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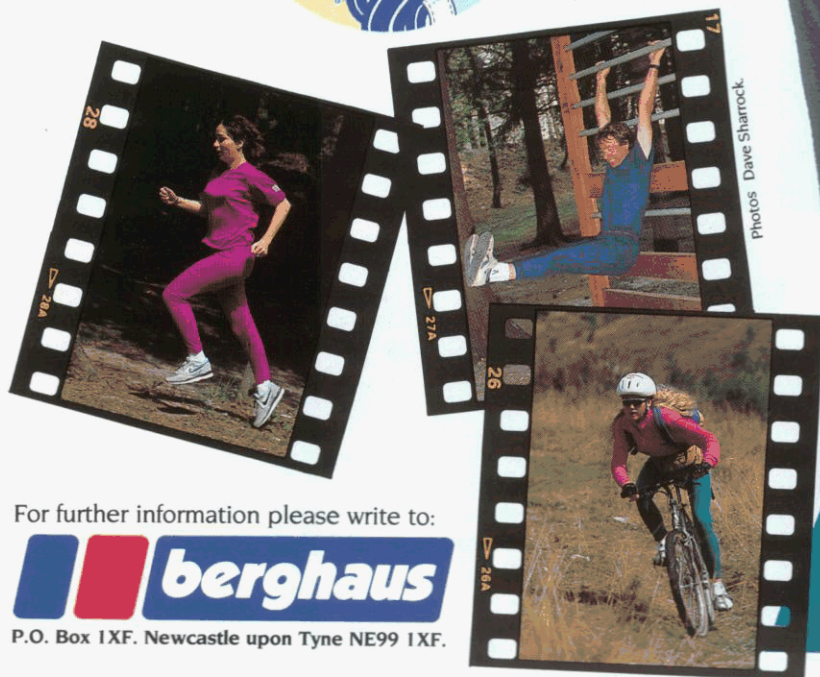
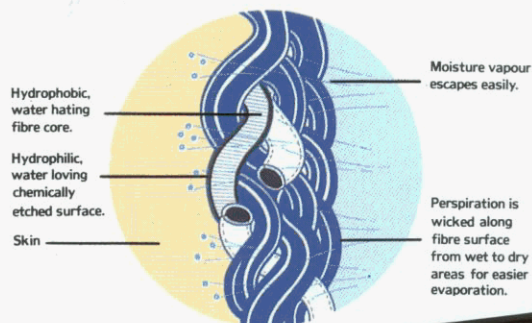
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Photos Dave Sharrock



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**FRONT COVER – Main picture: Pte Steven Heath of 1 DERR behind the gun shield of a .5 Browning mounted at a border post in Northern Ireland. A colour feature on the battalion begins on Page 25 (Picture: Mike Weston). Lower picture: Chelsea Pensioner Sgt Eric Austin joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1924 and underwent his basic training at Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury. He returned 66 years later for the opening of the new TA Centre built for A Company, 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry. Pictured with him are the commanding officer of 5 LI, Lt Col Nick Jenkins, and the Mayor of Shrewsbury, Cllr Mrs B J Coward. Details in Page 7 (Picture: Peter Griffiths).**



Picture: Mike Perring

First artillery piece into the Op Haven theatre was this 105mm light gun of 8 (Alma) Commando Battery, 29 Commando Regiment RA. Front left is gun position officer Lt James Learmont. Others (from left) are Sgt Sandy Sanderson, Gnr Andy Jackson, Sgt Mark Richardson, Gnr Eddie Palfreeman, Bdr Steve May and Gnr Hugs Huggett, a Terrier attached from TA Commando 289

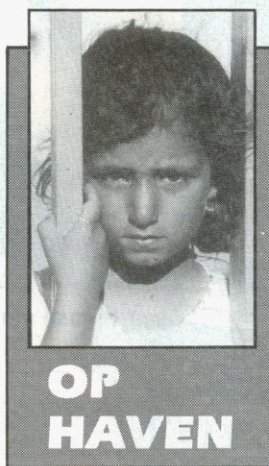
# A MISSION OF MERCY

MORE than 500 British soldiers have been deployed to Turkey and Iraq as part of Operation Haven, the international relief effort to provide humanitarian assistance to Kurdish refugees, writes Laurie Manton.

The United Kingdom contingent includes specialist British Army gunners and sappers serving with 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines which is spearheading the UK contribution. Others have been drawn from a variety of support units serving with UK Land Forces.

Men of 29 Commando Regiment RA and 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE, who wear the green beret, provide by far the largest contingent of soldiers serving with the Marines.

Others with the brigade include RAOC and RCT personnel serving with the ordnance and transport squad-



rons of the Commando Logistic Regiment.

Conditions in the region have been described as "basic" and there is a real danger to troops from disease and sickness. A specially-formed Royal Army Medical Corps field hygiene section has been attached to the Commando Medical Squadron for the duration of the

operation to advise on sanitation and preventative medicine.

Temperatures at Silopi have already reached 120 degrees, so heat stress levels are being continually monitored by medics advising commanders in the field.

Mechanics and technicians from REME are providing substantial round-the-clock support to the brigade's air squadron which is operating Lynx Mk 7 and Gazelle helicopters. Men from the Middle Wallop-based 70 (Aircraft) Workshop detachment REME are providing an aircraft maintenance group. Aviation stores for the squadron are organised by RAOC storemen.

More than two dozen men from 47 Air Despatch Regiment have flown dozens of sorties with the Royal Air Force from Incirlik air base, dropping much needed supplies to Kurds stranded in the mountains.

● **Turn to Page 16**

## SOLDIER

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# A nation's homage

**SERVICEMEN** and women representing every regiment and corps that fought in the Gulf War joined their monarch, their prime minister and the commanders they followed to victory in a national homage to those who died.

The Queen and Prime Minister John Major led the congregation in Glasgow Cathedral in a sombre service of remembrance for those who were lost, and in thanks for those who returned. Television and radio broadcast the ceremony to the nation.

Present were members of the families of the 42 British men who died.

The pictures show (right) the Queen leaving the Cathedral past a step-lining party from the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders; (below) Gulf commanders Lt Col John Sharples, Scots DG, Lt Col Charles Rogers, 1 Staffords, and Lt Col Arthur Denaro, QRH; and (below right) Gen Sir Peter de la Billière.



Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson, RAOC



## Sappers in chemical alert on Norfolk coast

**SOLDIERS** based in East Anglia joined the clean-up operation after tank trailers leaking noxious chemicals were washed ashore in Norfolk.

Five eight-ton trucks from 1 Squadron, RCT in Colchester collected heavy trackway from

RAF Watton in Norfolk and transported it to the affected area where men from 39 Engineer Regiment, based at Waterbeach, Cambs, were preparing to lay 300m of track for use by 30-ton recovery vehicles.

## DWR HONoured BY YORKSHIRE TOWN

**MEN** of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment paraded in Skipton, Yorkshire to receive the honorary citizenship of the town.

The Mayor of Skipton handed over a scroll to the Colonel

of the regiment, Brig Dick Mundell, and later, under their commanding officer, Lt Col Andrew Meek, the battalion marched through the town. The mayor also presented a banner to the Skipton branch of the Regimental Association.

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## WANTED: 'LIBERATED' MAPS OF IRAQ

THE Directorate General of Military Survey, which is responsible for the collection of mapping worldwide and the provision of maps to the Army and the Royal Air Force, is

anxious to hear from Servicemen who captured or otherwise "liberated" maps of Iraq during Operation Granby or subsequently.

The directorate says it is

essential that as much mapping as possible is available for analysis.

The condition of the maps is immaterial.

Anyone who can help should

contact Directorate General of Military Survey, Attn: Svy 3, Elmwood Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 7AH (tel: Feltham Military ext 4119 or 081-890 3622).



The first Challengers from the Gulf are loaded on the transporters ready for the road move back to their units. Inset: Lt Col Mike Rust, commander PTG

## New LI HQ

A NEW Territorial Army centre for A Company of the 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry has been opened in Shrewsbury at a cost of £1.5m.

Named Bligny House to commemorate the counter attack by the 4th Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry on Bligny Hill during the German offensive in 1918, the centre will house the TA, cadets and ATC.

## Mine-free

A VOLUNTEER band from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment provided the music when the Royal Navy held a dockside ceremony in Kuwait City to mark the removal by Royal Navy divers of the last Iraqi mines in the harbour.

## Emden takes the strain

MAIN port of entry for much of the 1st (British) Armoured Division equipment being shipped back to Germany from the Gulf is Emden, with containers passing through Hamburg.

A port task group (PTG) under the command of Lt Col Mike Rust, RCT has been established at Emden to handle and control the vast influx, which is expected to last for several months.

Col Rust has under his

command 250 personnel, including soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (responsible for administration and the British guard force), movement controllers from 24 Tpt and Mov Regt, RCT; workshop staff from 1 Corps Tps Wksp, REME; a specialist vehicle platoon from Ord Depot, Antwerp; a detachment of RMP from 115 Pro Coy; and a pool of 75 drivers.

## Return of the Tigers

A NEW generation of Leicestershire "Tigers" now bears the famous military nickname of the disbanded Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

The 7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment officially adopted the nickname on May 12.

Thousands of men from the

county served under the Tigers title, which dates back 168 years.

To celebrate their adoption of the Tiger title on the battalion's 20th anniversary, 102 men and women of 7 R Anglian (Lt Col Richard Haes) paraded their Colours at their Leicester headquarters.

## WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO THE TANK MUSEUM'S GULF WAR EXHIBITION



Six family tickets to the Tank Museum, Bovington, Dorset, are the prizes in a competition starting here and continuing for the next three issues of SOLDIER.

Just answer four questions – one in each issue – complete the entry form appearing in the July 8 edition and send it to us.

The first six correct entries drawn will win a ticket for two adults and two children to the museum's Gulf War Exhibition on Sunday July 28, 1991.

**QUESTION ONE: Lawrence of Arabia did not just fight on a camel. With which classic armoured vehicle is he closely associated?**

Don't send your answer in yet. Make a note of it, watch for the questions in our issues dated June 10, June 24, and July 8 and complete the entry form accompanying Question Four. The six winners will be drawn from the correct entries received by the first post on Monday July 15, and the prizes will be posted to the winners.

The correct answers and winners' names will be published later in SOLDIER. No correspondence can be entered into.

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## Fusilier veterans parade to mark Battle of Imjin

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, talks to ex-Fusilier Derek Kinne GC while reviewing Korean War veterans at their St George's Day parade in Newcastle to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Imjin.

Regular soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Territorial Army soldiers from



the 6th Battalion marched through the city with 78 Korean War veterans to the cathedral church of St Nicholas. The preacher was Maj the Rev Canon J W Wilson, MT officer of the 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in Korea.

Also on parade were the 1st Battalion's Corps of Drums

and the St George's Band, the 6th Battalion's band and drums and 142 members of the regimental association.

The Colours of the 1st Battalion were led by the regimental mascot, Bobby, an Indian black buck antelope, with a contingent of Fox and Saxon vehicles.

The Duke was joined on the

saluting dais by the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Reilly, and Colonel the Duchess of Northumberland, who was attending her first parade as Honorary Colonel of the 6th Battalion.

Among the guests were the families of three Tyneside Fusiliers killed in action in the Gulf War.

## H Troop's last call

H TROOP, 13th Signal Regiment formed up in three ranks under the sergent major, WO2 Mark Wright-Jones, on April 27 and marched for the final time into the market square of Dannenberg, Germany.

The troop, which has been stationed in Hermes Camp, Gross Gusborn, for the past 17 years, has been disbanded following the rationalisation of communication systems in BAOR.

In 1983 the troop was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for its outstanding contribution to Anglo-German relations, and the commander

of the final parade, Capt Bert Appleton, R Signals, carried the sword at the head of the troop.

A further recognition of the impact made on the local community by such a small unit was the granting a year later of the Freedom of Dannenberg Stadt.

Before the final parade, at which the Freedom was exercised, H Troop was reviewed by the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle. Music was provided by the Corunna Band of The Light Infantry.

The troop closed on April 21 and will withdraw by June 26.

## BMH moves – with help

GERMAN Army personnel rallied round when the British Military Hospital at Munster finally closed its doors last month and transferred patients, equipment and staff to the newly refurbished BMH at

Iserlohn. The whole transfer operation had to be completed in a month and would not have been possible without the assistance of German Army units from Munster, Hamm and Iserlohn.

## Women join castle guard

WOMEN's Royal Army Corps volunteers are for the first time forming part of the Edinburgh Castle Guard during the current spell of duty by the 2nd Battalion, 52nd Lowland Volunteers.

The 2/52 Lowland (Lt Col Peter Wright) is one of the largest recruiters of WRAC in Scotland, with three officers and 73 other ranks on its strength.

Other members of the Castle Guard are being provided by the Territorial Army battalion's four rifle, headquarters and Home Service Force companies.

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# Return of the desert warriors . . .



Cpl Dean Marson



LCpl Michael Dunn



SSgt Colin Stokes

Pictured at work in the Gulf are three men from Munster-based 6 Armed Wksp. From left are Cpl **Dean Marson** of Halifax, a metalsmith who helped keep the 1st (British) Armoured Division's fleet of supply trucks battleworthy; LCpl **Michael Dunn** of

Scarborough, whose father, **Alan**, was RSM of 5 Ord Bn until he left the Army in 1985; and SSgt **Colin Stokes** of King's Lynn. Colin, an Arabic speaker, knew what to expect in the desert, having served with the Kuwait Liaison Team.



This quartet with a recipe for success are (front, from left) Cpl **Shaun Marshal**, Sgt **Dennis Magee** and Pte **David Houghton** and (back) Cpl **Paul Rawdon**.

All members of the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, they beat off competition from 17 other Territorial Army units in North East District to win their way for the second successive year to the Combat Caterer cookery finals in Aldershot.

The Yorkies had to cook an appetising meal for 20 under battle conditions in a camouflaged field kitchen.



## Lee dashes to rescue

Quick-thinking chef **Lee Goss** (left) saved a fellow soldier who was caught in a fireball in a field kitchen accident in Saudi Arabia.

The victim was turning off a petrol-fuelled cooker when the vapour burst into flames and he was caught in the fire.

Pte Goss (19) of the Army Catering Corps, ran after the burning man, grabbed a foam extinguisher, and put out the flames. The soldier was taken to hospital with severe burns.

The incident happened at a tented cookhouse where Pte Goss had been responsible for feeding more than 250 men from 6 Armoured Workshops, REME. The unit was helping to maintain the high performance of the Warrior fighting vehicles and Challenger tanks during the Gulf War.

He said: "He was totally ablaze and I ran after him and sprayed the extinguisher on him. It was a very nasty moment."

# Thanks a lot BMH Rinteln

An exclusive reunion took place recently at the Special Care Baby Unit at BMH Rinteln – all the members owed their lives to the expert care they received at the unit. Among their number was baby **Lisa O'Sullivan**, who was born five weeks prematurely, just days before her father, Maj **Gary O'Sullivan** of 41 Ordnance Company, left for the Gulf.

Lisa became jaundiced and required phototherapy in the SCBU for five days.

Many parents of intensive and special care babies form a close bond with the unit. Lisa's mum, **Jane**, was so grateful she bought a gift of pretty bed linen for the cots.

Capt **Andy Williams**, Nursing OC of the unit, planned the reunion so that staff could meet babies they had saved. Since January 1989 more than 450 infants have passed through Rinteln's Special Care Baby Unit – 60 of them requiring intensive care.

