

Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers captured during helicopter assault on bunkers in Kuwait.

DAY 35

Saddam Hussein broadcasts message of defiance. Hours later President Gorbachev tells President Bush that Iraq has accepted Soviet peace plan. Allies continue to mount air attacks on targets in Kuwait and Iraq.

DAY 36

British artillery, including 39 and 32 Hy Regts and 40 and 2 Fd Regts, involved in massive artillery barrage along Kuwaiti border.

DAY 38

Allied land offensive begins in early hours of morning. Commanders announce little opposition, huge gains and massive damage done to Iraqi armour.

DAY 39

Land offensive continues with British 1st Armoured Division thrusting into southern Iraq to oppose Republican Guard. Gen Sir Peter de la Billière announces British Forces destroyed two tank companies in night action and captured 600 prisoners, including a brigade commander. Royal Signals took first PoWs captured by the Division. US soldiers killed by Scud missile attack on Dharan.

DAY 40

Saddam Hussein announces on Baghdad radio that Iraq no longer has a claim to Kuwait and a withdrawal will begin immediately. Kuwaiti sources say Iraqi troops are leaving Kuwait City, abandoning their equipment. Allies reject Saddam's conditional declaration. President Bush calls on Iraqi forces to abandon their equipment and withdraw on foot. British 1st Armoured Division and US VII Corps in southern Iraq continue to engage Republican Guard divisions dug in on northern Kuwaiti border.

DAY 41

Prime Minister Major announces that Kuwait City has been liberated and British troops are in the British Embassy in the city.

DAY 42

President Bush announces cessation of hostilities by Allied forces. 1st Armoured Division halts astride Kuwait-Basra road to screen fleeing Iraqis.



A Challenger main battle tank raises clouds of dust as it races across the desert

Through the breach

From Bill Moore, in southern Iraq with 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment

I AM writing this in the crew compartment of the 432 of the regimental sergeant major of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. REME craftsmen are repairing the engine, so there is time to record the events of the past couple of days. The fall of Kuwait City is being reported and people are crowding round a transistor radio in the next vehicle.

The crump of heavy artillery indicates the gunners are not taking much notice of the rumour that peace is breaking out.

By the time this is printed history will be taking a new path. As far as the British Army is concerned little sign of its passage will remain on the surface of the desert.

True to its environmental conditioning in Germany, litter is being automatically disposed of – a habit which does not seem to have caught on with some Allied units.

The BAOR way of life makes an impression. A captured Iraqi lieutenant stares at a fully-equipped and armed sapper carefully dropping a wrapper from a Mars bar into a rubbish pit and kicking sand over it.

He was clearly baffled by an army in which young troops show great discipline yet remain on good terms with NCOs and officers.

The lieutenant was the first

of many prisoners we were to see, and in the eyes of all of them was the dark look of defeat, of misery, of being let down. They were wretchedly clothed and hungry... and Tom felt sorry for them.

"Here, have a fag," is his standard greeting.

Any Briton who watched could feel only a deep pride in the behaviour of our soldiers. Personally there was a feeling of relief that they had been spared the bloodbath so many had forecast.

In retrospect, of course, the pundits will say it was obvious from the start that Saddam would crack. It wasn't a view shared by everyone.

It had rained during the night and the clouds were still low, and threatening. A student of military history could be excused for thinking of Flanders fields. At breakfast, though little was said as bacon grill and beans were consumed – "It's vehicle cooking from now on" – most people had "The Breach" in mind.

That was what we were going to pass through to get into Iraq.

A hole was to be made in the border defences and no one could really visualise what the defences would "really be like".

If anyone was going to find out it would be the Route Development Battle Group

with its AVREs and their 165mm demolition guns, its Aardvark flails and Giant Vipers designed to blast a way through the minefields, and the bridgelayers with the ploughs to sweep the menace away.

No one was under any misapprehension about what might happen to them. Young soldiers are supposed to believe it will only happen to their comrades, but the issue of morphine concentrates the mind remarkably.

First out of our location was "Recon" to establish the new position the regiment was to take up. Nineteen tracked vehicles, followed by fuel tankers, moved out in arrow formation.

It was 8.37am.

In Lima One Two Bravo, the lead vehicle, the voice of RSM Bob Lisle, a Falklands veteran, came clear over the intercom as he gave orders to Cpl Matt Town 19, an Oxford lad, who has lived in Wales for years. In "the back" was Sgt George Johnson, as good a Yorkshireman as ever came out of Sheffield, wearing his headset and cleaning his SMG while making predictions about the time Saddam would commit what was left of his air force.

G-Day, in a way, became a sort of George Day.

At 1010 the RSM announces that we have crossed into the

disputed zone between Saudi and Iraq. George gives a mock scream of terror.

From the rear window I watch Spr Anthony Clifton-Brown bumping stiff legged on his motor cycle. The desert despatch riders are a breed apart.

"I've only fallen into one trench today," he said during a pause.

The rain had ceased when we came to a halt and we found ourselves in rolling dunes with the recce vehicles of the 16th/5th Lancers on the ridge immediately ahead. Long columns of vehicles were motionless in the hazy sunshine.

Lorries began moving back on a parallel track. Someone said we were going to have to bug out quickly. Things had gone wrong. Had Saddam used his chemicals? There was a churning motion in at least one stomach.

Two huge hired container lorries appeared under US escort and rolled on forward. The RSM produced a bluey, sealed and addressed, which he had found in the middle of the desert and said he would post it... "when we get there".

Where was "there"? Where the thumps were shaking the ground?

The RSM consults the RMP and announces that US troops

● Turn to Page 15

Historic batteries involved in opening engagement

FIRST SHOTS

THE first British shots fired in earnest in the Gulf War came from the muzzles of batteries with histories stretching back to cannon-ball days.

At 1400 precisely on a fine afternoon from points close to the border, 200lb shells and rockets containing 644 bombs hurtled down on bunkers, tanks and gun positions some of which had been identified only that morning.

The batteries which fired them were 18 (Quebec), 74 (The Battleaxe Company), both with M110 8in howitzers and under command of 32 Heavy Regiment RA (Lt Col Peter Marwood); and 132 (The Bengal Rocket Troop) and 176 (Abu Klea) of 39 Heavy Regt (Lt Col Peter Williams).

Brig Ian Durie, Commander Royal Artillery, 1st UK Armoured Division, was there to see his regiments make history – as was the man who succeeded him as Chief Instructor in Gunnery, Larkhill, Col Barry Stevens, latterly British spokesman in Riyadh.

SOLDIER was also privileged to be present.

Encountered first was 176 (Abu Klea) Battery. Beside a pair of armoured vehicles, Sgt Barry-John Bridgewater was in clipped conversation with the driver of a launcher with 12 blackened empty mouths.

In the distance another launcher disappeared in a whirling dust storm from which glowing missiles trailed smoke. The earth shook.

Besides such drama Sgt



A Union Flag flutters in the stiff breeze as British gunners open fire on Iraqi positions in Kuwait

Bridgewater's description of his job sounded almost humdrum.

"We do a variety of things. We plot the grids to make sure we're not firing on our own troops and keep up with the tactical situation, passing it on to the officer running the command post."

Some distance away 74 (The Battleaxe Coy) Battery, which SOLDIER had seen welcoming its guns at the docks after days in a muddy tented camp, was preparing to open a new chapter in its stirring history.

First into the position had been the battery guide, WO2 John Young.

Face masked in dust, his job done for the moment, he said desert navigation hadn't bothered him so far and that he had excellent satellite navigation equipment. He was happy to talk for a moment about his wife Ann and their daughters Kerry and Jody.

Beyond him stood the great guns, by a trick of light pale grey against a clear blue sky ... six of them in pairs separated by hundreds of yards.

The dark Europe temperate zone NBC suits struck an incongruous note but the additional heat engendered didn't seem to worry anyone. The stiff northerly breeze rippling the large Union Flag on the nearest 8in howitzer was quite cool.

Neither camouflaged nor dug in (a quick getaway was

enough on exercise but this is different," said one of them. "It's a bit awesome thinking what's happening over there."

The M110s and MLRS used in the artillery action were not only firing the first shots delivered by the British ground forces, they were also firing in anger for the first time – though one is a veteran and the other a newcomer.

The MLRS has been in service for six months – the M110 for about 30 years. The commanding officer of one regiment involved said the first battery he joined 27 years ago had the 8in howitzer, but in those days it was towed, not self-propelled.



Lt Col Peter Williams, co 39 Hy Regt

intended) they could have been on show at Artillery Day, Larkhill, one of the highlights of Salisbury Plain's attractions for many years.

There was no unnecessary movement or air of excitement among the men doing their job. The drills for war and peace are not so different. In the end it was a question of "stand by", lanyards being taut in the hands of the No 1s and "Fire".

Six guns roared and as the



Sgt George Stobbs of 74 (The Battleaxe Company), 32 Heavy Regiment RA, and his crew which fired the first British shells from their M110 8in howitzer

Fired in anger

The M110s and MLRS used in the artillery action were not only firing the first shots delivered by the British ground forces, they were also firing in anger for the first time – though one is a veteran and the other a newcomer.

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Brig Ian Durie, Commander Royal Artillery, watches the shoot and scoot operation

Tanks, guns taken out

THE artillery action was part of the overall allied preparation for an offensive – the guns of other nations had already fired on Iraqi positions.

The next shells were swung in on their hoists and six barrels rose.

For the record the No 1s of 74 Battery were Sgt George Stobbs, Eddie Waring, Tommo Tomkinson, Gingy Warren, Marlon Chambers and Charlie Brown.

It would have been nice to be able to give the No 1s in all batteries that fired on this historic occasion, but this half dozen will do as a tribute to them all.

The absence of enemy fire could be due to two things. His command and control system had been dislocated by aerial attacks and could not respond quickly enough; or he was deliberately concealing them to await the main offensive.

The withdrawal of the guns (like that of SOLDIER) was a speedy affair. Not a shell had been fired in reply when they made off.

The guns were to go into action in the following days but without attracting the same publicity. You only make history once.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

The Ministry of Defence regrets to announce that the following died on active service:

ROYAL ARTILLERY
Gnr Paul Patrick Keegan (20), Merseyside.

ROYAL ENGINEERS
Cpl David Edwin Denbury (26), South Wales.
Lt Col Alastair John Wright (49), Kent.
Maj James Scott Kinghan (33), Nottingham.
Spr Richard Allen Royle (25), Lancashire.

ROYAL SCOTS
Pte Thomas Haggerty (20), Glasgow.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS
Fus Paul Peter Atkinson (19), Co Durham.
Fus Richard Gillespie (19), Tynemouth.
Fus Lee James Thompson (19), Coventry.
Fus Kevin Leech (20), Northumberland.
Fus Conrad Philip Cole (17), Rochdale.
Fus Stephen Timothy Satchell (18), East Sussex.

STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
Pte Shaun Patrick Taylor (20), West Midlands.
Pte Carl Moul (18), Burton-on-Trent.

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS
Pte Neil Walker Duncan Donald (18), Forres.
Pte Martin Ferguson (21), Fort William.
Pte John William Lang (19), BAOR.

ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT
LCpl Terence William Hill (26), Middlesex.
Dvr Jason Patrick McFadden (19), Coventry.
LCpl Stephen Richard Crofts (23), Wiltshire.
LCpl Robert Robbins (24), Aberdeen.

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
Pte Alistair James Fogerty (21), Cheshire.

ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
LCpl Francis Carrington Evans (25), Clywd.
Sgt Michael James Dowling (34), BAOR.

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE
SSgt David Clifford (32), Wiltshire.

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS
Sgt Donald Bruce Kinnear (24), BAOR.



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Princess visits families

THE PRINCESS of Wales visited Wellington Barracks to meet wives and children of soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards and the Regimental Band of the Scots Guards, currently serving in the Gulf.

The Coldstream are processing and guarding prisoners of war in the Gulf, and the bandsmen are employed in their war role as medics with 33 Field Hospital.

Princess Diana also made a private visit to the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) at Tidworth.

Prime Minister Mr John Major talked to many Op Granby wives when he visited Munster Garrison last month. He was accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, Gen Sir Peter Inge.

ACC wins awards galore

STUDENTS from the Army Apprentice College, Army Catering Corps, Aldershot, which put forward 23 entries in a prestigious catering competition, scooped a total of 21 awards.

The competition, the Heart of England Salon Culinaire, is open to both civilian and military chefs. The ACC also took home the College Trophy for achieving the highest number of points. It was presented to the CO, Lt Col Geoffrey Mansell-Ward.

In addition, three senior entrants, Sgt Gary Young, SSgt Rob Sparks and Sgt Terry Parham won awards, and Sgt Young's exhibit was elevated to the Table of Honour.

WO2 Mick Hunt, who was up against opposition including a previous finalist, finished as runner-up in the regional semi-final of the Chef of the Year competition, qualifying for next year's finals.



Wide-eyed Ashley Graves joins in as the Duchess of York meets soldiers' children at a creche in Aldershot. Pony-tailed Laura Wooster (right) later presented the Royal visitor with a bouquet. The Duchess visited wives and families of personnel serving with 22 and 33 Field Hospitals and 27 Regiment RCT in the Gulf. She was met by Aldershot Garrison Commander Brig Cedric Delves, and also met volunteers in the Aldershot Gulf Support Centre

Picture: Brian Bramley, Aldershot News

LAST TRAIN

BANDSMEN of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry were on the platform to greet passengers alighting from the British Military Train on its final run from Braunschweig to Berlin.

The journey – the 16,118th – ended a 46-year era of daily return travel for the Berliner along what was the corridor from West Germany to Berlin.



The special thing about the bluey Claire Fox is writing from Munster to her husband, Gary, a lance corporal serving with 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment in the Gulf, is that it was the one millionth to be sent from a 1 (BR) Corps family. Adding his comments is the couple's elder child, James, (5). To mark the milestone the aerogramme was issued personally by Lt Col Phil Grimes, CO 1 Postal and Courier Regiment

QGE build high road

MAJ GEN Peter Duffell, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, complimenting The Queen's Gurkha Engineers on the five kilometre road they built across the Castle Peak ranges from Deep Bay to the outskirts of Ten Mun, described it as a "bold concept which could not have been undertaken in more testing conditions".

At Boroughbridge and York 30 sappers from 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon, used six assault boats to sail along streets assisting flooded householders and hotel guests.

A CHEQUE for DM1,000 has been donated by Carlink to subsidise trips for families in Hameln, Germany, of soldiers serving in the Gulf with 35 Engineer Regiment and 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment.

serving in the Gulf with 35 Engineer Regiment and 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment.

Army sails to rescue

THE Army was called in to assist the civil authorities when one of the worst floods for 100 years submerged large areas of North Yorkshire. During the 24-hour red alert, when the River Ouse in York reached 14ft above normal, more than 50 soldiers assisted the emergency services.

Capt Meakin is pictured with (from the left) Janet Greenwood, Beverley Townen, Pip Verge, Louise Campbell, Sally Roach and Sarah Colledge with baby Rebecca.



The persuasive charm of Capt Keith Meakin, Families Officer of 27 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, paid dividends for Gulf wives in Aldershot. He rang up Renault and asked if they could do anything for the women waiting at home. The company were quick to respond and wives now have an indefinite loan this mini bus, which they share with wives from other units who want to go out to social events, on shopping trips, hospital visits, and so on.

Capt Meakin is pictured with (from the left) Janet Greenwood, Beverley Townen, Pip Verge, Louise Campbell, Sally Roach and Sarah Colledge with baby Rebecca.

TA makes PAR for the course

A PERSONAL accident insurance policy designed specifically for the Volunteer Reserve Forces, on or off duty, has been formally sponsored by the TAVRA Council. Known as

United nations

A TOTAL of 36 nations committed naval, land or air forces, or medical units, to the Coalition in the Gulf, or were providing practical assistance to them, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton told the House of Commons.

Sixteen of the 36 – with Germany, Hong Kong and Japan, who do not have troops in the Gulf – are providing financial or practical assistance, including medical support, to the United Kingdom.

As well as making practical contributions to the Coalition, a number of nations, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and South Korea, are also providing financial support.

