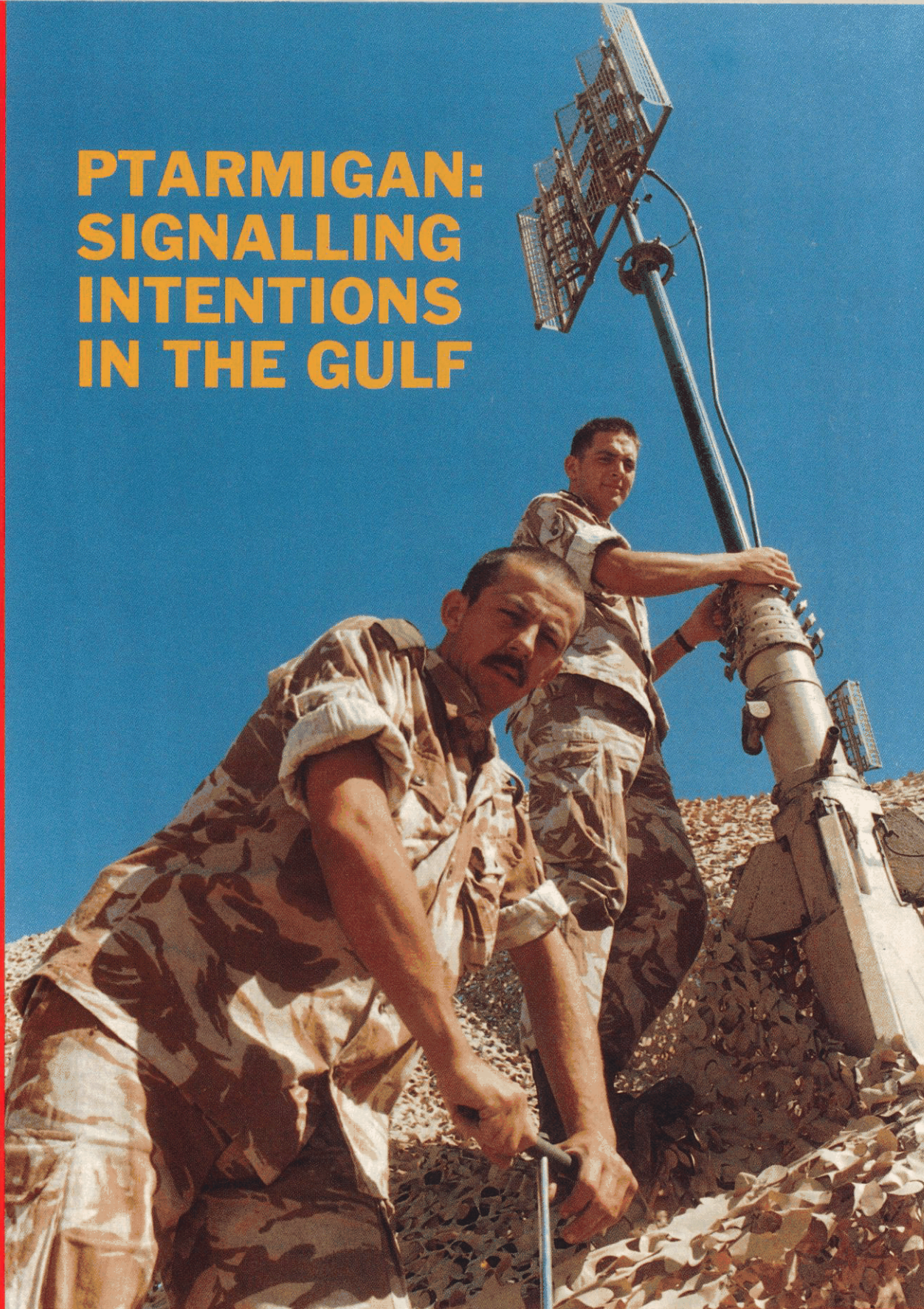


JANUARY 7  
1991  
EVERY  
FORTNIGHT

# SOLDIER

## PTARMIGAN: SIGNALLING INTENTIONS IN THE GULF



MAGAZINE  
OF THE  
BRITISH  
ARMY



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OF  
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Centre  
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24-25



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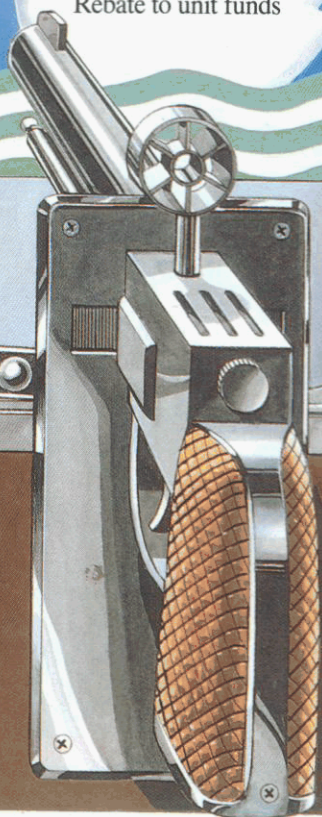
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## Naafi

\* Based on the Naafi Report and Accounts for the year ended 28 April 1990. Copies may be obtained on application to The Secretary, Naafi, Imperial Court, Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QX.



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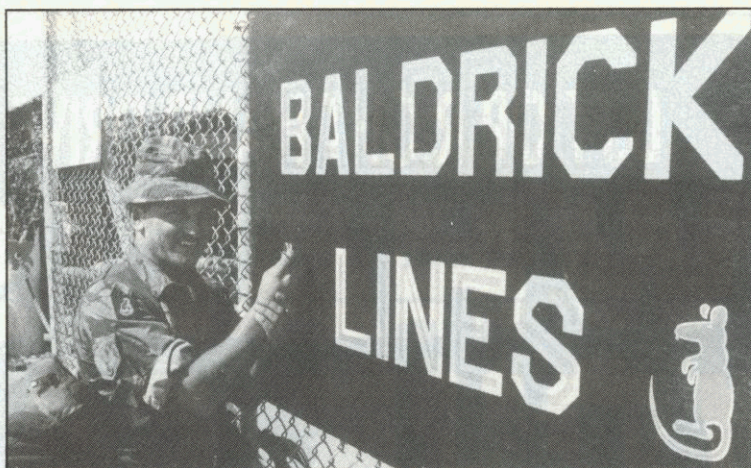
**FRONT COVER:** Cpl Willy Rushton and LCpl Sid Coles (rear) site a Ptarmigan relay mast in the Saudi Arabian desert. The secure communications system, in use outside Germany for the first time, has been well received. Full story in Page 25.

Picture: Terry Champion

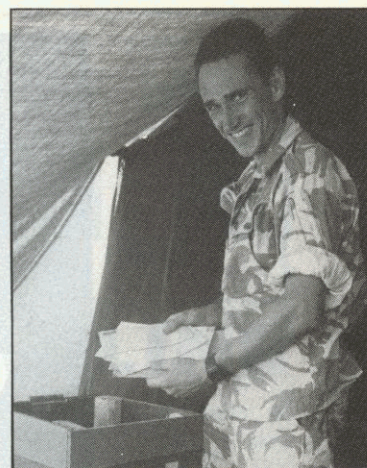
● A feature on the Brunei Training Team has been held over.

**SOLDIER**

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Above – New name for Tent City . . . Baldrick Lines. The artwork is the work of Spr Gordon Thomson of 60 Field Sqn, seen here putting the finishing touches with his paintbrush. Above right – Athlete



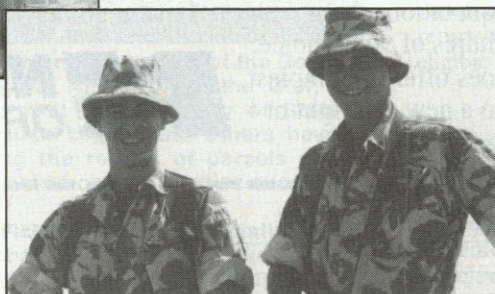
Sgt Mark Lassiter empties a mail box. The Army 3,000m steeplechase champion, he is serving with 1 PC Regt RE. Training in the desert is a problem, but he looked in good shape to SOLDIER



Rapid response dispatch rider Cpl Stan Hogg of 1 PC Regt RE has fixed a metal holster to his 500 cc Armstrong to hold the Sterling sub-machine gun he carries. It is possible to extract the weapon and load it while driving with one hand



Men who have helped the Army Catering Corps add to its high reputation. Cooks at Tent City who feed 2,000 men three meals a day and still come up smiling



LCpl Nick Kennedy (left) and Cpl Woody Woodcock of the Intelligence Corps work in HQ 1st US Marine Division as part of the Int Cell. They reckon they were the first British troops to live with the Americans in the desert

# PM's Gulf visit

PRIME Minister Mr John Major announced that he would visit British Servicemen in the Gulf during the Christmas holiday period.

should be addressed to BFPO 3000. Separate mail facilities already exist for relatives.

being treated as suspicious. Cpl Going, who had been serving at Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, had been in the Gulf for six weeks.

A mail service for members of the public to send unsolicited cards, letters and small, non-perishable gifts to troops in the Gulf has been set up. They

Cpl Richard Going, RAMC, based with 33 Field Hospital in Saudi Arabia, was found dead from a gunshot wound. The Royal Military Police immediately began an investigation. His death is not

Territorial Army personnel with medical training have been approached by the Ministry of Defence to volunteer for

● Turn to Page 5

Managing Editor **Chris Horrocks** (Ext 2355) ● Editor **John Elliott** (2356) ● Assistant Editors **Bill Moore** (2361), **Laurie Manton** (2362), **Jennifer Griffiths** (2360) ● Picture Editor: **Terry Champion** (2357) ● Photographers: **Mike Weston**, **Mike Perring** (2357) ● Families: **Anne Armstrong** (2169) ● Librarian: **Bill Stroud** (2351) ● Advertising/Promotions: **Dawn Homewood** (2352 or 0252 347352) ● Accounts/Distribution: **Seela McIntosh** (2353)

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Moore



Champion

THIS issue includes 21 pages of reports and pictures – many of them in colour – dispatched by the SOLDIER team based with the Desert Rats in Saudi Arabia. In addition, the front and back covers depict Servicemen working in the Gulf, and several other pages in the issue are devoted to Operation Granby-related subjects.

Reports in this issue were filed from the Gulf by writers BILL MOORE and LAURIE MANTON, and the pictures were taken by TERRY CHAMPION and MIKE WESTON.



Manton



Weston

## GULF NEWSLINE

### Reserve medics to provide Op Granby cover

● From Page 3

short-term engagements for the duration of the Gulf crisis.

An MoD spokesman emphasised that approaches had been made to individuals, not units, and that service would not necessarily be in the Gulf.

The reservists will be deployed to provide cover for Army medics now deploying to the Middle East, and could be stationed in the United Kingdom or Germany. It is possible that some may volunteer to go to the Gulf.

A plea for a fresh Christmas tree from RFA *Diligence*, a fleet auxiliary ship based in the Gulf, has resulted in 50 trees being dispatched to troops in the area, courtesy of Interflora.

The trees, shipped out from Marchwood Military Port, were being delivered to military bases in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain. No trees were being sent to Saudi Arabia in deference to the host nation, which does not celebrate Christmas.

SSAFA provided 35,000 free Christmas cards for Servicemen in the Gulf to enable them to send traditional seasonal greetings to their loved ones at home.

Mercury is to install 50 telephone boxes in Saudi Arabia, having tested the system worldwide. The boxes will accept pre-paid Mercury



**'Together with all the Servicemen and women of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force in the Gulf, I welcome the arrangements that the Secretary of State together with the Royal British Legion and others have established for co-ordinating the receipt of parcels and other gifts for all of us separated from our families over the Christmas period.'**

**'However, our gratitude extends beyond appreciation for the generous support. On behalf of us all I should like to say how much we value knowing that we have the thoughts of you all at home and your moral support in the difficult months that lie ahead; we shall not let you down.'**

– Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière,  
British Forces Commander Middle East.

cards at £4 for three minutes. Service personnel will have to pay for the cards although one each will be made available free as a result of donations made by the Royal British Legion and *Daily Telegraph* readers.

The system was expected to be operating by December 21.

British Telecom were hoping to have Desert Direct, a cut-price reverse charge call system, working from Saudi Arabia to the United Kingdom by December 15. Calls will be limited to ten minutes, and will be charged to the UK number at the reduced rate of £1.15 a minute.

Both BT and Mercury systems are designed to prevent

call boxes from being jammed by coins.

It is hoped to extend the BT facility to families living in BAOR.

The overseas facilities charge levied against Service families living in Germany has been

reduced by half, a saving of between 16p to 68p a day depending on rank. The reduction has been made because so many Servicemen are now in the Gulf and unable to make use of facilities.

The Department of the Environment is strongly recommending that local authorities waive Community Charge registration for Service personnel in the Gulf. Some local authorities have complied, while others are keeping within the registration rules which allow a single Serviceman who is out of the country for more than 61 days to be exempt from the Community Charge.

Married Service personnel are exempt after six months' absence from home. All are advised to see their local registration officer on their return to establish if they are eligible for a refund.

A first batch of 97 vehicles of 27 Regiment RCT left Travers Barracks, Aldershot for Marchwood Military Port on November 30. Eventually 400 vehicles and 700 soldiers from the regiment will be deployed to Saudi Arabia as 27 Regt RCT Group.

The main elements were from Aldershot and Bulford, and will be joined by units from Bicester and Tidworth.

Personnel will fly out to the Gulf in three batches to operate the regiment's mainly 14-tonne and 10-tonne trucks. The regiment, which is commanded by Lt Col Peter Verge, also has the capability to handle water, petrol, oil and other liquids.



'Anyone got another £15's worth of change?'



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# 2 LI move follows security warning

THE 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry has been deployed to Northern Ireland following a warning to members of the public in the Province that they should be on full alert against acts of terrorism over the Christmas period.

It was the second occasion during 1989 that the battalion had been sent to Northern Ireland and the 12th time in all including an 18-month tour in Ballykinler in 1978-79.

Commanding officer of the battalion is Lt Col Richard Cousens.

An RUC spokesman said: "Additional measures are being taken by the RUC and Army to counter the terrorist threat. These operations to protect the community will regrettably and unavoidably cause some inconvenience. We earnestly ask for public co-operation and understanding, and a recognition that the real responsibility for any disruption lies with the terrorist organisations."

Men of 2 LI were being deployed in a number of locations.

● One of the last visits made by Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher before her resignation was to Northern Ireland to meet soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

## Gallipoli parade

DESCENDANTS of Gurkha and Anzac troops who tried to fight their way out off the Gallipoli Peninsula beach-head in August 1915 have been on parade at Cassino Lines, Hong Kong to mark the 75th anniversary of that doomed action. The parade was possible because the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles were hosting companies from the 3rd Bn, the Royal Australian Regiment and the 2nd/1st Bn, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

## New GOC in South East

LT GEN Richard Swinburn has taken over as General Officer Commanding South East District. He succeeds Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, now based in Saudi Arabia as British Forces Commander Middle East.



Before moving to Aldershot, Gen Swinburn was Assistant Chief of the General Staff and directed the Army's



York gathering: From left are Maj Gen Michael Rose, Commander 2nd Inf Div; Gen Sir Peter Inge, Commander Northern Army Group; Maj Gen Kloeg, Belgian Army and Brig Gen Eckert, Deputy Commander 1st Luftlande Division

## Airborne division talks successful

OFFICERS from Britain, Germany, Holland and Belgium met in York to discuss the formation of a Nato multinational airborne division which is due to deploy to Germany next September on Exercise Certain Shield.

The division is to be created and trialled as part of a study into the best way to contribute to the defence of central Europe following the successful Paris Charter agreement on the level of conventional forces.

Components of the division will be the 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and 24 Airmobile Brigade based at Catterick, North Yorkshire, Germany's 27 Luftlande Brigade, Belgium's Regiment Para Commando and the Royal Netherlands Air Force Light Aircraft Group.

About 150 officers met for two days at York to discuss the concept and battle procedures. The occasion was considered a great success and a milestone in co-operation between Nato allies.

Gen Sir Peter Inge, Commander of Nato's Northern Army Group, said there was a greater need in the post Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) period for airmobile and air mechanised forces.

operational and organisational business.

In particular, he was responsible for planning the Army's "Options for Change" in response to the ending of the Cold War.

Gen Swinburn was commissioned into the 17th/21st Lancers from RMA Sandhurst and served with the regiment in Germany, Hong Kong, Aden, the Gulf, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. He commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade in Soltau from 1982-84 and later the 1st Armoured Division.