## Head liners



Something special has gone to the heads of the two WRAC cooks working with Sgt **Bill Blackett**, ACC, chef with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Ptes **'Bubbles' Barnett** (right) and **Lara Faramus** became the first female other ranks to wear the famous Brandywine behind their badges when they joined the catering platoon in Northern Ireland.

The triangular red patch recalls an incident in the American War of Independence when the Light

Company of the 49th Foot (which became the 1st Royal Berkshire Regiment, an ancestor of the DERR) inflicted heavy casualties on a detachment of colonists they surprised sleeping in the woods near Brandywine Creek.

The Americans thought this was unsporting and swore they would show no mercy to the British involved.

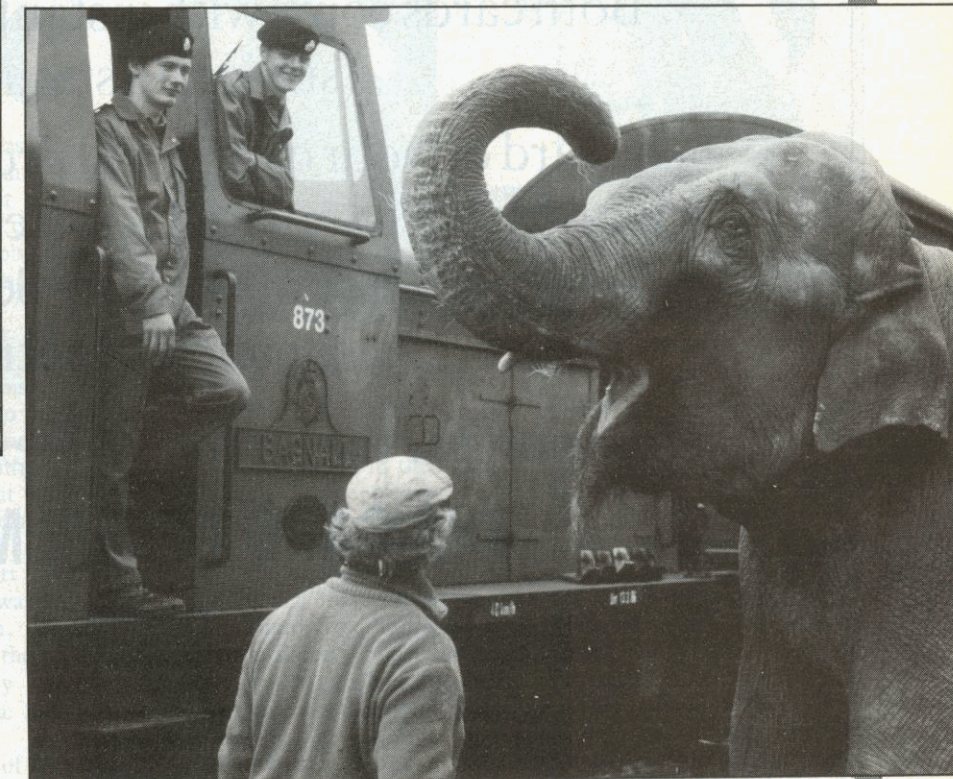
The Light Company promptly died their green hat feathers red so their enemies could recognise them.



SPECIAL BABY: Mrs Jane O'Sullivan with daughter Lisa

# PEOPLE

## . . . and elephants!

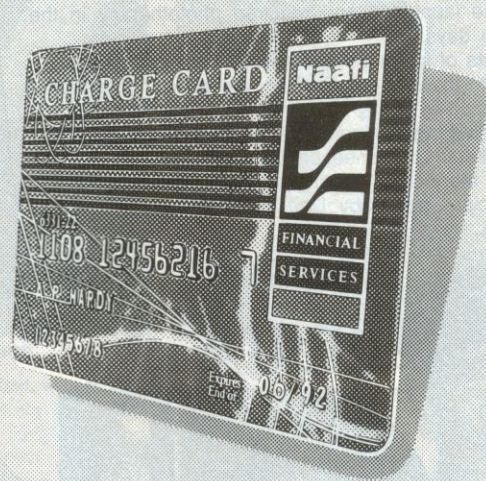


Thanks guys! A circus elephant shows its appreciation to Dvr **Alan Norris** (left) and LCpl **Will Wilson** of 79 Railway Squadron RCT from Monchengladbach after their unit had come up trunks. The circus asked to use the military railhead

at the Royal Engineers Depot in Willich, Germany to unload six Indian jumbos being transported from Duisburg by rail.

Watched by sappers and their families, the elephants arrived at the depot, home of 40 Army Engineer Support Group.

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**DOUBLE PAST** – picture taken by SOLDIER 20 years ago when the Light Infantry received Colours at Colchester

## The Light fantastic

THE RARE sight of the brand new Colours of three Regular infantry battalions being doubled past a royal colonel-in-chief will provide a fascinating spectacle at Tidworth on May 31, writes **Bill Moore**.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will present the Colours to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Light Infantry, on the old Tattoo ground at a parade which will include a march past of old comrades, many of whom served in county "LI" units.

Doubling past is now accepted as an integral part of Light Infantry drill – the official march music for the occasion is "The Keel Row", traditionally the cavalry "Trot" – but it has caused some irritation to stuffy senior officers in the past.

Even in the early years of this century inspecting generals would sometimes forbid the use of certain Light Infantry drills as "they were not embodied in the Regulations".

It was not until 1928 that

official approval was given for English Light Infantry regiments to march past with their rifles at the trail ("carried like suitcases" as one observer put it) "when returning in close column".

Four years later the Army Council extended this to include all occasions.

The fact that Gen Sir Walter Braithwaite, Colonel of the Somerset Light Infantry, was Adjutant General at the crucial time may have been of some help.

While the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield rifle was ideal for the trail position, the SLR tended to prod the man in front, an indignity which the introduction of the SA 80 has eliminated.

The association of the Queen Mother with The Light Infantry dates from 1927 when, as Duchess of York, she became Colonel-in-Chief of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. This role was extended to cover the whole of the new large regiment when it was



**TWENTY YEARS AGO** – the Queen Mother presents Colours at a ceremony she will repeat on May 31

formed in July 1968 having absorbed five old county regiments, which in their turn represented nine of the even older regiments of Foot.

Two of the battalions which will be represented at Tidworth (the 2nd and 3rd) received their first Colours from her hands at Meane Barracks, Colchester, in May 1971, when the 5th Shropshire and Herefordshire Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) also received them.

Princess Alexandra, who is Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, presented the 1st Battalion with Colours at Lemgo, Germany, where they were serving at the time.

Though detachments from

all the Regular battalions will attend the parade, 3 LI will of necessity have less of a presence as it has just begun a tour of duty in Northern Ireland, with which the regiment is more than familiar. Currently 2 LI, the host battalion stationed at Tidworth, claims to hold the record for tours in the Province.

Two holders of the Victoria Cross are among the Old Comrades expected to attend – Capt Richard Annand who, as a subaltern in the 2nd Durham Light Infantry, won the first Army VC of the Second World War in France in 1940 and George Eardley, then an acting sergeant, who gained his medal in Holland in 1944.

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# Sights that made soldiers cry

NOTHING could prepare British Servicemen deployed on Operation Haven for the sights of suffering they would see while taking part in the massive humanitarian relief effort to save the Kurds.

"I saw grown men cry," said Maj Alan Sanford, RAMC, the first British soldier to arrive at the scene. He was on board one of the first Chinook helicopters to land food, tents and medical supplies to Kurds sheltering in the mountains of northern Iraq.

"Everyone was crying. I know I was. When we landed and the ramp was lowered, the aircraft was mobbed and had to take off again to prevent a



Maj Alan Sanford

serious accident. It hovered just a few feet off the ground and we pushed out our load from the back.

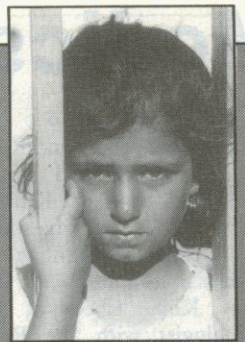
"One poor man literally threw his starving baby son up

into the helicopter, so desperate was he that his child should have a chance to live. It was heart-rending."

The child was handed over to a relief agency but it is not known if the family was re-united.

Currently training major of 219 Field Hospital RAMC(V) based at Keynsham, Bristol, Maj Sanford was plucked from his unit's annual camp in Chester when the Royal Air Force called on his skills as a Turkish interpreter.

He is attached to 240 Operational Conversion Unit RAF, based at the Turkish airbase in Diyarbakir.



OP HAVEN

Reports from Iraq-Turkey border by Laurie Manton, pictures by Mike Perring



Sappers from 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE meet Peshmerga guerrillas on a roadside in northern Iraq

## Why it's best to avoid Bouncing Betty

EACH day around mid-day the sound of a single massive explosion reverberates around the mountain peaks on the Turkey-Iraq border.

Old-stagers ignore it, but newcomers to Silopi tend to get a big jittery. It is known to all the allies as the "Twelve O'clock Bang", and is caused by the daily controlled detonation of up to 10,000lb of explosives and munitions found in and around the Iraqi town of Zakho.

Two main types of mine were scattered around Iraqi defensive positions - anti-personnel and anti-vehicle.

Brig Andy Keeling, Commander 3 Commando Brigade, said: "We are very conscious

● Turn to next page

# Medics in front line

WO1 Ian Johnson, RAMC leads an environmental health team which is trying to eliminate insect infestation from hospitals and refugee camps in northern Iraq.

One such facility, the civilian hospital at Zakho, is protected by heavy gates and armed US Marines. Without them, the hospital would be overrun by Kurds and Iraqis desperate for treatment.

Hundreds press against the

bars of the gate, crying for help.

Refugees, weakened by their ordeals, are susceptible to infection and disease. WO1 Johnson's team of medics are crucial in the struggle to save lives.

Preventative medicine is vital in the areas of southern Turkey and northern Iraq where British Servicemen are involved in Op Haven.

Carrying it out is a small

team of environmental health technicians drawn from the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The RAMC Field Hygiene Section is a composite unit formed specially for the operation to support 3 Commando Brigade.

Section OC Capt Ken Roberts said: "In our main role we have been organising camp sanitation at Silopi, including water supplies, and we are now starting to work on pest

control. We have been allowed to work on the humanitarian side when time has been available.

"The section is not a relief organisation, but clearly when we come across a refugee camp we get dragged into the relief operation."

Zakho 1, several miles from the Iraqi border town of Zakho, was the first safe haven refugee camp to be established.

● Turn to next page

# Medics

● From Page 15

There Royal Navy and Royal Marines doctors and nurses have been treating Kurdish children. Naval midwives have delivered babies born to the refugees.

Mr Kim Chetwyn, an entomologist with the Royal Army Medical College based at Millbank, has been inspecting insect and other bites on young Kurds.

His late father, Sgt Len Chetwyn, led an Army Film and Photographic Unit in the Western Desert during the Second World War. The unit became famous as "Chet's Circus".

Seeing the plight of very sick young children at such close range has been a deeply upsetting experience for all the Servicemen concerned.

"It is really quite stressful," said Capt Roberts. "It has upset many of the lads, especially those with young families at home."



SSgt Andy Buxton RAMC sprays insecticide at the hospital at Zakho to stop the spread of infection



Army personnel serving with 3 Commando Brigade headquarters. From left to right are Sgt John Groves RA, Sgt Mick Fleming R Signals, Sgt Budgie Burgess RAOC, Capt Mark Stevenson RE and Capt Alan Woods RAOC

# Betty

● From Page 15

that these minefields are there and that mines are inherently dangerous things. We are taking all possible steps to avoid suffering any casualties from those mines."

Some of the most feared mines faced by troops on the ground are "Toe-poppers" and "Bouncing Bettys".

The former are among the smallest anti-personnel mines. They contain between four and eight ounces of explosive – enough to blow a man's foot off.

"The 'Bouncing Betty' is the worst of the lot," said Sgt Chester Murray.

"It is an Italian jumping mine that, when set off, leaps up to groin height and explodes, firing out small chunks of jagged steel shards known as "dockyard confetti".

Fortunately for the men of Assault Engineer Troop of 45 Commando, many of the mines have been identified by Kurdish shepherds who have "signposted" them with stones.

One of the troop's sections is working in Iraq helping Kurdish villagers to defuse mines.

"In one day, we cleared more than 300 rocket-propelled grenade rounds as well as other munitions and mines," said Lt Trotman.



One that got away. Cpl Pete Wilson of 49 EOD Squadron RE with an American 1,000lb bomb found beside an airfield in northern Iraq

# Soldiers' mercy mission

● From Page 3

Almost 200 men from 51 Field Squadron, RE, 38 Engineer Regiment based at Ripon in Yorkshire have arrived at the Base Maintenance Area at Silopi, Turkey, close to the border with Iraq.

In northern Iraq, an Iraqi Air

Force base has been taken over by the international task force to provide a forward airhead for the brigade. Sappers from 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Sqn, RE have cleared munitions found scattered around the site. They included an unexploded 1,000lb bomb



Men of Ordnance Squadron, Commando Logistic Regiment load supplies and equipment at Diyarbakir. From left to right are LCpl Nigel Borke, Pte Steve Kelly, LCpl Mark Harris and LCpl Tony Cameron

dropped by the Americans during the Gulf War.

Specialist communications support for the operation is being provided by 30 Signal Regiment from Bulford. Signallers have established Satcom terminals at each main British base in the theatre of

operations, while 244 (Air Support) Signal Squadron at RAF Brize Norton have despatched two radio detachments to support the RAF's Tactical Communications Wing.

Postal and movement support is being provided by two South Cerney units – 2 Postal

and Courier Regt RE, and 29 Transport and Movement Regiment, RCT.

Most of the British Servicemen are now moving up to a forward base maintenance area in northern Iraq. The operation is expected to continue for some months.



OP  
HAVEN

# Loggies make a move

TASKED with unloading kit from aircraft are the men of the Commando Logistic Regiment which is manned mainly by the Royal Marines, but with attached specialists from the Army.

Comprising four squadrons – headquarters, transport, ordnance and medical, plus a REME workshop – the Commando Loggies have been working flat out at the airhead.

"We move the supplies on to BMA Silopi by road or air. From there, our transport squadron pushes stuff forward to the commando units," explained Capt Stephen Shirley, RCT, who commands a small logistics detachment at Diyarbakir.

Capt Shirley does not yet wear a green beret. Formerly with 5 Airborne Logistic Battalion, he was part-way through his commando course when he was detailed to deploy on Op Haven.

Piles of stores stand on the pan waiting to be loaded aboard trucks bound for Silopi, a long drive over road and rough track.