Cheers, Catterick

TOILETRIES worth more than £2,500 for soldiers in the Gulf and £1,095 to be spent on their wives in Catterick Garrison were provided by cash raised by landlords in about 50 public houses in Darlington, County Durham.

Night nurses at York District Hospital launched an appeal for troops in the Gulf and raised more than £600 worth of cash and gifts, including £50 from the York branch of the Royal College of Nursing.

Tax top-up

LOCAL authorities will not be out of pocket because soldiers serving in the Gulf have been exempted from the Community Charge. The Government is to make good the difference.

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Left: The drone launcher crew stands by. They are (left to right, back) Gnr Steve Clayton and Bdr Tony Perry, and (front) LBdr John Draper, Bdr Kevin Pound and Gnr Joey Joyce of 57 Locating Battery, 32 Heavy Regiment RA. Above: Bdr Perry adjusts the dial sight with Gnr Clayton in attendance

Midge the drone bows in – and out

MIDGE, the Army's pilotless reconnaissance drone, made both its operational debut and its swansong in the Gulf.

After 27 years in service it is due to be phased out next month when the new Phoenix system is introduced.

But on its first and final operation, Midge really produced the goods, as **SOLDIER** discovered before the land offensive started.

"It has already flown more than a dozen successful missions over Kuwait and Iraq on behalf of the American, Egyptian and British forces," said WO2 (TSM) Dean Bailey of Drone Troop, 57 Locating Battery, 32 Heavy Regiment

RA, tasked with setting up recce flights over enemy-held territory for the 1st Armoured Division.

The troop command post assessed the potential value of a mission before giving it the go-ahead. Then the gunners fed data into the drone's in-board computer.

Midge was launched from one of two standard 4-ton Bedford trucks.

Its flightpath was programmed in, and at predetermined points the four cameras on board – a Zeiss, a Vinton that gives horizon-to-horizon views, an infra-red line-scan camera to detect heat sources, and a camera with a night fitting and

flashlight – clicked away.

Having done its work over enemy positions, Midge was recalled by signal transmitted via a recovery beacon, explained Bdr Ian McPhee.

"A drogue 'chute opens and large landing bags are inflated by compressed air. These cushion the fall," he said.

The film was quickly extracted and taken by motor cycle courier to the photographic processing and interpretation vehicle (PPIV).

There, Sgt Richard King and his team of Intelligence Corps photograph interpreters processed the film before studying it in negative form with stereoscopes that give a three-

dimensional image.

"A report is produced and sent to Division, where the information is used primarily in planning attacks on targets by artillery or aircraft," he said.

The drone itself was recovered by an odd-looking high-top Land Rover, known affectionately as a "bread van", and taken to the REME preparation and maintenance section where it was refurbished, fitted with new parachute and landing bags, and its cameras reloaded.

Midge was then ready to fly on another mission.

Long in service, short on operations, Midge has at last been proved a success.

How DAA coped with nitty gritty

AMONG many Op Granby phenomena which had never really been tried in the field before was the Divisional Admin Area, which acted as a catalyst to enable the sharp end of 1st Armoured Division to fight unhindered by essential but time-consuming nitty gritty personnel and logistics questions.

With more than 400 troops and 170 vehicles, it is self-sufficient and when it set up shop, inevitably in some forlorn stretch of desert, its several parts occupied a few square acres.

A typical DAA location consists of the HQ complex, a veritable village of cam nets, with attached units scattered around it in either earth-walled enclosures or tiny gypsy encampments.

Broadly speaking, the DAA offers protection and support to a handful of units unable to protect themselves or operate alone.

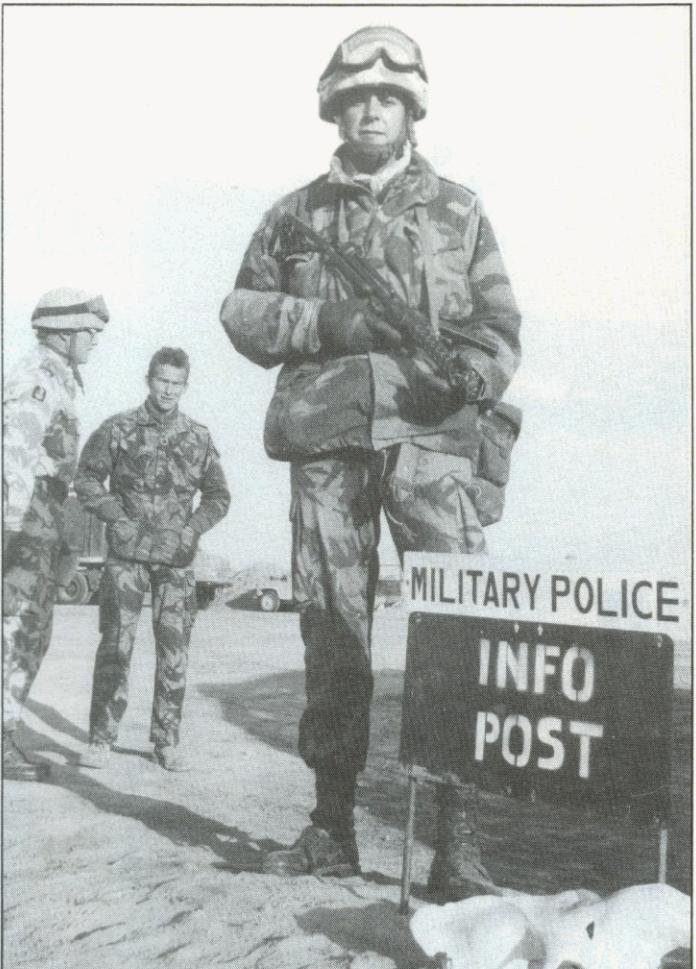
The field cash office is a typical example. There Maj Simon Leadson and two other members of the Royal Army Pay Corps have dispensed the 700 riyals a month water money to the troops and have dealt with any other financial problems which have arisen, advised by the Commander Finance, Lt Col Tom O'Donnell, RAPC.

SOLDIER was able to cash a cheque there without any bother using a plastic card issued by one of the "Big Four".

Maj Leadson and his team were sitting on millions – but were well-guarded by a platoon of the Queen's Own Highlanders who come under command of the DAA.

The piled-up earth, the home-made privy and the bucket shower may not have been exactly up to Threadneedle Street standards, but the service was excellent.

Elsewhere, in much grander



LCpl Ken Fairest RMP at the Info Post sign, complete with camel's skull. The skull appears in hundreds of photographs taken by troops because, according to Arabs, it is supposed to be an omen.

berms, was the remarkable lair of all the regimental quartermasters in the division – nearly 40 at the last count.

The formidable and sometimes legendary veterans worked in groups representing the B echelons of the Division's main elements – the 4th and 7th Armoured Brigades; the Artillery Group and the Divisional Troops.

With the QMs at the echelons (the Technical Quartermasters remain with the A1 echelon) were the unit paymasters and, turning their talents to a thousand and one jobs, the assistant adjutants of four artillery regiments, WRAC officers chafing at being left behind the guns.

In yet another location the Press corps was to be found, satellite dishes and all, broadcasting immediate news and washing their smalls in between visits to units. Belonging to the Public Information Unit they worked closely with Col John King and Lt Col Chris Sexton RE, responsible for "P Info" and the services it offers.

The Press are national figures but to the troops of the Gulf some of the best-known faces in Saudi Arabia belonged to the detachments which manned the DAA's front door.

On one side of a well-worn track was a seven-man detachment of 203 Coy RMP (the number was resurrected and is believed to have belonged to the last RMP company to have operated east of Suez).

Under Sgt Peter McMahon, who came from 113 Pro Coy at Werle, they served as an information post as they had since they arrived months ago.

They gave directions to all vehicles coming into the divisional area as to the whereabouts of units – and the quickest route back to those going out.

During active operations the post became a rallying point for stragglers and a concentration area for reserves and returning wounded and sick.

On the other side of the track, in another tent, were Sgt Smudge Smith, LCpl Brian Burgess and Dvr Mark Stevenson (who has just become a father). They were running the Royal Corps of Transport Traffic Regulating Centre, and were occupied with the many convoys which arrived in search of DOWO.

WO1 Conductor Peter Stead, RAOC, the senior warrant officer in the Gulf Force, would be sent all stores – less

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Sgt Ned Adin of Kilo Section, 24 Fd Amb attached to the DAA, with Kilo the dog. The section consists of one officer (a doctor), ten men and the dog, which was going to be drowned until the section persuaded its Arab owner to sell it. The section, mainly from 19 Fd Amb at Colchester, is anxiously awaiting veterinary pills from the UK

Drawing together strands of a unique collective

THE command of the Divisional Admin Area has been one of two hats worn by Lt Col Alan Taylor, RAOC, who is also CO of 3 Ordnance Battalion.

"We've only played at this half-heartedly in BAOR," he said when SOLDIER visited him before the land offensive. "Today we have a unique organisation encompassing units which have never been drawn together before, not even in the Second World War.

"For example we have quite a strong medical team to look after the 400 people who form the DAA - a wheeled section detached from a field ambulance. Then we have the Field Psychiatric Team involved primarily with battle shock recovery.

"Communications are essential here and we've got data telegraphy, secure comms and VHF. The Royal Signals detachment is the backbone of the whole organisation.

"One reason we require them is that my HQ staff perform all the Staff functions, Gs 1, 2, 3 and 4.

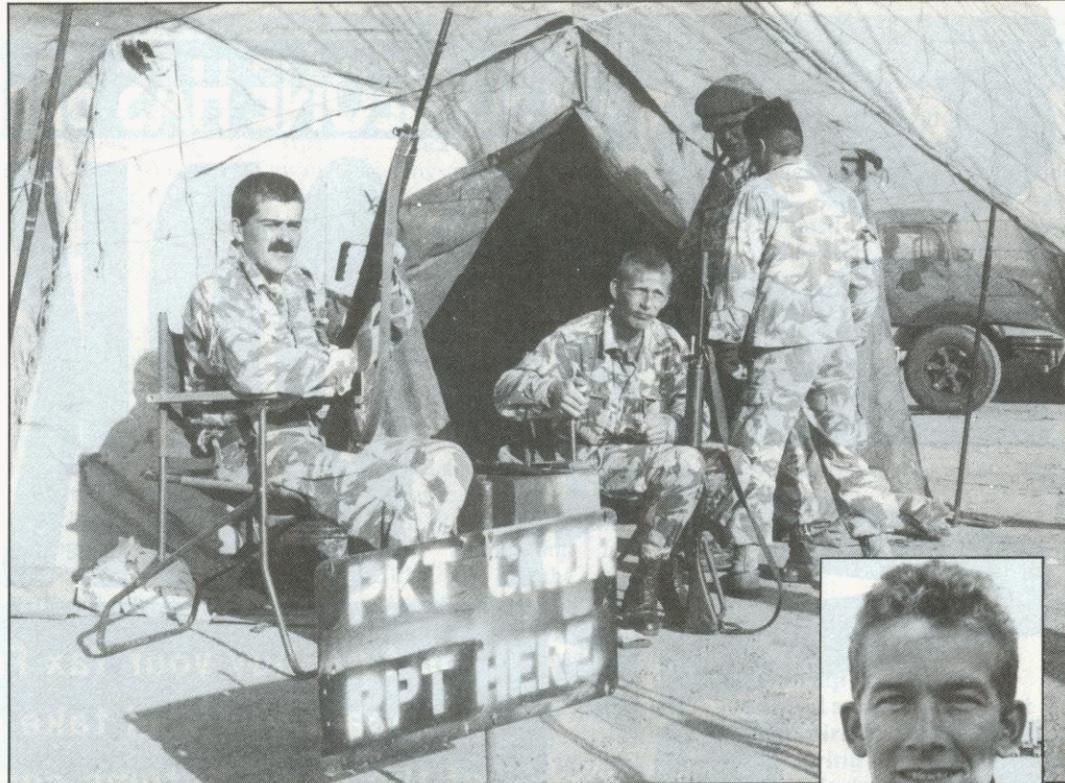
"G1 controls the in-theatre reserves which come through us and are sent up to the front to meet the requirements passed down by units through Div Rear HQ.

"The G2/3 staff are busy obtaining information about enemy and friendly forces so that anyone coming into the Div area can be briefed.

"The G4 element is based on 3 Ord Bn HQ - my adjutant and my 2iC Maj Nick McNally. Their main function is to shadow the supply function of Div Rear HQ."

Covering all the command and staff functions, the DAA could have taken over if Div Rear HQ was put out of action.

Another unique feature was in evidence - a Field Records Office under Capt Paul Barrett, D and D. Thanks to computers, the arrival and departure of people into theatre and the reporting of casualties was honed to a fine art.



Above: Dvr Mark Stevens cleans a weapon in the RCT Traffic Regulating Centre. Next to him is LCpl Brian Burgess. Inset: Sgt Peter McMahon, the RMP detachment commander



THE BIG SORT

Posties handle single delivery of 100 tons

THE earthwork-and-tent complex occupied by Capt Lloyd Davies was a far cry from the suburb of Hanover, where he was adjutant of 1 Postal and Courier Regiment, RE. It was constantly besieged by blue bags, and the workload never diminished.

One morning recently 100 tons of mail arrived, most of it in ISO containers, at what is called the Divisional Distribution Office.

Warned of this the previous

night, Capt Davies had sought help at the HQ DAA evening conference, and every unit produced volunteers to help with the sorting. The staff of ten looked like being overwhelmed.

A line half a kilometre long was marked with unit names and the amateur posties worked until the mess was cleared.

Much of the incoming mail

was parcel post containing warm clothing which the troops sent home in the fierce heat of October and November, trying to lighten their load as they moved further into the desert. The cold weather's persistence took them by surprise.

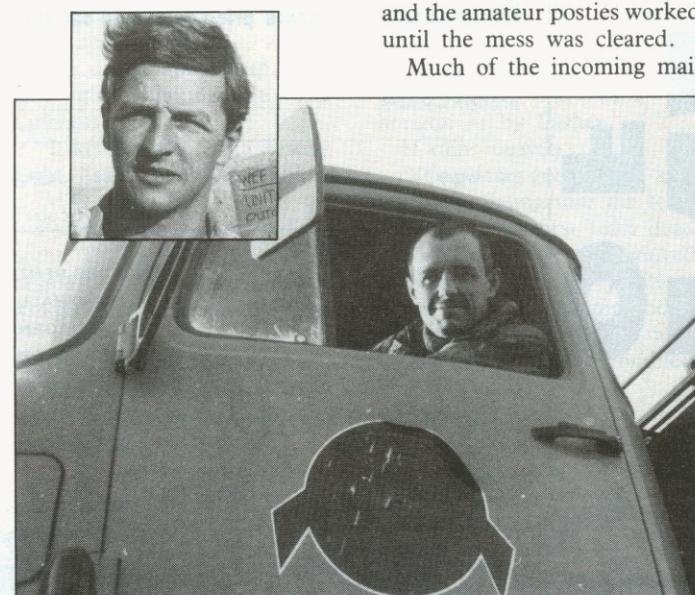
All the mail for 1 Armd Div passed through the DDO, which was also running a counter service for the sale of stamps and taking in savings.

A working day would start at 0600 and finished sometimes at midnight, when the books would have to be balanced.

The detachment was on the site and was self-sufficient because the mail - including classified documents - could not be left unattended.

Gulf mail is flown from Brize Norton to Riyadh and the plane picks up outgoing post which it delivers to Germany and Brize. From Riyadh the mail is flown up to the port of entry and then either flown to a forward airstrip or driven up in ISO containers.

Parcels are flown from Lyneham to Dhahran, to be met by a sergeant and six sappers.



Cpl Mark Evans, 1 PC Regt, arrives at DDA having driven 300km with 12 tons of mail. Inset: Capt Lloyd Davies RE, adjutant of 1 PC Regt, on the morning he expected 100 tons of mail to arrive. It did!

From Page 12

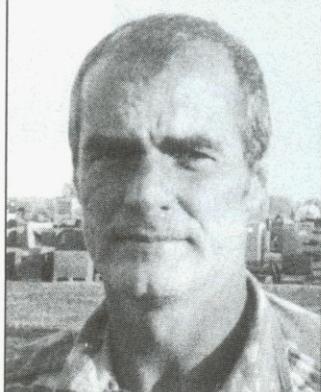
combat supplies such as ammunition – required by the brigades.