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## Get that Down Under you

During a whistle-stop tour of British Army units in Germany and the United Kingdom, the Rev **Ernie Sable**, Principal Chaplain of the Royal Australian Army (centre), enjoyed lunch at the Steward Training Wing, Army School of Catering, Aldershot. Before

sitting down he found time to pull a pre-meal tippie for his host, the Rev **Robin Laird** (right), Senior Chaplain, South East District Chaplains' Department.

Checking his prowess is LCpl **Philip Hutton**.

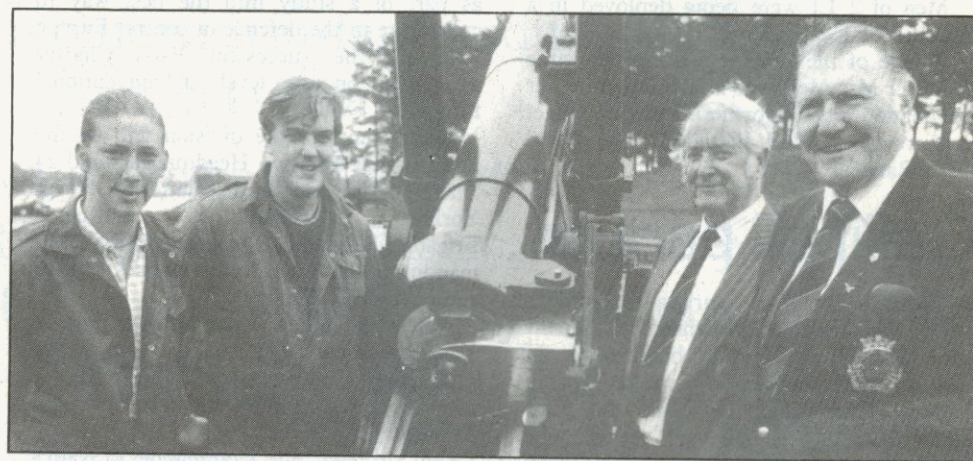


Tasty work, if you can get it! Capt **John Dunford**, adjutant of 3 RRW, samples the cooking on Exercise Welsh Combat Caterer. Waiting for their helpings are RSM **David Goddard** and the QM, Maj **Tony Davies**. While the cooks were going about their business, the TA battalion's fleet-footed soldiers were competing in a ten-mile race over the Brecon Beacons as a trial for the Welsh 1,000, in which the battalion traditionally enters a strong team.

## Sizzling weekend



Joining the TA turned out to be a bit of a busman's holiday for Cpl **Liz Walker**. She cooks at a hostel for handicapped people in Sheffield during the week. Liz, who is with HQ Coy, 4th Bn, Yorks Vols, cooked for 400 soldiers during a recent 36-hour exercise in North Yorkshire. She and other cooks fried up 1,000 eggs and 50lb of bacon ... and brewed countless gallons of tea.



Apprentices at 34 Base Workshops, REME, Donnington, have restored an old 5.5in gun to exhibition standard. It is to be exhibited at The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry museum at Chorley, Lancs. Pictured at the handing over ceremony are (from left) App **Craig Edwards**, Craft Auxiliary **Andrew Davies**, and ex-Battery Sergeant Majors **Ken Lingard** and **Jack Wilson**.

Both veterans were Battery Sergeant Majors of the wartime 103 Battery, 77th (DLOY) Medium Regiment RA.

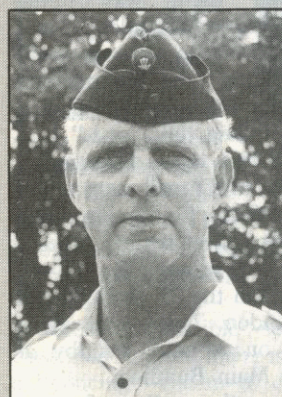
## Son of a gun!

## Rock role for Gurkha officer

An interesting task faces Maj **John Burlison** (right). After nearly 30 years service, mainly with Gurkhas, he is helping The Gibraltar Regiment convert from artillery to the infantry role and its expansion to one Regular and two TA companies plus a headquarters.

Maj **Burlison** joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1959 and transferred to the 2nd Gurkha Rifles two years later.

He took up his new appointment after being 2iC of 1/2 GR at Church Crookham, Aldershot.



Buglers are very much part of the tradition of The Royal Green Jackets, and the position requires the musician to learn up to 45 calls. Results of the prestigious bugle competition held by the 1st Battalion at Osnabrück determine the jobs that the buglers will be given. Our picture shows the top three from the latest competition. From left are Bugler **Andrew White** (Adjutant's Bugler), LCpl **Richard Easton** (Regimental Sergeant Major's Bugler) and Bugler **Matthew Hinchcliffe** (Commanding Officer's Bugler). Fourth placed bugler becomes the HQ Company bugler, fifth A Company and so on.

## Sounds like a top job

## Double honour for husband and wife team

Husband and wife **Paul and Belinda Wyszatycey**, both sergeants serving in 211 (Wessex) Field Hospital, have each received Lord Lieutenant's Certificates for outstanding service to the Territorial Army. Belinda joined the QARANC (V) in 1979, enlisting with 211 Fd Hosp in Exeter

where she met and married Paul. In 1987 they were posted together to the new Taunton detachment which they have developed into a successful sub-unit.



# PEOPLE

## Long-serving Wicky gets another medal

★ LCpl **Wicky Jones** (right) joined the Army in ★ 1949 as a boy bugler in ★ the Herefordshire Light ★ Infantry. Forty-one years ★ later, and 57 years old ★ this month, Wicky has ★ been presented with the ★ BEM. Now serving with ★ HQ Sqn of the Royal ★ Monmouthshire Royal ★ Engineers (Militia), he ★ has a rare talent as a ★ bugler and has played at ★ countless pageants and ★ military occasions all over ★ the world. ★ Wicky also holds the ★ UN Korean War Medal, ★ the British Korean War ★ Medal, and the TA and ★ Volunteer Reserve Long ★ Service Medal with bar.

★ When the TA reorganised in 1967 he reverted to ★ private from the rank of corporal to continue his ★ service, and has since turned down promotion many ★ times to remain with the Bugles and Corps of Drums. ★

## Rapid RRF

Cpl **Tim Hughes** (right) of D Coy, 5 RRF from Bury was the fastest military competitor at the sponsored individual competition on the Krypton Factor TV course at Holcombe Moor, Lancs. His team was the fastest and received trophies from TV presenter **Gordon Burns**. The Army Benevolent Fund was one of the beneficiaries.





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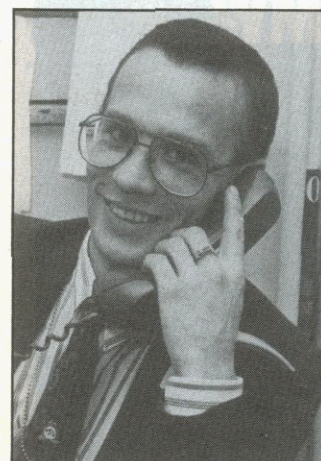
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## Gulf crisis stretches the Royal Engineer posties who process the MoD's top secret mail



Above - Sgt Tony Curtis in the Ops Room. He helped to set up a distribution system in Saudi Arabia

Left - Cpl John Pickering (left) and Cpl Ian Bangs weigh classified material

Right - Lt Col Barry Cash, CO Defence Courier Service, and Maj Sarah Carey who runs the military end of the operation

**Words:**  
**Jennifer Griffiths**  
**Pictures:**  
**Mike Weston**



# DELIVERY SECURED

STAFF at the Defence Courier Service, Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, are working flat-out to cope with about 20 per cent more Ministry of Defence mail - classified from top secret downwards - relating to the Gulf crisis.

They are currently flying out an extra 1,000lb of classified material a week to Saudi Arabia, while about 200,000 items are dealt with each day at the depot in St Giles Court, London.

The team is headed by Lt Col Barry Cash, whose 237 staff comprise 25 soldiers, one Royal Navy policeman, 42 defence couriers, and civil servants, messengers and paper keepers, who sort out the mail.

Col Cash likens his department to "the heart that pumps the blood of the MoD."

He explained: "Many people say that the Ministry lives on paper. If you can call paper the blood of the MoD then you can classify us as the heart."

He said the Gulf crisis had considerably increased their workload and his staff, who were working long hours, were loyal and devoted.

Maj Sarah Carey, who looks after the military side of the operation, said:

"In 1985 the Defence Courier Service assumed the responsibility for the Civil

Service Messenger System. They had been running parallel, but not together, for some years.

"There have been many difficulties in achieving commonality, but they are growing closer now that they have common documentation and a common system of working practice.

"It is fair to say we are still something of a hybrid. We have two separate, but very closely working together, systems. Though there was initial resistance on both sides because they did not know much about each other, the co-operation between military and civilian staff is now very good."

The two main departments are the MoD mail service and the Defence Courier Service.

Vans collect several times a day - in a secure link - all the mail from the 21 MoD houses in London. There is always a team on 24-hour standby at MoD Main Building.

They also collect from a terminal at RAF Brize Norton, from several bases on the South Coast, and there is a nightly run

to MoD Bath.

The drivers are civilians from 20 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, Regents Park, with St Giles Court providing the messengers to travel with them to ensure safe delivery.

Meanwhile, St Giles Court is a hub of activity, sorting out mail arriving from one run to go out on another, along with incoming overseas mail.

There is a post room which acts as an interface between MoD mail and the Post Office. The current budget for posting Royal Mail is £570,000, a reduction on last year's sum.

Wherever possible second class mail is used. There is also a "policing" system to check that official mail is what it claims to be - and not Christmas cards, corps magazines, and so on.



WO2 James Murray (left), in charge of the London Courier Terminal, and Royal Navy policeman PO Ken Rodgers who deals with ship mail

When it is suspected that the system is being abused, mail is intercepted. "Policing" inquiries start at a very high level in the department from which the item originated.

Employed on more sensitive work are the defence couriers, who are all ex-officer or ex-warrant officers from the three Services. They are the

military equivalent of the Queen's Messenger Service and enjoy diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention.

While the Queen's Messengers are responsible for the movement of diplomatic mail from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to overseas embassies, consulates and high commissions, defence couriers deliver classified items for the MoD to its locations worldwide for the three Services.

Vacancies for the prestigious courier jobs are much sought-after. Candidates face a stringent selection procedure which can take up to a year. The attraction is the opportunity of foreign travel.

Destinations that are regularly visited include Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, America, Hong Kong, Belize, Falkland Islands, Brunei, Cyprus and Gibraltar. 'Specials' could be anywhere at any time. The tasks are allocated so that every courier has a share of exotic places.

Col Cash said that previous military experience was

considered essential because it trained couriers to deal in a loyal, professional and diplomatic way with different and unusual situations they might encounter abroad.

"It is this background of expertise and resourcefulness on which we can capitalise. It is especially useful when people try to insist on seeing what they are carrying and they have to persuade them it is not possible."

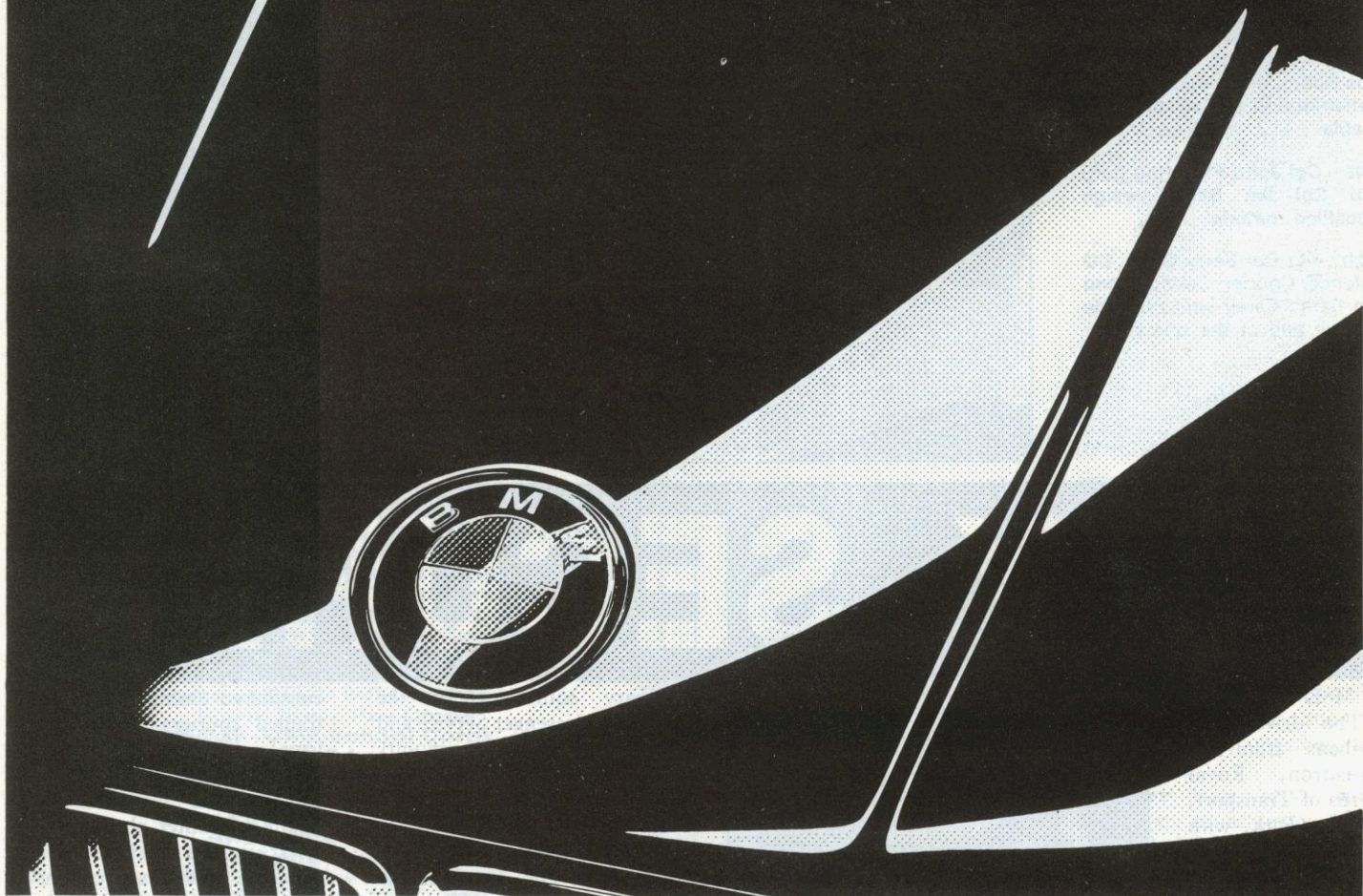
While Army and Royal Air Force deliveries of classified items may be relatively easy, Royal Navy ships can be a problem to reach, especially when they have been diverted unexpectedly!

But the couriers and messengers - like the man on the Milk Tray advertisement - are always resourceful, and like the Pony Express, the mail must get through.

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# Op Granby families

THE Army is being seen at its caring best by ensuring the finest possible conditions prevail back in Germany for the families of soldiers deployed in the Gulf, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

As Maj John Harcuss, SO2 G1 (PS) at Verden HQ 1st Armoured Division, explained: "The main priority after getting 7 Armoured Brigade away was to ensure we were not going to lose the 'war' at home."

After soldiers left for Op Granby various new concessions and enhancements were quickly implemented on travel and financial aspects, and a mobility package was agreed.

Families had an important say in decisions on new facilities – the views of the wives of commanding officers in the Gulf and representatives of wives' clubs were sought.

Maj Harcuss, whose responsibilities include soldiers' welfare, said it was vital that once measures were agreed, they were quickly and widely publicised. All the indications now were of "satisfied customers".

Innovations include:

- Centralisation of services, such as legal, postal, travel, welfare in information centres with reliable news from the Gulf;
- Exchange of videos with family activities on film swapped for recordings of life on Op Granby;
- Wider choice of social activities, including day and night classes, outings, and even lessons in .22 rifle shooting;
- Booklets listing where to go for which services;
- Regimental magazines with news from Germany sent to the Gulf;
- Manpower to help wives move into new married quarters;
- Home start service for wives whose cars break down – with minor repairs taken on – just a phone call away;
- A telephone room where wives can speak in comfort and privacy;
- A mini flat for emergency use;
- A "wall" for messages to be sent to the Gulf.

The information centres are on standby 24-hours a day, providing a vital link for wives.