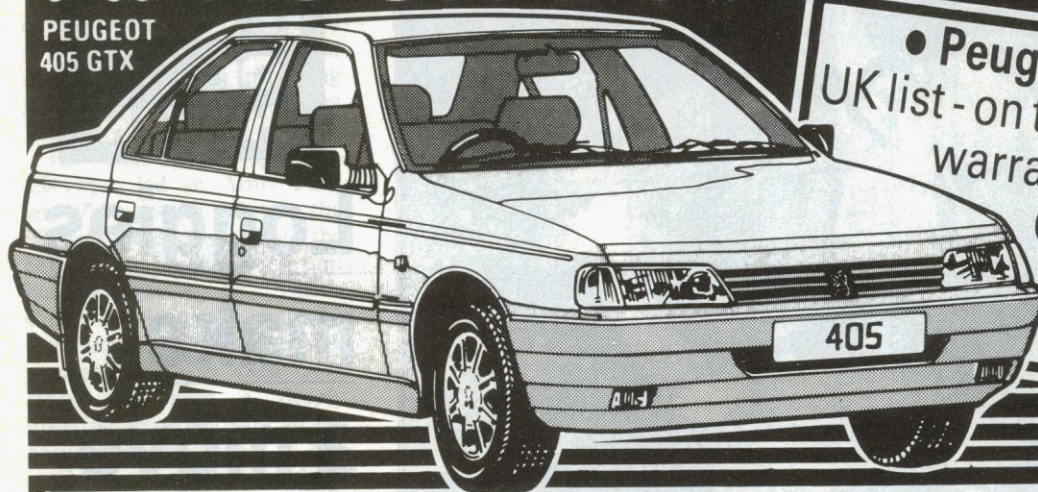
Sgt Mick Anderson of Ordnance Squadron was supervising a work party using forklift trucks to move equipment for the Dutch Marines who form part of 3 Commando Brigade.

As he did so, an astonishing variety of aircraft taxied over to disgorge their loads. They included Royal Air Force VC10s and the giant Russian Antonov cargo planes.

Only the Berlin airlift will dwarf this operation.

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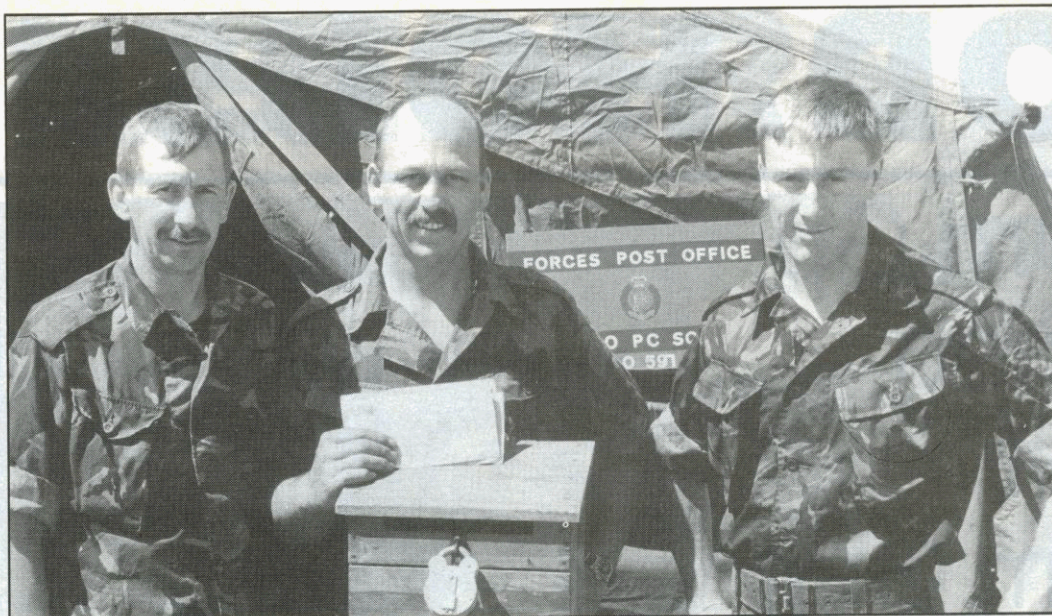
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BFPO 597 at work at Diyarbakir. From left to right are WO2 (RQMS) Finlay Macleod, Sgt John Bleasdale and Cpl Trevor Keen

## Posties din and bear it!

MAIL from home plays a morale-boosting part in any troop deployment and Operation Haven is no exception.

South Cerney-based 2 Postal and Courier Regiment Royal Engineers rapidly established three forces post offices in Turkey.

Pity the poor Posties at the airhead on Diyarbakir airbase. They administer British Forces Post Office 597 in a tent close to the main runway from which aircraft roar in and out 24 hours a day.

Barely two hundred yards behind them is a Turkish air force range that is bombed,

rocketed and machine-gunned all day long.

As if that was not enough to contend with, the unflappable sappers have to endure daylight temperatures of more than 90 degrees.

Said the OC, Capt Jim Strickland: "We have also set up two other FPOs - one at Silopi (594) and another at Incirlik (598). Everything is on schedule."

Two members of the PC detachment, Sgts Moore and Bleasdale, are no strangers to working in high temperatures. They have just returned from Operation Granby in the Gulf.



Capt Jim Strickland



Moving men and equipment are (from left) Sgt Chippie Wood, Sgt Larry Martin US Army, LCpl Pete Summerell, LCpl "Suez" Shelley and LCpl Geordie Calderwood of 29 Tpt and Mov Regt RCT

hours. That adds up to three VC10 aircraft and 15 C130 Hercules cargo planes in each 12-hour period.

Capt Martin Fidgeon told SOLDIER: "We look after all the passengers, vehicles and

freight that arrives on the aircraft.

"It all has to be lifted to other locations. The troops themselves go on to the Base Maintenance Area (BMA) at Silopi."



**OP  
HAVEN**

## Despatch team in big push

MEN of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, RCT from RAF Lyneham have been deployed to Turkey to help drop supplies to Kurdish refugees sheltering in the mountains on the border with Iraq, writes John Dalling.

Their detachment, commanded by Capt Sean English, and based at Incirlik, consisted of four crews - with reinforcements eagerly awaited.

Three crews flew while the other worked in a hangar - a sweltering place to be as the Middle East summer drew on - rigging loads for parachuting before fork-lifting them out to the flight line and inserting them into the aircraft.

Capt English kept a running total of supplies dropped and in the first fortnight his tally included 54,570 food packets (one packet being sufficient to feed one person for a day), 3,135 sleeping bags, 3,140 blankets and 584 boxes of baby clothes. Other protective items included tents, tarpaulins, ground sheets and rolls of rope.

Over the dropping zone close co-ordination was needed between the pilot, air loadmaster and the air despatchers to ensure supplies fell close to but not on to a camp.

Loads were pushed out in packets of four and as the aircraft manoeuvred, often at steep angle, for the next drop, the following load was rolled down the fuselage to the edge of the ramp in readiness, a job requiring sure-footedness and some muscle.

Within three weeks of their arrival the air despatchers had pushed out more than one million pounds of relief supplies.

## Airlift keeps movers in work

MANY members of 29 Transport and Movement Regiment RCT arrived in Turkey fresh from service in the Gulf where they did a magnificent job of getting men and equipment into the war zone. Latterly, they have been involved in the equally massive return of 1st (British) Armoured Division.

At Diyarbakir air base, movers are dealing with all incoming British Service flights arriving between 0600 and 2000

# GOOD HOUSE

## Now 5 Ord Gp has to bring all that kit back from Gulf

AMMUNITION and equipment worth millions of pounds is being recovered from the Saudi Arabian desert to be re-used by the British Army in a massive "good housekeeping" effort following the Gulf war.

Much of it was never needed because the land offensive finished so quickly. But it is from the ammunition and equipment left behind by departing troops that the scale of the logistic and supply effort has now become apparent.

A great deal of ammunition which was prepared for use but never fired remains in a volatile condition and is being disposed of by experts.

An extraordinary team with experience and skill has been brought together from Germany and the UK for the six-month task of recovering and returning stores which is being carried out by HQ 5 Ordnance Group (Middle East).

The effect will be a multi-million pound cost-saving exercise for the taxpayer

by re-using stocks which range from torch batteries to gun barrels.

Dockside parking areas at Al Jubail have been crammed with between 11,000 and 12,000 vehicles, probably the largest concentration of British military vehicles seen since the Second World War. They bear witness to the scale of the task.

But at unseen locations in the desert other soldiers are engaged in the less glamorous but vital job of checking over and repacking the kit left behind by the departing battle units.

At the Al Berri site near Al Jubail, which has spread over the desert as stores poured into theatre, soldiers are cleaning 20,000 units of body armour; others are emptying 75,000 jerry-cans of fuel, and even vehicle camouflage nets have to be folded - carefully, as it turns out, since a loaded Iraqi weapon was discovered in one.

The recovery job is immense by any standard. It involves:

- 50,000 tonnes of ammunition
- 11,000-12,000 vehicles
- 6,000 ISO containers packed with stores
- 1.5 million "compo" ration packs
- 1 million litres of bottle water.

The targets set to clear the massive stock involve the loading of 150 vehicles a day; 2,500 tonnes of ammunition every four days and the shipping of 700 containers a month.

Man in charge of the operation is Lt Col Malcolm Wood, who said: "It is an essential task but not a spectacularly glamorous one. There is an enormous amount of material which has been returned by departing units and all of it has to be sorted out,



Sgt Martin Perry swapped a temperature of minus 30 on exercise in Norway for one of plus 30 in Saudi Arabia. He has inherited a stockpile of more than one million litres of bottled water.

packed and returned to different locations."

Apart from the mountains of compo and fresh rations, which will probably be disposed of locally, mundane items like tent pegs, loud-hailers from the POW camps, and many thousands of maps and spare tank tracks which were so vital to the Gulf war effort have to be re-used after being salvaged from the sun and sand.

Ironically, some of the soldiers, like Sgt Martin Perry (30) from AMF(L) Sup Coy at Bulford, were deployed to the heat of the Gulf after an exercise in freezing Norway. They swapped temperatures of minus 30 for plus 30.

In some cases bits of arctic warfare kit proved useful, especially for those working in a huge cold store which

supplies fresh rations to the troops.

Here Cpl Ian Tulley (28), from Liverpool, runs a form of giant hypermarket with a stocklist which includes 40,000 kilos of legs of lamb, 13,000 kilos of baked beans and 196,000 cartons of fruit juice.

Cpl Tulley, a supply controller, explained: "I have to issue and account for rations going to units. It is a bit like running a supermarket on a grand scale. I must admit that at home I leave my wife Angela to do the shopping. But I do help."

As long as there are troops in the Gulf Cpl Tulley's warehouse cannot be empty. But other sites are being deliberately levelled. The massive fuel depot which grew up at Al Jubail to keep the Division on the move will be drained and 45

# KEEPERS

Words: Maj  
Aubrey Chalmers  
Pictures: Sgt  
Anthony von Roretz



Ammunition expert SSgt David Dixon deals with volatile ammunition. His experience of clearing items in the Falkland Islands proved to be valuable



While colleagues decant fuel from the mountain of jerrycans recovered from the desert Sgt Stephen Williams keeps a record of how many still remain to be emptied. The job will take up to eight weeks

soldiers are working around the clock to complete the task.

The depot superintendent is Sgt Stephen Williams from AMF(L) Sup Coy, who has the task of deciding which of the 75,000 jerry-cans are serviceable. His team inspect between 7,000 and 8,000 a day.

The depot also has 80

120,000-litre steel fuel tanks which were installed by the Royal Engineers. They too have to be drained and dismantled.

Eventually all of the site will be returned to the desert without even a wheel track in the sand.

No matter how many items

are shipped into theatre there are always articles which have to be bought locally. Already £30m has been spent with Saudi Arabian contractors, including major works such as roadways and buildings.

However, the local resources section still has to purchase badly-needed items from local

traders. These include desks and office furniture and even cotton gloves. Air horns, used as warning devices, were the most difficult to find. They are illegal in Saudi Arabia.

The battalion's "Mr Fixit" is Sgt Jeff Phillipson (31), whose job is to negotiate in true bazaar fashion with local traders to ensure the Army gets the best price.

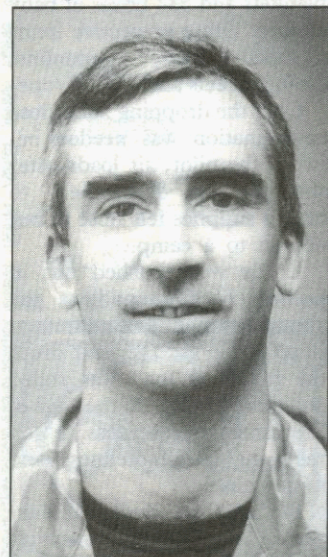
"I just shop around till we get the best bargain going," he said. "It is a fascinating job. Some traders make promises they cannot fulfil but most are reliable."

"The language is no problem, especially when it comes to money. They all speak English."

Sgt Phillipson, who is also from AMF(L) Sup Coy, was doing a similar job in Norway. He commented: "There was no room for bargaining there. In Italy, however, we had some room for negotiating, but it involved much arm-raising and shouting."

In a remote part of the desert, fighting vehicles are "de-bombed" of ammunition and munitions before going into the vast dockside park to

● Turn to next page



The man in charge of the move, Lt Col Malcolm Wood, CO of HQ 5 Ord Gp (Middle East)



There is little room to drive around the vast site. 2nd Lt Jim Bowyer finds it is easier to use a cycle to travel between the stacks of stores awaiting shipment



Left: Cpl Caroline Apps does the "housekeeping" job of accounting for recovered ammunition. Her husband, serving with QDG, remains in Germany. Above: Some of the thousands of vehicles

## 5 Ord Gp

● From Page 21

await shipment. The moon-scape of the sand and rock formations provides the ideal safety network of bunds and banks.

Some of the ammunition left by the Allies and Iraqi is extremely volatile and some 25 tonnes will be blown up at controlled disposal sites.

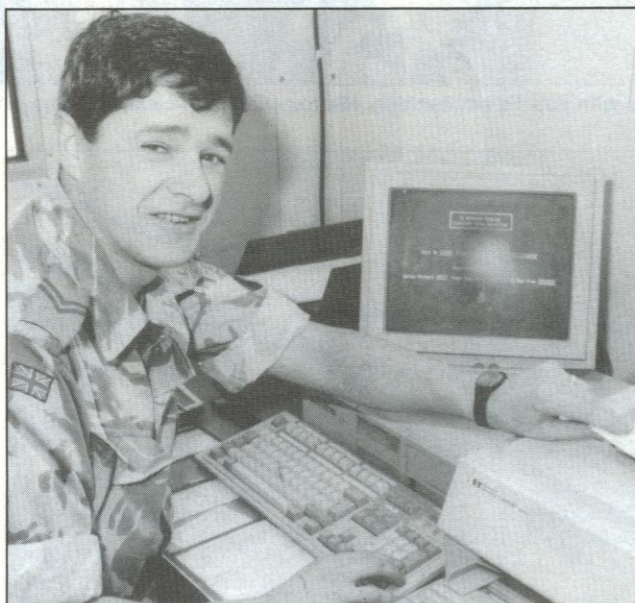
But the blistering heat of the desert has already brought out an additional hazard – a quantity of white phosphorous caught fire spontaneously.

One of the experts brought in to deal with munitions is Ammunition Technical SSgt David Dixon (29), of Paderborn, who did an identical job in the Falkland Islands in 1982.

He said: "The majority is fairly safe but some items are affected by the heat. The Iraqi munitions presented no real problem since all items, whether of UK or Soviet origin, have the same safety features."

"The Argentine forces in the Falklands left behind a lot of Eastern European munitions so the experience there proved to be valuable."

"As long as somebody knows what he is doing and is familiar with it I cannot see the job as being a dangerous one. It is just



## Taking stock

a question of training and following the rules."

Once experts have cleared ammunition as safe it is transported to one of the desert sites for storage, packing and shipment back to the UK or Germany.