His kingdom, swept by dust storms from time to time, was a cross between a container park and an open-air market.

Waving at mountains of cardboard boxes and crates of track pins carefully labelled from Donnington he explained:

"These are items demanded by units in the Div area and sent out from the port of entry, BAOR or the UK. The freight delivery service can amount to 20 14-tonne lorries a day plus half a dozen 40-ft containers every other day."

One of these in the colour of its original owner drew up, and a cheerful soldier looked out of a cab covered in Arabic script.



WO1 Conductor Peter Stead, RAOC

With him, Conductor Stead had a sergeant and eight men of 43 Ordnance Company to unload the stores using forklift trucks to split them up into different lots. Brigades would send transport to collect them and take them back to the Brigade RVs which would carry out a similar operation on a smaller scale.

Unserviceable equipment would be backloaded from the Div RV and during operations the weapons of battle casualties would be handed in there.

"We handle everything from clothing to Challenger sights and Warrior spares," said Conductor Stead. "We even run a laundry delivery and collection service."

Conductors have every right to be proud of their designation. According to one authority the term is found in manuscripts dating back to 1317 when it was the Conductor's duty to see the peasants and serfs got to the battlefield on time along with the bows and arrows.

Nothing seems to have really changed.

From Page 5

are well inside Iraq, our Arab Allies are advancing on Kuwait City and the Marines are too. Everything is being speeded up two hours. Move!

At noon Lima One Two Bravo halts and the Recon commanders confer. The RSM quotes a military policeman: "By the time you go through the breach it will be tarmaced with a McDonalds halfway along it."

That may be so, but why is the MLRS battery on our right blazing away?

The Recon commanders mark out the positions to be taken up by the squadrons of the regiment when they arrive, and the Ops officer, Maj Bob Tonkins, arrives and draws a situation map in the sand.

Instead of moving soon after 5am the next morning we were at 15 minutes notice.

During the afternoon the regiment's vehicles arrive, refuelling as they do so. The gun AVREs and bridgelayers make a magnificent sight in the setting sun.

At 8pm WO2 Jack Frost of 31 Squadron reports 400 prisoners rounded up nearby, held temporarily in the confines of an earth berm and given enough US Meals Ready to Eat to last them until morning.

There were problems too. The hired transporters carrying the Flail Troop were stuck at the bottom of a hill holding up the advance of part of 4 Armoured Brigade. The RSM visits the scene and finds Cpl Bob Alsopp towing up the laggards with his AVRE Centurion. Five had been moved and he was about to deal with the others.

The traffic speeds up, rear red lights snaking into the darkness.

"Like the M25 on a Friday night," says WO2 Don Peplow of MT.

Fearful crumps disturbed the night. The regiment slept in or beside its vehicles with strong winds rising. Incredible but

Extra ammunition for the GPMG is on the roof and custard cream biscuits are handed round

true, the RSM pushes three mugs of tea into our tent at daybreak. He has already been up and about. George produces a breakfast of bacon roll and beans and points out that a Patriot battery has taken up a position covering the massive

concentration of vehicles.

Ahead lay the breach with all its mysteries. At some point we put on our NBC suits and masks. More butterflies in our stomachs.

We advance and make contact with a line of Challengers of the 14th/20th Hussars. At 1215 an "armour threat" is reported and Recon moves back to the regimental headquarters. Grenades are issued and we return to the line of tanks.

LCpl Town confirms that extra ammunition for the GPMG is on the roof and custard cream biscuits are handed round by the RSM. The 14th/20th Squadron moves purposefully over the hill and another takes its place, followed by recovery vehicles, massive machines that look like galleons without sails. We followed them into "The Breach".

We entered a gap in the frontier berm about 2.45 and rattled steadily across an unrelieved plain. At one point it was reamed with shallow trenches and pockmarked with bomblet holes. A wheelbarrow full of abandoned equipment stood on the side of the road. Otherwise, apart from one or two US vehicles, a rocket launcher ready to fire and a Challenger guard tank, nothing.

As SSM Davy Quinn said in his clipped Scottish way afterwards: "What an anti-climax."

He was of course entitled to his opinion.

The Recon reports enabled the wheeled vehicles to advance at speed and the regiment concentrated in Iraq for the first time to the sound of bomb and gunfire and with the horizon lit by flashes.

It rains heavily.

"It's getting good here," said George crawling into the tent.

We saw the first Iraqi dead the next morning as we moved through a battered position. There were half a dozen bodies mangled by bomblets with plenty of unexploded bomblets around them.

Later Sgt Dixie Dixon of 77 Sqn drove back to check out the position and swung his GPMG to cover the area. It was then the Iraqi lieutenant leapt up with raised hands.

He was taken to SSM Ron Wrega's 432 for questioning, and earned a certain amount of admiration by devouring a tin of jam with a fork.

Given a seat on the engine louvres to thaw him out, he was brought to the regimental aid post 432 where he was examined before being thoroughly searched by SSM Alan Loy, of the REME workshops, who specialises in such work.

A black beret with an eagle badge, a haversack containing his respirator, a few hundred dinars in notes (all carefully parcelled up for return to him eventually), and that was that.

Later we learned that there were Iraqis in hiding all over the area.

A soldier from 37 Sqn went out at night to relieve himself,

The Iraqi lieutenant earned a certain amount of admiration by devouring a tin of jam with a fork

walked past a dugout and saw ten Iraqis sitting there who immediately put their hands on their heads. He sent for help.

Three more remained in an undamaged T-55 in full view of the squadron in the area until they decided it was safe to emerge.

I saw the tank when I accompanied SSM Quinn on a sweep which took us through Iraqi positions which included dugouts, a radio mast and what must have been a barracks.

The bombers had done their work well. The buildings were wrecked, Russian armoured personnel carriers standing abandoned and pierced with splinters. The turret had been blown from one which had burned out. But there was no sign of any bodies.

A lot of dead had been reported, when the first troops went through, but they'd obviously been shamming.

Three of them were collected by the RSM and George the next day. They were carrying bags of what looked like acorns.

A prisoner-of-war cage was improvised with minefield marker poles and tapes. The occupants sat and munched army biscuits quite happily while their transit was arranged.

From a distance came the noise of T-55s being blown up. For them, like the prisoners, the war was over.

Two days later the whole of 1 Armoured Division was north of Kuwait City and 32 Armd Engr Regt was tasked with clearing the massive amount of battle debris.

RRF battle box back in action

A PIECE of military history went into battle with the 3rd Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers – the Battle Box of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Andrew Larpent.

It belonged to his great grandfather, who fought in the Indian Mutiny, and bears the name Lt Col L W P Larpent, 1st Bengal Infantry.

Made of metal, it was ideal for carrying Lt Col Larpent's papers as he led his Warrior battalion into action.

The CO comes from a distinguished military background.

Not only were his father and his paternal grandfather fusiliers (they served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers) but his maternal grandfather won the Victoria Cross in the First World War.



Members of a regimental aid post are (from left) Pte Dave Gillies, QO Hldrs, Fus Andy Millard and Bdsman Jim Marshall



Lt Col Andrew Larpent with the old metal Battle Box

It includes No 2 Coy of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, the first troops to get Warrior. As the 3 RRF battle group it is used to working with the 14th/20th Hussars . . . "old friends from Catterick".

Lancashire Fusiliers) won six VCs "before breakfast". The RSM comes from Oldham, Lancs.

Perhaps because of the Lancashire connection the battalion has been the recipient of great kindness from the people of the county – a fact which Lt Col Larpent says will never be forgotten.

The RSM, whose job in action is to follow in the wake of the CO in a Spartan CVR(T) and to handle prisoners of war, said in the transition from peace to war he could not recall any whingeing.

"I've seen the battalion grow up," he said. "One young lad who came to us at 17 now looks as though he has been with us three years, not six months. There is a general acceptance of responsibility."

The strength of the battalion is more than 1,000 when the gunner element (the battle group is accompanied by the Battery Commander of 127 (Dragon) Battery – Maj Dave Marshall) and its sappers.

The RRF has its own way of doing things. Lt Col Larpent placed the OC of his Fire Support Company in command of a Recce Group. Under him was the Recce Platoon, the Milan Section and Milan with compact turret, and the

● Turn to Page 18



The soldier-medics of the Duke of Kent's Band, one of two RRF regimental bands, now serving in a regimental aid post with the 3rd Battalion battle group



Entrenched in the desert are men of 5 Platoon 2 Coy, Grenadier Guards, part of the 3 RRF battle group



Grenadiers of 4 Platoon 2 Coy in the desert. They are part of the 3 RRF battle group

Battle box in action

● From Page 16

Forward Observation Officer (FOO).

"This makes a potent fourth manoeuvre element on the battlefield," said Lt Col Larpent.

He is very proud of the quality of his men, who come from many parts of the United Kingdom which supplied troops for the old Foot battalions, the 5th (Northumberland Fusiliers), 6th (Royal Warwickshire), 7th (Royal Fusiliers . . . Londoners) and Lancashire (20th).

"We have a mass of technology out here but in the final analysis it is the human element which counts. I could not be happier with the quality of soldier I command.

"Everyone has his own motivation, his own private factor which makes him keep going when the going gets tough. One of the private factors you discover when you talk to soldiers is that they do not want to be thought of as not up to their predecessors. My men are every bit as good."



Pictured in front of the company flag are three sergeants of 2 Coy, 1 Gren Gds. From left to right are Sgt Mark Thompson, Sgt P-J Newby, who is attached from the Coldstream Guards, and Sgt Pete Aston

The Managers of Violence

AS befits men whose PT includes running with two full jerrycans, the three platoon sergeants of No 2 Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, looked bronzed and rugged.

Men in the prime of life, they clearly knew their business and it was appreciated by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, under whose command they were placed.

In No 2 Coy all Warriors (the 1st Grenadiers pioneered the use of the vehicle) are named after famous naval vessels, which is why the men are usually built like battleships.

Sgt Mark Thompson, 33, of 5 Platoon, serves in *Illustrious*, Sgt Pete Aston, 31, of 4 Platoon in *Ark Royal*, and Sgt "P-J" Newby, 27, attached from the Coldstream to 6 Platoon, *Warspite*.

A Warrior platoon consists of three vehicles each carrying ten

infantry, plus the platoon HQ vehicle containing commander, deputy vehicle commander who takes over when the commander debusses, platoon sergeant, gunner, driver, radio operator and a runner who doubles as the 51mm mortar-man.

Reduced to carrying a minimum of kit and using electric razors to save water, every spare inch of the platoon commander's vehicle would be filled with ammunition which the occupants had to deliver when sections ran low.

The platoon sergeants would carry up to 2,000 rounds of 5.56 calibre and probably ten grenades for perhaps 200 yards when they dismounted.

The 51mm mortar-man may have had 1,000 rounds plus a dozen mortar bombs.

The delivery of ammunition at the right time and place was vital to the outcome of an

engagement – hence perhaps the description given to platoon sergeants as "Managers of Violence".

The Gulf meant the re-introduction of techniques from the First World War.

Grenadiers of 4 Platoon gave a pre-offensive demonstration of trench clearance in which No 1 threw a grenade at a suspected enemy, advanced two or three paces firing, then dropped flat still shooting. The next man ran over him and the moment his foot touched the No 1 that man stopped shooting to avoid hitting his comrades.

Timing was vital. The tanks had to arrive on the parade ground just as the wheeled vehicles were leaving.

The demo was, as might be expected without real opposition, impressive. But it was swift and efficient and, frankly, menacing . . . especially as the Managers of Violence who were looking on nodded their heads approvingly.

How Desert Rats pennant lived to fight another day

IT was odd to see the way in which Brig Patrick Cordingley shot off, only to reappear waving a letter when someone asked him the origin of the Desert Rat pennant flying from his battle tank.

The explanation was simple.

"I have tried to interest the national press," he said, "but all they wanted was the picture. I'm sure readers of SOLDIER would like to know."

The brigadier was right. Old soldiers with a sense of humour will appreciate the secret of the survival of the Desert Rat pennant, as related in the letter.

It seems that on Coronation Day 1953 the biggest tank parade ever seen (at least in Hamburg) was planned, with the whole of the 7th Armoured Division driving past the British High Commissioner.

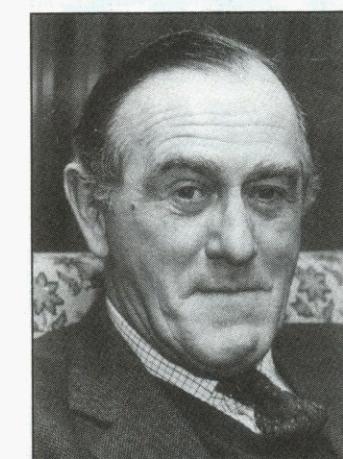
The infantry battalions were to march past first, then the wheeled vehicles led by the artillery and its guns, followed by about 350 tanks.

Timing was vital. The tanks had to arrive on the parade ground just as the wheeled vehicles were leaving.

At that time the 5th Royal Tank Regiment, being the junior on parade, was stationed on the end of the line. The young Harry Gauntlett, commanding 1 Troop, A Squadron, in the lead tank, considered the



Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7th Armoured Brigade, pictured with the old Desert Rat pennant on his battle tank



Maj Harry Gauntlett

whole affair a "rather jolly outing". Until . . .

"My complacency was shattered when a very important-looking staff officer (VILSO) came roaring down the line in a jeep, stopped in front of me and ordered me to take my tank to the head of the column. I was to lead the Division with the GOC on board in the drive-past. Apparently the original tank designated (one from the Scots Greys) had broken down and it was decided to honour the RTR with its replacement.

"Behind me was 16,000 tons of armoured might and we were driving through one of the greatest cities in Europe. Everything depended on me. Heavy stuff for a 21-year-old."

All went well for 200 yards and the first crossroads was reached. There was no RMP. The young officer looked at the general, the general smiled, the VILSO said nothing and the

divisional commander, Maj Gen "Splosh" Jones, came aboard.

"The VILSO told me it was a very precious relic and that I was responsible for its safe custody and warned not to lose it."

The writer is certain it was flown throughout 7 Armed Division's advance from Normandy to the Baltic and it may even had been flown in the desert.

Conscious of his responsibilities, the young tank commander asked the route. He asked the VILSO, who told him abruptly that he would be directed by the RMP along the roads.

"Within minutes of arriving at the head of the column the general climbed aboard. We got the signal to start and for a moment I fell into a euphoria of great power.

"Behind me was 16,000 tons of armoured might and we were driving through one of the greatest cities in Europe. Everything depended on me. Heavy stuff for a 21-year-old."

"I was whisked up to the front without any briefing. The only instruction I got was to fly this pennant on my aerial when

the column drove straight on. Followed by 349 other tanks.

They had crossed a succession of unmanned crossroads before the tank commander's confidence began to wane, especially when it was realised they were entering the notorious Reperbahn. The general was turning puce, the young officer on the verge of total panic, when an RMP motorcyclist appeared.

Vet was key link

THE man who actually returned the Desert Rat pennant to Brig Cordingley was Maj (Retd) Harry Gauntlett's son-in-law, Maj Tom Ogilvie-Graham, RAVC, the only vet in the Gulf.

But Maj Ogilvie-Graham isn't there to take things out of camels' hooves. He is attached to Command Royal Engineers Works Middle East as their water purification expert.

Before leaving for the Gulf he was 2i/C RAVC Centre at Melton Mowbray, and his next posting is as veterinary officer to the Household Cavalry Regiment in London.

The column was several miles off course and late. To catch up it had to go flat-out.

"For the residents of Hamburg the noise must have been stupendous, but it was nothing to the havoc that was created. Every twist and turn in the road was churned into dust and rubble. It was the blitzkrieg all over again and I often wonder how Hamburg recovered from the Coronation Day Parade.

"We got to the saluting base more or less on time but the manner in which we did it did not please the general. He never even thanked me for the lift. He got off so quickly I had no time to return the pennant and the VILSO wasn't speaking to me."