"There's Daddy!" Great excitement for Charmaine (3), Emily (6) and Julianne (2), and their mum, Mrs Julie Brice, as they spot SSgt Lewis Brice, SQMS of 1 Sqn, 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, on a video from the Gulf

## Winning ways on Home Front



Above – Mrs Eileen Sawrey, Cpl Chris Sawrey, CSgt Graham Wilson and Capt Peter Smith discuss a booklet for 1 Staffords' families  
Above right – Mrs Manuela Coomber, wife of Sgt Richard Coomber, REME, with Louise and Mrs Anne Stanley, wife of Sgt Frank Stanley, REME, and Simon (3) record a "wall" message  
Right – Mrs Caroline Coacalugh, SSgt Chad Chadbourne and Capt Nikki Marshall in Fallingbowl Families' Centre



Their value throughout is typical of that experienced by Capt Peter Smith, Families Officer, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment.

He said: "Nothing is insurmountable. It may take

more than one phone call or longer than a day to sort out, but we always find a solution.

"Morale among wives is very good with most wives going into the same gear they use while their husbands are on a

Northern Ireland tour or on exercise, with the more mature wives helping the less experienced to cope.

"I find wives know what to do, they are prepared for it, and crack on with life."

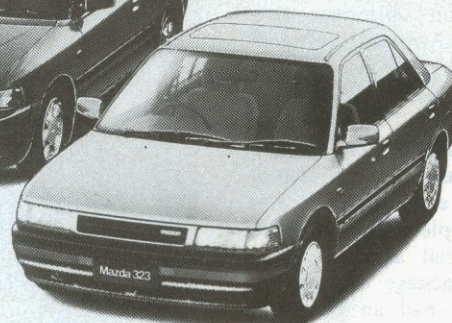
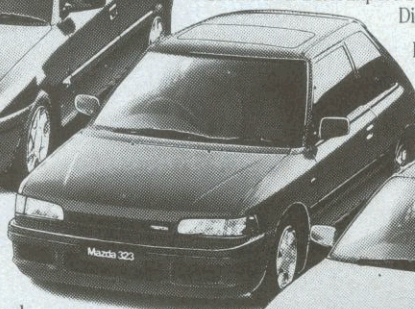
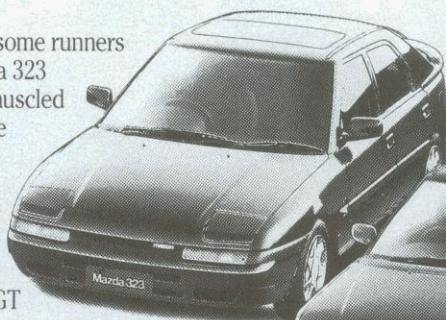


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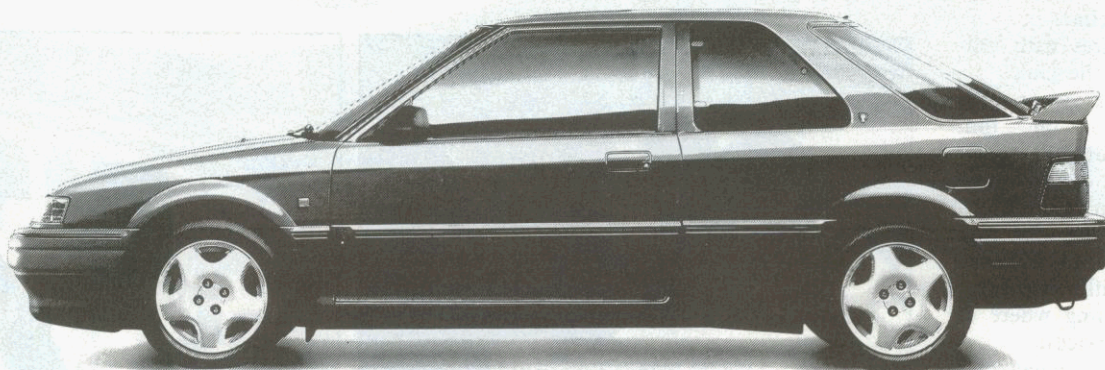
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# Anne



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## 'Reds' join the Force

PARCELFORCE is delivering – to the Forces. The striking red vans and aircraft are now taking HM Forces parcels overseas at special rates.

There are two rates – standard, taking five working days to most destinations at civilian rates; and economy, the lower cost option, which can take between two and six weeks to certain destinations.

A red leaflet available at all Post Offices and BFPOs gives all the necessary information clearly. A letter rate leaflet is also worth studying.

A freephone hotline has been set up to deal with Gulf postal queries. The number is 0800-224466.



Picture: Mike Weston

Are you reading us: Books and magazines collected in the Aldershot area are prepared for dispatch to the Gulf at SOLDIER's offices. Front, Anne Armstrong, Jerry Kennard of TNT Express, WO2 Jerry Burnan, and Tina Foulger with son Christopher; rear, Caroline Wills of SOLDIER, Elaine Lythe, Joyce Bellwood and Gill Town

## Tax tips, free

**PROBLEMS of Servicemen making the transition to civilian life were highlighted in a recent BBC TV Advice Shop programme.**

**These included housing and starting a business. Some Servicemen have had to live with a failed business.**

**The Inland Revenue has published an easy-to-read booklet containing information on what the tax office will need from you – such as business records, the tax consequences of having a business partner, claiming expenses against tax and your rights if you disagree with the tax bill.**

**Free copies are available from the Inland Revenue.**

# Book bonanza

## Wives spark express reaction

WIVES of soldiers serving in the Gulf and elsewhere have sparked a joint effort to solve a communication problem – and make those quiet hours in the desert less bleak.

When Joyce Bellwood, whose husband is serving with 22 Field Ambulance, wrote to me about the high postage rates for sending much-needed books and magazines to husbands in the Middle East, it set off a chain reaction.

One immediate result was that details of special Gulf postage rates were circulated to all post offices (see story elsewhere on this page).

Another response was for SOLDIER, with the help of wives and families, to launch an appeal for books and magazines to send to soldiers in the Gulf.

Wives of men serving with 22 and 33 Field Hospital, Aldershot, and

members of SOLDIER staff set about organising a collection. Then a phone call resulted in "the two Jerrys" joining the cause – and a dispatch to the Gulf was under way.

WO2 Jerry Burnan, of the Logistic Executive (Army) – whose job involves the loading of ships – and Mr Jerry Kennard, of TNT Express, freely gave their services to transport the consignment to Marchwood to catch the November 25 sailing.

In contrast to the heat of the Gulf, it was a cold damp morning when I met 33 Field Hospital wives who were enjoying a coffee

morning in an otherwise deserted Aldershot camp.

The group agreed the mail service had so far been very good – but at £15 for ten minutes the cost of telephone calls from the Gulf was a worry.

Local firms had been extremely kind, with generous donations for their children's Christmas party – crisps and cola from Nurdin and Peacock, cake from Safeways, goodie bags from Woolworths, mince pies and drinks from Naafi, biscuits from Boots and paper cups and napkins from W H Smith.

● I spoke to the Ministry of Defence, who were aware of the difficulties concerning cost and delays of phone calls between the Gulf and Germany/UK. Various schemes were being discussed with British Telecom and Mercury and results were expected. More details in Page 5.

## Let's follow lead of the Irish

WE could take a leaf out of an Irish book when it comes to providing an information pack for the British families of soldiers serving in the Gulf.

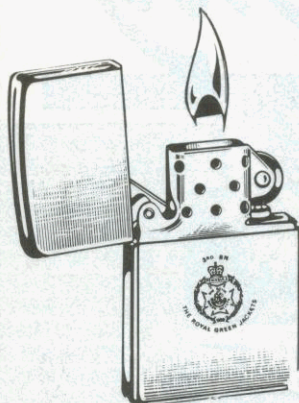
The pack provided by the Irish Defence Forces for families of personnel serving in United Nations Peacekeeping Forces is the best I have seen.

When I showed it to British Army wives they agreed it could form a very useful basis for a similar series aimed at families of Gulf personnel.



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## A shepherd moves with his flock

Members of Arthritis Care in South West Scotland may have been wondering where their regional organiser, Peter Clapton, has got to. He has been missing for the past few months.

The answer is first Germany, secondly Saudi Arabia.

Peter, a hill farmer from Balbeg, Straiton, Ayrshire, was on his TA annual camp (he is a former Scots Guardsman who belongs to Central Volunteer Headquarters) when the Gulf crisis developed.

Because the TA exercise was cancelled, he was switched to work as a staff officer on Op Granby. His job was connected with the formation of the Force Maintenance Area – at the port where all the ships have been unloading.

Someone said, jokingly, that he should move with them and he took them at their word.

When the staff of the FMA arrived in Saudi Arabia Maj Peter Clapton, Scots Guards (right), was with them.

"I thought I could afford a little more time away from the farm," he said. "The sheep and cows are very good at looking after themselves."

Peter keeps rare belted Galloways and was pleased to hear from home that he was going back to two new calves.

Before leaving for the TA annual camp Peter, who has been working for Arthritis Care, a national charity, for about ten years, was in the process of forming new branches at Stranraer and Troon. He'll be pitching into this task when he gets back.

He will have some explaining to do, however, to his wife, Sarah, and their three children. He was only expected to be away a fortnight!

## Regiment puts Bill in the picture

On November 8, 1917 at Huj in Palestine, 181 officers and men of the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry Regiments carried out what was to be one of the last classic cavalry charges.

Over a distance of almost 1,500 yards, against artillery and machine-guns, they over-

ran the enemy positions and routed a massively superior force of almost 2,000 troops.

Seventy-three years on, one of the men who took part in the charge was honoured by the successor regiment, The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, at a special lunch in Coventry.

Mr Bill Wood, formerly of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, received a copy of the Lady Butler painting immortalising the achievement. It was presented to him on behalf of the QOMY by Maj Cecil Weir, squadron leader of the regiment's Warwickshire and Worcestershire Squadron.

## SOLDIER to Soldier



Picture: Mike Weston

**Flying farewell:** A wave to the camera as Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, retiring Adjutant General, fulfils a lifetime's ambition by being taken on a flight in a Spitfire. During the half-hour spin from Leavesden Airfield, near Watford, the aircraft, owned by Mr Richard Parker, rolled and looped the loop. Gen Pascoe retired on December 27 to be succeeded by Gen Sir David Ramsbotham.



**Maj Peter Clapton** – sheep farmer who "strayed" to the Gulf

## Immortality for hero of Dewsbury

The bravery of the only Victoria Cross holder from Dewsbury, Yorkshire, may be immortalised by the naming of a road after him.

Sgt John William Ormsby, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, fought his bravest battle on April 14, 1917 when he dashed through heavy machinegun fire to capture an important enemy position.

When the only surviving officer was wounded he took command, organised his new position and held the line until relieved.

Members of the family still live in the Dewsbury area and many male descendants are named after him. Especially proud is grandson LCpl John Yarrow, who joined C Company of the 8th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry when it was raised in 1986.

He and his commanding officer, Lt Col Christopher Deedes, have visited the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Museum in Doncaster, where his great-grandfather's medals are on display.



# Drills shine through a short-lived crisis

FORCES in the Gulf breathed a huge sigh of relief after a full-scale chemical warfare alert was called following the launch of Scud missiles by Iraq, and SOLDIER was there to share the heart-stopping experience.

Writer Laurie Manton and photographer Mike Weston were, at the time of the alert, living under field conditions with a British Army higher formation at a desert location in Eastern Saudi Arabia as the drama unfolded.

Military intelligence experts monitoring satellite pictures of the region and AWAC early-warning radar aircraft gave notification that a number of missiles had been fired and a warning was flashed throughout the Gulf as troops were put through various stages of alert.

At SOLDIER's location, the formation was ordered into the highest level of chemical warfare alert and troops donned full IPE (Individual Protective Equipment), the first time in decades that the British Army had kitted up for real in response to such a threat.

For years, especially in BAOR, the British Army has practised its NBC drills and training paid off the moment the klaxon horns sounded a warning. From every direction, the yells of "Gas-Gas-Gas!" could be heard as the troops put on their respirators.

The headquarters complex under cam bristled with activity as duties were allocated. NAIAD and other teams were deployed to monitor contamination levels and report on their findings. Signallers and watchkeepers in the armoured command vehicles adjusted their headsets and continued to provide communications despite the difficulties of operating in full IPE.

Men not assigned to specific duties remained under cover and waited. The worst imaginable scenario faced the troops but there was no sign of panic as they faced the nightmare of chemical warfare without faltering. Calm professionalism and dedication to duty shone through.

Two rapid-response motor cycle-borne posties were delivering urgent dispatches and

**Iraqi warning  
missile tests seen as show of force  
Iraqi Scud-B missile alert  
by the allies**

**How British newspapers reported the Scud "attack"**

mails at the time of the alert and they attached themselves to a field detachment of 1 PC Regt RE where mail continued to be sorted despite the restrictions.

Three men crewing a massive Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicle were at their posts awaiting the call to provide REME support. They were from a Forward Recovery Group of 7 Armoured Workshop REME and their vehicle was aptly named *Charity*.

Troops everywhere were showing that quality and looking after their comrades

through the buddy-buddy system. In the headquarters, a computer screen flashed with a message indicating that the missile firing had been a test. The alert state could now be lowered.

Three men sat quietly in an exposed position on the desert sand. Two were observers who stared intently at their colleague – LCpl Woody Woodland, R Signals, who had volunteered to carry out the sniff test.

A detachment commander with 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) attached to an

element of the Support Helicopter Force, LCpl Woodland's was the job no one envied. To check for the presence of gas vapours, he broke the seal of his respirator and sniffed gently for ten seconds before resealing his mask.

Five minutes later he repeated the operation. If he suffered no ill effects, a report was passed to the local commander who signalled it up the chain of command.

All over the desert, man and machines were sniffing the atmosphere. Results were analysed and finally an order was issued to stand down. Respirator and noddie suit could be removed.

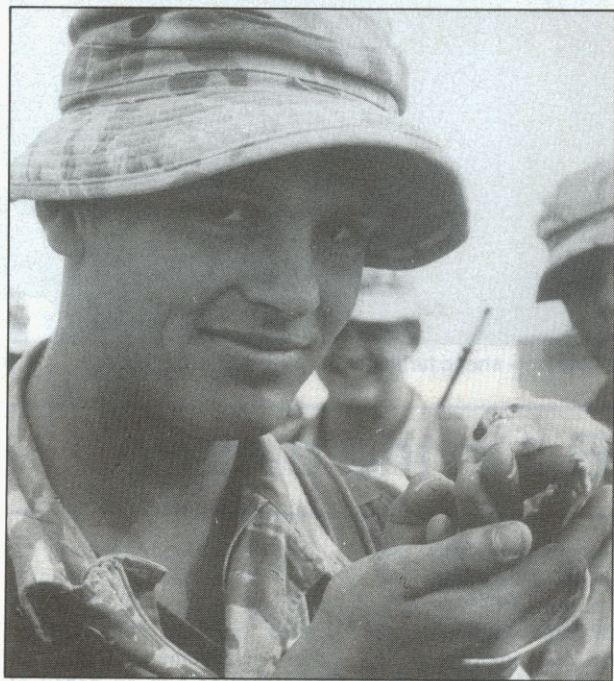
Normal duties resumed and those who were free made themselves and their chums a and well-earned cup of tea.

When the chips were down, training took over and the British squaddie did his duty. SOLDIER was proud to have been a first-hand witness.