The cost saving will run into millions of pounds and the ammunition depot, run jointly with the US forces, has one of the largest stocks of munitions ever seen on one site.

Here petite Cpl Caroline



Above: Supply controller Cpl Ian Tulley, with 40,000 kilos of legs of lamb on his stocklist. Centre: SSgt Michael Carter is one of those who inspects the 12,000 vehicles before they are shipped from the desert. "It is the chance of a lifetime to see so many in one place."

Apps WRAC (24), the inter-unit British parachute champion, has landed a housekeeping job among 250 men. She is responsible for accounting for the vast quantities of ammunition being returned for re-use. It varies from small arms ammunition to MLRS.

She said: "I have to ensure that the right stuff goes to the right place at the right time for shipment. It's just like housekeeping on a big scale and ensuring that resources are not

wasted when they can be re-used."

Caroline, whose husband is serving with 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, spent four years as an instructor at the parachute school before being posted to 5 Ord Bn.

The massive operation is co-ordinated to ensure that between 4,000 and 5,000 tonnes of freight are moved from Al Jubail each month.

But the most visible evidence of the huge task remains the



Above right: Items, including desks and other office furniture, still have to be bought from local traders. Sgt Jeff Phillipson, the "Mr Fixit" of the battalion concludes a deal with a shopkeeper at Al Jubail. Jeff has to negotiate the best price for the Army

spectacle of thousands of vehicles lined up and ready to follow the departing troops who, for months, lived in them and fought with them.

The team responsible for moving the 12,000 vehicles to the dockside and getting them ready for shipment have to drive everything from a Challenger MBT to a Land Rover. First, however, the group has to ensure that they are roadworthy after nine months in the desert.

"Everything considered, the vehicles are generally in good shape," said vehicle specialist SSgt Michael Carter (34), from Bielefeld, who is with 63 Ord Coy.

"There have been some unusual vehicles coming through, including captured Iraqi vehicles, and it is a rare opportunity to see so many in one place."

"It is not the sort of opportunity one would get in the UK or BAOR."

## 6 Armoured Workshops REME

BEHIND the news that 95 per cent of the British Army's equipment and vehicles remained serviceable at the end of the Gulf war was the effort put in by units such as 6 Armoured Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The 230-strong group from Munster has returned home at the end of a highly-successful duty in Saudi Arabia.

The unit normally supports the 4th Armoured Brigade but, as events turned out, that was not the case in the Gulf. From its base at Al Jubail, 6 Arm Wksp took on the responsibility for the Force Maintenance Area as well as overspill work from the 1st Armoured Division.

This involved swapping and repairing the power packs for the Warrior and Challenger.

CO Maj Mike Lower developed a new concept in engine repairs to provide a "top end overhaul".

Normally an unserviceable engine or gearbox would go back to a third-line unit or to a base workshop for repair.

However, because it would have taken six weeks to send an engine back to Germany and return it to theatre, the work was done on site in Saudi Arabia.

"It worked very well and we managed to repair approximately 50 per cent of the engines which came in. We did an engine in about three days," said Maj Lower. "The alternative would have been six to

## They kept armour on the move

eight weeks because of shopping time."

The group also had to recover wrecked vehicles, a job normally done on BAOR exercises by TA units or Reservists.

The wrecks were cannibalised to provide a useful stock of spare parts to ensure the remainder of the fleet kept running. As many as 60 vehicles were stripped to the chassis.

Maj Lower said: "It is not very surprising that a 95 per cent availability of vehicles was achieved. Mechanical equipment works best when it is used. In Germany it is not used regularly enough but in the Gulf it was run realistically."

"There was a lot of work done by REME but it is what we do every day of the week. We do not see it as being unusual that 95 per cent availability was achieved."

For future out-of-area operations, Maj Lower said he would like to see the deployment of mobile third-line workshops capable of repairing all types of engines, gearboxes and axles.

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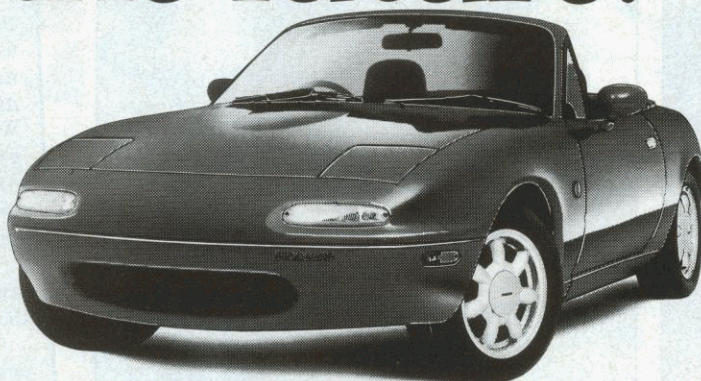
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The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Lt Col David Stone) has just returned from a six-month tour as the "FRB", the Fermanagh Roulement Battalion. It was responsible for counter-terrorist operations in 726 square miles of the most beautiful country in Northern Ireland – including more than 100 miles of the border. A SOLDIER team which last saw them on the Hong Kong border visited them.

Words:  
Bill Moore  
Pictures:  
Mike Weston



Six weeks out of training and 20-year-old Pte Jeff Bowsher handles the GPMG like a veteran

# Moonraking in Fermanagh

THE UNEASY atmosphere which surrounded the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment towards the end of its tour was in no way due to any terrorist action. The unit was in the grip of the great Fermanagh drought. No rain fell for three days.

Men who had been snowed on, blown on and deluged for almost six months studied the blue sky and muttered: "Weird".

In fact, they have shown they can cope with any weather. SOLDIER had last seen them mopping up floods and clearing away uprooted trees after the tail end of Hurricane Brenda hit Stanley Fort, Hong Kong. And the speed with which



Lt Col David Stone, commanding officer of 1 DERR

the battalion switched from one set of soggy border operations to another must have set something of a record.

It arrived back from Hong Kong in August last year,

tanned and fit from patrolling a steamy countryside dotted with hills, marshes and fish ponds along a boundary line clearly defined with a razor wire fence 12ft high.

By December it was back among mountains and marshes but on an almost invisible border where any steam was likely to come from socks drying in a cramped Permanent Vehicle Checkpoint ("PV" in current Army speak).

For many it was a return to familiar surroundings. The battalion rotated companies permanently in Fermanagh when it spent two-and-a-half years as the resident battalion at Aldergrove before its Hong Kong tour.

For Maj Russell Wardle, OC

A Company, who had been attached for a time to 4 (Co Fermanagh) Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment, it was almost like going home, though with mixed feelings. He was incident controller after the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bomb outrage in 1987 which cost many innocent lives.

This time his "patch" contained the beautiful Cliffs of Magho from which, on a clear day, Atlantic rollers can be seen breaking on beaches in Donegal Bay. They also look down on Belleek where the battered police station was a proxy bomb target. Terrorists in combat uniforms and masks ambushed a vehicle taking a cleaner to work, seized her husband, and

● Turn to next page

# 'Farm Boys' knew their way about country

DESPITE the growth of Silicon Valley in its recruiting area the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment still attracts a lot of countrymen from Berkshire and Wiltshire.

The men at Roscor Bridge were called on to help deliver a calf during the spring – and

were able to provide expert assistance.

What else would you expect from a regiment which has "Farmer's Boy" as its quick march.

And A Company also became involved in an old country practice. While searching a building a sharp-eyed soldier

noticed a cord running into a well and fished out 16 bottles and a barrel of potheen.

The occupier of the premises "didn't know how it got there" but the RUC officer present required further explanations and the Customs and Excise impounded the illicit liquor.

A touch of irony here – there

are plenty of "Moonrakers" (Wiltshiremen) in the DERR. The name was traditionally earned by Wiltshire yokels who, surprised by an excise man, pretended they were simpletons trying to rake the reflection of the moon from the surface of a pond in which they had hidden kegs of brandy.

## Fermanagh

● From Page 25

primed a device in a plastic bag.

The raiders would have raced off in the couple's car had they not snapped the gear lever in their haste and found themselves stranded beside their own ticking bomb. They had to stop another motorist to make their escape.

A familiar figure, the cleaner might have been admitted automatically by the police who know her but on this occasion Pte Andy (04) Jones of the DERR was sangar sentry.

Realising that middle-aged Mrs Mops don't normally run to work, he kept the gates shut and when the terrified woman explained her plight he sounded the alarm and told her to leave the plastic bag outside and run for cover.

The building was evacuated and no one was hurt when the bomb blew in the gates.

DERR reinforcements arrived by river in fast light craft but the terrorists had fled. Belleek is the westernmost town in Northern Ireland and escape into the Republic is no problem.

The net result of the attempted human bomb attack, however, was to still further antagonise many Republican sympathisers in the population. Slowly the attitude towards the security forces is improving.

"In what we used to consider nasty areas people are at best friendly and at worst neutral," said Maj Wardle.

In other words, though it is taking time, some of them are seeing the light . . .

## Worn out numbers

A CHECK by the Quartermaster's Platoon of 1 DERR produced the following figures. During the battalion's tour the troops –

● **marched** their way through 223 pairs of Boots Combat High;

● **wore out** 463 pairs of

combat trousers on the barbed wire fences and the inevitable thorn hedges;

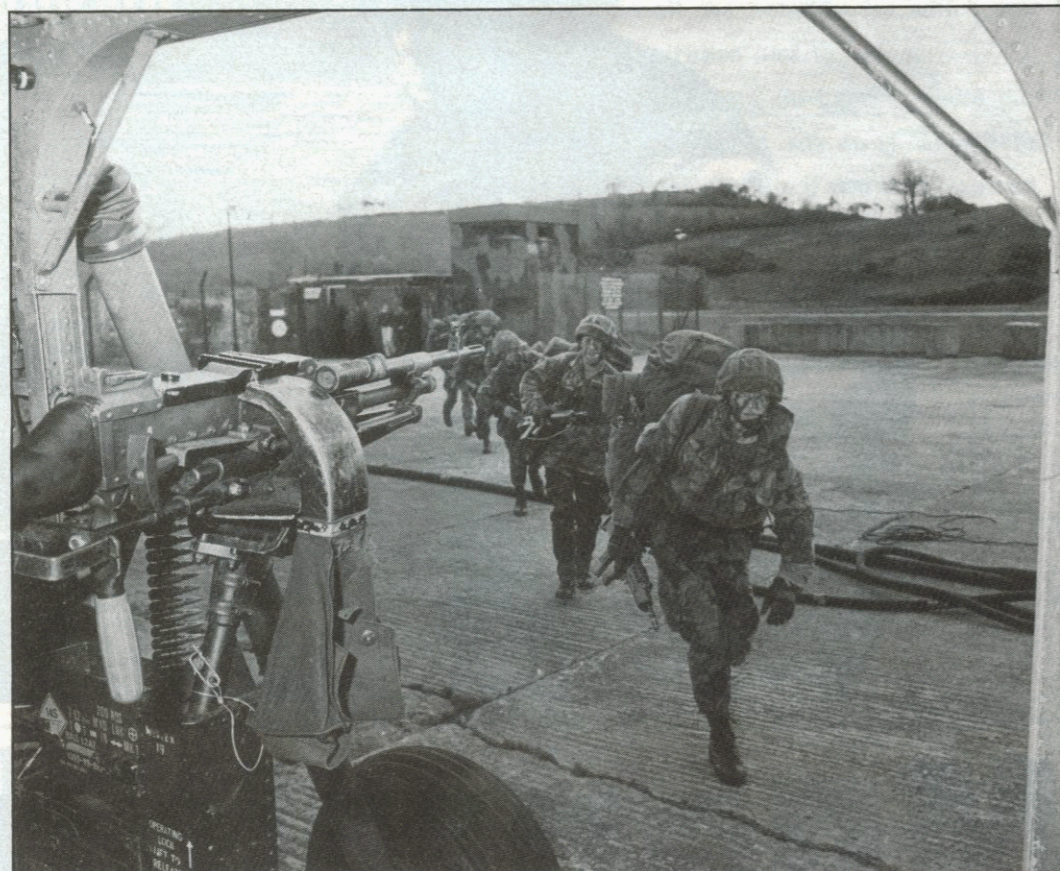
● **fired** 56,150 rounds of training ammunition;

● **cleaned** their weapons with 3.04 miles (equal to a "BFT and a bit") of flannelette and

● **painted** their faces with 759 tubes of cam cream. No one knows how many miles the troops covered on patrol but their exertions produced appetites resulting in the consumption of 128,880 eggs, 33,612 meat pies, 565,100lb of potatoes, 11,066 24-hour ration packs, and 30,780 packets of crisps.

All of which was washed down with more than 34,000 teabags and 30,000 pints of milk.

The debris from this feast was cleared away in 7,400 plastic bags.



Men of 10 Platoon, D Coy, 1 DERR prepare to board a Wessex helicopter which will drop them in the country to carry out a foot patrol



Men of D Company, 1 DERR on board a Wessex helicopter which was flying them to a border location for patrol work.

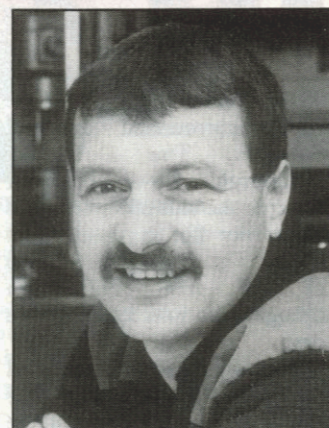
# BROWNING (ING) ED OFF!

THOUGH two old "permanent" vehicle check points were demolished by sappers in 1 DERR's sector during the battalion's recent border tour the others remained – along with an unchanged workload.

The closures meant more men could be deployed on cross country patrols but their comrades manning the little posts still had to monitor the flow of traffic day and night.

The description "vehicle check point" may sound dull but the .5in Browning machine guns mounted there are a measure of the threat against them. Terrorists using an armoured lorry burst open the gates and killed two men at Derryard (now removed) 18 months ago.

They don't like "PVs", go to great lengths to harass them – and sometimes get more than



Sgt Steve Proberts ambushed the ambushers

they have bargained for.

One late April evening two long bursts of automatic fire from across the border sent bullets cracking round the buildings at Gortmullen occupied by Sgt Roger Rowley's



Pte David Belcher (left) used the terrorist tracer as a guideline while Pte Chris Connolly helped motorists

multiple of 1 Platoon, A Company.

Within seconds Cpl "Boris" Alden had sent a contact report, sounded the alarm, dropped the anti-ram barriers and opened fire with the big

Browning, the first soldier to do so in anger since the weapons were deployed to give greater protection to the Security Forces.

Ptes John Byrne and Nick Bond joined in with GPMGs



Border post .5 Browning with gun shield, manned by Pte Steven Heath

The DERR suffered no casualties.

The terrorist hatred of PVCPs was expressed vividly in December when a 3,700lb car bomb (the biggest ever found) was delivered while the Royal Irish Rangers were in residence at Annagmartin. It didn't go off.

At Christmas, by which time 5 Platoon of B Coy 1 DERR (Maj Graham Barlow) were installed, the IRA declared a truce in the Province. The occupants of the PV at Annagmartin were plied with gifts by motorists but did not relax.