As Harry Gauntlett was posted to Korea soon afterwards and as the 7th Armoured Division was broken up he simply kept to his orders and held it in safe keeping for 38 years. He retired as a major and lives at Andover, Hants. In sending it to Brig Cordingley he felt he had discharged his duty.

He learned one lesson, however, from his encounter with the VILSO, who told him the route was controlled by the military police – "I never trusted Staff Officers again."

Jocks strip for action

A FINAL battle preparation unique to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, was the removal of all windscreens and windows from the lorries in the B vehicle fleet.

Land Rovers were cut down so they had a very low profile.

The decision, taken by the commanding officer, Lt Col Ian Johnstone, stemmed from his previous experience of desert warfare in the Dhofar.

"The one thing that gave away our positions was the light reflected by the re-supply trucks," he said. "The flash from something as big as a windscreens can be seen for tens of kilometres."

"Furthermore, despite modern manufacturing techniques, explosions can still shatter a window and rip a driver to pieces."

The CO was slightly surprised that no other units had done something similar.

"Without a windscreens you can see to drive so much better in the dark. You can also hear things which you miss when in the cab of a lorry. Furthermore, because of the cold in the desert at night, people have a tendency to put on the heater and lose their alertness."

Lt Col Johnstone is an old hand in the Middle East, having spent a tour with a recce platoon in Cyprus, two years in



Men of A Company, 1 RS march back from a church service behind Piper Grant

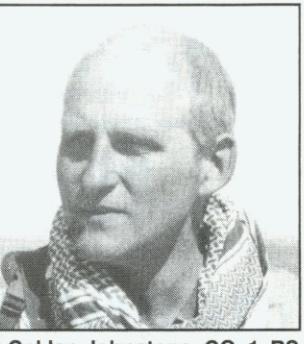
Oman and a tour as Defence Attaché in Beirut. He speaks Arabic.

In Saudi Arabia he gave his address as No 1 Road Wheel, 1 RS. "Home" for the CO and the six men who share "Prosser", his Warrior was a cam net stretched from the

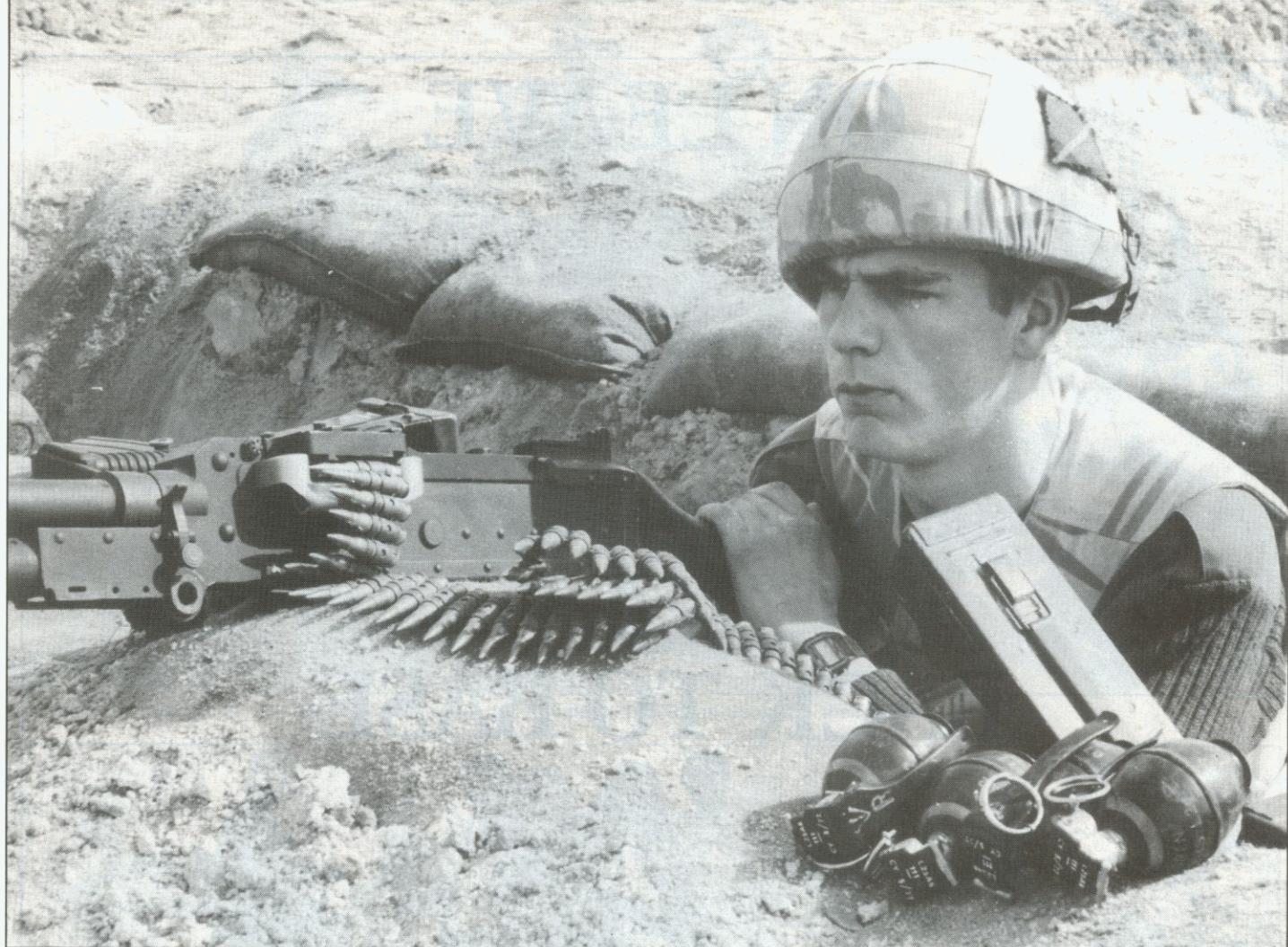
left-side of the vehicle (the fuel filler cap is on the right).

Opposite each of the six road wheels which carry the track on that side stood a camp bed. The CO's was opposite No 1.

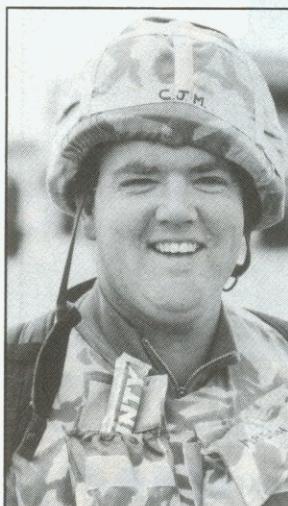
"Everybody – except the driver who sleeps in the vehicle – has a road wheel to sleep



Lt Col Ian Johnstone, CO 1 RS



Pte Brian Hugill mans a Royal Scots fire trench with grenades and LMG. He is wearing body armour



Pte Thomas Hallam demonstrates the CLAW (close light assault weapon) grenade launcher

opposite so we all know where our own bed space lies. I am further from the rear because I don't get woken up for sentry stag."

Everyone in the Royal Scots stripped down for action when battle became imminent.

"With the Warriors crammed with ammunition and food, all we can afford is two bergens per section (in Germany every man can take one on exercise, even in a ten-man section vehicle).

"We're reduced to a spare set of clothes and underwear and we wash them the moment they are removed. Everything else, apart from our toilet kits, is shared . . . bootbrushes, knives and forks and all."

Though a commanding officer's Warrior carries only seven men, it has extra radios and requires map space. Lt Col Johnstone shares a bergen, as do all the other company commanders in the RS.

Sgt Cliff Mason, Mortar Platoon sergeant, is pleased with his purchase at the battalion "sticky shop" at A2 Echelon

"It's a breakdown of the old divide," he said. "There just isn't room for an officer's personal valise – he is not entitled to carry more than anyone else."

One more luxury vanished as the RS went forward.

All the much-prized camp cots they scrounged from the Americans were handed over to the regimental aid post, where their height and comfort made



Jocks draw cash at the pay office at A2 Echelon

them ideal for casualties.

Back came the four-inches-off-the-floor issue variety (though even these may have been too much to carry).

The camp cots inspired a complete barter system.

When Lt Col Johnstone ordered his battalion to parade in Glengarries for the Christ-

mas church service, three Jocks asked if he would mind if they wore their camp cots instead, as they'd got them in exchange for their traditional headdress.



ON LEAVE



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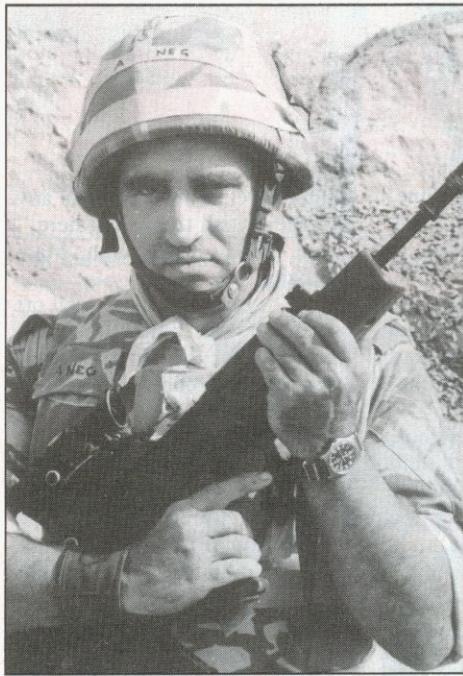
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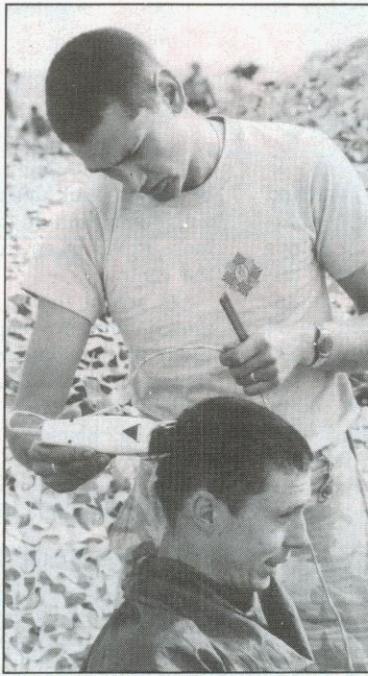
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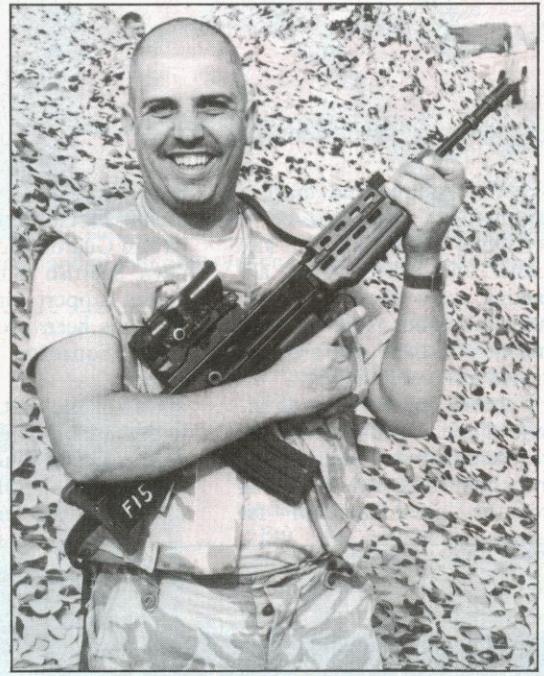
The Jocks of Callsign 21, 5 Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots on their Warrior



CSM Dave Dickson of Fire Support Company. The earthwork berm around their headquarters was named "Edinburgh Castle"



Cpl Ian Laughland, MT Platoon, trims hair at ten riyals a time, in this case Pte Dean Clarke, 6 Platoon, B



One of Cpl Laughland's satisfied customers . . . the No 1 haircut is the shortest in his inventory - "reet doon to the wood"

HOME, SWEET HOME

Right: A Warrior of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots with fascine. The Jocks carry extra water bottles in the pipes. The Warriors have been home to the Jocks for many weeks. They have slept beside their armoured vehicles, dug them in, dug them out and maintained them





Above: The PoW camp established in north eastern Saudi Arabia by men of 1 RHF and sappers of 34 Field Squadron. It was dubbed 'Maryhill Barracks' by the fusiliers. Right: Fus Shaun Collins 1 RHF wraps up well against a sandstorm while on guard duty

1 RHF aims to provide both comfort and care

PoWs welcome!

BEING captured and made a prisoner of war can be a horrifying experience for any soldier, but Allied Forces are making every effort to ensure the thousands of enemy prisoners in their care are well treated in every respect.

Forming the British contingent of the Allied prisoner-of-war handling and guard force are three infantry battalions from the United Kingdom - 1st

Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards and The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Engineer support for the contingent has been provided by 34 Field Squadron Royal Engineers.

One of the first PoW camps in operation was established in north eastern Saudi Arabia by A Company, 1 RHF to contain 2,000 Iraqi soldiers waiting to

be moved back down the line, with an option to hold 2,000 more PoWs in an extension to the camp.

On arrival the prisoners are moved into a reception area where they are documented and inspected by a doctor, showered and issued with kit including blankets, ponchos, mess tins, noddy suit and respirator.

"This gives them exactly the

same level of protection as any of the British troops out here," said WO2 (CSM) Ian Mackenzie.

"They are also fairly well off in that the tents we have erected for them are very spacious and comfortable. The prisoners should suffer no discomfort at all."

The camp was constructed on an area prepared by the sappers who used heavy earth-moving equipment to create a protective berm around the site. Not only would this protect the prisoners from blast and shrapnel should the location come under attack, but it also serves as an effective wind-break to shelter PoWs from the chilly desert night winds.

Having established the camp, the men of 1 RHF are heavily involved in guarding the establishment and looking after the day-to-day needs of the prisoners. Each corner of the main compound is topped by a sangar, alongside each of which stands a halogen searchlight which can sweep the area should the main lighting fail.

The burden of will falls heavily upon the men of A Company, who provide prowler guards, static sentries and chemical sentries. In the early stages of their work they will have shared their rations with



Fus Steven McCallion with the searchlight and LCpl Trevor Macey-Lillie on the GMPG man one of four observation posts around the camp. Inset: WO2 (CSM) Ian Mackenzie



Men of 1 Platoon, A Coy of 1 RHF put up a tent for PoWs

the prisoners, but this will have changed as time went on.

Special "state of the art" ration packs were prepared for the prisoners. Recipes were designed to cater for the Arab taste, and, in a futuristic move, the food packs are solar-cooked - they are heated by the rays of the sun.

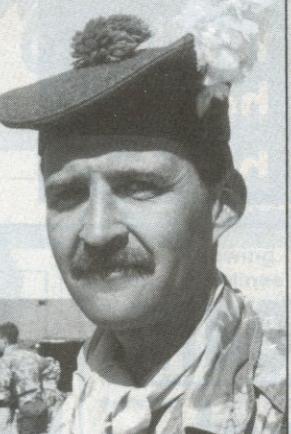
Medically, every effort is made to cater for the prisoners' needs.

"We are here to ensure they have adequate medical facilities, whether it be a requirement for sick parade as is normal for a soldier, or actually to be bedded down for a couple of days," explained SSgt Pete

Banks, RAMC.

"Any PoW requiring treatment of a more serious nature will be evacuated to a field hospital.

"We are basically a medical reception station (MRS), and full medical backup has been provided. Our strength includes a number of doctors and



male nursing staff, drawn mainly from the ranks of the Territorial Army," he said.

The sappers of 1 Troop, 34 Field Squadron, commanded by Capt David Catt, arrived at this bleak desert location in a sandstorm.

But the squadron, whose insignia is a black panther, soon got down to constructing the camp and its surrounding berm, installing basic amenities such as water, electricity and drainage.

There is even a spacious exercise area for the PoWs.

The Royal Highland Fusiliers had just returned to the UK from a six-month tour of duty in Belize before being put on standby to move to the Gulf before Christmas.

It was the third consecutive Christmas that the regiment had been called up. In 1988, they assisted in the aftermath of the Lockerbie air disaster, and in 1989 they were involved in the ambulance dispute.

The regiment has given the PoW camp an unofficial nickname.