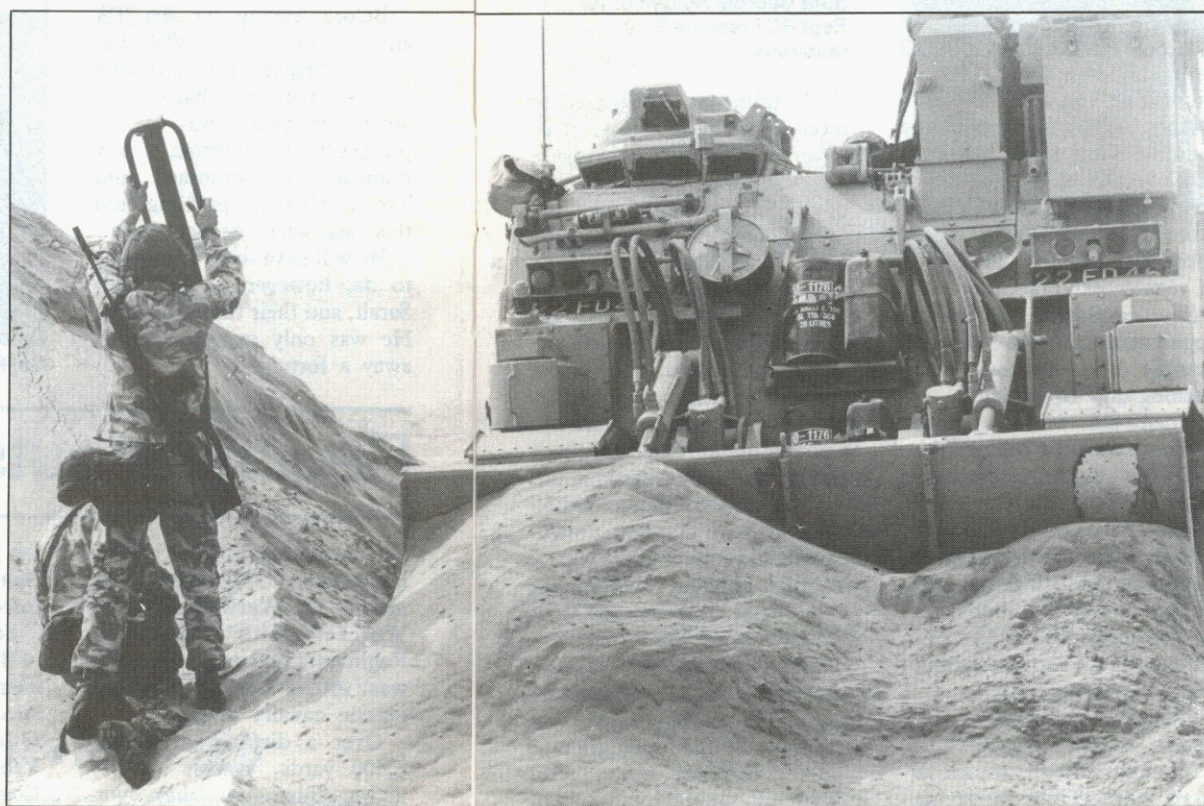


Giant Viper sails out over a desert minefield and (inset) detonates spectacularly to clear a passage for the QRIH tanks (below right)

## GIANT VIPER CLEARS THE WAY



Above – Latest recruit to join the Desert Rats is Jeremy the Jerboa, signed up for the duration by 21 Engr Regt and pictured here with Spr Ian Andrews  
Right – A combat engineer tractor smashes through a defensive sandbank



FOUR Giant Viper mine clearance devices provided a spectacular climax to a full-scale demonstration by combat engineers in the Saudi Arabian desert.

A 200m-long cord, six inches in diameter and packed with a ton of high explosive, is fired across a minefield and detonated on the surface.

The ensuing explosion destroys mines along a path 20ft wide and the length of two football pitches, leaving a clear route for tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

The sappers of 21 Engineer Regiment were demonstrating their capability to breach Iraqi defences around Kuwait should they be called upon to do so.

Intelligence reports indicate that Iraq has lined the border with defences that include anti-tank ditches and "berms" (high sandbanks) that protect defenders.

The sappers moved up a number of combat engineer

tractors (CETs) to clear a berm. The versatile tracked vehicles made short work of the sandbank, pushing sand into an anti-tank ditch to provide a bridge.

Some of the larger ditches were traversed by the Chieftain bridgelayer or Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB). Others were filled with fascines – bundles of heavyweight plastic tubing over which the following vehicles drive.

Once breached or bridged, the obstacles were quickly surmounted by QRIH Challenger main battle tanks and Warriors of 1 Staffords.







# NBC cells aim to get it right

DR SAMUEL JOHNSON, 18th Century philosopher and wit, said that nothing concentrated a man's mind so much as the knowledge that he was about to be hanged the following morning. Much the same may be said about the cry: "NBC Black. Dress Category Three Romeo - Noduf."

It is the "Noduf" bit that has the impact. It means that the alert state is genuine and not an exercise.

NBC Dress Category One requires troops to put on their protective suits less boots and gloves; Category Two and the boots go on; Category Three and the gloves . . . and as the threat mounts, respirators (Three Romeo).

In the atmosphere prevailing in the Gulf, a false alarm may be inconvenient but it can serve a useful purpose.

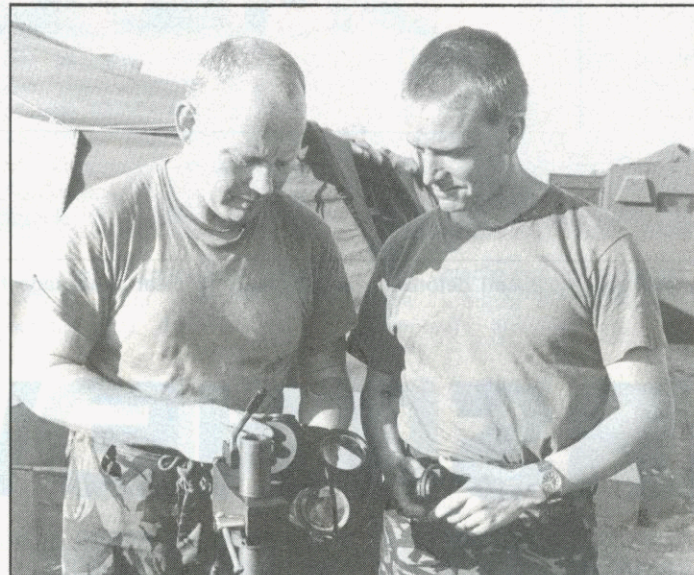
A recent "Noduf" made Tom think once again about the reality of the situation.

For the first time since the Second World War a British force is subject to a chemical warfare threat level which requires troops to carry their individual protective equipment (IPE) all the time.

On duty it must never be more than a few feet away . . . off duty it must always be at hand. Kit rolls lying outside the long row of "tardis" lavatories



NBC experts. From left are Sgt David McCafferty (27 Fd Regt RA), Cpl Dave Wiggins (4/7 DG), Bdr Mick Porter (33 Armd Bde), Maj Philip Mould (RCT) and Cpl Ernie Fuller (2 Queens). Behind them is a pill box covered with CARM - Chemical Agent Resistant Material



Above - the US Army respirator

Left - Cpl Gwilyn Hall and SSgt Geordie Holden of 10 Regt RCT repair a S-10 respirator

in a certain location tell their own story.

Conditions resemble those in Britain in 1939 and 1940 when every man, woman and child carried a civilian gas mask or service respirator.

Although the Germans, like the Allies, had stocks of chemical shells, they were not used on the battlefield. Hitler was reluctant to commit himself to this form of warfare.

Reluctance is not a quality for which Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president, is noted.

His forces used blister and nerve agents in the eight-year war against Iran and on defenceless Kurdish villages.

His picture may have flashed into quite a few minds when the "Noduf" announcement was made . . . it is on a poster displayed in British camps which urges the troops to get their NBC drills right as "he

won't give you a re-test".

And although they may grumble while sweating under two layers of clothing - desert combats under charcoal lined protective suit - the Toms appreciate the need and value of regular exercises.

The confidence which was apparent during the "Noduf" exercise is a tribute to their training and equipment.

Their IPE is held in the highest regard by other armies and the S-10 respirator is considered by experts to be the best in the world.

The current US respirator, though highly efficient, has to be removed if the filter has to be replaced. The wearer can replace the S-10 filter without exposing his face.

(A new US mask is to be issued, it is understood.)

Though British troops arrived in the Gulf comprehen-

sively trained and prepared to meet a chemical threat, steps have been taken to make sure standards are maintained and developments monitored.

NBC advisers and cells have been established at all levels . . . at Riyadh, at the Force Maintenance Area and in the field at HQ 7 Armd Bde.

A team of instructors from the NBC Centre at Winterbourne Gunner deployed in October under Maj Colin Flack and Capt Leslie Wastie.

With them went an all Service team of instructors - Sgt Dave Chambers, RPC; Sgt Geordie Hughes, KOSB; Sgt Pete Carter, RM and Sgt Mick Richardson, RAF Regt.

Maj Philip Mould, RCT, a chemical warfare specialist at the HQ FMA, gave an overview of the situation:

"We certainly have a real threat to contend with on Op

# It ain't 'alf hot for the baker boys

AMONG the many unsung heroes of Op Granby are the 15 men who make up the British Army's only mobile bakery, currently producing 14,000 rolls or 2,000 loaves every day for the soldiers of the 7th Armoured Brigade.

They are being described as "heroes" because they have to endure temperatures up to 60°C when their ovens are working at full capacity.

In charge is WO2 (Master Baker) Peter King. He and his team are from the Bulford-based AMF(L) bakery section of 91 Ordnance Company RAOC.

"Primary trade of all my men is storeman, and we normally bake only when on exercise. Here on Granby we deliver the finished product to a supply depot run by 91 Ord Coy, from where it is taken to distribution points and collected by units nightly."

Until recently, the section had been producing a variety of cakes and buns.

"Sadly, we had to cease production of stickies now the brigade has reached full strength - much to the disappointment of the lads," said WO2 King.

"The mobile bakery fits on the back of two 4-ton vehicles and previously saw service in the Falklands during Operation

Corporate," explained Maj Jim Wilberforce, OC 91 Ord Coy.

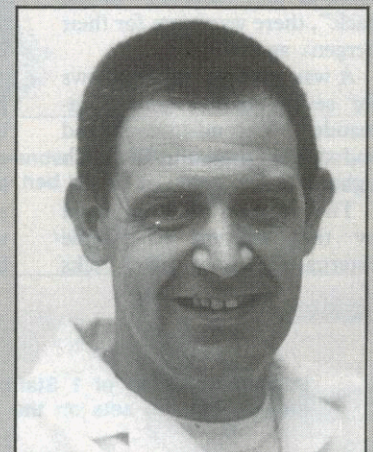
The 15-man team of bakers and baker's assistants are split into two shifts working 24 hours a day.

Rolls are baked for the front-line troops, who use them to supplement ORPs (operational ration packs). Under cover of darkness, ration parties move back from forward units to collect bread, fruit and soft drinks.

Below - Battle-ready baker Pte Saul Clissold does the rounds



Mobile bakers at work. From left are Pte Clissold, Cpl Simmo Simler, Pte Julian Pratt, Pte Andy Barston, Cpl Scott Roberts and Pte Allan Cuthbert holding the tray



WO2 (Master Baker) Peter King

Granby. Fortunately a high degree of intelligence was available from Iraq's past operations in the Middle East, showing her chemical warfare tactical teaching and capability.

"The most likely chemicals to be used should it come to an attack are thickened blister or nerve agents - emulsified liquids which stick to material and provide a persistent threat.

"The classic method of delivery would be in the middle of the night when conditions are cool and winds are light.

"The liquid would seep into crevices and cracks and after the initial hazard there would be a residual vapour hazard

after sun up."

In the worst case this could lead to the contamination of rear areas for up to 48 hours . . . but this was, he stressed, the worst case scenario.

"However, with the weathering effect of sun and wind, especially in the desert which is not a good contact surface for chemicals, we would hope by midday after an attack to be 95 per cent clear of the hazard."

The NBC experts were aware of the different problems facing men in the desert and logistic units occupying static positions in the rear. Whereas the first could simply move away from an affected area the second

would have to respond differently and steps had been taken in this direction.

In a recent article in *Stars and Stripes*, the US Army magazine, Col Michael Dunn, commander of the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, is quoted as saying: "Iraq experienced its greatest success against unprotected civilians and such irregular forces as the Revolutionary Guards, who all wore beards for religious reasons and couldn't get a seal on their protective masks."

Col Dunn said his main concern was to counter the effects of mustard gas . . . "far

and away" the largest cause of chemical casualties during the Iran-Iraq war.

The Allied troops, however, had not only effective antidotes but a substance which could be taken several hours before possible exposure and could "greatly enhance the effectiveness of the other antidotes".

In his opinion the main thing that the Iraqis themselves had to communicate (at an international conference held a year ago) was for troops under attack not to panic.

Judging by the British reaction to the Noduf situation, this lesson has been learned already.



# How the Warrior Angels fell from grace



A tight squeeze inside Warrior for men of call-sign 31, A Coy, 1 Staffords

LIKE the good soldiers they are, the men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment have adapted themselves and their equipment to the circumstances of the Gulf.

The desert Warrior has lost the sharp lines associated with it at Sennelager, Hohne and Warminster.

In the past, with perhaps three or four riflemen "in the back", there was room for their bergens and weapons.

A war strength which allows for seven soldiers plus commander, second-in-command and driver made the fit much tighter.

The situation has been eased by the addition of simple external eight-foot metal racks

on the hull which can carry six jerricans of water and rations.

In some platoon commanders' "wagons" a table has been removed to make more room and crews share bergens.

In section vehicles the troops have cut down kit to the minimum, using day bergens.

Anything needed for fighting is kept inside - NBC suits, weapons and ammunition - along with sleeping bags which need protection from the sand.

Pieces of surplus netting used by dockside cranes slinging loads ashore have also been adapted to contain hold-alls on the

front of vehicles. Something else was about to appear on the sides of the Stafford Warriors when SOLDIER called . . . names.

At call-sign 31 of A Company a deep discussion under the cam net came up with *Archangel* - the commander being Cpl Keith Heaven, a genial giant of a man.

Other A Coy names mentioned included *The Anthill Mob*. Some disappointment

was expressed when it was realised that "A" is not the first letter of *Obliterate*.

As it turned out later the

problem was solved for them. It had been decided to call fighting vehicles after the Battle Honours gained by the North and South Staffordshire Regiments.

The commanding officer's vehicle has become *Ferozeshah* after a desperate Sikh War battle and others bear the titles *Mesopotamia* and *Tigris*, reminders of the Staffords' previous involvement in the Middle East.

*Archangel*-that-nearly-was has become *Arnhem*.

The crew were a mixture and included the platoon gunnery sergeant, Sgt Ray Bethune, of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, and LCpl Wayne Barley, Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regim-

ent, the second-in-command. You wouldn't have known unless they'd told you, however - the comradeship indicated they belonged to the same family, regardless of their military origins.

About 5pm the sun dropped swiftly beyond the horizon and in the time-honoured and proven tradition the Staffords stood to, manning turrets and trenches (actually holes in the sand) in the dark.

The threat lay away to the north, but good habits are worth cultivating.

A strange stillness descended over the camouflaged and tactically-spaced Warriors . . . sound-proof tension if there is such a thing.

Then came standdown and the relaxed soldiers gathered round their vehicles in the deepening darkness. It was impossible to tell who was offering who a sip from their mug of tea. A lively but subdued conversation took place, while from nearby came the muffled clink of the indefatigable REME light aid detachment at work.

The Saudi Arabian desert is not noted for its night life (creepy-crawlies excepted) and after a display of shooting stars men went to bed by the side of their vehicles.

Sentries changed during the night and at 4.30 shoulders where shaken and the words "stand to" muttered.

This time all men got into the Warrior and the rear door was closed by the powerful hydraulic ram. Kit was stowed and, on a word, the cam nets would have been hoisted aboard before the vehicle set off.

As it was, the company didn't hang about. A quick shave using the wing mirrors, a flurry of dun netting and the desert was empty of all but the Land Rovers of visitors. One got stuck in the sand later and a Warrior appeared as if by magic to tow it to firmer ground.

The "wagons", as the Staffordshire men call them, have won the confidence of their crews. They seem to take to the desert naturally, and though some minor problems needed sorting out in the heat, these have been solved and no

The crew of call-sign 31 (commander Cpl Keith Heaven) of A Coy on their Warrior, *Arnhem*. They had hoped to name it *Archangel*



External racks and nets add to Warrior's capacity

one was able to recall a vehicle losing a track.

Like the driver of the

stranded Land Rover, it is good to know the Warriors (and the Staffords) are around.

Dusk patrol. Men of 1 Staffords on foot as the sun sets on the desert





## Army paramedics team up with RAF Puma crews



# The flying 'docs'

A MILESTONE in British Army and Royal Air Force co-operation has been reached on a busy airfield in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, where combat medical technicians of the Royal Army Medical Corps are being integrated into the Support Helicopter Force which backs up the 7th Armoured Brigade.

The men belong to Collecting Troop, 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance, normally stationed at Catterick.

From both sides of the fence the experiment is looking highly promising.

For Collecting Troop the voyage to the Gulf began on the M5. Two coach loads of personnel from 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance were heading for adventurous training at Tenby, Wales, when a police car signalled them to halt.

"We thought we were being stopped for speeding," said Lt Stuart Campbell, who commands the troop, "but it turned out that a police helicopter had been asked to find us and directed a road patrol to tell us we were wanted elsewhere."