Its commander, Sgt Steve Proberts, on his fourth emergency tour (and with the experience of a two-year residential tour behind him), concluded that when the time

● Turn to Page 31



All in a day's work for soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. Top left – Soldiers of 1 DERR patrol the shores of Loch Erne. Top right – an Army Air Corps Lynx flying over Fermanagh. Right – Pte Darren Coyle of D Company bound for a patrol on board a Wessex helicopter. Below – Cpl "Bear" Bowler on the bridge at Rosscor. Just a few months ago he was guarding "LMC" Bridge on the Hong Kong–Chinese border. Left – Time to relax for Pte Dave Baker of B Coy, 1 DERR as he brews up in a forest hide.





Photograph by Bob Morrison

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The QRF – Quick Reaction Force – takes a break from waiting on call to pose for a picture at St Angelo Camp. The “Remove Head Dress” sign is for people with soft hats

## Browning action

● From Page 27

was up “someone was going to get hit somewhere in the Province just to show the ceasefire was over.”

Just before midnight on the 27th he and three men occupied an ambush position in a hedgerow overlooking the nearby crossroads.

“About half an hour later we heard crack and thump and looked at each other and thought ‘What’s this?’ Then red tracer lit up and came down on the PV from the other side of the border.”

Sgt Probets, a Bisley shot, aimed off for the bullets lighting up some 80 metres from the muzzle of the terrorist machine gun, and fired four tracer rounds himself.

At the same time orange streaks flared in the valley as Pte David Belcher in the PV tower opened up with the GPMG straight up the track of

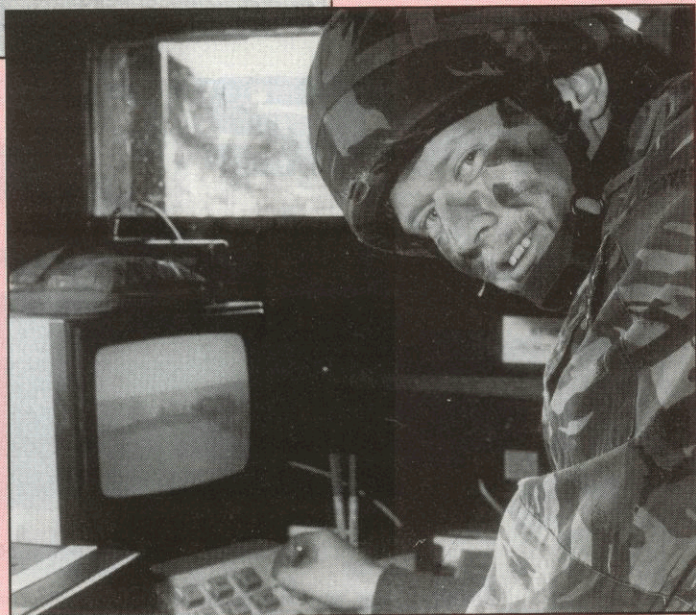
the incoming rounds, pausing only to hit the button that dropped the south barrier.

From below came shouts of “Left . . . more left” from LCpl Danny Simmons, who had seen the attack develop on closed-circuit television and was watching in black and white on the screen and in vivid colour through the window.

Under pressure the terrorists switched their attention to Sgt Probet’s team, bursts ripping twigs off tall trees behind the position until the attackers decided they’d had enough and stopped shooting.

On the road outside the PV the occupants of five civilian cars had scattered in confusion when the firing began but two privates opened the barrier for them, helped them to drive on, then “legged it back to the action”.

Pte Christopher Connolly took up a position and fired in



LCpl Danny Simmons followed the action on closed-circuit television

the direction of the terrorist tracer until the action ceased and from behind a pile of sandbags he could hear Pte John Southcott, who was covering him, expressing vividly the feelings of one who had only three days Army service left.

The action was typical of the cross-border shoots currently favoured by terrorists. It was

## The lads barely made it in time

WHAT do you do if you’re in bed and someone rushes in and shouts “Proxy bomb!”?

The answer is get out quick, regardless of your appearance.

When the alarm was given at Kilturk PVCP Pte Richard Bishop and Sig Lee Williams made their exit in trainers, vest and underpants, but wearing their webbing and carrying their rifles ready for action.

They made a chilly journey by helicopter back to company HQ at Lisnaskea a couple of hours later to obtain fresh clothing before returning to rejoin operations.

Lt Kevin Sayer, commanding 6 Platoon, who had joined the battalion only a few weeks earlier, got out with all his clothes less his socks – a fact he kept quiet about for 36 hours. He was quite unaware that his OC, Maj Graham Barlow, carried a spare pair he could have lent him.

foiled because the men manning the post were alert and because, according to Sgt Probets, they stuck to the drills taught in training. Although mortared before it was the first time he had returned small arms fire in Ulster. For Ptes Belcher, Connolly and most of the others it was their first tour, yet they kept their heads.

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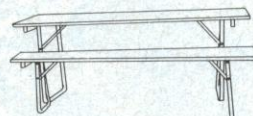
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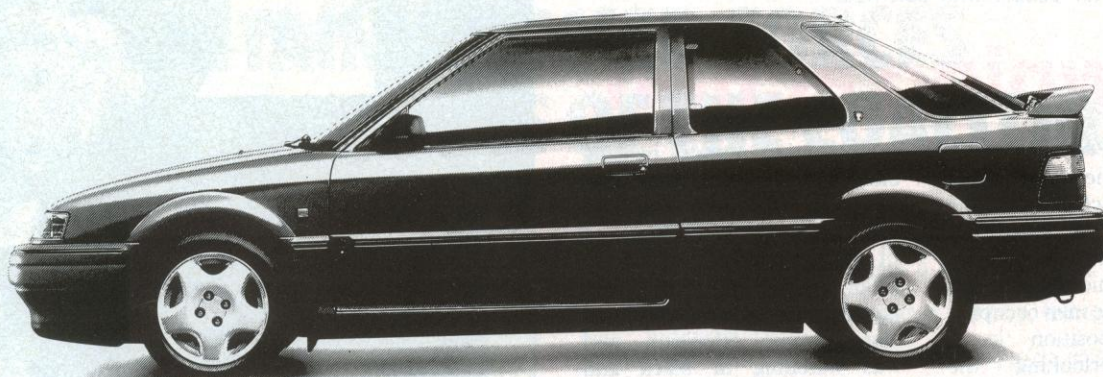
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# Berlin mortars 'spring' into chilly action

BERLIN's mortarmen have been flexing their skills at a live firing concentration on ranges south of Munster.

The woodland rang to the sound of shouted bearings and elevations as mortar platoon infantrymen from 1 IG, 1 RWF and 1 LI fired round after round into nearby impact areas.

Based at Trauen Camp, the three platoons were making the most of ammunition training stocks depleted by supplies to the Gulf.

They were visited by the Berlin Brigade Commander, Brig David Bromhead, who toured mortar lines and forward observation posts manned by the three battalions.

Hopes of spring sunshine were dashed after just one day when rain and sleet arrived as if on cue to make the life of mortarmen and mortar fire controller both wet and chilly.

Firing 81mm mortars at ranges of between three and four kilometres, they had their work cut out to counter excessive drift in storm force gusts of wind. The mortars can fire to a maximum range of 5,660 metres and, with rounds reaching heights of up to 10,000ft, wind can be a crucial factor in determining accuracy.

Sgt Donald Cameron, 1 LI, said: "A lot of the lads here are new to mortars so this is their first live firing and a good introduction for them. It is also good practice for the mortar fire controllers who do not often get the chance to adjust live ammunition and do their job for real."

Sgt Jason Burns, 1 RWF, added: "Our role would be to

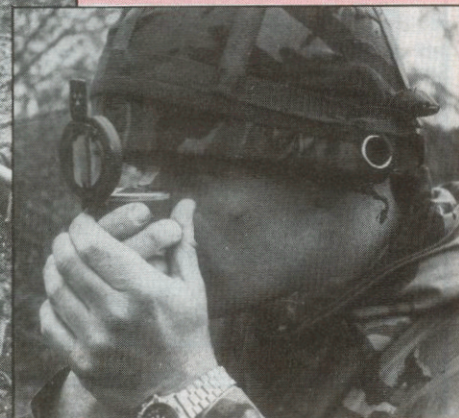
provide indirect fire support for our battlegroup. It is a specialist skill and more interesting than the basic infanteering type soldiering. A live-fire exercise like this is the icing on the cake as regards training."

OC live firing concentration was Maj Simon Millar, 1 IG, who said: "It is the culmination of all the training that the platoon does during the year and gives them the confidence to handle live ammunition, come into action rapidly and

bring down fire accurately."

The Fox armoured vehicles of Berlin's infantry recce platoons were also on exercise on the Bergen-Hohne ranges at the same time, honing their skills under the guidance of specialist staff from Hohne.

Words:  
Mervyn Wynne Jones.  
Pictures:  
Hendrik Pastor.



**Above:** Heads down as men of 1 RWF fire a round on the ranges south of Munster  
**Left:** The spring sunshine lasted just one day. Then the mortarmen had to contend with rain, sleet and strong winds. For many it was their first experience of firing the 81mm mortars

**Below:** LCpl Chris Woolley of 1 IG checks the compass. Storm-force gusts of wind provided a real test of accuracy for Berlin's mortarmen. Wind can be a crucial factor in determining accuracy

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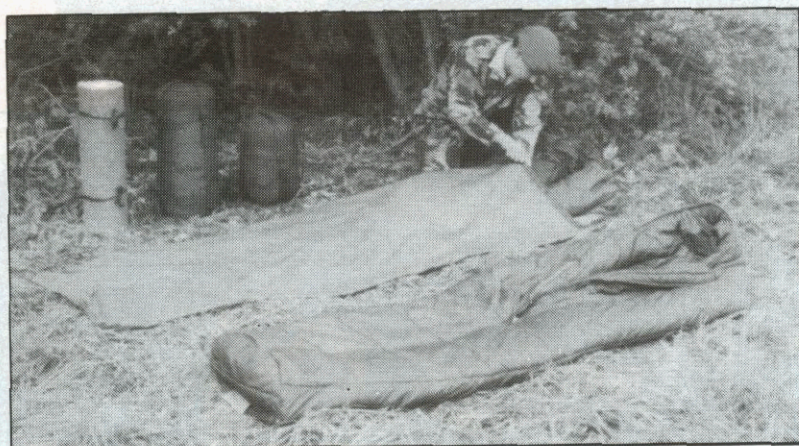
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# I've seen that face before...

One famous name from the Gulf War rang a bell with Col Pip Newton, former Secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust and now, among other things, a book reviewer for **SOLDIER**.

He turned up his copy of the 1968-69 yearbook for the US Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and there was the photograph of the unmistakable Norman Schwarzkopf, then a lieutenant colonel.

As British Liaison Officer at the college, Col Newton lectured to 1,500 students – among them young Stormin' Norman – on the British Army and Combat Development, as well as Counter-Insurgency Warfare. Another lecturer at that time was the now Fd Marshal Lord Carver.

"It may have been Gen Schwarzkopf's first encounter with the limeys and their sense of humour," said Col Newton. "He was a big chap then – but not as big as he is now."

Just how much British knowledge contributed to Gen Schwarzkopf's brilliant campaign against the Iraqis, only he will know...

# Lucky to be alive

Nearly three months after hostilities ended in the Gulf, remarkable stories are still emerging from British soldiers who took part.

For one Iraqi, for example, the presence of a Gazelle helicopter of 654 Squadron, Army Air Corps proved a lifesaver.

Maj Kevin Emmerson, 2iC of 4 Regiment AAC, was flying a photographic mission for the 1st (British) Armoured Division war diary when he glimpsed what he took to be a corpse face down in the desert. Then he noticed a hand move.

"I swung the aircraft round and landed nearby," he said.

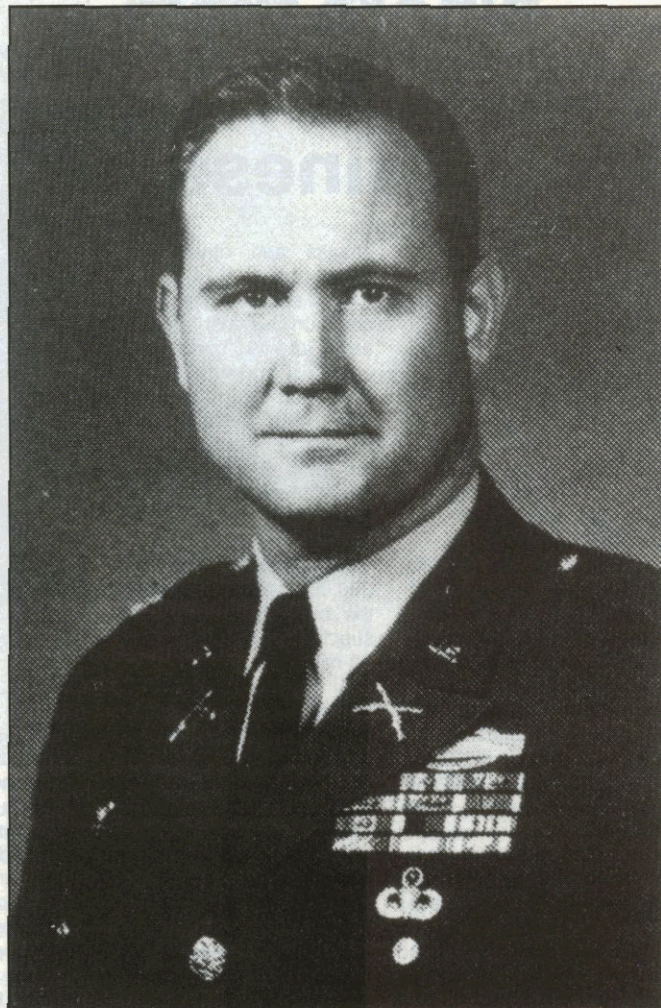
# SOLDIER to Soldier



THEN: Col Pip Newton



NOW: Col Pip Newton



THE STUDENT: The then Lt Col Norman Schwarzkopf

"It turned out to be an Iraqi private suffering from broken legs and shrapnel wounds who had been crawling for four days in a desperate attempt to reach the main road and rescue.

"In all that time, he managed to travel only one kilometre – the crawl marks led back to his wrecked truck, which had struck a mine.

"We loaded him into the helicopter and flew him to the nearest medical facility. I have never seen a happier man."

# Oundle ACF goes public

It was one of the worst weekends of the winter when a BBC camera crew descended on Cpl Adam Bancroft, at 6ft 8in the "gentle giant" of the Prince William School, Oundle, Army Cadet Force Detachment, and his fellow cadets on exercise at the nearby Yardley Chase Army

# Training Centre.

The Northants boys and girls, being filmed for a programme in "The Low-down" series scheduled for May 21, revealed a fierce pride and sense of patriotism as ACF members – even though Adam did admit to certain doubts about being away from his warm bed on freezing nights like that.

Adam is one of 45,000 members of the 130-year-old force – not to be confused with the Combined Cadet Force, whose members mainly attend public schools.

Each of the ACF's 1,600 voluntary detachments is affiliated to a regiment or corps and the cadets, ten per cent of whom are girls, are issued with the same uniform as regular soldiers – apart from boots, which they provide themselves.

Although some of the cadets plan to join the Army when they leave school, the ACF's main objective is not recruitment but "helping to build up the nation's capital of men and women who can lead and help in any form of emergency."

# In the picture

Professional and amateur photographers serving in or with the Army will have the chance to show their work in public – and even win prizes – at a "green" exhibition at Olympia in July.