"We have called it Maryhill Barracks after the former home of the Highland Light Infantry in Glasgow," said WO2 Mackenzie.



Sappers from 1 Troop, 34 Field Squadron RE erect barbed wire around the camp

A book for the home builders

SINCE I told the story of a Serviceman who built his own four-bedroom home a number of soldiers have shown an interest in self-build.

Anne McGittan of the Community Self Build agency tells me that rules laid down

by the Defence Land Agent and the Treasury still need to be overcome before self-build schemes on married quarters estates or MoD land can be offered.

But a number of civilian schemes are available and Murray

Armor, an expert on the subject, has offered me 1,000 copies of his book *Building Your Own Home* to pass on free to Service personnel and their families.

Now in its 12th edition, the book usually sells for £7.50.

Just send me a self-addressed label plus £1.83 in stamps and I'll send you a copy. No need to send an envelope, they have been provided free by Ultimate Packaging Ltd, South Humberside and Admiral Packaging, Chester.

Team that hoped never to be used

INSTANT 24-hour communication links between the Ministry of Defence's casualty cell in London and 1 Armoured Division in the Gulf ensured a rapid flow of information for next of kin (NOK).

Lessons learned during the Falklands war were applied so that relatives could be given the latest possible information on the condition of their soldier sons and husbands in the shortest time.

Col. Willie Shackell, in charge of the cell, told me it had instantaneous 24-hour communications with the Gulf via telephone, fax, telex and direct computer links.

This meant that as soon as a casualty was notified, the system swung into action.

Casualties are



Manning the lines in the MoD's casualty cell. In the front row are (from left) Mrs Sue Drake, Maj Len Jeffrey, SSGT Rosanne Smith, Col Willie Shackell, Mrs Stella Hellier, Mrs Joan Drummond and Mrs Christine Whittaker. Behind them are volunteers on the morning shift

documented as Very Seriously Ill (VSI), Seriously Ill (SI) or Unlisted in the case of a minor sickness or injury.

"In war, Unlisted are notifiable casualties, so if a corporal has 'flu, a broken wrist, or his appendix out, his next of kin will be informed," explained Col Shackell.

"Families should know that we care – and we do."

When casualties are returned to the United Kingdom, NOK are allowed free travel and accommodation for an immediate 48-hour visit.

When the soldier is described VSI or SI the next of kin is allowed seven days' free travel and accommodation.

"The hardest category for our Service families to bear is that of 'Missing',"

said Col Shackell.

"The Falklands taught us all a lesson when it comes to notifying NOK of death and injury to Service personnel. Instant communications by the media bring the sadness of war directly into homes of anxious relatives, and with this in mind the MoD has gone to great lengths to ensure that whatever the news the NOK will be informed as quickly and sensitively as possible."

As soon as being told of a notifiable casualty, a visiting officer, usually accompanied by a woman, will have called on the NOK and have established a point of contact for the family.

If the casualty was unable to stay in the Gulf he or she would be evacuated to a Service or

NHS hospital and the NOK would be welcome to visit.

Medical administration officers (MAOs) in all hospitals will look after visiting NOKs and relatives, co-ordinating accommodation and so on. MAOs will liaise closely with Gulf support centres.

Sgt Alex Swanston from Depot REME Training Battalion was one of 36 Servicemen drafted into the casualty cell and soon became a dab hand on the computer.

Jo Drummond and Stella Hillier, two volunteers manning telephones in the cell, were maintaining a distinguished record of service. Both are FANYs – First Aid Nursing Yeomanry – members of the organisation which performed with distinction during the First and Second World Wars, particularly as ambulance drivers.

Jo, a part-time teacher, is a veteran of teams set up to help with the Moorgate, Cannon Street and Marchioness disasters.

Sgt Jan Hoe, RCT, from Aldershot, said the cell tried to have the same 22 people on each shift when fully operational. But he, like all the others, was relieved when they learned that they would not need to be kept too busy.

Message from the heart

THE depth of support at home for British Servicemen in the Gulf has been reflected in many ways – help for their families, donations to the Gulf Trust, and a flood of unsolicited blueys and gifts – but the following letter must be a bit special by any measure.

To all British troops in the Gulf,

I hope you are keeping your spirits up and that you are not worrying too much about your families.

I pray for you every day – for the safety of all of you. I want the soldiers and their families to know that I care so much about them and hope the war will soon be over.

I hope this letter will make the soldiers feel happy to know about all the people back home who are thinking of them and praying for them to come home safely. – **Pauline Silver.**

Pauline is a resident at Ravenswood Village for the mentally handicapped at Crowthorne, Berks. She has lived there for 34 of her 36 years. She wrote the letter unprompted and unaided by staff.

Briefly

SOME Service families grossing up their Boarding School Allowance found that they were liable to higher rates of tax than would otherwise have been the case. There is a compensation scheme, so if you are affected contact your unit pay office and check the adjustments have been made.

★ ★ ★

A new DSS booklet titled National Insurance for Married Women NI October 1990 is essential reading for those concerned. I have arranged for 3,000 copies to be dispatched overseas. If you cannot get one, write to me.

Anxiety of Service families concerning the presence of a Status Stamp in their passports has been addressed by the MoD. I am told that all new requests for passports by dependants will be met with a separate Status Stamp slip of paper which can be removed from the passport.

Anne



Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653

**SSAFA
GULF SUPPORT
CENTRE**



From left to right in the Aldershot Gulf Support Centre are Frank Partington, Una Hanson, Penny Collinge (welfare), Michelle Lovett, Shaun McCarthy (transport), Mary O'Dwyer and Sandra Perry

The Carers

TYPICAL of Gulf Support Centres set up all over the United Kingdom is the one operating at the Home of the British Army.

When 7 Armoured Brigade was ordered to the Middle East last November Lt Col Ian Roland, divisional secretary of SSAFA at Odiham, and I (wearing my SSAFA Aldershot hat) set about establishing a voluntary cell to care for the relatives and friends of possible casualties evacuated from the Gulf to military or NHS hospitals within a 30-mile radius of Aldershot.

It was clear there would be a need to support next of kin (NOK) once the immediate help offered by the Ministry of Defence had come to an end. Families travelling from as far afield as Scotland, Wales, the north of England, or even overseas, would need accommodation, transport – and a great deal more.

Meetings with HQ South East District were held, involving agencies such as the British Legion, WRVS, Red Cross, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Cruse and the Samaritans.

An appeal in a local

Help groups rally round

newspaper produced 2,000 volunteers to run the centre and provide assistance.

Issues which had to be addressed included the major needs of transport and accommodation, plus ticklish problems such as caring for infants and providing schooling for youngsters accompanying their parents.

Communication with the MoD, medical administration officers, hospitals, SSAFA and local welfare

agencies was vital.

SSAFA's Anne Butcher co-ordinated the effort to establish a Gulf Support Centre in Aldershot, and a room was made quickly available by the Garrison's Families Housing and Welfare Service.

A fax, photocopier, typewriters, answerphones, computers and laser printer appeared miraculously. British Telecom installed extra lines in 24 hours.

Retired brigadier Peter

Marsh was asked to run the centre, and readily agreed. It opened for business on January 7 and was fully operational within a week.

Meetings with District HQ and the MoD established the vital liaison needed when casualties were inflicted.

Meanwhile, the centre, like many up and down the country, is ready and willing to help families of Servicemen in any way it can.

Helplines

THE following telephone helplines have been set up to handle enquiries and offer advice for next-of-kin of military personnel serving in the Gulf:

- Aldershot Gulf Support Centre 0252 331715.
- Chichester Gulf Support Group 0860 300024.
- Lisburn Gulf Information Desk 0846 609980.
- Tidworth Gulf Support Centre 0980 46104.
- North East Counties Gulfline 0748 832902.
- Kent Gulf Forces Families Support Group 0622 718514.
- MoD helplines: Army 0345 717200; Royal Navy 0345 414544; Royal Air Forces 0345 800900; Royal Fleet Auxiliary 0345 555500; civilians 071-839 5656 or 5492.
- MoD mail helpline 071-430 6243.
- Parcelforces hotline 0800 224466.
- Gift helpline 071-430 6240 or 6243.

● A special British Force Post Office number – BFPO 3000 – remains open for people who wish to send unsolicited letters, cards and small gifts to Servicemen and women in the Gulf. Mail should carry appropriate postage. Normal BFPO numbers should be used for mail addressed to named Service personnel.

● Support groups who wish to be included in this list should contact the Editor.

When wedding plans go awry . . .

WAR in the Gulf played havoc with the wedding plans of many young soldiers. For a few it means that babies will be born before the father has a chance to return from the desert to rearrange the ceremony.

Worried girlfriends and fiancées have asked me to find out what they should do to register the birth if the

father was not present to sign the form.

If the father cannot be present at the register office, he can make a statutory declaration before a solicitor or an officer ranked major or above verifying that he is the father.

Alternatively, the mother can register the birth in her own name and apply for

re-registration once the father has returned home from the front line.

Registration has to be done within six weeks of the birth so there is time for the appropriate form to be obtained from a registrar and sent to the father who should then sign it in the presence of a major or above.

Some callers told me

they had a double reason for anxiety. If their loved one was killed in action before registration could be completed, the child would be classed as illegitimate.

Hopefully the ceasefire will allay their fears and allow for some suitably speedy reunions. But don't hesitate to seek advice from your local registrar and send the father a form.

GULF PEOPLE

**All for
one and
one for
all...**

THE brothers Bedford are not so much Three Musketeers as Three Music-eeters!

Bandsmen Aidan, Matt and Paul Bedford are all members of the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, currently attached to 32 Field Hospital in the Gulf in their war role as medical assistants.

The three young Rangers come from Wakefield in Yorkshire.

Paul, the eldest, joined the Army in 1984, and was soon followed by Aidan and Matt.

The brothers are extremely proud to be serving regiment and country.

A feature on 32 Field Hospital begins on Page 31.



Stretching a point is Cpl Andy Ashworth of Queen's Company, 1 Grenadier Guards, serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers battle group



The Bedford brothers. Aidan, Matt and Paul

Some honeymoon!



Serving together in 32 Field Hospital are Cpl Ben and LCpl Stephanie Glover. They were married in September. Ben comes from Keighley, Yorkshire, Stephanie from St Austell, Cornwall



STAFFORDS PHOTOCALL

Men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment clamber on to their Warriors for a "team photograph" after mustering for an address by their commanding officer, Lt Col Charles Rogers, before the ground offensive began



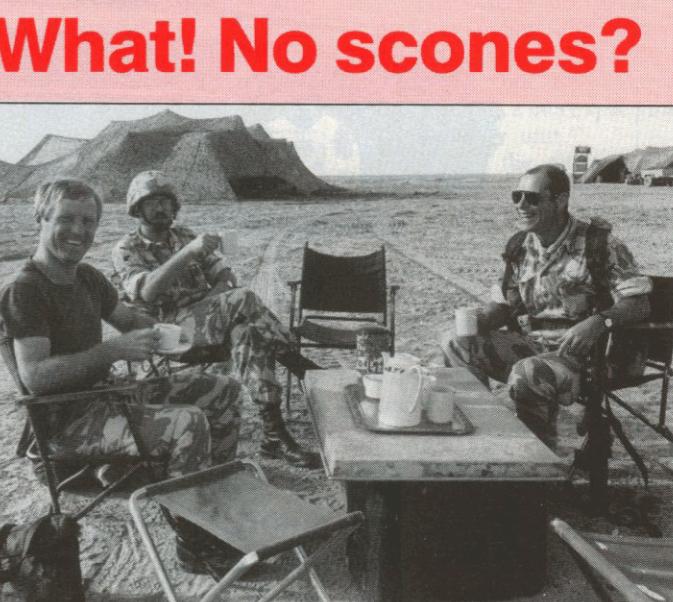
Heard the one about the Scotsman, the Englishman and the Welshman? They are all members of 5 Platoon, 518 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps working in the Divisional Admin Area, and all celebrated a birthday in the desert within a day or two of each other. From left to right are Cpl John Perry from Glasgow, Londoner SSgt John Reid, and Cpl Norman Wall of Pontypool



Brig Christopher Hammerbeck, Commander 4 Armoured Brigade, delivers a case of non-alcoholic beer to his Challenger tank's all-Lancashire crew drawn from the 14th/20th King's Hussars. Left to right are Cpl Paul Lofthouse, driver; Sgt Dave Bowman, operator; Cpl Mike Wigmore, gunner; Sgt Geoff Duxbury, commander (in the absence of the brigadier)

Top team reports for duty

BBC Television reporter Kate Adie poses with SOLDIER's Bill Moore (third from left) and members of the UKLF News Team near the Kuwaiti border. The UKLF members are (from left to right) Capt Chris Robinson, Sgt Dave Miles (some of whose photographs appear in this issue), Cpl Scott McLintock and LCpl Nigel Kitt



An attempt at gracious living in the desert near the Kuwaiti border by Maj Trevor White, officer commanding 31 Ordnance Company, part of 3 Ordnance Battalion, RAOC from Munster, with his 2IC, Capt Richard Greathead, and Maj Jonathan Lowe of 33 Squadron RCT

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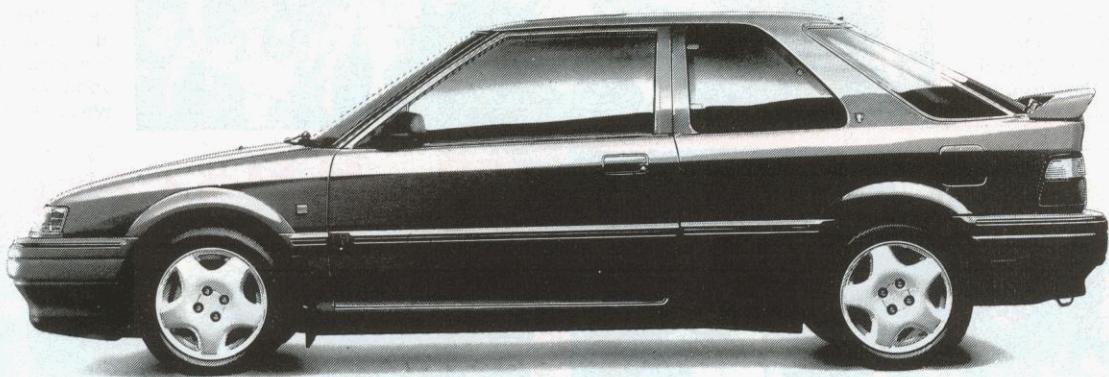
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Welcome to the Desert Rose

A SMALL area of northern Saudi Arabia blossomed after 500 British Army medical staff arrived to establish the 200-bed 32 Field Hospital.

A large sign inscribed "The Desert Rose - Home of 32 Field Hospital" soon greeted visitors, and the commanding officer, Lt Col Peter Lynch, set about making the place bloom.

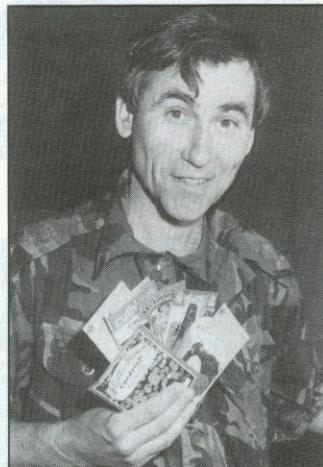
His mother contacted the *Daily Record* in Scotland to appeal for flower seeds.

As a result, staff were inundated with hundreds of packets which were to be used to turn the Desert Rose into a blooming oasis.

"I intend to plant them all," said Col Lynch.

The hospital would have been the first place wounded soldiers would meet surgeons. Forward of this point, medics would have concentrated on keeping men alive.

Speaking before the ceasefire, Col Lynch told *SOLDIER*: "We keep them here for as short a time as possible before sending them further



back for more definitive surgery.

"We operate on casualties as little as possible here. Essentially, those who will make it are the ones we go for. If there is spare capacity we operate on others."

Serious casualties would have been taken to the resuscitation area where teams of doctors, senior nurses and combat medical technicians work.