Reinforced by members of 19 Field Ambulance from

Colchester, 24 Field Ambulance assembled at Saighon Camp, near Chester, and a Puma flew in to help in the training programme.

When they arrived in the Gulf, Collecting Troop moved to an airfield where the Pumas of the Support Helicopter Force were concentrating, their "pink" desert camouflage in marked contrast to the dark black-green livery of the United States Marine Corps aircraft.

They promptly began training to become the fourth member of a Puma's crew – the others being the pilot, co-pilot and crewman.

The soldiers have since won warm praise from the fliers.

Flying Officer Andy Palmer, Puma crewman: "Unlike our own medics the troops are all trained to work in the field rather than a medical centre . . . on the floor of a helicopter, the middle of the desert, anywhere."

"Though all aircrew receive medical training we have nothing like the expertise of these combat med techs, so



LCpl Steve Davies of Collecting Troop, 24 Airmobile Fd Amb

their advice is invaluable.

"They fly on every trip we make. Everywhere we go they go. As we are not always going to be carrying casualties they are getting a quick make-ee learn-ee on how to be a crew member, and they're doing very well."

Pumas will probably be used to take ammunition and stores to the forward area carrying underslung loads.

On the way up to the front the RAMC men will act as observers, watching from the window on one side of the aircraft while the crewman watches from the other.

"Though we have electronic devices to detect threats, a lot of work still has to be done with the Mark I Eyeball," said Flying Officer Palmer.

Medical technicians will be ready to press the buttons which drop flares to decoy heat-seeking ground-to-air missiles.

For the extraction of wounded, the seats have been removed from the rear of the Pumas and harnesses attached to a loop of wire on the floor where seven casualties and their equipment can be carried.

Sgt Jimmy Smyth RAMC: "We live, work and eat with the Puma crews. We get briefed with them in the crew briefing room, pick up safety and survival kits there, NBC clothing and bleeper vest and go when they go."

During operations the

Cpl Bob Wilding (second from left) in the door of a Puma with (from left) Fg Off Andy Turner, Fg Off Andy Palmer and Flt Lt Richard Holmes, all of 230 (Tiger) Squadron RAF

combat medics would brief their pilots on the condition of the patients.

Said a pilot: "It is up to the medic to tell me what is wrong with the passengers because that helps me to decide how to fly the aircraft."

"There could be cases in traction and you wouldn't want to jink at all but fly smooth and straight."

"On the other hand another patient might be losing blood so you may have to make a harsh, fast flight to get him attention as quickly as possible."

Lt Col Paddy Magee, CO of 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance,



Lt Col Paddy Magee

says his men get regular clinical training within the unit and understand trauma life support.

"Since they've been training with helicopters for two years, it seemed sensible to allot this particular role to them. It is unique – and probably the most intimate RAF and Army integrated deployment in the whole of Operation Granby."

The colonel sums up the quality of his men in a few words – "they're airframe compatible . . . airframe friendly."

Col John Tinsley, Commander Medical, HQ British Forces Middle East: "The Pumas are fundamental to medical plans. In this particular theatre where the road systems found in Western Europe don't exist, they are essential in the task of evacuating casualties requiring urgent operations."

"The rest of the medical support is on the ground. The arrival of the Pumas has made us confident the medical plan is ready to go and will enable us to do the maximum amount for the greatest number of soldiers."



Cpl Clive Kitchener mans a Ptarmigan secondary access switch and message centre

# Ptarmigan's a winner

"STATE OF THE ART" is an overworked phrase but in the eyes of the US Marine Corps communications experts there is no better way to describe Ptarmigan.

The British secure system has made an outstanding impression on Americans in the Gulf and nowhere is it appreciated more than on a hillside in the north of Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

There, overlooking the cluster of camouflaged vehicles and tents which make up the headquarters of the 1st US Marine Division, are two unobtrusive box body lorries . . . SAS/MC or secondary access switch and message centre and a radio relay.

When SOLDIER called they were manned by 2nd Lt Ken Russell's detachment of 1 Squadron, 1st Armoured Divi-

sion Signal Regiment, though it was difficult to be sure just who was in occupation as three Marines and a signalman were spending an off-duty spell playing cards at a table under the cam net.

"We get on just fine," said Gunnery Sgt Hector Adorno, a big Californian serving in Comms Coy, HQ 1 "Mardiv".

The cordial Anglo-American relationship was vouched for by Cpl "Kitch" Kitchener, who repairs any technical faults, LCpl Simon Meadowcroft and Signalmen Craig Walker, Dean Bird and Taff Elston, the generator king.

Confirmation of the Marines'

high regard for Ptarmigan came from Capt Tim Phillips, liaison officer from Mardiv's communications electronics section.

"We need the Ptarmigan interface because it gives us a state-of-the-art digital communications system so we can contact the British brigade attached to us using either fax, data or voice capability."

"Ptarmigan gives them a unique capability . . . I'm sort of envious . . . I wish we had this system. It allows them to pick up the phone while they're on the move and talk covert (secure speech) to anyone in their directory."

The American system, though sophisticated, is not considered as comprehensive.

When Brig-Gen James Myatt, Commander 1 Mardiv, leaves his tactical command post to direct operations further afield Maj David Limb of the Parachute Regiment accompanies his staff in a Land Rover fitted with SCRA – single channel radio access – enabling him to maintain contact with 7 Bde while on the move.

In simple terms it is like having a secure car phone.

Maj Limb is also an integral part of 1 Mardiv.

"We have three British teams

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## System travels well

OP GRANBY has led to Ptarmigan being deployed outside BAOR for the first time.

By the time 7 Armd Bde was operational Ptarmigan was being used by more than 1,000 people and about 100 mobile phones were in service.

Maj Scott Ewing, OC 1 Sqn 1 Armed Div HQ and Signal Regiment, said that although lessons were being learned and re-learned in the desert the principles were the same as those applying in the Second

World War. One of the biggest problems was keeping the equipment operating in a hostile environment.

"It's like working with an abrasive . . . everything wears out quickly, tyres, the soles of your boots, generators . . ."

To counter this every item is being kept meticulously clean. Vacuum cleaners have been purchased locally to ensure the box bodies which house delicate equipment can be cleaned without dust being raised by brooms.





Ptarmigan operators (in trench, from left) LCpl Simon Meadowcroft, Sig Simon "Taff" Elston and Sig Craig Walker chat to US Marines

## Ptarmigan

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here. One is working in the divisional HQ ops room as part of the Intelligence cell.

"Another is the Signals detachment providing the Ptarmigan link to 7 Bde in the field and to every other British unit here, Army and RAF.

"The third team is the liaison officer (that's me) and my signaller dealing with day-to-day liaison and planning."

The British contribution seemed to be considerable, given their small numbers.

"The Int organisation have had a significant impact on the Int Cell and most clearly Ptarmigan is a great success story. Maybe one or two Americans are now regretting their decision to buy the French trunk node system."

He said the advantage of Ptarmigan was emphasised every evening in the desert where distances between units were great and night travel was difficult.

"Thanks to our system the Brigade chief-of-staff and the Commander can talk direct to all units from the point of entry to the theatre, right forward on a conference call that links everyone. It's like holding an 'O' Group by telephone and our US friends envy it."

From 1 Mardiv a drive over a flinty ridge led to Little



The team of Ptarmigan signallers based at the Forward Maintenance Area

Yorkshire. Cpl Willie Rushton from Bradford and LCpl Sid Coles from Selby belong to the rare breed of soldier which mans radio relay stations.

They are quite happy to live like hermits if necessary, two of them operating a four-tonner containing UHF radio sets and surrounded by aerials.

At Little Yorkshire they had the benefit of the company of a US Marine detachment and were taking the opportunity to promote the virtues of their home county's cuisine.

LCpl Coles, whose grandfather was a sapper at Alamein, and whose father served in

Aden, had scored a diplomatic success with his American friends by introducing them to sweet mincepies. He was proud of the fact that he and his chum had used a four-tonner to pull one of the vaunted American "Hummers" out of a slit trench one dark night.

Quite a drive away lay another vital link in the Ptarmigan chain.

At Trunk Node 041 a few million pounds' worth of equipment was carefully concealed in a quarry. The detachment consisted of 25 men under Lt Philip Wheeler, who celebrated SOLDIER's

arrival by having a haircut. The operation was carried out by LCpl Jacko Jackson, driver to the OC, Maj Scott Ewing, and appeared to be painless.

The Trunk Node may be likened to an automatic telephone exchange and passes its traffic by "shots" (radio paths) to other nodes to distribute.

The detachment had moved in only that day but it was a case of business as usual.

The squadron has spent years exercising in the forests of Germany and yet seemed to have taken to the desert naturally.

# PORCH PALS

"AND this request," said the American Forces Broadcasting DJ, "is for the boys on The Porch."

The Porch! If it conjures up a vision of a rocking chair on a verandah in the Deep South, forget it. Mint juleps are out.

The Porch is a bare slope overlooking a scrub-dotted plain in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

It is occupied by crack American missile troops, expert British signalmen and some of the most popular cooks ever to leave St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, home of the Army Catering Corps.

Oh, and there's a resident fox.

The first British soldiers to set foot on The Porch were Maj Scott Ewing, OC of 1 Squadron, 1st Armoured Division Signal Regiment, and Sgt Chris Hymas, reconnoitring a suitable site for a trunk node detachment (roughly, the Ptarmigan telephone exchange).

They found a place all right but it was on a rise overlooking the positions of a US Marine Corps missile unit which for tactical reasons was planning to move to the same spot.

No problem. After a chat it was decided that that particular bit of desert was big enough for both of them.

When the Marine combat engineers dug the new missile positions they levelled the ground and made scrapes for the Signalmen too.

After that Bravo Battery, 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion, did all it could to make the British comfortable.

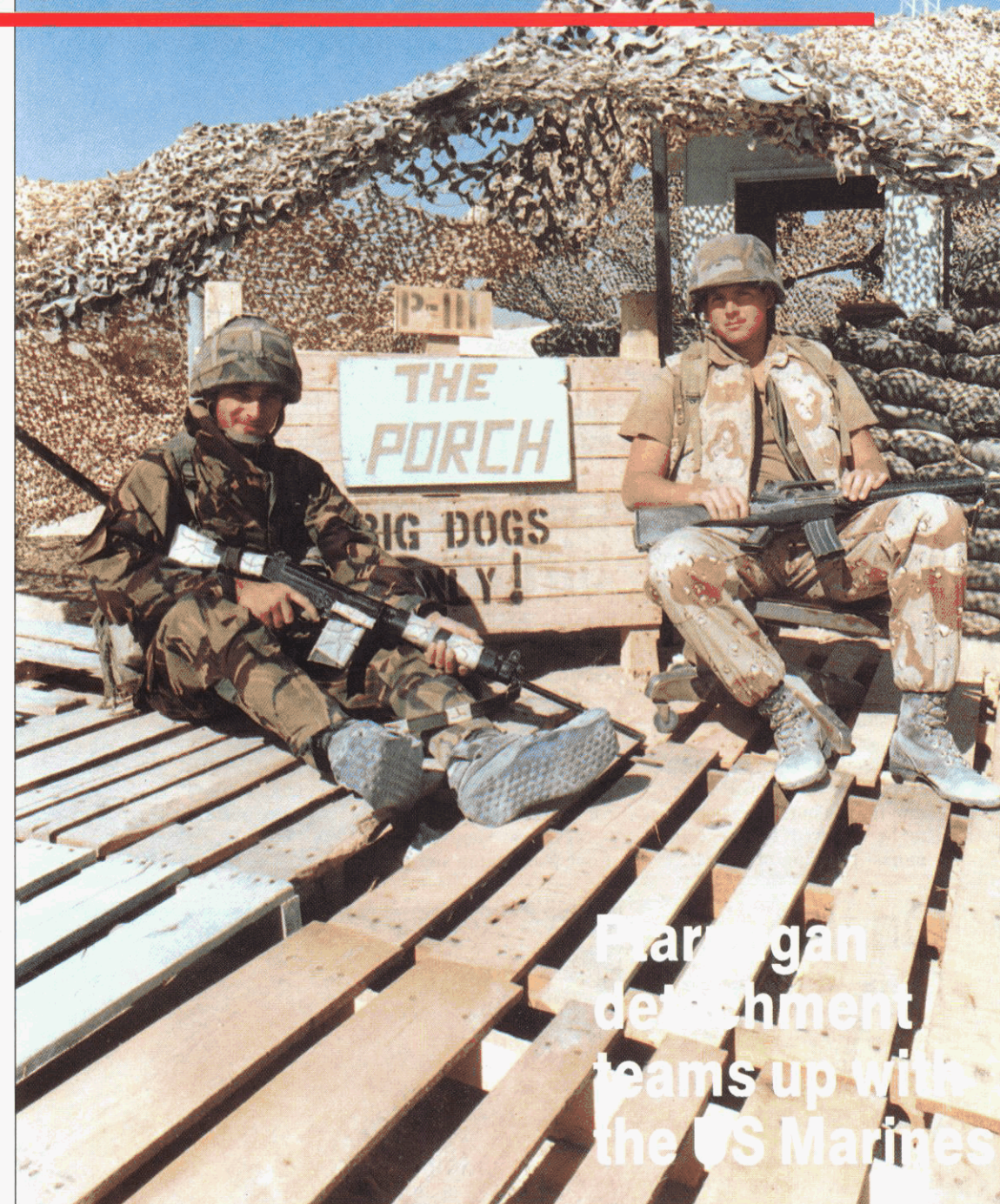
They provided everything from flak jackets to fruit juice and arranged for one of the excellent American tents to be delivered along with its wooden floor.

And they weren't having the best of times themselves.

The Marines' cooked rations had to travel some distance and what with that and the shift system being worked, the last men to get their food somehow lost their appetite.

They looked in admiration at the activities of LCpl Shaun Gravett, "ACC attached", in producing three good meals a day for more than 20 men.

Until the unit admin vehicle



Sig Lee Davis takes a break with Pte 1st Class Mark Phipps of the US Marine Corps

arrived he did it using "compo" and two saucepans and a frying pan on two electric hot plates.

When the stoves arrived the scene was transformed, especially as 100 per cent fresh rations became available.

Node commander Capt Neil Dewar saw an opportunity to repay some of the kindness received.

He sought and obtained official authority to feed the Marines.

When SOLDIER arrived, British and Americans were lunching at Marine-made pic-

nic tables in the dappled shade of a cam net.

It could have been a bistro in one of the more torrid parts of the South of France had it not been for the accumulated fire power all round and the rifles and respirators. And the absence of wine. There was cherry juice instead.

LCpl Gravett was absent sick but LCpl Steve Briggs, on loan from 21 Signal Regiment, and Pte Stewart McMillan were serving rissoles and chips followed by fruit.

An impressive dixie was

bubbling away with stew for the evening meal.

"You've got to feed growing boys," said LCpl Briggs, looking at a Marine who closely resembled the great Joe Louis.

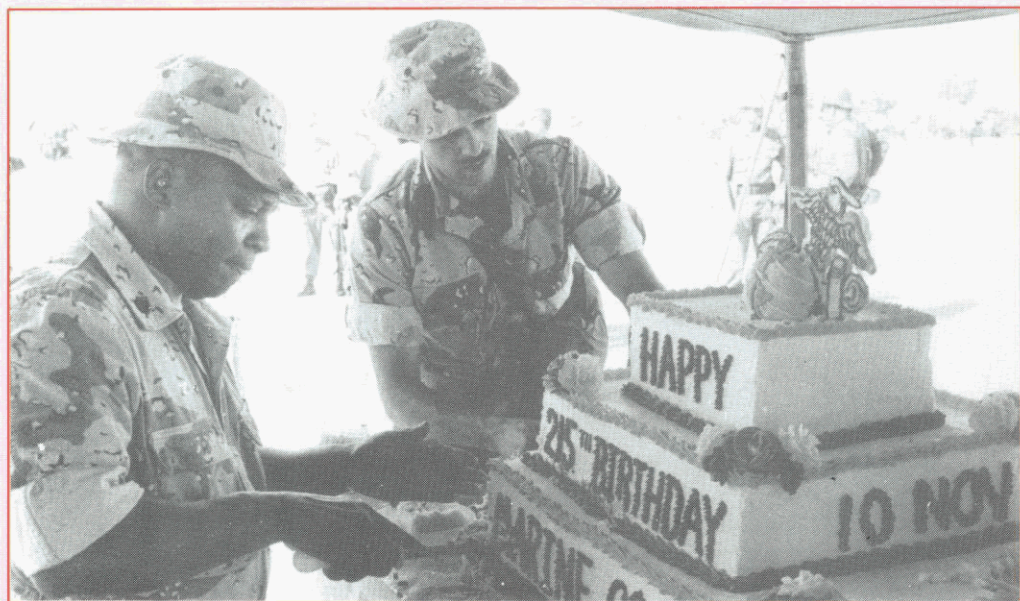
Messrs Briggs and McMillan are now experts at preparing hamburgers, the favourite food of the USMC.