A photo and video exhibition being held in the West Hall will feature a "graffiti wall" on which any day visitor can enter a photograph to be judged by a well-known photographer. A similar wall will show videos by both amateurs and professionals.

The Ministry of Defence will be taking part in an exhibition in the adjacent Grand Hall – and the theme of both shows is the environment, wildlife and conservation.

Photographers with green themes should get themselves along to Olympia between July 6 and 11.

# A PROUD VILLAGE

... where they mind their own business

THOUGH THERE is a prize for the best-kept village in England (and for Scotland and Wales for all I know) my favourite will always lie just a few miles off the M20 near Maidstone, Kent.

The Royal British Legion Village is a unique blend of community spirit bound up with an atmosphere of business efficiency.

I was once again fascinated at what I found there when I accompanied Gen Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, a RBL vice-president, during a recent visit.

The village is home for 700 disabled ex-Servicemen and women and, in many cases, their families.

Medical care, jobs, accommodation and provision for leisure pursuits are all available.

"Why else would I have stayed here for 25 years," said one veteran.

When it was opened 66 years ago the major concern was to treat the victims of tuberculosis.

Times have changed since then and the village has adapted its policies to cater not only for those disabled in various wars and conflicts but also victims of strokes, heart

attacks and other accidents.

To ensure that the community is cost-effective each of its commercial enterprises must break even (this year the turnover of RBL Industries was £3 million) though finding profitable lines to compete in the market place is not easy. Ingenuity is called for.

An airy factory turns out 300,000 pallets a year for the building industry and supplies customers in a 70-mile radius.

A new market in commercial and traffic signs has been developed. An order for Channel Tunnel markers has helped to maintain full order books and the village is even making signs in Arabic for Middle Eastern countries.

The printing presses produce not only posters for the annual Poppy Day appeal but glossy magazines and other publications.

Mr Ross Johnston, the general manager, told me

**Home for disabled veterans**



**Above left: John Bray, formerly of the Royal Engineers, working as a bench hand at the printing works in the Royal British Legion Village. Centre: Consultant Cliff Strossel, the specialist who has developed a new alloy joint. The first**

that in order to be able to compete in the 1992 European market they had achieved the highest British standard in quality assurance.

Employees are given tasks according to the way in which their skills can be related to their disability. The job may be simply keeping the factory clean but it is done with pride which is evident throughout the workforce.

"No one else would consider me but I have been working here for a quarter of a century," said one man. "This place has given many of us a purpose

in life as well as a wage, a home and a place in industry."

The village managers also operate a sheltered placement scheme in conjunction with the government employment service and in the past six years have found employment for 140 disabled workers in the South East and North East of England.

Mr Johnston: "We also offer advice to Service personnel who wish to set up a small business when they leave and perhaps find they have insufficient cash. We are always looking for disabled ex-

Servicemen who have an engineering or technical background."

The village can cater for only a limited number but the Royal British Legion's Disabled Men's Industries (DMI) has a nation-wide network to provide help and advice for many

Anne



Armstrong

Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653



## Men at work

has been fitted to an ex-Serviceman at the Churchill Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre in the village. Right:

Brian Harmer displays a poster being prepared in the village for the RBL's Poppy Day appeal in November.

others. The quality of the leather goods, jewellery, pictures and furniture produced elsewhere which I saw were of the highest standard.

DMI is also run on a commercial basis but the therapeutic value of its work is enormous.

At the Churchill Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre, established in 1982, I spoke to Cliff Strossel, consultant, whose aim above all is to improve the quality of life for people.

They can come for two-week courses, and day

or residential patients are accepted. Ex-Service personnel can stay in the modern Mountbatten Pavilion. Carers are also welcomed and helped.

The Centre works in close co-operation with the area health authorities and provides well-equipped departments for occupational therapy and physiotherapy, a large gymnasium and the much sought-after hydrotherapy pool.

I was shown a revolutionary new method of replacing hip and knee joints. Mr Strossel has spent eight years in developing a new joint

made out of titanium alloy.

A remarkable recovery for an elderly ex-Serviceman was a first for the Centre which will, I am sure, lead the way to future development.

Not content to mark time, the Legion is looking into the 1990s and beyond with a 30-bed nursing unit for severely disabled. Ten beds will be reserved for ex-Service patients from throughout the UK with eight close-care units for those who need greater nursing. The Prince of Wales's Appeal launched by the British Commonwealth Ex-Service League

(BCEL) will finance accommodation for up to four families.

It is the desire of the chairman, Mr Charles Busby, to meet the growing needs to provide for the care of the elderly and infirm who presently have to rely on inadequate state services.

"We have 300 elderly residents at the moment," said Mr Busby.

Cliff Strossel pointed out: "We are facing a five per cent budget cut which means a million pounds and probable reductions. We are pushed now, for example, to maintain 200 to 300 sessions in the hydrotherapy pool (which are attended by NHS patients as well).

"Experienced staff are essential and to lose just one will mean less help in the clinic.

"The RBL already pays for two out of the eight staff. It costs £60,000 to run the Centre, not including the wage bill, so it's a fight not to reduce the services offered."

Other villages have grown over the years into towns and cities. There must be no question that the community just off the M2 has not only to survive but flourish.

Information about any of the agencies based there can be obtained from Mr Johnston, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NL (tel: 0622 717202).

## Thanks a thousand!

**THE SSAFA divisions of Aldershot, Farnborough and Hart thanked the surrounding area for all the help given to the Gulf Support Centre by arranging a variety show.**

**The Mayor of Aldershot, Coun Alan Ferryman, thanked SSAFA for the concert, and British Telecom presented a cheque for £1,000 to help pay the communications bill.**

**Pictured left to right: Anne Armstrong, Mr Les Keating and Mrs Penny Collinge, wife of the South East chairman of SSAFA.**



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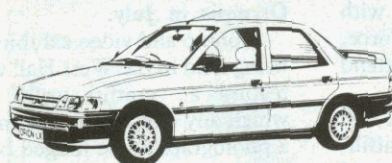
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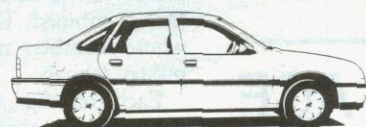
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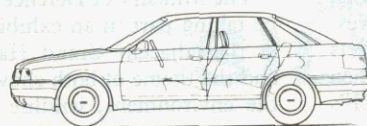
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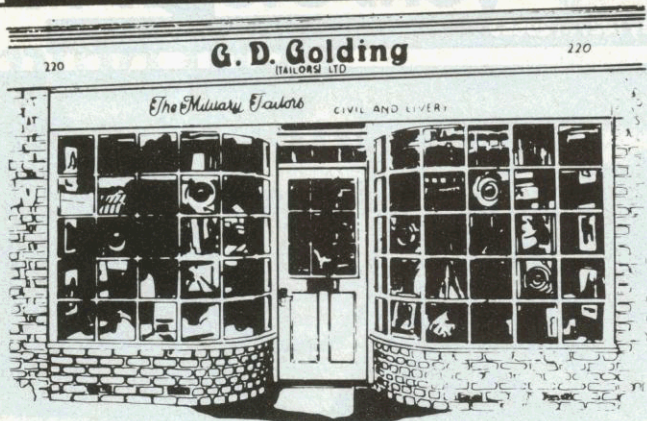
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# LETTERS

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## Portrait of an 'officer'

I FOUND the following fairly amusing article in the Russian newspaper *Odessa*, dated August 1959:

"The English officer is least of all an officer. He is a rich landowner, houseowner, capitalist or merchant, and only an officer incidentally.

"He knows absolutely nothing about the Services and is only seen on parades or reviews. From the professional point of view he is the most ignorant officer in Europe. He enters the Services not to serve but for the uniform, which is magnificent.

"The officer considers himself irresistible to the fair-haired, blue-eyed English ladies. The English officer is a beautiful aristocrat, extremely rich, an independent sybarite and epicure.

"He has a spoilt, capricious and blasé character and loves pornographic literature, suggestive pictures, *recherché* food and strong drink.

"His chief amusements are gambling, racing and sports. He goes to bed at dawn and gets up at mid-day. He is usually occupied with two mistresses simultaneously, one lady of high society and the other a girl from the opera/ballet.

"His income runs into several thousands a year, of which he keeps no account, being incapable of keeping accounts.

"English officers, especially the young ones, do no work of any kind. They spend their days and nights in clubs noted for their opulence."

Does any of this describe any of your readers? — Spr Charles G Northey, 51 Fd Sqn, 38 Eng Regiment, Claro Bks, Ripon.

● We doubt if this bears any relation to any SOLDIER reader, now, in 1959, or at any other time. But no doubt the *Odessa* readers were full of envy after digesting such richly-imaginative propaganda. — Editor.

## Bufs on wrong side

IN her article "Guardians of a proud lineage" (SOLDIER, April 29), Megan C Robertson states that the Bufs went off to fight the Dutch in 1572.

As a matter of fact they were sent to the Netherlands in 1572 by Queen Elizabeth I to help them in their struggle for freedom against the Spaniards and to ward off the threat of a large Spanish power opposite the British coast.

On their return to England they were called "The Holland Regiment". — H Muller, Lt Col Royal Marechaussee (Retd), Chairman, Mars et Historia, The Netherlands.

● In the same article, a gremlin added a century to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards by dating the regiment's formation from July 1871 rather than 20 years ago. — Editor.

## Disadvantaged duck

HOW nice to see a piece of Second World War equipment ready for action again in Iraq.

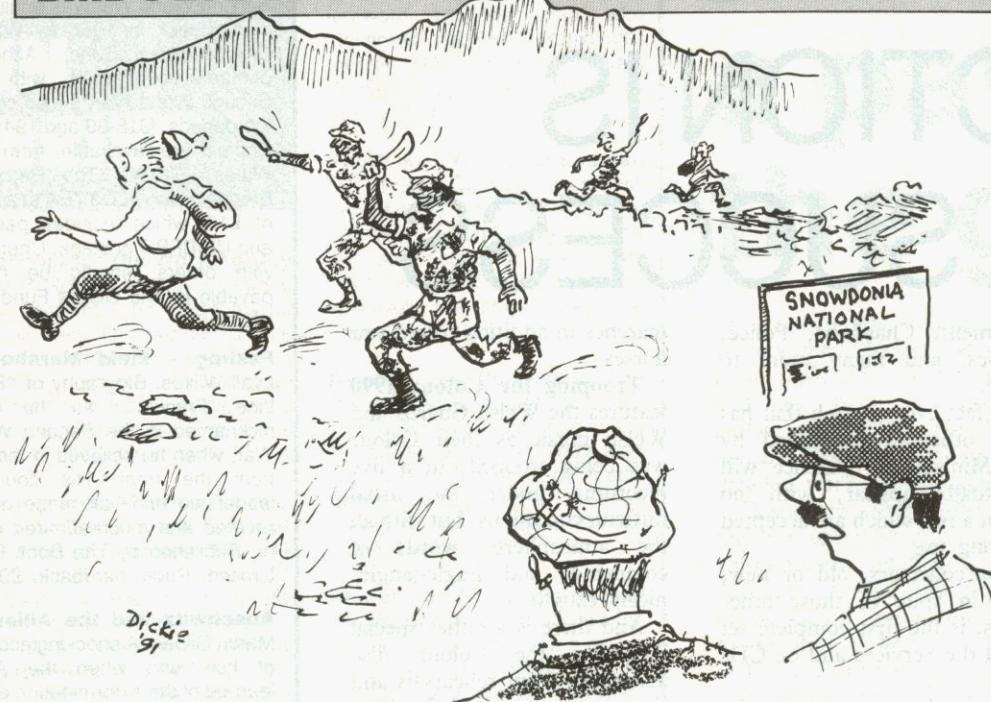
I refer to the picture on the front cover of the January 21 issue of SOLDIER of the chagul hanging on a Scimitar of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. It was a most useful article of kit in Iraq, Syria, the Western Desert and Burma.

On Page 20 of the same issue your mention of the Desert Duck of 518 Pioneer Company,

RPC reminded me of our training as Chindits in India, where the lads had various pets. One was a duck.

On a medical parade prior to going into Burma, the MO (the late Dr Hugh Stanton, of Grimsby) examined the gunner and then the duck. He said the gunner was fit but the duck would not be allowed on the column because of flat feet. — H Bunn (ex-Desert Rat, ex-Chindit), Scunthorpe.

## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



'I have a sneaky feeling that your scheme to get the Gurkhas to protect our wild birds is about to backfire ...'

NEWS ITEM: Brecon-based Gurkhas are helping to protect the nests of endangered birds

## First woman into Kuwait City

YOU asked in your April 29 edition "Who was the first Servicewoman to enter Kuwait City?" and cited Cpl Catherine Bryden-Smith's flight into Kuwait International Airport on March 2, 1991.

There is a counter claim from within the 1st Armoured Division. Sgt Sharon Whitehead, the Chief Clerk of HQ DAA, formed part of the G1 (Ops) team that drove down the Kuwait-Basra Road on March 1 to assess the number of Iraqi dead.

Once the group had tasked and deployed the Army War

Graves Team they continued on into Kuwait City accompanied by a Kuwaiti interpreter, Sadeik.

Once in the city the team visited the airport to arrange the procedures for compassionate leave flights and later, having been given a tour of the city, took the interpreter to his sister's home for an emotional reunion.

In your search for records we would be interested in establishing how many WRAC Servicewomen deployed into Iraq and Kuwait during the period of the land battle.

It is our understanding that only two, Sgt Whitehead and Pte Dawn Palmer, accompanied the Division throughout. — Maj S C Howe, SO2 G1, HQ 1 Armd Div, BFPO 32.

## Big Red confusion

THE photograph on Page 18 of the April 1 issue caught my eye.

The caption rather implies that "the Big Red One" in the picture refers to the 1st (British) Armoured Division, which of course it does not.

The Big Red One, in which my father had the honour to serve in the First World War, is of course the United States Army First Infantry Division.

I feel sure both Divisions have the greatest respect for

each other — but would wish to be identified correctly. — Mrs Douglas Ryan, 444 East 82nd Street, Apt 7A, New York 10028.

● The Big Red One sign (pictured left) was put up at the breach in the Iraqi defences by the American soldiers who punched a hole in the sand berm. It was seen, and photographed, by many British soldiers who followed. No implication to the contrary was intended. — Editor.



## DIARY OF EVENTS

June 9: SSAFA's International Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Tadcaster, North Yorks.

June 14-16: Rhine Army Summer Show, Sennelager, Germany.

July 10-27: The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Box office tel: 071-373 8141).

July 28: Gulf War exhibition opens at Tank Museum, Bovington.

August 1-24: Edinburgh Tattoo.

● Organisers who wish to include public events in this diary should contact the Editor.

## Reunions

● Manchester Regiment — Malayan Veterans 51-54: Annual get-together will take place at the Royal British Legion, Robert Hall Street, Salford, Friday June 7 at 2000. Tickets £1 at door, veterans' guests welcome.

● Tarrant Rushton Airfield, Dorset: Reunion Sunday June 9, 1300. Members of C Sqn Glider Pilots' Regt, the Parachute Regt, 298 and 644 Sqns RAF, No 1 HGSU and others, contact Sam Jardine, 1 Hilliers Yard, Blandford Forum, Dorset (tel: 0258 452986).

● Ceylon, Hong Kong and Singapore Artillery Associations: Reunion, September 14, 1991 in Eastbourne. Details from Hon Sec, D A Knight, 18 Iough Court, 40 Hassenden Road, Blackheath SE3 8UD (tel: 081-858 3747).