From here they would be



Above: The commanding officer's "garden" brightens the reception area at 32 Field Hospital. Left: Col Peter Lynch, the CO, with some of the many packets of flower seeds sent to him by well-wishers in Scotland

moved into a pre-op area which has a number of tables on which chemical casualties can be ventilated.

"Surgeons are able to come out of theatre and see the list of patients allocated on the board, before going into pre-op to decide who to operate on next," said doctor Capt David Ross.

Despite field hospitals traditionally being the first place of surgery, 32 Fd Hosp has, as a trial, sent some surgeons

forward to join its teams at their dressing stations.

"The idea is that they should be able to give more expert resuscitation and operate if they have to. The trial involves surgeons, anaesthetists and theatre technicians," said Col Lynch.

"The people already at the dressing stations, the regimental medical officers and GPs, do very well, but what we are sending up is a more specialised traumatology unit."

Forming the nucleus of 32 Fd Hosp were 100 people from BMH Hannover, with a further 100 drawn from British military hospitals at Munster, Rinteln and Berlin.

To this BAOR contingent was added a large contingent of Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force medical staff from the United Kingdom, plus reservists and Territorial Army volunteers.

Gurkha Transport Regiment ambulance drivers and RAF aeromedical evacuation specialists brought the total staff to about 500.

An astonishing array of multi-national medics have been deployed in the Gulf,

● Turn to next page

The CO addresses some of the 500 people, representing about 50 units, who work at 32 Fd Hosp





Two members of the Services Welfare Department of the British Red Cross Society and St John of Jerusalem are attached to 32 Field Hospital.

Diane Gibbs (left) and Finola Dignan dispense welfare advice on the wards and provide a

much-used library of paperbacks in their tent. Videos and board games can also be borrowed.

The two women have a serious war role to perform. Both are counsellors trained in helping patients suffering from battle shock



Ward stewardess Pte Tracey Webb has been nicknamed Radar, after one of the characters in the TV series *MASH*.

Telephone callers at the hospital are now used to hearing the words - "Radar here, can I help you?"

Pte Webb and Pte Michelle George, another QARANC ward stewardess, man the hospital switchboard around the clock.

Desert Rose

From Page 31

including Rumanians, Norwegians, Poles and Danes. Recent arrivals were the Canadians, whose 1st Canadian Hospital was co-located with 32 Fd Hosp.

"The casualties we will handle will be mainly British, but we will treat absolutely anybody," said Col Lynch, "and that includes prisoners-of-war who will be welcome through our doors until a PoW treatment hospital takes responsibility for them. We won't say no to anyone."

"We make no secret of our purpose. We are big and if we tried to hide and were recognised, the enemy might mistake us for a large headquarters and take us out."

The hospital invoked the Geneva Convention by flying Red Cross and Red Crescent flags and laying large red crosses over the surface of the hospital and on the bund sides.

"We are tactical until the receipt of casualties, and we do keep light and noise discipline, but when we start receiving casualties, all that goes out of the window and we do whatever is necessary for our patients," said Col Lynch.

"The Geneva Convention should cover us. We cannot hide and don't intend to."

"We have to take whatever's coming and dealing with the casualties comes before our own safety."



A group of Army Catering Corps cooks attached to 32 Field Hospital. Sandstorms are a problem

Cooked to order

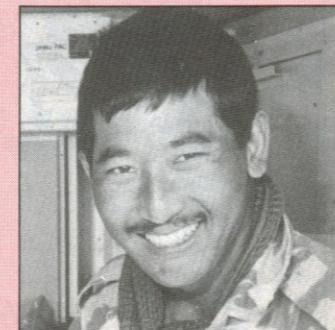
CATERING Officer Capt Graham Smith and Master Chef WO2 (SQMS) George Durlik are responsible for feeding staff and patients at 32 Fd Hosp.

One of their trickiest problems is keeping dust off food during sandstorms.

But hospital staff were quick to praise the efforts of the Army Catering Corps specialists.

Gurkhas attached to the establishment eat a different menu from the rest of the staff - curry, curry and more curry.

Special ration packs are made up in Hong Kong and sent to Gurkhas in the Gulf. Said WO2 Durlik: "We are eating compo rations varied by the addition of fresh bread, potatoes, eggs, fruit juices and milk."



Smiling LCpl Ram Hirachan of the Gurkha Transport Regiment



Patrolling outside the protective earthworks around 32 Fd Hosp are LCpl Tony Hughes, 1 R Irish, and Bds Peter Findlay, Gordons. Both men are musicians working as medical assistants in the hospital

Service with a smile

VISITORS to 32 Field Hospital are greeted by the bright and happy smiles on the faces of the drivers of 28 Gurkha Ambulance Squadron.

The ever-cheerful Gurkhas drive the squadron's one-tonne Land Rover ambulances and the giant white buses used to move sitting or stretchered patients to the nearest airhead for evacuation down the line.

"All have been drawn from 28 and 31 Squadrons of the Hong Kong-based Gurkha Transport Regiment," explained the commander of Zulu 32 Troop, Lt Ramesh Chhetri.

The squadron has men deployed forward with dressing stations 5 Alpha and 5 Bravo, and with Yankee Troop.

"They would bring casualties down to the ambulance collection points where SHQ is based. They don't stop here, but are recorded as they pass through on their way to 32 or 22 Field Hospitals," he said.



The sight of an Army-issue camouflaged bicycle pump on the desk of Sgt Scott Taylor (above) led SOLDIER to a large trolley park at the hospital.

Explained Sgt Taylor: "The trolleys fit underneath the stretchers and make it a less back-breaking task to move casualties about." The trolleys have bicycle tyres, which explains the requirement for a pump on the sergeant's desk.

Waste not, want not says RSM

REGIMENTAL Sergeant Major Jack Gardener, of 32 Field Hospital, has a purpose in life, and he doesn't care if it makes him unpopular.

He is in charge of discipline and administration and constantly rams home the message that everyone has a part to play in maintaining a clean, efficient workplace.

"People need to be reminded that there is no drainage and no way of getting rid of the rubbish unless it is burnt," said WO1 Gardener.

"Here, water is a facility. Every bit of water, petrol or food used here means soldiers in the front line have less."

Drinking water is not rationed. Mind you, if the RSM catches someone washing their socks in it the culprit is usually detailed to a fatigues such as disposing of night soil from the hospital's magnificent four-seater, wood-surround thunderbox. Second offenders are rare.

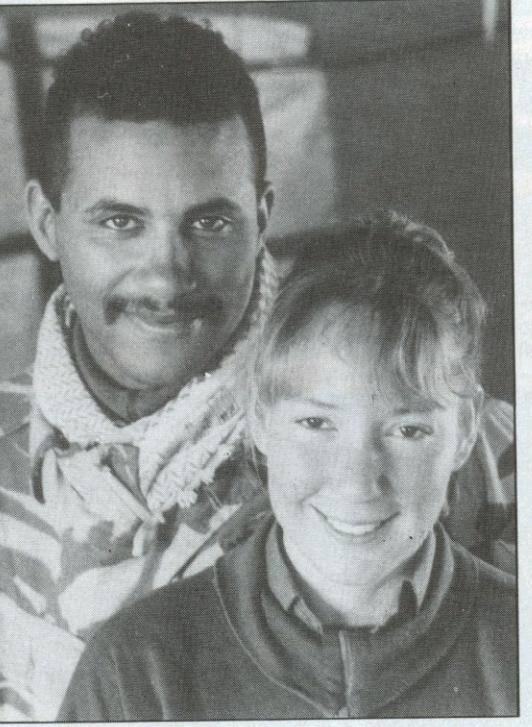


Focus on 32 Field Hospital

Left - Stacking water bottles is Cpl Curly Gardner, now with 32 Field Hospital RAMC. This was his second war - he was a driver in the Royal Corps Transport during the 1982 Falklands conflict



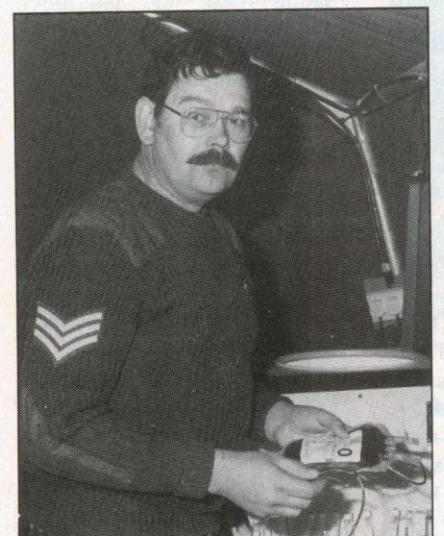
Keeping up appearances on the wards. Pte Margaret-Ann Jackson gives 32 Fd Hosp colleague LCpl Karen Thomas a quick trim



Married in September and working together at 32 are LCpls Scott and Angela MacMillan. Scott comes from Manchester, Angela from Daventry



Never chuck anything away! LCpl "CJ" Walker washes utensils in a 1938-issue cooking pot



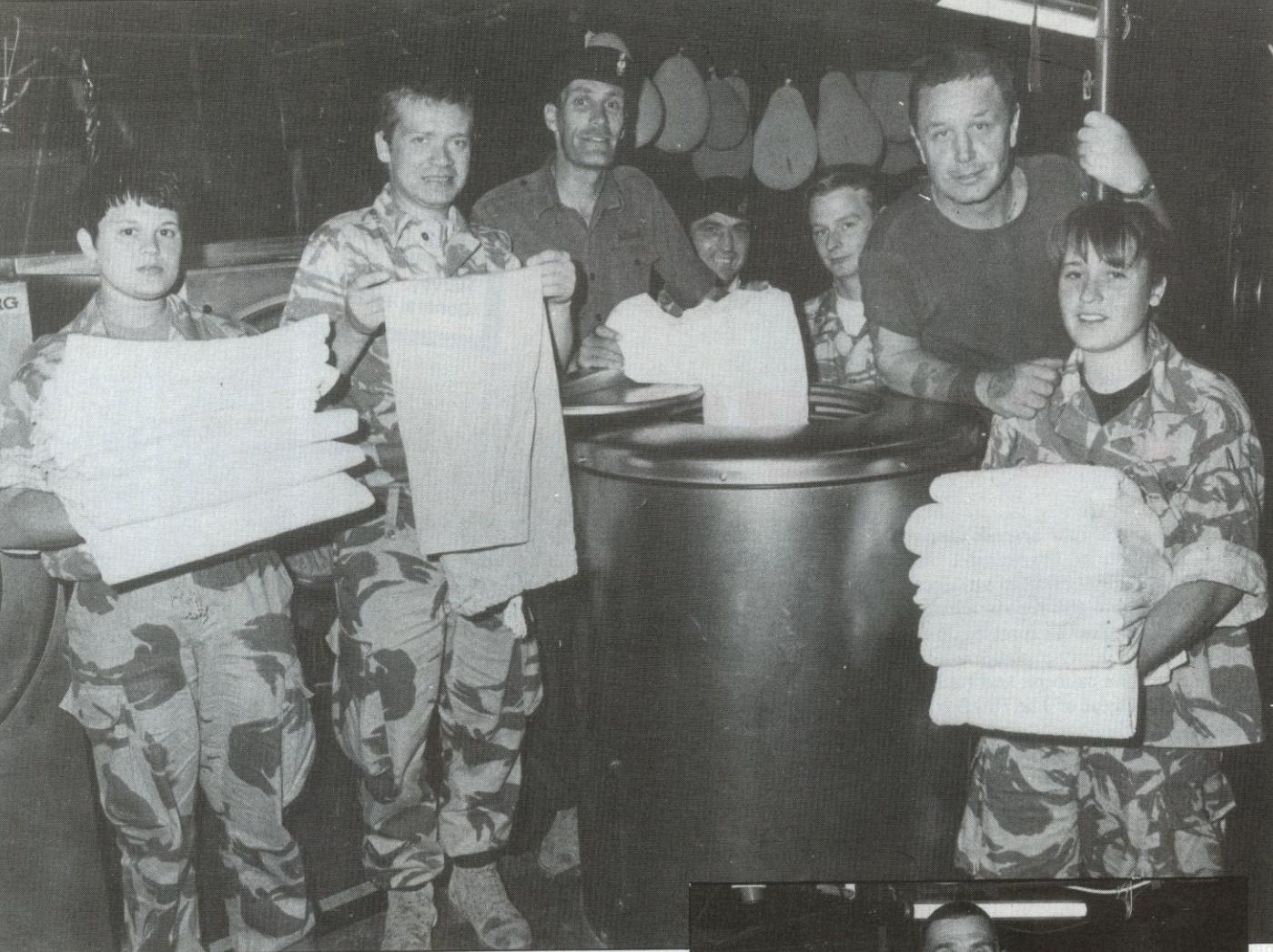
Sgt Eddie Wilson at work with a blood bag in the field hospital's pathology laboratory



Wimbledon MP Lt Col Charles Goodson-Wickes, the first Member to serve in uniform since the Second World War



Best foot forward. All units in the 500-strong hospital had to turn out for the commanding officer's Sunday morning "fun run"



Above: Personnel of 711 Laundry Platoon, RAOC in support of 33 General Hospital. From left to right are Pte Cara McCloy, Pte John Taylor, Pte Drew Milligan, Capt Ivan Jones, LCpl John Nevitt, Cpl Ged Rae and Pte Aura Sanderson. All are specialist RAOC TA members who volunteered "for the duration". They are usually based at HQ RAOC TA at Blackdown.



Left: Capt Ivan Jones, officer commanding.
Right: Laundry workers Pte Aura Sanderson, Sgt Max Foord and Pte Cara McCloy



CLEAN GANG

CLEANING up in the Gulf are the men of 711 Laundry Platoon, RAOC, which has detachments serving throughout the region with 22 and 32 Field Hospitals, 33 General Hospital and 205 General Hospital, RAMC Volunteers.

Primary role of the laundry sections is the provision of clean hospital equipment - theatre gowns, blankets and general bed linen.

At 33 General Hospital, the unit's officer commanding, Capt Ivan Jones, explained that

the detachment's two industrial capacity washing machines and dryers were kept in operation 24 hours a day. They can be DROPS-mounted.

"Each machine unit uses 600 litres of water an hour and can wash around 50 kilograms of laundry each hour. That's equivalent to 50 sheets, 20 blankets or 60 surgical gowns."

The team uses a disinfectant that kills all viruses known to man, including hepatitis A and B.

Great emphasis is placed on

health and safety within the unit to prevent infection of staff. Laundry brought in from the hospital is colour-coded.

Red bags indicate normal soiled hospital laundry, while green indicates contamination. The contents are inside a second, water-soluble bag which can be put straight into the machine. Yellow-bagged material is incinerated.

Said LCpl John Nevitt: "When the opportunity arises we can wash the combatants of troops back in from the front

line. In a field location, we would incorporate a mobile bath unit. The operating manual states that each bather is entitled to 1min 7sec under the shower.

"Not much chance of enforcing that," he said.

For the OC, Capt Jones, Operation Granby turned out to be a real family affair. Since arriving in theatre, he has met up with his son, Pte Lee Jones and nephew, Pte Alan Jones, both serving with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Rangers are back in town

WHILE some of the new arrivals at the School of Infantry in Warminster are feeling a strong sense of *déjà vu*, local residents well-used to the regular change of military faces also find themselves doing a double-take at the newly-posted soldiers.

That's because the caubeen and hackle, the distinctive headgear of The Royal Irish Rangers, is back in town again. They served there twice during the 1970s and soldiers, from the commanding officer down, readily recall previous tours.

During their last tour 14 years ago, about 30 married local girls, and over the years nearly 150 Rangers have settled in the area.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers has taken over from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales as the infantry demonstration battalion. Its main task is to provide manpower support for exercises run on Salisbury Plain by the School of Infantry and the Junior Division of the Staff College.

When a SOLDIER team visited, the Rangers were taking part in Exercise Globe Trot, designed to test officers from all arms learning to be company commanders.

It is the fourth tour at Warminster for the commanding officer, Lt Col Philip Trousdell, who recalled his stint as a student commander leading soldiers who were complete strangers to him.

He said: "I was a platoon commander and it must have become clear to the school's directing staff that I had made no plans to deal with being ambushed, once we had left our defensive position.

"They could have asked me about it, but they obviously decided it would be more educational for me if they let it run.