American MREs - "meals ready to eat" and the equivalent of British compo - are also going down well. With a desert fox.

He became attached to the

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The first cut is made in the US Marines' birthday cake

AN OLD Leatherneck made the day for a lot of soldiers at a parade to celebrate the 215th birthday of the US Marine Corps.

It was a fine spectacle under a cloudless sky. The music was provided by a band in which men of the Marines and 17th/21st Lancers, motto gleaming, stood in alternate positions. The cavalymen wore Red Cross armbands indicating their active service role.

Saudi dignitaries and senior officers of the allied forces saw the Colours marched on to be followed by the ceremonial parading of a massive

## Marines celebrate birthday

birthday cake under escort.

Lt Gen Walter Boomer, Marine commander in the Gulf, reminded his men that tens of thousands of Marines, past and present, had celebrated the Corps birthday before them while "preparing for battle".

Messages were read out from Washington and the US

Gulf Commander-in-Chief, Gen Norman Schwarzkopf.

Then the guest of honour spoke - Lt Gen Gary Lucke, commander of the US 18th Airborne Corps, a stocky weatherbeaten man, whose many decorations for bravery tell their own story.

"I am delighted to be here," he said, "because my father was a Marine. He made lance-corporal . . . seven times."

Lucke senior, it appears, was like many good soldiers, fond of "a run ashore", and accustomed to being "busted".

The story went down well.



British and American soldiers at a Hawk missile site in Saudi Arabia. Each warhead contains 2,500 ballbearings

## On the Porch

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site after Marine LCpl Rodney Thomas saw him lurking in the shadows and threw him a tit-bit.

The visits became regular and when the Marines moved, the fox came too.

They called him al Wahdi after the bottled water issued to them when they first arrived.

"He likes everything in the MREs except chicken à la king," said LCpl Thomas, from Jacksonville, Florida.

Al Wahdi has been known to answer to his name, but it may be that he merely recognises voices as being associated with MREs.

(There is an opportunity here for any Desert Rats who fraternise with a fox - it could be called Rommel.)

And the name The Porch? It came from First Sgt Fred Saldade, since evacuated sick, whose favourite saying was: "If



LCpl Stephen Briggs and Pte Stewart McMillan of the ACC feed American soldiers

you can't hang with the big dogs on the porch you need to get off it."

(Eng trans: If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.)

Capt Jeff Speights (pronounced

Spites), Battery Commander: "We consider ourselves big dogs here. When we found the British Army wanted to occupy this site too we worked out the logistics and co-ordination issue and it's

been as smooth as silk . . . we haven't had any logistic, admin or personnel problems. The Brits are feeding us three high-quality meals a day . . . they're very welcome on The Porch."

# BIRD OF PREY

TWO platoons of Bravo Battery, 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Battalion, United States Marine Corps, are deployed some miles apart in Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, protecting vital installations.

One is commanded by the OC, Capt Jeff Speights, the other by his executive officer.

Each has the same equipment - two acquisition radars, two illuminating tracking radars, a control vehicle and four launchers mounting three 16ft-long missiles each.

In each of the pointed warheads are 2,500 ballbearings.

Aircraft coming within range of the proximity fuse are blasted from the sky as if a

**Allied Forces in Saudi Arabia have concentrated under the protection of an umbrella of aircraft and missiles. Following the report (Dec 10 issue) on Patriot, the latest in US surface-to-air guided weapons, SOLDIER has visited a Hawk battery.**

giant was using a 12-bore shotgun on them.

Travelling at twice the speed of sound after they leave the launcher, the missiles have a disclosed range of 25 nautical miles and can reach targets at more than 50,000 ft.

US Marine Corps defences in

the Gulf are distributed in depth and count on long-range surveillance by AWACs and other devices to warn of an impending attack.

Capt Speights: "One system compliments the other. That's the way Americans do business. We like the fighters out there up front to take on the initial package, split it up, ruin the enemy's game plan, so to speak. Then the Patriot, the Hawk and the Stinger take him on . . . the man on the ground with his rifle, if need be."

Bravo Battery was on exercise in the United States when it was mobilised for Operation Desert Shield.

In Capt Speights' view the Hawk is the "No 1 Missile system in the world."

It is, however, a system that has been around and exported for 30 years. Today Phase 3 is exclusively in the hands of the US Army and Marine Corps.

It is acknowledged to be significantly better than Phase 2, some of which were captured by the Iraqis from the Kuwaitis.

The great advantage of Improved Hawk Phase 3 lies in its control "van".

From the AWACs and other long range surveillance systems the Hawk batteries can pick up via a digital data link a picture of what is going on up to 100 miles away. They can therefore afford to wait as long as possible before switching on their own radar systems which can give away their positions.



# MOONBASE 1

TO THE Americans it is the Dustbowl, to the British Moonbase I. The US Marines have marked it with a great slab of stone proclaiming it as Never Ever Land. A more desolate piece of real estate it is hard to imagine. Ammunition Supply Point 1 has only one rival and that is the wilderness of ASP 2.

Out on a ridge in the desert great banks of earth (bunds in the vernacular) have been bulldozed into long rows, some with bays in them, which form wide avenues down which fork-lift trucks race, belching fumes to add to the dust clouds.

Nagging winds were raising eddies of sand when SOLDIER arrived with Maj Andy Anderson, OC 17 Sqn RCT.

At the entrance of what must have been a quarry, LCpl Bob Shertenlijer from New Jersey, an ammunition technician of the 142nd Combat Service Support Detachment, US Marine Corps, squeezed into the back of the Land Rover to act as escort and guide.

His unit had been in the Dustbowl for weeks.

"We've given up going mad," he said with a grin. "We just live it out a day at a time."

Inside the ammunition reception area, Cpl Martin Wallace of 17 Sqn was seeing to the unloading of a 14-tonne truck.

His section of six vehicles had left the Force Maintenance Area empty at 3.30am, picked up ammunition at one point, dumped it at another and was now preparing for its next task.

"I expect we'll be back at camp about 10pm," he said. (It was in fact 2am.)

Willing horses is about the only way to describe the men of 10 Regiment Group RCT (Lt Col Philip Chaganis). They have worked unstintingly since they landed in Saudi Arabia.

Based at Bielefeld for 40 years the group was brought up to a strength of 860 for Op Granby.

Ammunition is one of the principal loads carried. It arrives in the docks in all shapes and sizes and, handled by 52 Port Sqn RCT, is picked up immediately by either 17 Sqn, which has a total of 80



Pallets of shells in store at Moonbase 1, one of several ammunition supply points

14-tonnes, or 12 Sqn which has 60 of the new DROPS vehicles.

The versatility of DROPS – Demountable Rack Off-Loading and Pick-Up System – a Leyland Dafs product, is proving to be one of the pleasant surprises of the operation.

It was due to come into service in BAOR on October 4 but because of Op Granby the whole issue plan was advanced and the first of them was collected from Antwerp on September 12.

"It is quite a challenge," said Maj John Wallace, the OC.

"Not only have we got to adapt to desert conditions but we have to trial and develop a new concept of logistic operations with the new fleet.

"The main role assigned to us is bulk carriage of water – something which has not been done by the British Army for many years.

"We've been given a special tank, shipped out specially for the operation, which carries 14,000 litres. Most are for

water but a few are for fuel."

In one month the squadron carried 2,024,000 litres of water plus 100 ISO containers and more than 7,000 tons of ammunition.

The operations officer marks up the tally every day.

The beauty of DROPS is that the whole load-bed or flat-rack can be placed on the ground by a hydraulic system which is an integral part of the vehicle. And left there, if need be.

Ground loading is much faster and a detachable flat-rack



DROPS makes the delivery of water by "bean can" to a supply point in the desert that much easier



Lt Col Philip Chaganis, CO 10 Regt Gp RCT

**DROPS**  
is a  
big hit  
with  
RCT in  
desert



Cpl Andy Sleep, ammunition convoy escort

allows greater use of the vehicle, which does not have to stand for hours while it is loaded.

The truck then hauls its own load aboard and can leave it at its destination without waiting for it to be extracted manually or by fork-lift truck.

DROPS was originally intended to move artillery shells which third-line units could leave in the corps or divisional areas for the second line to collect. The gunners then send their own DROPS vehicles to

take the ammunition to the gun positions.

This cuts out the fork-lift truck operation completely, a time-consuming and labour-intensive business.

Experience has shown that DROPS can be adapted for a variety of tasks.

Two flat-racks have already been fitted out as tyre-changing units with generators and compressors. One is being held forward, the other in the Force Maintenance Area.

Other variations will follow

but it is with its water-carrying task that DROPS was making its name in Saudi Arabia.

SOLDIER accompanied Cpl Phil Jones's section into the desert to deliver 30,000 litres.

Cpl Jones, who is responsible for seven vehicles – five operational and two reserve – likes DROPS.

"I can honestly say that in the four weeks I've had them I've had no major problems," he said.

A practical Liverpoolian, he pointed out that "because of

the mileage we're doing we have a 5,000km service every fortnight or so."

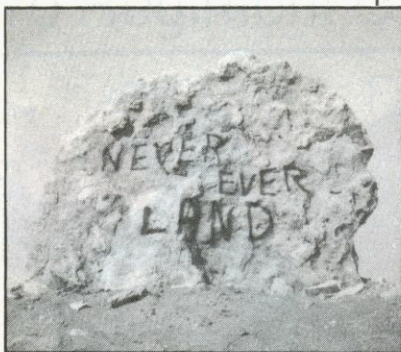
Travelling in the cab with Dvr Kevin Spencer at the wheel and his partner, Dvr Ian Mackay, manning the GPMG on top of the cab, it was clear that they too liked their new truck.

Some of it may have been novelty but, said "Spence", the automatic gearbox made driving a pleasure.

"We've had no bother and

● Turn to next page





Sign of the times

## Moonbase

● From Page 31

we've done 4,000km in three weeks."

The water they were carrying was in US "six cons", insulated against extremes of heat and cold. They fit neatly on a DROPS flat-rack.

The confidence of the young drivers was a tonic.

We drove steadily in convoy down the long, straight road, slowing for a herd of camels and passing what must have been an oasis before it was transformed into a petrol station, supermarket and Pakistani restaurant. There was nothing else for miles around.

We turned off up well-worn tracks, raising great plumes of dust.

When we arrived at 7 Armd Bde Water Point a line of "bean cans" - the specially-built British water tanks - were lined up waiting to enter what may have been a small sand pit at one time. It holds the supply for units in the desert which send their bowsers to collect it.

"You drive in and let them test the water," said Cpl Jones. "They add chlorine, you drive out and then, after 15 minutes to let it mix you go back and they pump it out into the tanks."

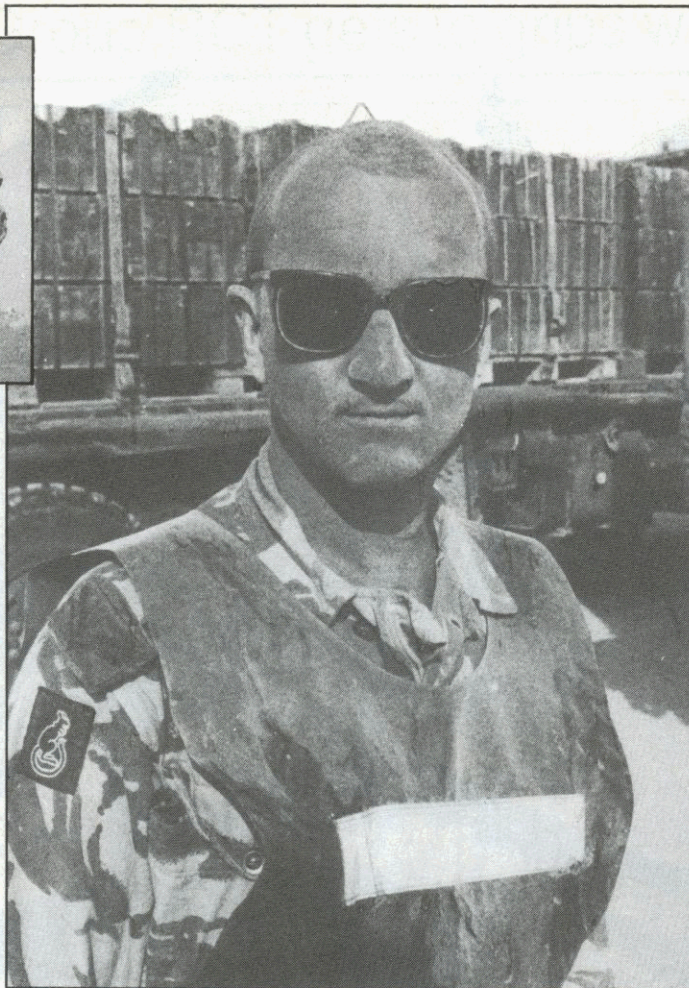
So we waited. And while we did so, watched a soldier of 45 Support Squadron RE demolishing a cliff, exposing strata of pale yellow and pink rock.

American lorries were being filled by his JCB as fast as they could arrive yet still he kept on.

"He keeps it up all day," said an awed onlooker. "I don't know how he does it."

It was tempting to try to find out the identity of the relentless digger but he never stopped long enough for anyone to cover the ground in safety. If you didn't have an ugly-looking empty lorry and a Marine uniform he didn't seem interested.

Guarded by a detachment of the Royal Pioneer Corps, the



The dust-caked face of Cpl Martin Wallace, section commander for ammo loading, at Moonbase 1



Squadron line-up. Men of Troops A, B and C, 17 Sqn, 10 Regt Group RCT pictured in a base area

Water Point itself was in the hands of 53 Field Squadron RE. They were the custodians of five pillow tanks, each holding 136,000 litres.

"We keep three full, two in reserve and one empty," said Cpl Andy Brown. "We ring the changes with them."

Every hour or so the quality of the water is checked.

"Because of the heat, the calcium hypochloride loses its chlorination effect and we have to adjust the dosage."

10 Regiment Group RCT consists of: RHQ; 9 Squadron (fuel); 12 Squadron (ammunition, fuel and water); 17 Squadron (GS tasks); 16 Tank Transporter Squadron Troop; 50 Movement Control Squadron; 52 Port Squadron; REME Workshop.

And there, in front of our eyes, in an arid depression in the desert, the dosage was adjusted.

Cpl Jones delivered his water to Cpl Brown and drove off to fetch more. A new queue of "bean cans" began to form.

The ready availability of water is one of the most outstanding achievements of Op Granby.

It is to be hoped that when the histories are written men like Cpls Jones and Brown, and drivers like "Spence" and "Mac", are not forgotten.

Nor the man who was ripping off the cliff face.



Big wheels in the RCT. From left to right are LCpl William Bradshaw, Dvr David Farish, Cpl Martin McNeil, Dvr Greg Broadfield, Dvr Paul Hughes, Dvr Wayne Chapell and Dvr Taff Atkins



## The Sphinx squadron returns

THE PRESENCE of 17 Sqn RCT in the Gulf has enabled Maj Andy Anderson, the OC, to realise a long-held desire to see the unit's traditional emblem in its proper setting.

As 17 Company, Army Servicing Corps, it adopted the Sphinx as its insignia after taking part in the Egyptian campaign of 1882.

It saw service in the same theatre in 1885 (the Suakin campaign).

The Sphinx persisted and in the Second World War vehicles of 17 Coy RASC carried it (painted silver on a red background) from Egypt to Tunisia, Sicily and Italy and then took it to North West Europe.

After troop-carrying tasks in vile weather during the Ardennes offensive, 17 Coy took part in the final drive into Germany where one platoon

had the appalling task of removing dead from Belsen concentration camp. Its vehicles were burned later.