● Canadian Women's Army Corps: 50th anniversary worldwide reunion will be held in Toronto, September 27-29, 1991. Details from WWII CWAC Veterans Canada Wide 50th Anniversary Reunion, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Canada M5V 1C9.

● Normandy Veterans Association: Luton and District Branch meets at 1930 on the last Tuesday of the month at the TUC Club, Crescent Road, Luton. The Association is open to all who served in Normandy between June 5 and August 20, 1944. Details from L B Fair, 48 Gooseberry Hill, Luton, Beds (tel: 0582 595662).

# QUICK MARCH COLLECTION IS SIGNAL SUCCESS

**Quick Marches of the British Armed Forces.** Band of the Royal Corps of Signals Conductor: Capt D F Wall

DROIT Music are certainly doing us proud with their great series of marches and bugle and trumpet calls of the British Forces.

Here they are with yet another fine series on CD, volumes one and two now available.

These contain the most up-to-date versions of the quick marches of the Marines, Army and RAF, with such specialist corps and formations as Submariners, Gurkhas, Strike Command, the Ulster Defence

Regiment, Chaplains, Police, Nurses, and many more to come.

In fact every march that has been officially sanctioned by the Ministry of Defence will eventually appear, with no doubt a few which are accepted by long use.

For collectors, old or new, this, in spite of those other series, is the first complete set of all the Services and on CDs too.

Droit also ensure that the Queen's Birthday Parades and Retreat Beatings are not lost to posterity. A studio recording of the **Household Division 1990 Retreat Beating** is available and has some interesting

marches in addition to old war horses.

**Trooping the Colour 1990** features the Welsh Guards and Welsh music as their Colour was being trooped, in a live recording under the usual difficult conditions, but with all the atmosphere, words of command, and jingle-jangles nicely caught.

And there is a rather special **Trooping the Colour** disc assembled from rehearsals and the actual parade of the 1988 ceremony as a tribute to Lt Col Mick Lane, Director of Music of the Irish Guards, who died so suddenly soon afterwards. He was in charge of the massed bands for that year and several of his marches and arrangements appear in the programme.

This is also a live recording, and all who remember Mick as the character he was should find this a fitting souvenir. The sleeve of the CD has the finest panoramic view of the parade I have ever seen.

Finally from Droit is a **Massed Bands Spectacular** featuring the bands of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the Salamanca Band of the Light Infantry.

The programme more or less alternates marches with light music and comes over very well.

In the marches the Light Infantry have the advantage, with Paul Neville's *Silver Bugles*, Ord Hume's *Bab-el-Mandeb*, and two tunes featuring the bugles - *Bugle Boy* and *Sunset Salute*. Unusually there are two overtures, Sullivan's *Yeoman of the Guard* and Suppé's *Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna*.

Solos are Terry Kenny's *Merry Matelots*, based on Schumann and the Sailor's Hornpipe, Leo Stanley's post horn solo *The Huntsman*, and the referee has a whistle solo in Jimmy Howe's *The Corner Flag*.

**53rd (Welsh) Division 1939-1945** by Brig C N Barclay. The history of the Division in the Second World War was published in hardback in 1956 by William Clowes and Sons. Although primarily concerned with the Second World War, it also covers the periods 1918-39 and 1945-55. Copies are available from HQ Wales (G1/G4), The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EA at a price of £12, which includes packing and UK/BFPO postage. Cheques, with orders, should be made payable to The GOC's Fund, HQ Wales.

**Festing - Field Marshal** by Lyall Wilkes. Biography of "Front Line Frankie", as he was nicknamed in the Second World War, when he believed in leading from the front. His courage, leadership and flair made him a revered and much-admired officer. Published by The Book Guild Limited. Price, hardback, £9.50.

**Auschwitz and the Allies** by Martin Gilbert. A shocking account of how and when the Allies learned of the extermination of the Jews and how, despite the evidence, they refused to act. Published in paperback by Mandarin. Price £6.99.

**The Radar Army - Winning the War of the Airwaves** by Reg Batt. A personal view of how an airborne radar system was developed to cope with German night bombers. Published by Robert Hale. Price £15.95.

**The Suicide Battalion** by J L McWilliams and R James Steel. A stark and shocking account of battles of the 46th Canadian Infantry during the First World War. Published by Vanwell, Ontario. Distributed in the UK by Spa Books, PO Box 47, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8UH.

Almost to be called modern warhorses are *A Tribute to Bob Hope* and *Where No Man Has Gone Before*; time the old film scores were given a rest, I think.

A finale of *Hymn, Sunset*, and *Regimental Marches* contributes to a lively and very acceptable mixture by the unlikely ingredients (in a studio if not on tattoo arena) of cavalry and light infantry.

● All the above are from Droit Music Ltd, 7 Pendred Road, Reading, Berks RG2 8QL. **Quick Marches of the British Forces**, CDs £9.90 each volume, cassettes £5.80 each, including postage. **Beating Retreat cassette only, £5.80. Trooping the Colour (Irish) CD only, £9.90. Trooping the Colour (Welsh) cassette only, £5.80. Export CDs £8.26, cassettes £4.78.**

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**Warriors for the Working Day** by A K Robertson. Novel charting the passions and tragedies of young men and women in the Second World War, told retrospectively through the eyes of an old man who was a major at the time. Published by The Book Guild Limited. Price £12.95.

**Osprey Men-At-Arms Series: No 233, The French Army of the Franco-Prussian War (1)** by Stephen Shann and Louis Delperier. A detailed look at the French armies of this period.

**No 234, German Combat Equipments 1939-45** by Gordon Rottman. Records the development and equipment of the German soldier during the Second World War.

**No 231, French Medieval Armies 1000-1300** by David Nicolle. Describes the organisation, character and appearance of these armies at the height of their glory.

**No 232, The Armies of Bolivar and San Martin** by T D Hooker. A look at the armies that fought wars of liberation to drive out the Spanish and establish the political shape of present day South America.

All published in paperback by Osprey. Price £5.99 each.

**Popski's Private Army** by Vladimir Peniakoff. Paperback

reissue of the celebrated Second World War story of the Belgian adventurer who led Britain's smallest Army unit. With a new foreword by the man who "invented" the PPA - Peniakoff's mentor, Gen Sir John Hackett. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £6.99.

**Youth and Young Statesman** by Randolph Churchill. Paperback reissues of two volumes of Winston Churchill biography by his son, covering the years 1874-1900 and 1901-1914 respectively. Published by Minerva. Price £9.99 each.

**Beneath the Surface** by Seg Roper. Fascinating and humorous story of life as a British soldier and prisoner-of-war in the Middle East and Crete. Published by Merlin Books Ltd, 40 East Street, Braintree, Essex CM3 2EA. Price (paperback) £9.95.

**Rhineland: The Battle to End the War** by W D and S Whitaker. Why it took six weeks for a million Allied men to conquer the tiny tract of the Rhineland in 1945, with huge losses. Published by Mandarin. Price (paperback) £5.99.

**The Agincourt War** by Lt Col Alfred H Burne. Facsimile reprint of the original 1956 military history of the latter part of the Hundred Years War, 1369 to 1453. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £17.50.

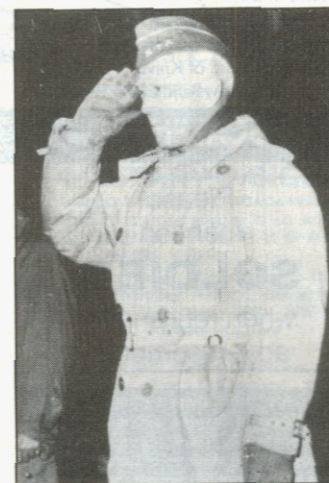
**The "Ever-Victorious Army"** by Andrew Wilson. Facsimile reprint, with illustrations and maps added, of the history first published in 1868 of the campaign which earned its leader the nickname "Chinese" Gordon. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £17.50.

## Stormin' George

AUTHOR George Forty has long since established a reputation for producing profusely-illustrated "coffee-table" books detailing aspects of war.

In his latest, *Patton's Third Army at War*, he records how Gen George S Patton's men stormed across Europe during the last year of the Second World War, seeking, trapping and destroying the enemy.

In this victory of teamwork, armour, infantry and aircraft worked together with a perfection that amazed even the Germans. Besides appealing to general military historians, the book contains much to interest



Gen Patton salutes on his arrival in Britain in 1944

equipment and uniform buffs.

**Patton's Third Army at War** by George Forty. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £16.95.

# Was Crete a pawn in the game?

IT is only a few months since we reviewed Antony Beevor's book *Inside the British Army* and now from this prolific author comes *Crete: The Battle and the Resistance*, a long and detailed work of 383 pages.

Despite its length, this is a highly readable book. It is also appropriately timed as in this year falls the 50th anniversary of the loss of Greece and Crete to the Axis Powers.

The account begins with the Italians invading Greece on October 28, 1940, sparking off some remarkable involvement on the part of the British. There was Peter Fleming, brother of Ian of James Bond fame, with his private army "Yak Mission"; John Pendlebury, an archaeologist with a glass eye, rousing the Greek guerrilla kapitans; Bob Layck, commando leader of "Layforce", and his Intelligence Officer, Evelyn Waugh.

"Irregular warfare in the Eastern Mediterranean held a strong appeal for vigorous young Britons. A cynic might easily dismiss the phenomenon as a sort of adult version of *Swallows and Amazons*, messing about in boats and treating the region as an immense adventure playground."

It is when he reaches the battle for Crete that Antony Beevor becomes most controversial, posing provocative questions concerning why the island was lost to the Germans:

"The slaughter of German Paratroops on the first day, 20 May 1941, by New Zealand, Australian and British troops, was so great that if just one platoon had still been in place on Maleme airfield the next morning, General Student would have been forced to admit defeat."

The author directs most of the blame for defeat at the alleged obstinacy of the Allied commander, Gen Bernard Freyberg: "He was a very brave soldier but held on to an idea that proved wrong."

Beevor asserts that Freyberg's loss of control of the battle was influenced by exaggerated fear of a seaborne assault and this led him to misread the Ultra signals available to him. This opinion is shared by many; even Alan Clark, the present Minister for Defence Procurement, has recently expressed the view that Freyberg's handling of the campaign was "both wasteful and incompetent".

It is inevitable that such accusations should cause controversy and prompt counter-explanations, not least from Freyberg's family. Lord Freyberg is soon to publish a biography of his father in which it is claimed that the general was compromised into losing Crete in order to protect the secret that Britain had Ultra, that he was forbidden from London to redeploy his forces defending against a seaborne attack to one from the air because to do so would alert the Germans to the fact that their decoded signals were being read by British commanders.

Bernard Freyberg died in 1963 and it is now too late for the argument to be resolved to anything approaching satisfaction. Any theory must take into account that generals of Freyberg's generation found the confusion of fighting without recognisable front lines an entirely new experience.

With this in mind, we are left to wonder if Crete was indeed an expendable pawn in Britain's overall game. - BJ

**Crete: The Battle and the Resistance** by Antony Beevor. Published by John Murray. Price, hardback, £19.95.

## Mercury update

**Operation Mercury** by M G Comeau. First published in 1961, now updated to include fresh information, this first-hand account by a British airman of the fall of Crete in 1941 is re-published to mark the 50th anniversary. Published by Patrick Stephens Ltd. Price £15.99.

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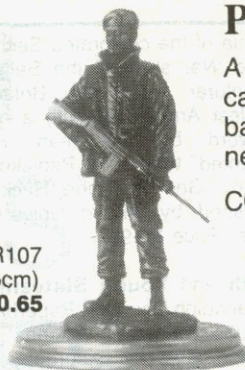
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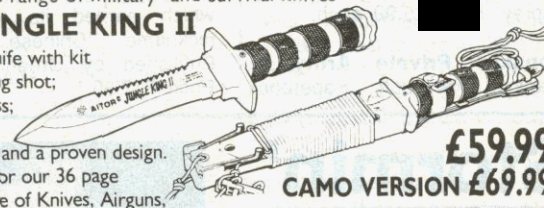
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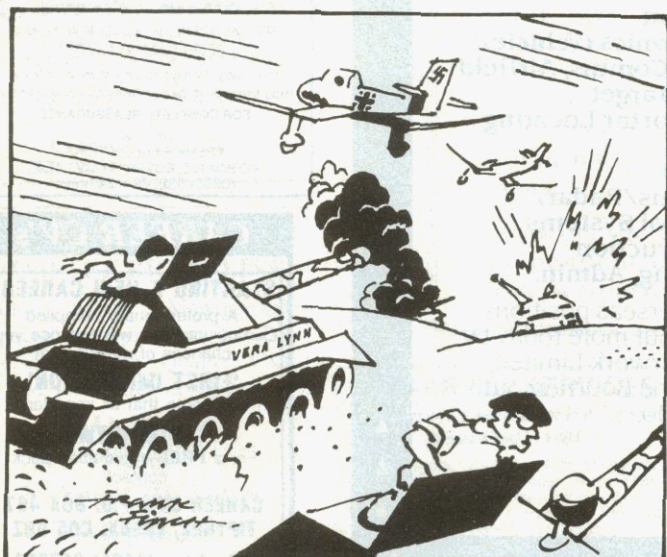
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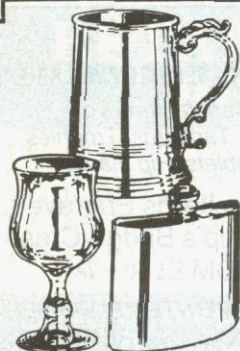
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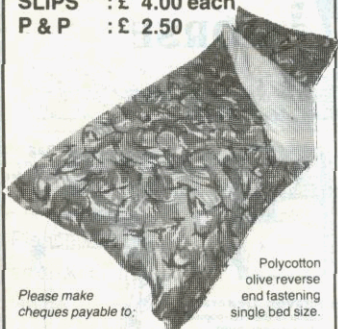
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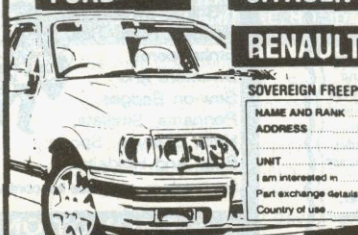
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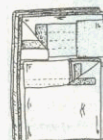
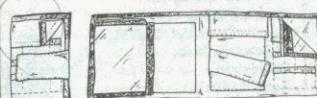
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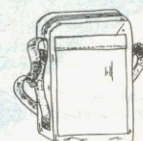
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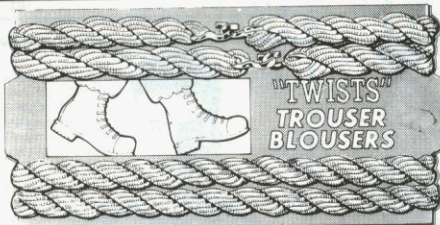
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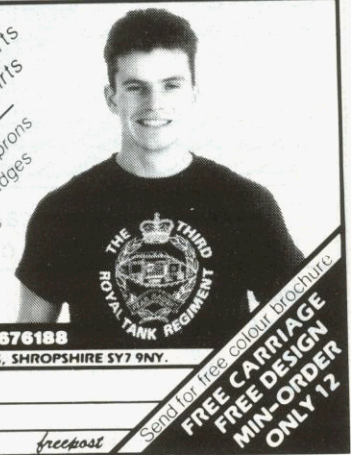
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# Sappers in the hunt for goals

**RAF St Athan 3,  
1/3 Tg Regts RE 3**

A SLOW start to the opening match in this year's Naafi Jubilee Cup competition was deceptive, writes Pat Massey.