"Sure enough, as we were staggering about in the dark on Salisbury Plain I was stopped by directing staff, who said we were about to be ambushed and what was I going to do about it.

"I had to admit I had no plan. Finding out about my mistake in that way means it has stuck in my mind."

Col Trousdell said it was always tempting for experienced soldiers in the demonstration battalion to point out a mistake to a student commander.

"But they must never do that – even if there is going to be the most enormous cock-up. It is difficult not to intervene, but the soldiers have to stay tight-lipped so

that the student commander can learn for himself and see the full error of his ways.

"If a student platoon commander turns to one of my platoon sergeants and asks for advice, then the platoon sergeant may point out the options, but must never take over."

Capt Peter Read, adjutant of the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, speaks highly of the sense of humour of Rangers, who help trial and demonstrate kit and equipment that will possibly come into use for infantry.

He explained: "We have been trialling some new webbing and trying to age it in durability tests.

"It has meant a section of Rangers going across the Royal Marines endurance course at Lympstone many times, and they still have a sense of humour at the end of it."



Rgr Tosh McIntosh explains the finer points of the 30mm Browning machine gun to Royal Irish Rangers of the Infantry demonstration battalion



Lt Col Philip Trousdell

Posting follows 5½ years service in BAOR

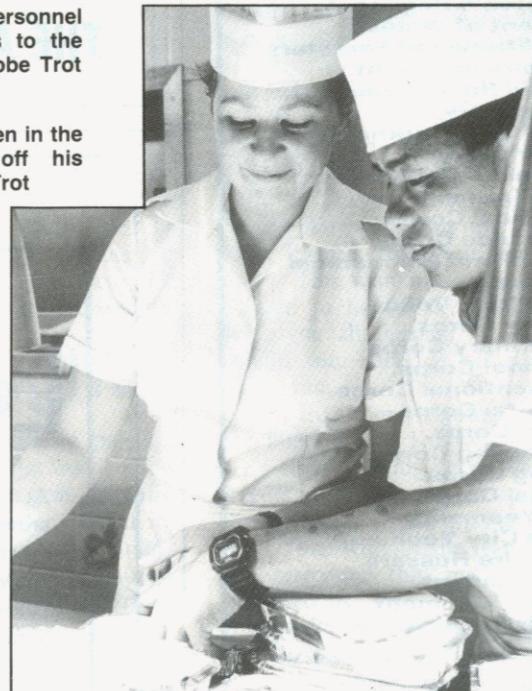
EIGHTEEN members of the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers led by bandmaster, WO1 David Clarke, are serving as medics with 32 Field Hospital in the Gulf. Also in the Gulf is Cpl Robert Huddlestone, a Warrior driver and maintenance instructor serving with HQ FMA, and cook LCpl Ian Harvey, serving with 205 General Hospital.



Above: A FV432 armoured personnel carrier takes reinforcements to the "enemy" during exercise Globe Trot



Sir Harry Secombe has a go on Rgr Scouse Nevin's bagpipes. He was in the area to record an edition of *Highway* for television



Pte Vikki Kavanagh and Cpl Jit Bahadur Pun prepare lunch. The demonstration battalion includes 100 Gurkha soldiers

LT COL Philip Trousdell, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, the infantry demonstration battalion at Warminster, is enthusiastic about the post he took over in October.

"We were in Germany for five-and-a-half years, so a number of my corporals and lower ranks have never soldiered anywhere else except for Northern Ireland, and are enjoying being back in the UK.

"For young wives to be able

to walk into a shop and understand what the label says on the side of a can is a great bonus, and for local girls who married Rangers on a previous tour, it is a homecoming to Warminster.

"Another great advantage is that we run a tightly-controlled programme for the School of Infantry, which we support with manpower, and we can more or less say what every man is doing for the next two years.

"Where there is free time we slot in adventure training and sport and continue the momentum for enjoying it built up in Germany."

Col Trousdell acknowledged

that commanding a battalion which provided manpower support to someone else while still having to maintain it as a battalion, was "tricky".

"It is a fine line for the commanding officer of the demonstration battalion deciding whether he disappears for

two years to improve his golf handicap, or whether he becomes over-involved in exercises and interferes with the School's directing staff. I shall have to go carefully."

"I don't play golf, but I may well do in two years time!"

"There is always plenty of challenge here. The challenge is having 550 soldiers who have to be motivated, looked after, fed and have their careers plotted. I am very happy to be back in Warminster again."

Officers put to the test

THE 1st Warminster Rifles, called in to help vanquish an invader, were acquitted themselves well.

Warminster Rifles? Just a name made up for Irish Rangers taking part in Exercise Globe Trot, part of an all-arms tactics division course run by the School of Infantry, Warminster, for captains and majors.

Young officers were out in the field, putting into practice classroom lessons in commanding troops on the ground. Keeping a close check on what was happening was Lt Col Tom Longland, who with a team of eight experienced majors runs the All-Arms Tactics Division.

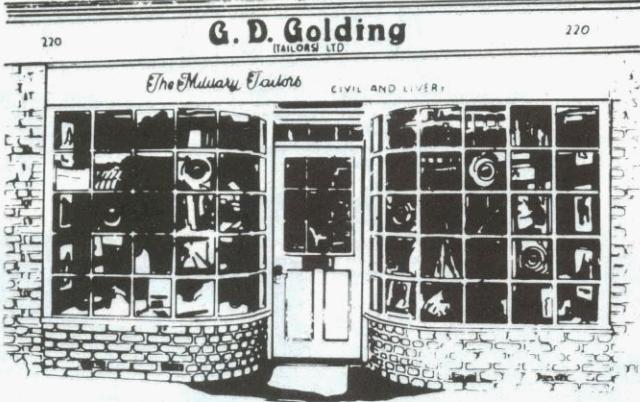
Col Ewan Morrison, Commandant of the All-Arms Tactics Division, tries to visit an exercise every day. He said: "There is always something new and slightly different, but there is a tendency to see the same weaknesses."

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Take a shufti at this pukka gen

AS AN old Eighth Army man I am prompted by the return of the Rats to repeat some of the references we used in those days. For example:

- Up the blue – Up the line;
- Brew up – Make tea, or catch fire;
- Pukka gen – Reliable information;

- Shufti – To look;
- Ala keefik – I don't care;
- Malish – It doesn't matter;
- Kwois kateer – Very good.

My tip to the troops is, when up the blue, bury your water bottle in the sand and it will remain cool. When you need a drink, dig it up, mix it with a spoonful of liver salts and it's

absolute nectar!

Good luck to all our forces in the Gulf. We in this village and the surrounding area have collected many gifts which are on the way to you. Kwois kateer. – **Douglas W F Smith, ex-WO2 69 Med Regt RA, Bradenham, Shetford, Norfolk.**

Dear Soldiers

I WISH to thank you on behalf of the Kuwaiti people. You are prepared to lay down your own lives in order to liberate them. No human being can do more than that.

In England many people are too ready to brand the English youths of today because of a few irresponsible ones who somehow always hit the news, but very little is said of the wonderful youths like yourselves.

I am 54 years old. I was a child when the Second World War started and I remember how terrible those years were, as I lived just outside Calais, France.

I remember listening to the BBC with our family and how

This letter, addressed "Dear Soldiers", was sent to Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander of the British Forces in the Gulf, before the liberation of Kuwait.

we knew the English soldiers would come to our rescue, and they did, lads, just like you.

I can't describe the joy we felt when you turned up, not only to liberate us, but to give us food, we were so hungry. I remember as if it were today the smiles of the soldiers when they took us up into their arms.

When you finally get to Kuwait I promise you that all the hard work you have put into this will be rewarded when

you see the faces of those poor people under tyranny by occupying forces.

The English soldiers left such wonderful memories for me that I came to England at the age of 17 to study, and I simply stayed. I married an Englishman and became English. I owe my life and freedom to lads like you and in Kuwait there will be thousands of people who in years to come will feel as I do towards you all.

I hope this letter will help you endure the hardship you are all going through.

In the Thirties we allowed a man to fool us all. This time we have learned from our mistakes. This man must not be allowed to hoodwink anyone. With you all fighting on our behalf, your sacrifice will not be in vain.

You are not only fighting for the liberation of Kuwait, you are also fighting for our freedom. Our freedom to walk the streets of London, Paris, New York without the fear of the terrorism this man has promised us.

He must never be allowed to win. HE WILL NOT WIN. I am sure you will all see to that.

Our prayers go with you. God bless you all. – **Anne Marie Bennett Grignon, Purley, Surrey.**

Getting the Rat right

I AM prompted by Mr Ricketts's letter (February 18) on the subject of the Rat to comment on the matter of left and right.

The laws of heraldry, to which British Army badges generally conform, rule that "left" and "right" refer to the point of view of the wearer.

Thus, Mr Ricketts's Rat is facing right (or dexter, as the

Romans so curiously put it). Perversely, the Rat worn on the soldier's right arm actually faces left (or sinister, with all its nasty attributions). The animals, actual or mythological, on British cap badges all face right heraldically despite appearances to the contrary. – **John Gaylor (Hon Sec Military Historical Society), Bromley, Kent.**

TAPIOs first in field

I WAS not at all surprised to read the letter reacting to your article "TAPIOs take the lead" (February 4). With every respect for Lt Col Wilton's remarks, I should nevertheless like to put the record straight.

With three other TAPIOs (Huxford, Fairbanks Weston and former SOLDIER writer Mervyn Wynne Jones) and Maj Peter Clapton, SG(V), a TA watchkeeper, I arrived in Saudi

Arabia on Tuesday, October 16 on one of the first flights taking the advanced elements of 7 Armd Bde and, as far as I can determine without referring to Field Records, were the first TA soldiers actually to set foot on Saudi soil.

Advanced elements of 40 Fd Regt did not arrive in theatre until several days later. – **Capt P D Williams, RCT(V), HQ AFCENT, BFPO 28.**

Reunions

● **RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club 1991:** The annual dinner and reunion will be held on Saturday May 11 at the RAMC Training Group and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale. Details from WO1 (RSM) P Fowler, RAMC Training Group and RHQ RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.

● **RCT Aden 1967:** Ex-Cpl A R Smith, RCT wants to trace members of the MT Section, 51 Port Sqn RCT, Normandy Lines, Aden, 1967, with a view to a reunion. Write to him at 67 Langham Drive, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO1G 7AG.

● **1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards** annual reunion dinner will be held on Saturday May 11 at the Oval Banqueting Centre, Kensington Oval, London SE11 5SS. Tickets and details from Maj (Retd) K D McMillan, Home Headquarters, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF4 3YE (tel: 227611 ext 8213).

● **Armourers and Artificers Weapon:** The reunion of the Armourers Association will be held on May 18 at the Victory Services Club, Carisbrooke Hall, 63-79 Seymour Street, London at 1830. Details from Mr W J Thorne, 2 Midsomer Court, Worcester Road, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QJ.

● **2418 (Sherwood) Sqn ATC:** To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Air Training Corps the squadron will hold a dining-in night on May 24 for all ex-cadets and people associated with the squadron. Details from P Off Michelle Worsnop WRAFVR(T), 101 St Albans Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6GS (tel: 0602 209413).

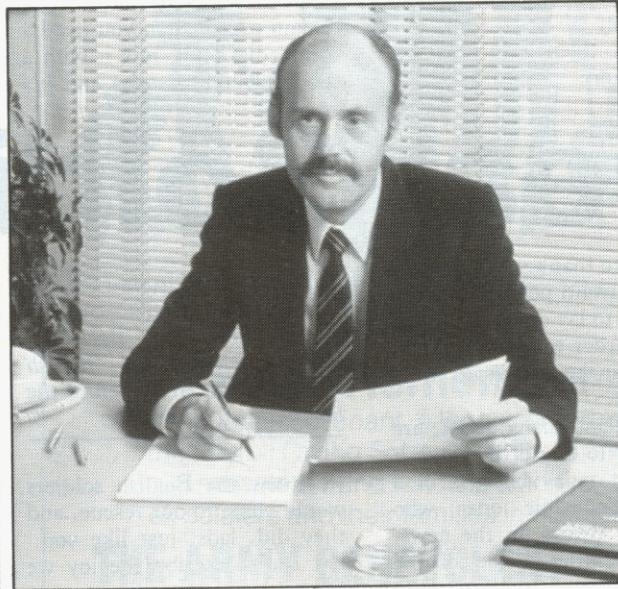
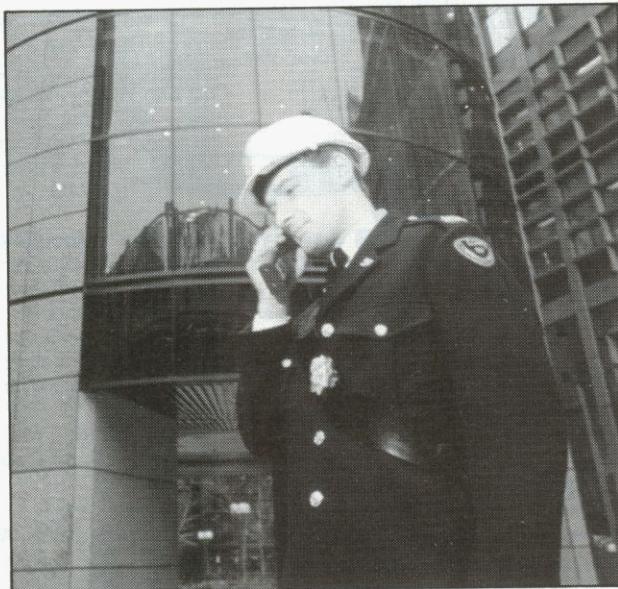
● **11th Royal Tank Regiment:** Final reunion planned at the Bay View Hotel, East Cliff, Bournemouth, on Saturday April 27. Contact Ken Fraser, 19 Gervis Road, Bournemouth BH1 3EE.

Searchline

● **Armourers/Artificers REME:** Mr S E Bristow, ex-WO1 Armourer REME (March 1941 batch), of 17 Belmont Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 9RJ seeks information about a 1991 reunion of former and serving members.

● **Gunner Regiments:** Information about the weapons issued to gunner regiments immediately after Dunkirk in the defence of UK sought by researcher Mr Douglas Smith, ex-WO2 69th Med Regt RA, of 4 Mill Street, Bradenham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7QN.