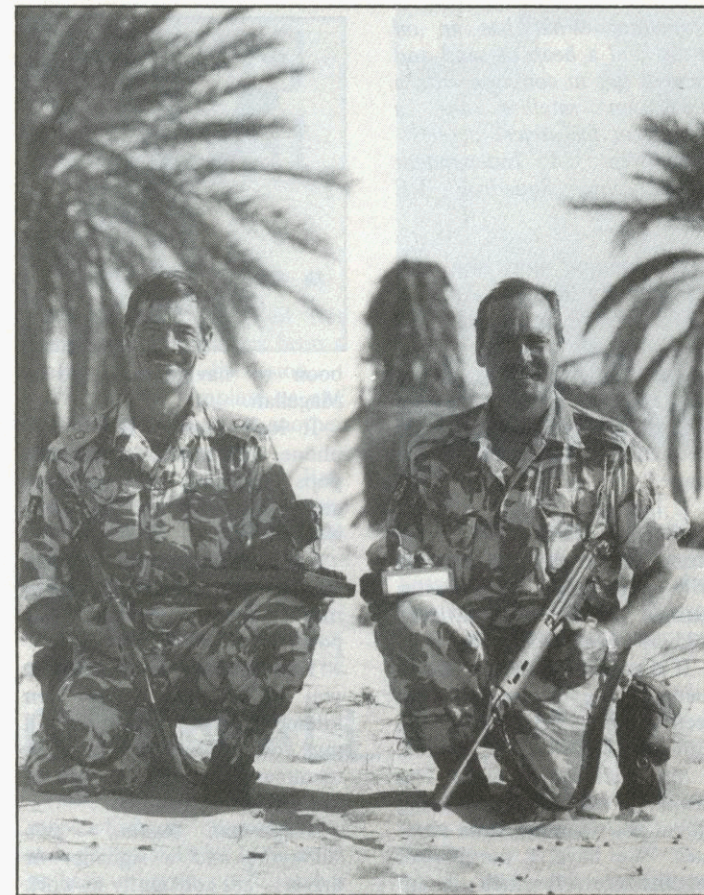
Having found a three-hundredweight statue of a Sphinx during its travels, the company left it mounted on a plinth, suitably painted with seven campaign medals emblazoned on its chest, when it departed from Berlin in 1946.

An earlier Sphinx, acquired in Egypt, had disappeared during the war.

A silver Sphinx was later used as the unit sign of 17 Sqn RCT until it was replaced for a time by a black Saracen APC (reflecting its service in Northern Ireland).

In 1986, however, the silver Sphinx returned. Two metal statuettes of the fabulous monster are now owned by the squadron.

One large one, discovered in



Maj Andy Anderson and Sgt Maj Bob Wade with the silver Sphinx statues from their respective messes

an antique shop by Maj Roddy Kilpatrick RCT, then the OC, is used to decorate the officers' table on mess nights. The other, a smaller version, is used

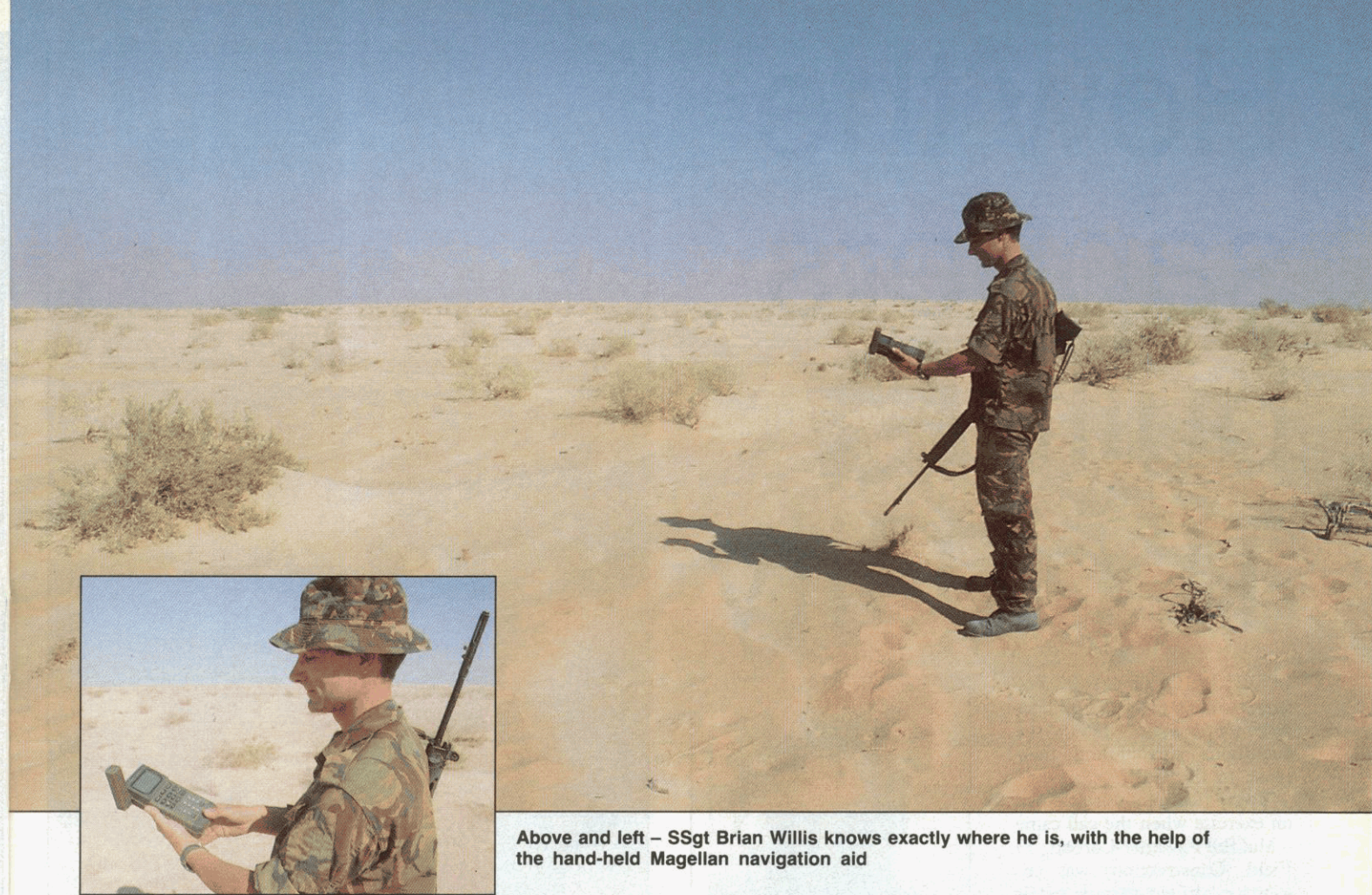
by the sergeants' mess. According to legend, the Sphinx is good at solving riddles. There is plenty of work for it in Saudi Arabia.



# They've put the Desert Rats on the map



Desert camera call for men of 14 Independent Topographic Squadron RE (Gulf)



Above and left – SSgt Brian Willis knows exactly where he is, with the help of the hand-held Magellan navigation aid

**Question:** What has an oil drum and a heap of sand got in common with a navigation satellite and a stretch of featureless desert?

**Answer:** 14 Independent Topographic Squadron RE (Gulf).

THIS unique unit was deployed early in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province and has been hard at work ever since.

One of its major tasks has been to put the 7th Armoured Brigade on the spot in a frequently featureless landscape.

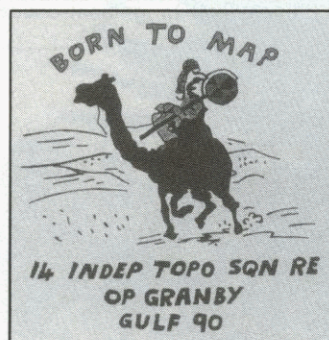
It has been putting down a confidence marker matrix – old oil drums sunk in concrete with geographic co-ordinates painted on the side to help soldiers check where they are.

It is similar to an idea which many of the troops will have seen used at BATUS on the Canadian prairie.

Maj Nick Rigby OC: "The drums have been sited using global positioning system satellites. We have a number of satellite receivers which pick up the signals and can accurately position the navigational aids."

It is the first time since the Second World War that Military Survey has actually deployed a squadron in the field.

It is also the first time that it has used in earnest the latest



boon to navigational aid – Magellan.

It looks almost like a car phone with a little aerial that pops up. Push a few buttons and it tells you which satellite it is receiving.

Push some more and you can read either a six or eight figure map reference giving your position to within 30 metres.

You can even set it to guide you to a point – say ten kilometres away – and it will give you the direction in which to move either left or right of the track.

Three-man teams – two surveyors and a signaller or driver – are constantly at work in the desert.

The squadron also has two programmable computers for "terrain analysis" to provide 7 Armd Bde with information about the "going", particularly the menace of *sabkha*.

These salt marshes look like firm ground, especially in dry

weather, but vehicles lured on to them sink in very quickly.

"As we move into the rainy season the mobility of both tracked and wheeled vehicles will be restricted and with some degree of confidence we will be able to predict the go and no-go areas," said Maj Rigby.

The computers work on a data base which can be brought up to date . . . Digital Terrain Evaluation Programmes is their name.

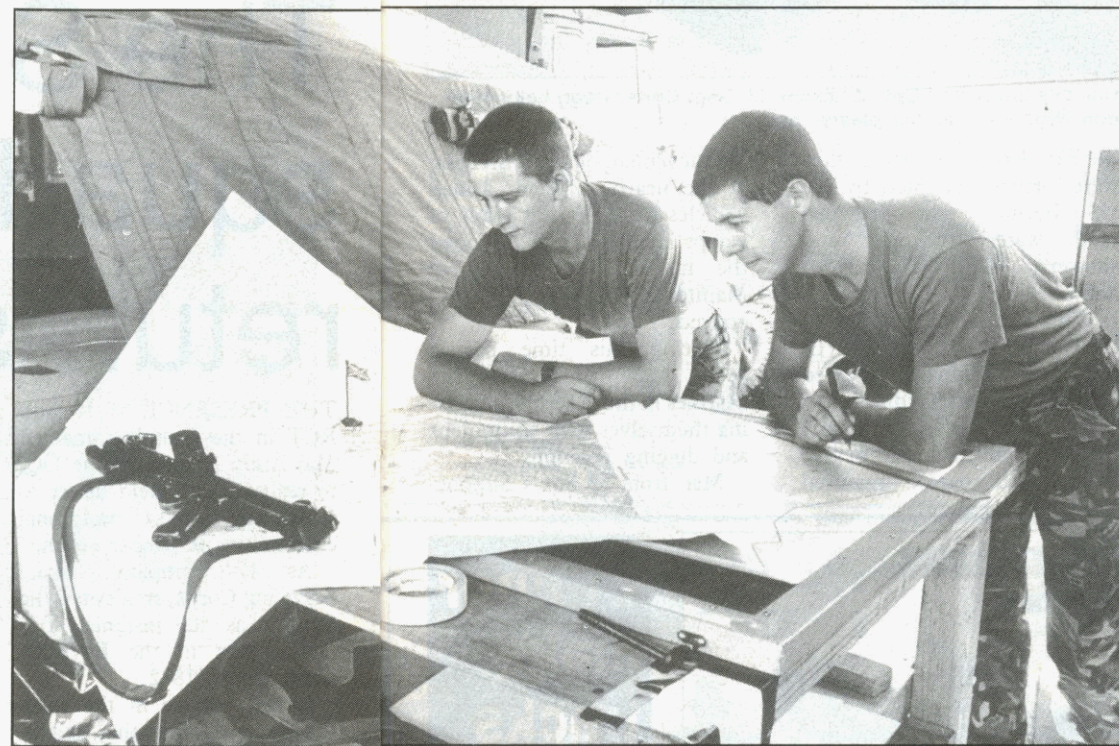
They can be used to predict what effect the weather had on the terrain, and the input can include such things as pipelines (plenty of them out here) power lines, new roads and "cultural features" – buildings etc.

At the time SOLDIER called much of the squadron's work had been with 40 Field Regiment RA.

"It has been very satisfying working with them," said Maj Rigby. "They need to know exactly where they need to be and in which direction their guns should be pointing. We provide the basic control information and the gunners, using their PADS vehicles, go off and position the guns."

It is a far cry from BAOR where the whole area is covered with mapping control from which the gunners can pick up the main control point using PADS.

The US Marine Expedition-



LCpl Lee Watson and Cpl Sean Kennedy analyse the terrain

ary Force has paid "14 Topo" a compliment by asking them to use their satellite navigation equipment (which is something the Americans lack in theatre) to check their own artillery control and to extend some of their control points.

The squadron is living happily alongside the Marines

and is providing survey support for the 11th Marines.

Cheerful faces apart, the unit is much changed from the one SOLDIER visited at its long-term base at Rattingen near Düsseldorf in the spring.

But the Repro men are there, the cartographers, photographers and printers, turning out a variety of products.

They were producing an important map of the Jerboa live-firing range and location

maps and some marked with the oil-drum matrixes.

Working shifts to give 24-hour coverage, they were also fitting in the production of many training and instructional signs for units. They cut the actual template for the Red Rat marking the brigade vehicles.

The strange appearance of many of the Red Rat's offspring was due to the way in which the template's shape changed as it passed through unskilled hands.

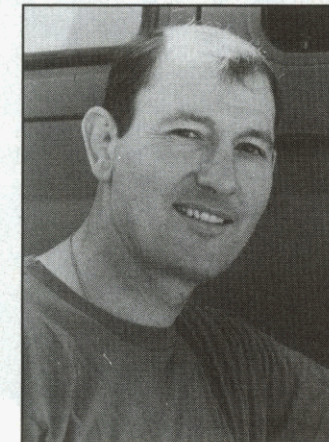
## Getting the Rat right

THE direction the Red Rat symbol should face has been a matter of much discussion.

Put the the template on one way and it faces right; another way and it faces left.

According to Capt Ron Siggs, of 14 Topo Squadron, whose father served in the original 7th Armoured Division, it should always face right.

"I've never seen any historical picture of it facing left," he



Capt Ron Siggs

said. His father, Mr Tom Siggs, who lives in Chichester, Sussex, and served in the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, during the war, was being consulted.

## OPEN ALL HOURS

THOUGH more than a million maps which can be updated on the spot are held by 14 Topo at its base, others are held further forward at Map Supply Points (MAPSPs).

At the Brigade Maintenance Area the MAPSP was run by Cpl Ian Rainbow and LCpl Mark Buglass.

They were parked under camouflage next to their fellow sappers of No 1 Postal and

Courier Regiment. "We're open all hours," said Cpl Rainbow.

He and his companion seemed quite at home in the wilderness.

Like SSgt Brian Willis, who had arrived on a survey task and gave SOLDIER a demonstration of Magellan's capacity, they seemed to know exactly what they were doing . . . and where they were, of course.



# How the sappers built Tent City

39  
Engr  
Regt

IT WILL take a mega-event to surprise the men of 39 Engineer Regiment again after the conditions surrounding their move to the Gulf.

Two squadrons were abroad on exercise when the call came – Maj Bill Fawcner-Corbett, 53 Field (Construction) was engaged in airfield damage repair training at RAF bases in Germany and Maj Doug Lewis, 60 Field (Support), was in Belgium.

They had expected to be there until November when they were told to pack up and get back to Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, as quickly as possible.

Newly-excavated “bomb” craters were hurriedly filled in and in three days all the heavy earth-moving equipment drawn from BAOR stocks was returned – a task which normally takes a fortnight.

After the move back, everyone had a day off, then it



Lt Col Bob Pridham, CO 39 Engr Regt

was a question of back to work, unpack everything, paint it sand-colour, repack it, get it to Southampton and stow it on a ship.

The vessels took three weeks to get to their destination. The troops flew there in a day and moved into a huge warehouse on the quayside, the legendary Shed 4.

As, apart from a small Royal Signals detachment, they were



Unlucky break for LCpl “Z” Zalewski. SSgt Chris Gregg helps him don NBC kit over his plaster cast

the first British to arrive, they were virtually adopted by the US Marines, who provided food, water, transport and showers, until the ships arrived.

With the limited means at their disposal 39 Regiment (Lt Col Bob Pridham) tackled anything and everything.

The built “kraals” in Shed 4 (pens for four men each to give them a bed space); organised

the movement of stores arriving at the nearby airfield; armed vehicles to escort bus loads of troops flying in and provided the nucleus for the Force Maintenance Area until the HQ arrived.

During this time parties spent some time with the Marines in the desert familiarising themselves with equipment and digging positions.

Men from 53 Sqn’s Support

## 21 Engr make tracks

Making roads into the Saudi Arabian desert are the sappers of 21 Engineer Regiment from Nienburg in Germany. Vehicles are pictured (left) in a quarry. On the right (from left) are Maj Peter Davies, OC 4 Fd Sqn; Maj Steve Henley, OC 45 Fd Sqn; and Maj Max Heron, OC 1 Fd Sqn.