The game soon heated up and the respective Army and Royal Air Force unit champions ended up sharing six goals, an important feature in this Grand Metropolitan-sponsored competition which rewards its top scorer rather than the side ending up with the most points.

It was a fair result, although the Deepcut sappers might have made more of several missed opportunities.

Lehane, Palmer and Naif all missed good openings in the first half-hour before Lehane broke the deadlock when he converted a chance created by Tusz and Sinclair.

St Athan scored twice before Lehane struck from the penalty spot after Green had been brought down, only for the sappers to go behind again

to a brilliant individual effort by the RAF's Hill.

The sappers stepped up the pressure and were rewarded when Palmer ran on to a long pass and chipped the ball wide of the 'keeper into an empty net.

**1/3 Tg Regts RE 4,  
RNEC Manadon 4**

The sappers' second game, against the all-officer team from the Royal Navy's engineering college near Plymouth, produced an eight-goal spree which means RNEC have to score four goals against RAF St Athan to win the trophy, while the airmen will need to score five. It should be some game.

Sinclair started the ball rolling for the sappers when he toe-poked a chance into the net after good work by Tusz and Palmer.

Naif scored a second and Lehane restored the two-goal lead after Paris had pulled one back for Manadon.

But the naval engineers took over in the second half and



Sgt Paul Sharratt (Depot Queens Div) bursts through to score his goal as Pte Steven Wright (Cheshires) lunges in. SSgt Eric Sykes can only watch

scored three more to leave the Deepcut side reeling.

In injury time 1/3 were awarded a penalty which Lehane gratefully converted to make it 4-4 and set up an intriguing clash between Manadon and St Athan.

**Jersey 1, Army 0**

Jersey opened in brilliant fashion in the opening match of the Army's tour of the Channel Islands.

Caught on the break, the

visitors were punished when goalkeeper McWilliam failed to hold a hard shot and an island striker slotted the ball home. Minutes later the hosts almost grabbed a second to make certain of winning the Typhoo Tea Trophy.

But the rest of the game was a different story, with the Army taking control and putting heavy pressure on the Jersey defence.

**Guernsey 1, Army 1**

Last time these sides met was in Aldershot and the Army scored five times without reply.

That was in the days of Whittingham and Spencer – and how goal-scoring talent of that quality has been missed this season!

This was to be another game which the Servicemen dominated without being able to reap the rewards.

Dunn was injured and replaced in the 14th minute by Strouts who made an immediate impact. Five minutes from the interval he latched on to a poor back pass, rounded the 'keeper and tucked the ball into the net.

The Army escaped when Wright's clumsy tackle earned a penalty which was promptly blazed high over the bar.

Lomas made a couple of good saves in the Army goal before Guernsey equalised.

## Jocks' minor triumph

**3 PCD RE 1,  
Scottish Div Depot 2**

The Scottish Division Depot, three times winners of the UKLF Minor Units Cup, travelled to Rheindahlen to take on BAOR champions 3 Postal and Courier Depot, RE in the Leyland Daf sponsored Challenge Cup final on April 20.

With many Germany-based Scots on leave following the return of the armoured brigades from Op Granby, the local support strongly favoured the home team.

Both sides missed early opportunities, before the sappers put this right late in the opening half when Steele,

unaffected by a broken toe sustained in the BAOR final, made an excellent run down the left flank. His cross was met by Murray who headed the ball into the top corner of the net.

Panic in the Scottish defence almost gifted them a second goal but the ball was cleared.

The Jocks started the second half determined to get an equaliser. In the first minute, Keenan broke down the right and drove the ball across the face of the goal for Reid to bring an excellent save out of Taylor. Piling on the pressure, Reid raced down the left wing, took on and beat two defenders, before causing Taylor to make another fine

save as skipper Gilfillan headed what looked to be a certain goal.

When centre-back Gillie was tackled from behind, and brought down in the penalty area, Hughes blasted home the equaliser. An injury forced the sappers to replace their defensive "strong man" McKinney midway through the second half.

Just after the substitution the Jocks won a throw-in on the left. The ball was driven into the penalty area for Reid to score what proved to be the winning goal.

Gen Sir John Stibbon, President of Army Football, presented the trophies.



The Parachute Regiment bobsleigh team (above) with (below right) one of their bobs in action

## Para bob hopes high

THE Parachute Regiment's bobsleigh team has high hopes of representing Britain in the next Winter Olympics following the most successful of its five seasons.

They represented Britain 12 times in the past six months, were runners-up in the Army championships and provided seven of the nine Army members who won the Inter

Services competition.

LCpls Sean Olsson and Eric Sekwalor came within 100th of a second of the world's fastest start time at Cortina.

Financial support from WL Gore & Associates allowed the team to replace its outdated bobsleigh equipment and team members feel they can now compete on equal terms with other nations.

## Late goal-rush gives Depot Queens the title

**Depot Queens Division 4,  
1 Cheshire 0**

FOUR second-half goals allowed the Depot Queens Division to retain the Infantry Hockey Cup in a final played against 1 Cheshire on the astroturf at Aldershot.

Honours were about even at the end of a goalless first half in which neither side could

fashion an opening. But Pte Mark Pudwell broke the deadlock when he crashed home a cross from the right wing.

After a strong Cheshire rally, the Depot took control of the game and went further ahead through goals by Sgt Tony Dade, Sgt Graham Atter and Sgt Paul Sharratt.

## Wanted: Redcoats!

A NEW cruiser-racer has been seen off the South Coast this month.

It is the Army's latest Redcoat, a ten-berth Sigma 38 which will be taking part in this summer's Round the Island

Race, Cowes Week, the Fastnet, weekend races to France and the ASA and Services offshore regatta to Guernsey.

SSgt Colin Garnham-Edge, one of the most experienced sailors in the Services, will skipper the boat initially but is looking for two other skippers to share the season.

He is also looking for crew members to register with the ASA.

SSgt Garnham-Edge, who co-ordinated the Australian Adventure 88 project and skippered the previous Redcoat in 1984 after sailing with Britain's 12m Victory squad in America, can be contacted on Aldershot military ext 2710 (or 0252 334681) or c/o Army School of Catering, DCT (Fd), St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

The ASA wishes to build a considerable register of male and female sailors willing to crew the new boat.

## Board game

THERE was a naval victory in the singles stableford competition at the annual Famous Grouse golf meeting between the three Service sport boards at Tidworth Garrison Golf Club.

Cdr Peter Cantelo, secretary of the RN board, finished a point clear of his Army opposite number, Lt Col Keith Hitchcock, with Army rugby secretary Major David Murray third.



# Ord pair master the roads

SSGT Joe Bain is the Army's champion driver after teaming up with navigator Capt Bernie Stevens to win the Exercise Roadmaster event at ASMT in Leconfield.

Both men are serving with 9 Ordnance Battalion, Bain with HQ Company, Stevens with 93 Coy.

Roadmaster, traditionally the vehicle for the Army driving championships, was run on behalf of DGTM by Lt Col Bob Gardner, commanding officer of 150 Transport Regiment (V) from Hull. The event was sponsored by CBM Construction.

Favourites in the field of 120 crews were Sgt Tim Line and 2nd Lt Tony Armstrong of 94 Loc Regt. Up with the leaders half way through the first night on the Yorkshire moors were veterans Maj Phil Waterman and his driver Lt Col Duncan Saville.

Guest crews from the Military Engineering Division at Lode Lane found the following day's orienteering sections back at Leconfield useful for showing off in competitive conditions the vehicles they test.

The final phase took the drivers to a Leeds TA centre for rest and maintenance before the second night's navigation test back to Catterick and eventually Leconfield.

Picture Mike Weston



Lt Gary Knight of 1 DWR finds a gap in the 1 RRW defence during the final of the Army sevens

# Grand Dukes

## Far East bid fails

IN stark contrast to last year's Touche Ross Army sevens when the weather blessed Aldershot with a heatwave, this year's competitors had to endure a cold, wet and windy environment, writes **John Quin**.

If the weather wasn't up to much then the sport was and the larger than usual crowd was treated to a feast of seven-a-side rugby.

One feature that must be unique in Army rugby history, was that the defending champions, The Royal Regiment of Wales, chose to travel back to defend their title from their home in Hong Kong – and they almost took the crown back with them.

Under new management this

year, the tournament went as smoothly as ever anyone can remember, which is to the credit of Lt Col Graham Davies and his team from the Junior Leaders Regiment at Colerne.

The 16 teams played the morning session in the usual groups, which saw the quarter-finals produce some well known faces when the Dukes saw off 35 Engr Regt, Sennelager Trg Centre went down to the Royal School of Artillery and out went the AAC NI Regt and the lads from Shrivenham to 1 RRW and 7 Para RHA respectively.

The gunners from Larkhill then went down to the Dukes by four points out of a total of 28 and the Army Challenge Cup holders, the Airborne Gunners, fell to the Welshman from the Far East.

So the final stage was set: the Dukes, runners-up in the 15-a-side cup final, against the holders. In the end it was virtually down to the boot of Army and Combined Services PT SSI Chris Spowart which saw the Yorkshiremen through by 18 points to 14 in a thrilling encounter.

The President of the Army

Rugby Union, Lt Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, Commander Field Army, was on hand to help with the prizegiving and to thank the sponsors, Touche Ross, for their generosity for this event, one of the highlights of the Army rugby calendar. This is the second year of a three-year deal and, in presenting the prizes, Mr Mike Braithwaite of Touche Ross also presented 2nd Lt Chris Jones, RRW with the Man of the Final award.

Also there was England Grand Slam captain, Will Carling who, of course, has a keen interest in the fortunes of the RRW.

**TOUCHE ROSS 1991 ARMY SEVENS**  
Quarter-finals: 1 DWR 34, 35 Engr Regt 0; Sennelager Trg Centre 4, RSA 26; NI Regt AAC 4, 1 RRW 22; 7 RHA 22, RMCS 0.

Semi-finals: 1 DWR 16, RSA 12; 1 RRW 10, 7 RHA 4.

Final: 1 DWR 18, 1 RRW 14.

Plate final: 8 Signal Regt 16; 1 WG 6.

## It's 3 RRW – just!

THE 3rd Battalion beat the 4th by three points to nil in the annual rugby fixture between the two Territorial Army battalions of The Royal Regiment of Wales. But it was a close-run thing, with 3 RRW captain Cpl Roy Imms kicking a penalty at New Inn, Pontypool to give his team the honours for the first time in three years.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL

A Thanksgiving Service will be held in Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 15 June 1991 to mark the safe return of those Welshmen and women who served in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy in the Gulf War and to commemorate those who died.

In view of the anticipated heavy demand from service personnel, their families and the general public, admission will be by ticket only.

Those wishing to attend are requested to write as soon as possible setting out the full names of themselves and those accompanying them with a stamped, addressed envelope for reply.

*Application should be sent to:*

**Michael Boyce Esq**  
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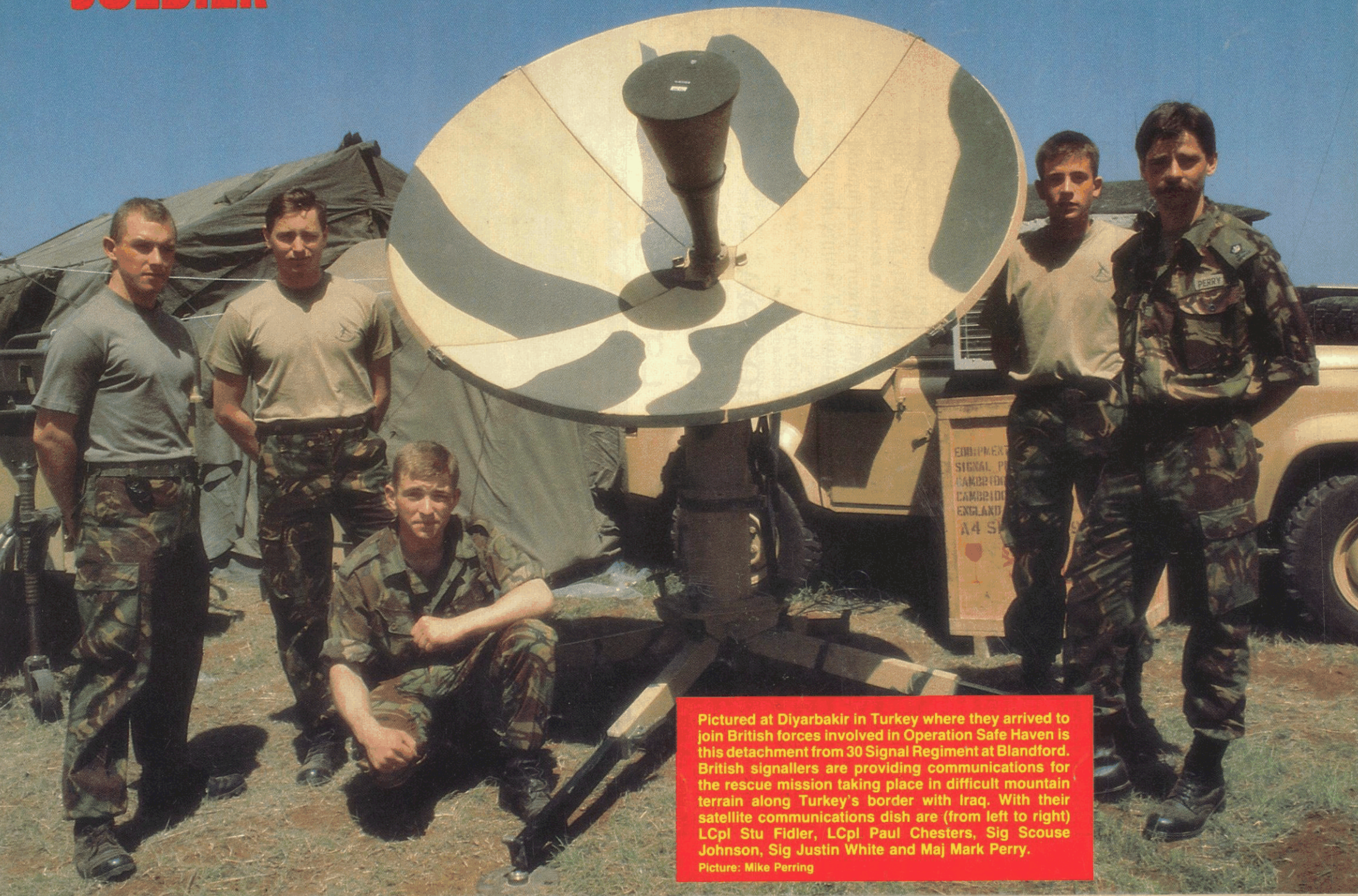
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# SOLDIER



Pictured at Diyarbakir in Turkey where they arrived to join British forces involved in Operation Safe Haven is this detachment from 30 Signal Regiment at Blandford. British signallers are providing communications for the rescue mission taking place in difficult mountain terrain along Turkey's border with Iraq. With their satellite communications dish are (from left to right) LCpl Stu Fidler, LCpl Paul Chesters, Sig Scouse Johnson, Sig Justin White and Maj Mark Perry.

Picture: Mike Perring