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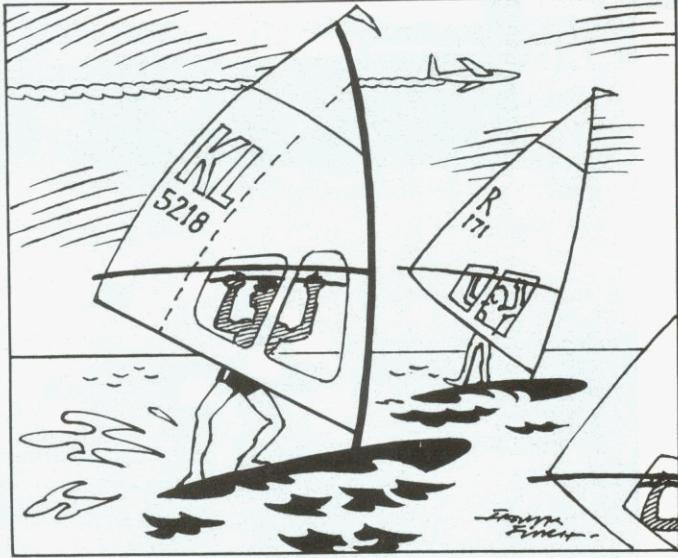
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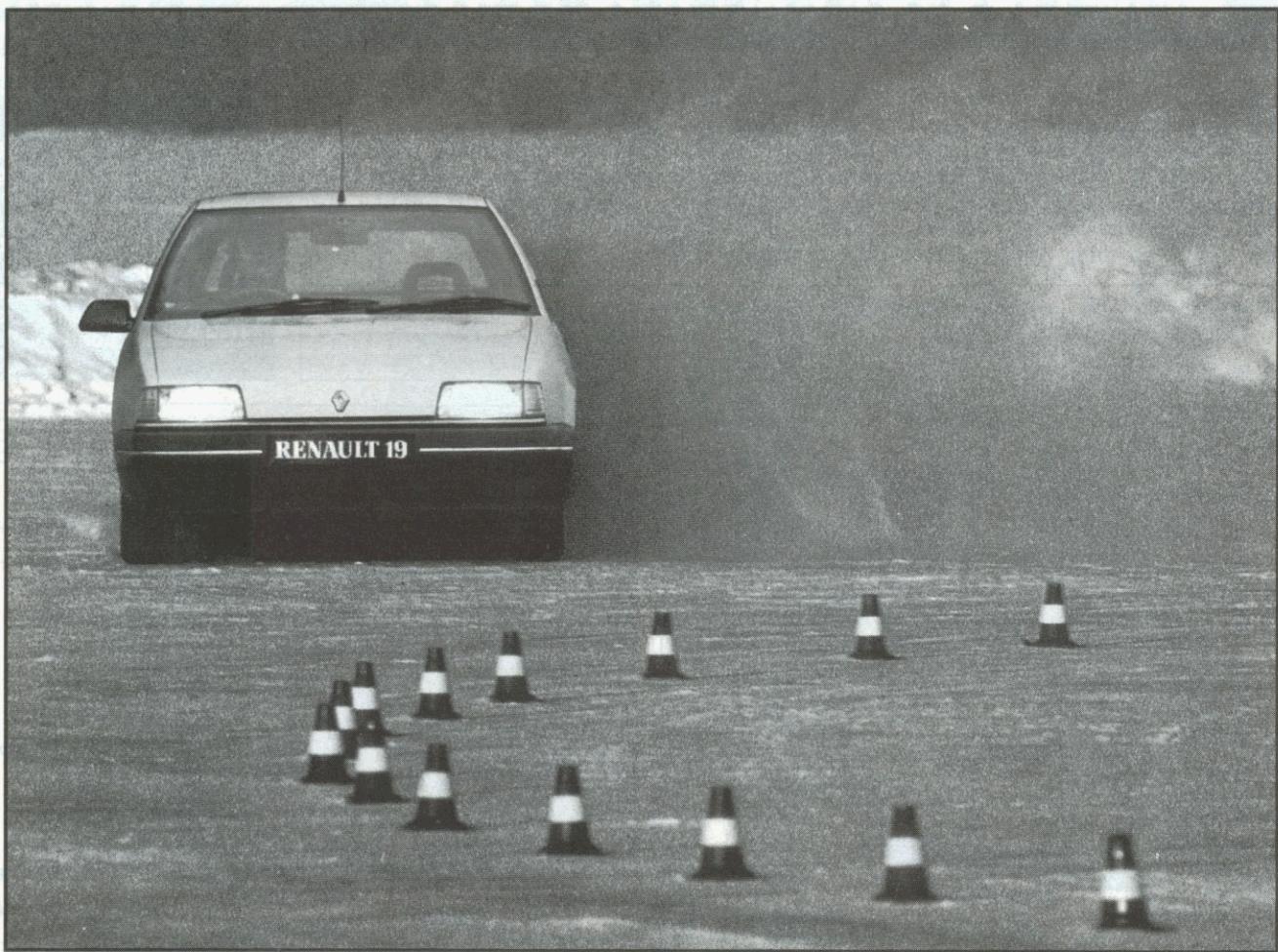
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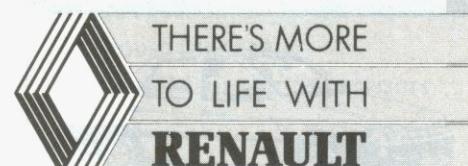
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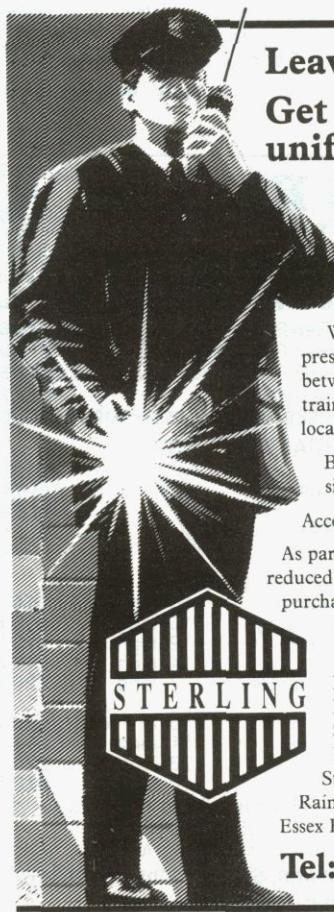
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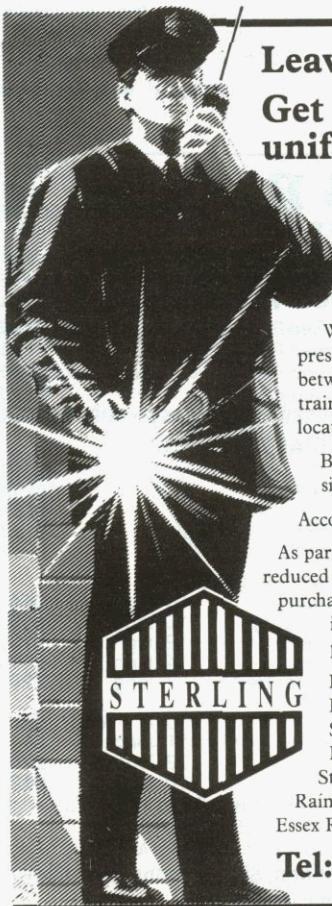
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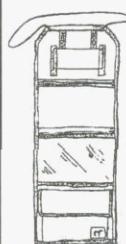
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Army skier pulls out stops for Great Britain

BDR Dave Belam (3 RHA) has put in several top performances as the British cross-country ski team has taken on the finest in the sport at the world championships in Italy.

Belam placed 52nd in the gruelling 30km classic race and 52nd again in the 10km free technique "sprint", establishing himself in the process as the top British cross-country

skier. It is a remarkable achievement by a man who has been skiing for just five years.

Key to the success of the team, in a year in which they have suffered from not having a coach, has been that each athlete has had to prove himself worthy of the team by achieving good race results to meet successive selection periods.

Those that fail move to a selection squad to work on their technique, or are out of the reckoning altogether.

"To be the best you must train to be the best," says manager Capt Antony Abell (RGJ), whose back-up team includes a sports psychologist and medical experts.

The team is now focussing its attention on next year's Winter

Olympics, in the meantime competing on the world circuit.

In the British team with Dave Belam are LCpl Mark Palmer and LCpl Neil Danby from 28 Amph Engr Regt, LCpl Ed Nicholl from 35 Engr Regt and Mne Mark Croasdale of 45 Cdo RM. LCpl John King (1 ADTR) was serving in the Gulf and missed the world championships.

Dave goes one better

LCPL Dave Neal (Cdo Ord Sqn) improved on last year's second place to win the 1991 Army senior cross country title in sub-zero temperatures at Longmoor Training Camp, Bordon.

After a hard battle over the frozen course, Neal finished 15 seconds ahead of Maj Glen Grant (HQ UKLF), last year's third-placed runner, and 38 seconds in front of Sgt John Finch, RAPC attached to 1 Staffords.

Winner of the Army women's title was WO2 Lyn Higgs (HQNI). Cpl Sue Sharp (29 Coy WRAC) was second and Capt Barbara Dunn (BMH Berlin) third. Women's Services Northern Ireland took the team prize, and 29 Company WRAC were runners-up.

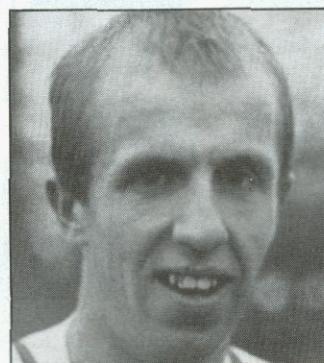
First junior to finish (and seventh overall) was BAOR junior champion Pte Darren Stephenson of 1 PWO, who led his young battalion team to victory in the Major Units race. For the past three years 1 PWO (champions five times in the past nine years) have had to be content with second place behind 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Gulf duties prevented the BAOR-based outfit from defending their title.

Another junior to show well was Pte Thomas (3 R Anglian) who finished in 11th place.

First veteran across the line



The WRAC team which triumphed at Blackdown in the Inter-Services cross country championships. In the back row (from left to right) are LCpl Celia Duffield and reserves WO2 Helen Meen, Capt Pauline Jump and Maj Helen Mahon; in the front (from left) Capt Leisa Derben, Cpl Sue Sharp and Capt Barbara Dunn



LCpl Dave Neal

was WO1 Trevor Mortlock (32 Sig Regt V) in 21st position, with Capt Peter Marsh second in 28th place.

School of Signals were second to 1 PWO in the Major Units race, while FOD Dulmen took the Minor title for the fourth year in succession. Depot Queen's Division were second and also won the veteran category, finishing some way clear of RAPC Worthy Down.

Army Apprentices College Chepstow took the junior team honours – for the tenth year in succession – ahead of Princess Marina College.

The youth title went to JDvr Long (JLR RCT/RAOC) ahead of Jldr Yeoman (JIB Shorn-

cliffe). For the third consecutive year Shorncliffe comfortably won the team title, filling six of the first 11 places.

There was a double success for the Army at the Inter-Services cross country championships run in slushy conditions at the Training Battalion and Depot RAOC at Blackdown, with the Army women's and junior teams winning their races. The Army men's team finished second, well beaten by the Royal Air Force, while the veterans were also second to the airmen.

Cpl Sue Sharpe won the women's race, with Capt Barbara Dunn in third place, Capt Leisa Derben (ASPT) in sixth and LCpl Celia Duffield (WRAC Centre) eighth.

LCpl Stephenson was first home in the junior race, and with good support from Pte Thomas of 3 R Anglian (3rd), Pte Thomas of 1 PWO (5th) and LCpl Howell of PCDRE (9th), led his team to victory.

Scottish international Lt Chris Robison of the Royal Navy won the senior race, with Dave Neal third, but the RAF, led by Sqn Ldr Roger Hackney, clinched the title for the 19th successive year.

White water

COMPETENT Army canoeists have a chance to test themselves on some of the finest white water rivers in Scandinavia – if they act fast.

The British Mountain Training Centre Norway has 16 vacancies on its annual special white water course, this year time to coincide with the main glacier melt water in the Headmark and Oppland regions of Norway.

The course runs from June 25 to July 7 and bids, from those who can roll on both sides in Grade 3 water, should get their bids in by April 29.

Badminton

STANDARDS remained high in the BAOR badminton championships despite the loss of many players to Operation Granby duties.

SSgt Firth (RAPC att 1 RGJ) beat Cpl Gibb (35 Engr Regt) in the final of the men's singles. Lt Pugh and Cpl Smith (8 Regt RCT) won the men's unit doubles, and Smith and Harrison (Naafi) won the open doubles.

Speedy Belgians foil Services

**Combined Services 0,
Belgian Armed Forces 1**

COMBINED Services probed, harried and hustled a speedy Belgian side containing three Under-21 internationals to such good effect at Aldershot that for the opening 20 minutes at least they looked good enough to win this opening encounter in the Kentish Cup competition, writes **Pat Massey**.

Sgt Paul Brown was cautioned when he became involved in a goalmouth incident which left Cpl Rob

Wilson (RM) laid out in the Belgian penalty area. Ten minutes later he was heading for the changing room after a second caution for a needless and reckless tackle on Jacobs of Standard Liege.

While Combined Services were reshaping themselves they conceded the only goal of the game when Lodewyck of Beerschot converted a half-cleared corner kick.

Services had a real go in the second half and were denied on a number of occasions. Sgt Alan Higgins had one shot

cleared off the line. When the final whistle blew they were still hammering away at the Belgian defence.

The Army's Inter-Services campaign for the Constantinople Cup gets under way at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth on March 13 (ko 1930) when they meet the Royal Navy. They entertain the Royal Air Force at Aldershot on March 26 (ko 1930), a week after playing a South West Counties championship match against Somerset and Avon, also at Aldershot (March 19, ko 1930).

Five on ABA trail

FIVE Army boxers are through to the England ABA quarter-finals against Western Counties at Salisbury on March 16 after a night of solid success at the George Wimpey-sponsored Combined Services individual championships at Aldershot, writes **John Elliott**.

On the Army's roll of Combined Services champions are flyweight Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF), bantamweight Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT), featherweight LCpl Joe Rajcoomer (1 DERR), light-welterweight LCpl Kevin Mason (Depot and Tg Regt RCT), and light-middleweight LCpl Lee Innes (1/3 Tg Regt RE).

The Royal Navy took four titles.

Surprise of the championships was the presence of a Royal Air Force team after they had played no part in the Inter-Services competition for a second successive year. There was a measure of justice in the defeat of their five finalists, and their only success was a walkover at super-heavyweight



Lineout action in the Army (UK) Cup final between 7 Para RHA (black strip) and 1 DWR. The airborne gunners won 12-10 to retain their title and book a place in the Army Cup final against Berlin-based 1 RWF in Aldershot on April 11.

The Army's senior side continued its excellent preparation for the Willis Cup game against the Royal Navy at Twickenham on March 23 by defeating a strong Surrey side in pouring rain at Aldershot. Several candidates were unable to play against Surrey, which suggests the selectors have some strength in depth.

for SAC Paul Fiske, whose Combined Services title can hold little meaning.

Boxer of the night (and winner of the Neil Cameron Trophy) was Neil McCallum. He was given the opportunity to reveal his talent and composure by old foe LPT Dale Randle, whose non-stop aggression drew the best out of the England international in a cracking contest.

LCpl Mason earned a well-deserved title the hard way, first having to overcome

Royal Marine Rob Wileman in a semi-final. That result reversed the decision Wileman won on the Army-Navy bill at HMS Nelson a month earlier.

In the final Mason scored a majority points decision over the awkward Cpl Ritchie Goodsell.

The Navy's four Combined Services champions are Mne Andy Calpin (lightweight), Mne Trevor French (welterweight), Mne Mark Edwards (middleweight) and MEM Colin Leiba (heavyweight).

An extra special final

THERE was an extraordinary ending to the all-sapper final of the UKLF Major Units basketball championships at the Army Apprentices College ACC, Aldershot.

Three periods of extra time were necessary before 1 and 3 Training Regiments RE beat 39 Engineer Regiment by 89 points to 87.

The Cove-based trainers' early lead was whittled away by the Waterbeach team, and the greater shooting skill displayed by Magill, Richardson, Penman and Lee of 39 was countered by good defensive rebounding by Phillips, Rogers and Woodford of 1/3.

Just three points separated the teams at half-time, and soon afterwards 39 lost playmaker Blake on five personal fouls. Johnson, the training regiment's player-coach, brought the score back to 61-62 before retiring on five fouls with three minutes left on the clock.

Just seven seconds remained when 39's Lee hit the basket to level the scores.

At the end of the first period of extra time the score was 70-70, but in the second period 39 took a six-point lead after Phillips, 1/3's most effective player, had retired injured.

But the balance changed again when 39's Richardson and Magill were fouled out in quick succession and Phillips bravely returned to level at 80-80 with four seconds remaining.

And so to an unprecedented third five minutes of extra time.

The Waterbeach team's inexperienced substitutes gave away too many fouls which were gratefully turned into points by the Cove team who retained possession at 89-87 to win an epic encounter.

On the first day of the tournament the Training Centre ACC retained their UKLF Minor Units title by beating RMAS 101-66, with 33 Independent Sqn RE in third place.

Beaten Major Units' semi-finalists were 8 Signal Regiment and 2 Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

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Above: Pipers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers add colour to the prisoner of war camp in north eastern Saudi Arabia where the battalion's A Company is providing a guard. The pipers are (from left to right) LCpl Trevor Macey-Lillie, Fus Neil Hall, Fus Steven McCallion LCpl Gary Pollock. Below: An NBC sentry with chemical

detectors remains on guard while personnel at 32 Field Hospital in Saudi Arabia attend a drumhead service conducted by the Rev Kevin Savage, RACChD. Providing the music were the band of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers under bandmaster WO1 Dave Clark.

Pictures: Mike Weston



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