A photograph for the squadron album. Members of a field squadron of 39 Engr Regt in a base area

Troop (Lt Sean Pepper) joined the 1st US Marine Combat Engineer Battalion for a week.

One of them was LCpl “Daz” Walker.

“I operated a digger helping to make FOPs (forward observation posts) and emplacements for a ground-mounted TOW.

(TOW is the potent tank-killer the British have mounted on helicopters.)

“We also dug in HMUVs (the squat American equivalent of the Land Rover), so they could emerge, fire a round, and get back under cover.”

The works, which included bunkers and a command post, were protected by three-and-a-half metres of anti-tank berm (earth bank and ditch).

About this time the building

of Tent City was ordered – home for 2,000 troops and in its way a modest monument to the ingenuity of the British sapper.

The heat was fierce and the craftsmen dripped sweat over their drawing boards.

“The dust was terrible first thing in the morning,” said LCpl Robert Tell, who comes from Northfield, Birmingham. “Working in a tent meant we were subjected to a wind tunnel effect.”

Three craftsmen did all the drawings for Tent City. There were unusual problems.

A virgin site on open ground would have been easy meat for men who have been deployed in the past two years in every climate from Belize to Antarctica.



What they faced was acres of tarmac forming what had been a container park in the port complex.

Just anchoring the frame tents was a challenge. The builders took a leaf out of the Marines’ book and cast concrete blocks with iron hooks embedded in them.

Then there was the problem of the kitchens.

Capt Jim Wade, Garrison Engineer (Construction):

“We had the various items and materials – grease traps, pipes, manholes and so on, anticipating digging them in. Instead we had to build everything above ground.”

Nevertheless, by skilful application and attention to the line of fall of the pipes the job was done.

When it came to the showers the drainage water also had to be led off above ground to

Dusty task for two sappers of 39 Engr Regt. They are pictured sawing sheets of wood for construction work. Both are dressed in NBC kit, except for respirators, because an exercise was being held at the time

standard rainwater gullies and this was done above ground as well.

The final result was a camp not even the most hardened grouser could fault.

Though it did not have the air conditioning of a nearby immigrant workers’ camp which had been taken over, it was luxury compared with conditions in the desert.

Now called Baldrick Lines, it has a cheerful air about it, which is about the best compliment its builders could be paid.







A massive Scammell Commander transporter moves off with an armoured ambulance on board

# Men on the move

ONE OF the great sights of the Gulf is 16 Tank Transporter Squadron Troop on the road. But you've got to be up early to catch them. They're on the move day and night.

In Germany, where they are based, they expect to do 100,000km a year, most of them on the autobahns.

In Saudi Arabia, where good tarmac roads lead to rough gravel tracks, they covered 70,000km in a single fortnight.

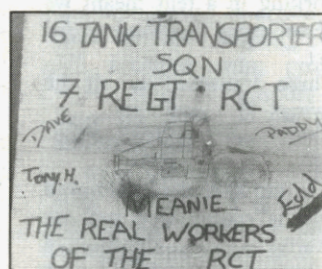
There is a brisk professional air about the men who wear the

unique cloth tank transporter badge on their chests.

They are "A" tradesmen – probably the only articulated vehicle drivers in the Army to be so. They have to be capable of using the transporter's winches.

SOLDIER caught up with 16 Troop loading the reconnaissance section of the Scots Dragoon Guards ready for a move from a port in eastern Saudi Arabia into the desert.

It was a question of small fry comparatively speaking – Scor-



pion CVR(T)s and 432 ambulances.

Yet it was another challenge to the expertise of the crews. They don't normally double-load two vehicles on one trailer in BAOR.

The responsibility for ten full "trains" – tractor and trailer make a train – seemed to sit lightly on the shoulders of Lt Phil Stone, commanding the operation.

He took a few minutes off to explain the niceties of loading the first APC backwards so it was as far back as possible up the tank deck, almost doing a nose-dive.

The second vehicle went in the normal way and both were lashed down nose to nose.

"MBTs (main battle tanks) are no problem," said Lt Stone. "They're just driven straight on and take up the entire tank

deck. Double loading takes a little more time."

He estimated that in a fortnight of concentrated activity the troop had moved in load terms 50,000 tons of fighting vehicles.

The Scammell Commander is certainly pulling its weight in Op Granby.

The Army's largest vehicle, with 28 wheels all told when towing, it has a Rolls Royce engine and a top speed of around 40mph. Each costs half a million pounds.

Drivers and crews travel with the vehicles being lifted so they can drive straight off the trailer and deploy.

On long hauls, halts are made every two hours and the engine and axles thoroughly inspected.

It is not a question of nursing the Scammell, but giving it the highest mechanical attention it deserves.

"The Commander is the world's best tank transporter," said Lt Stone.

"It is very reliable for its size."

The same could be said for 16 Troop's OC and the lieutenant and their men.



A double load of Scorpions bound for the Scots Dragoon Guards

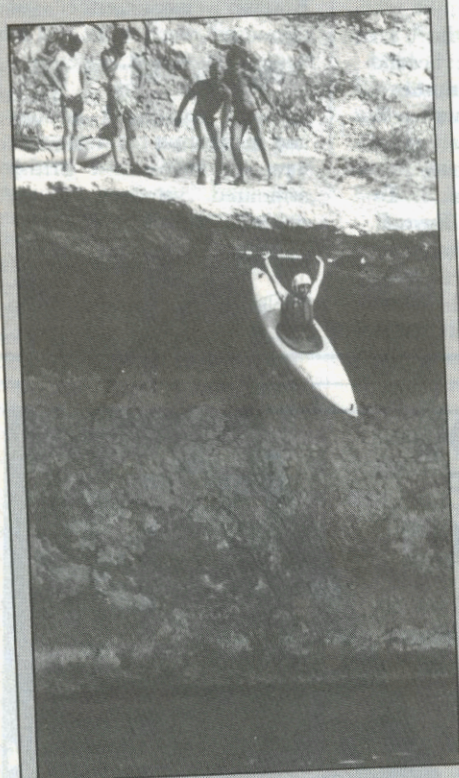


# THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A LIFE OF ADVENTURE

## Sapper canoe fails to fly!



Pushing out the boat...



Paddle in rotary mode...



Splashdown... Shaken but not stirred, another member of the 35 Engineer Regiment canoe party from Hameln completes a "seal" launch from a cliff overhanging the Ardeche river in southern France. Twelve intrepid paddlers from the regiment pitted their wits against the waters of the Ardeche and the Durance during an adventurous training exercise. The latter provided the sappers with very good white water conditions which ensured most members of the party spent at least some time underwater



On the frontier, from left to right, are Capt Sheldon, Maj Polley, Sgt Ford

## Hussars in a spot of bother

FOUR members of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars were threatened with kidnap during an adventurous training exercise on the North-West Frontier.

They were surrounded by Pathan tribesmen armed with Kalashnikov rifles, who accused the team of photographing their womenfolk – a serious offence.

The hussars were saved by the presence of a Pakistani legal official, the brother of a friend of Maj Robert Polley, the team leader.

"He was brilliant," said Sgt Monty Ford. "Without his presence we would have been taken up into the hills and who knows what might have happened."

The other members of the expedition were Capt Jeremy Sheldon and Tpr Paul Gibbon.

The journey took them into the mountains of the Hindu Kush in Northern Pakistan to Chitral near the Afghan border, scene of a famous siege in the 1890s.

The 15th/19th have historic associations with the Indian sub-continent, and still wear an elephant on their regimental belt.

Events in the Middle East have a particular pertinence to 30 members

of Cambridge University Officer Training Corps who took part in a two and-a-half week adventurous training exercise in Jordan.

Exercise Desert Blue involved sub-aqua diving in the Gulf of Aqaba and camping, climbing and abseiling in the desert area of the Wadi Rum.

Most found the chance of a ride on a camel irresistible and the exercise finished with a visit to Petra, the city carved out of the mountains in the desert.

Thirteen members of 32 Field Squadron, Ripon, found their adventure training climbing near Marseille, France rudely interrupted by a forest fire. They were speedily evacuated by boat, courtesy of the local Gendarmerie, and had to delay their expedition by two days. They were forced to spend the time relaxing on the beach and in cafés!

Meanwhile, Exercise Deci-cake, a trekking expedition in Corsica by eight members of 32 Heavy Regiment, Workshop REME from Dortmund, brought them across thousands of black, burned acres caused by a forest fire only the week before.



# BOOK REVIEWS

## Forgotten sources

A WAR memorial marks the focal point of both sorrow and gratitude in almost every town and village in Britain, and *Monuments of War* is a first attempt to interpret this much-neglected primary source of social, family and military history.

It is a useful work of reference, but more than 60 pages are devoted to long lists of names as an example of what is recorded on war memorials. Cutting most of these might have reduced the cover price to one more suited to the average pocket.

The publishers' "blurb" describes the book as "an enthralling introduction to what might well become a new national hobby: 'war-memorialisng'" – an appalling thought and an offensive phrase! – LM

**Monuments of War: How to read a war memorial** by Colin McIntyre. Published by Robert Hale. Price £18.95.

ARMoured forces have played dramatic roles in warfare since British tanks first saw action on the Somme in 1916 and by the end of the Great War many military leaders had begun to understand something of the potential of the new weapon.

In a new book, *Armoured Warfare*, J P Harris and F H Toase, senior lecturers in War Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, have edited and presented detailed examinations of tank warfare worldwide, each chapter by a specialist author.

The contribution by W Heinemann of the Military Historical Institute, Freiburg, is a valuable history of German armour up to 1940. It is an enlightening account of tank development over a short period.

As we know, the subsequent rearmament programme was phenomenal under the Nazis, who, by September 1939, were able to field six panzer divisions in Poland.

On the other hand Britain, the nation that invented the tank and first used it

## Armour's place in annals of warfare

successfully in battle was worse equipped to wage armoured warfare than any other European power, with only 196 Mark VI light tanks, 50 infantry tanks and 38 armoured cars in operational units.

It was, however, the USA that was to win the Second World War ultimate numbers game. S D Badsey writes in his chapter: "By the end of 1940 the country had produced only 331 tanks . . . By the end of the war in Europe, American industry had produced 88,410 . . . German tank production for the whole war was 24,360 tanks."

It is the task of C J Dick, Senior Lecturer at the Soviet Studies Research Centre, RMA Sandhurst, to bring us nearly up to date with an assessment of the position in Eastern Europe.

The stress on a Nato versus Warsaw Pact scenario seems, in view of *glasnost* and events in the Gulf, to be decidedly dated and one wonders where the main emphasis would have been placed had the manuscript gone to press a few months later.

A pertinent comment is made by P G Griffith in his chapter on the desert war of 1940-43, a campaign that "represents approximately half of what may be called the British experience of armoured warfare . . . The desert war should therefore – in theory at least – be a constant source of analogy and inspiration for those who have to think about British armoured warfare in the modern world." – BJ

**Armoured Warfare** edited by J P Harris and F H Toase. Published by Batsford. Price £29.95.

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## What about the sappers?

**The Great War and Modern Memory** by Paul Fussell. Award-winning book examines the British experience on the Western Front from 1914 to 1918 through the literary means by which the Great War has been remembered, conventionalised and mythologized. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £5.99, paperback.

**Wartime – Understanding and Behaviour in the Second World War** by Paul Fussell. Examining the immediate impact of the War on common soldiers. Published by Oxford University Press. Price £5.99.

**Armies of the Raj** by Byron Farwell. A complete account of soldiers in India during the 90 years of British rule between the end of the Mutiny in 1858 and the independence of India and Pakistan. Published by Viking. Price £16.95.

**Prophet of Truth and Never Despair** by Martin Gilbert. Two further volumes, re-issued in paperback, of the mammoth biography of Churchill. The first covers the years 1922-1939, the second 1945-1965. Published by Minerva. Price £9.99 each. Meanwhile, three titles by the man himself are re-published in paperback by Mandarin – **The Story of the Malakand Field Force, Thoughts and Adventures and Great Contemporaries**, the latter two written by Churchill in the 1930s and all priced £5.99.

**How War Came** by Donald Cameron Watt. Much-acclaimed narrative history of events leading to the Second World War. Published by Mandarin. Price £6.99 paperback.

**Operation Raleigh – Adventure Unlimited** by John Blashford-Snell and Ann Tweedy. Readable real-life excitement, with splendid colour photography, telling stories from the young people's expeditions from some of the most inaccessible parts of the world. Published by Collins. Price £9.95 paperback.

**Business in Great Waters** by John Terraine. Monumental account of the U-Boat Wars 1916-1945 by one of Britain's leading military historians. Published by Mandarin. Price £7.99, paperback.

**Before I Sleep** by Edward Monroe-Jones. Powerful novel about Arnhem, with foreword by Gen Sir John Hackett. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson. Price £14.99.

**Against the Odds** by Harold Mitchell. Pacy story of the race to Rangoon by an Allied force in the final months of the Second World War. Published by The Book Guild Ltd. Price £11.95.

IT never ceases to amaze me how little credit and attention is given to the sappers when reporting on the British Forces in the Gulf.

In your list, "Who's in the Gulf" (Nov 26) no mention was made of 4 (CS) Sqn RE, the close support sapper squadron to 7 Armoured Brigade.

We are the men who allow the rest of the brigade to live, move and fight. We clear minefields and other obstacles, fire Giant Viper and use fascines and assault bridges.

Because of the nature of any modern campaign in the desert, which relies on speed and mobility, the whole of 21 Engineer Regiment is dedicated to the support of 7 Bde.

You may also care to comment on the size of RE support in the Gulf now that additional troops are being deployed.

Never forget, though, that 4 Sqn RE, with a jerboa as its emblem, was part of the

original Desert Rats and was the first sapper squadron to know for sure that it was deploying. – **Lt R J Orr RE, BFPO 644.**

● Any omissions in our list are regretted. Attempting to provide comprehensive coverage of all Gulf units is a tall order for SOLDIER's small team, but we're getting there. For 21 Engr Regt, see Pages 18-19 and 36-37 – **Editor.**

AS a REME vehicle mechanic I am a regular reader of SOLDIER. On studying the

### Once bitten!

I instantly recognised the dentures displayed by Pte Susan Davies on the SOLDIER cover (October 1) as belonging to my first sergeant major upon my enlistment. – **WO (Rtd) G W Norman, Royal Canadian Regiment.**

## Scots DG tanks first

MAY I correct your article about the arrival in Saudi Arabia of RFA Sir Bedivere (November 12).

It did not carry the tanks of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars – they were, in fact, the Challengers of A Squadron

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. I was a member of the boat party and with Tpr Ross brought the first Challenger off the ship and on to Saudi soil on October 20. – **Cpl Eric Mill, 1st Troop, A Sqn, Scots DG, BFPO 644.**

## Off-the-shelf kit

I AM prompted to write by seeing a photograph in my latest issue of SOLDIER showing the desert camouflage battle dress being issued to British Forces in Saudi Arabia.

While it is understandable that the British Army would not have in stock sufficient desert battle dress to supply the needs of a force as large as that dispatched to Saudi Arabia, I don't understand why the United States kit was not adopted for the duration of the operation.

Judging from what I have seen in the press and on TV, the US Army had no problem in equipping its forces with suitable battle dress. Presumably it holds large stocks – in fact, I have seen US desert battle dress in mail-order catalogues in America just like some UK companies sell British Army kit.

It seems to me that it would have been faster and perhaps cheaper to have ordered "off the shelf" from the US. – **S Ray, The Netherlands.**

Op Granby coverage (November 26), I was surprised that there was no mention of REME.

It should be noted that 7 Armd Wksp REME is part of 7 Armd Bde and is deployed in the Gulf. 7 Armd Wksp is almost as big as an infantry battalion or tank regiment and is well worthy of a mention.

REME is the biggest corps in the Army and at the time of writing more than ten per cent of troops deployed in the Gulf are REME-badged. Even REME tradesmen not deployed in the Gulf have been heavily involved behind the scenes in preparing vehicles for use in the Gulf right up until they are loaded on to the ship. – **Cpl S M King, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester.**

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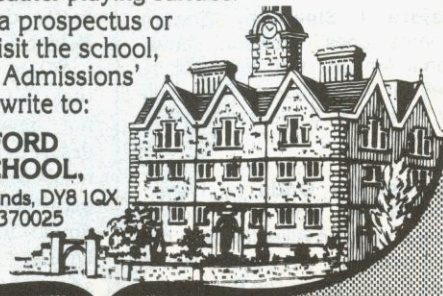
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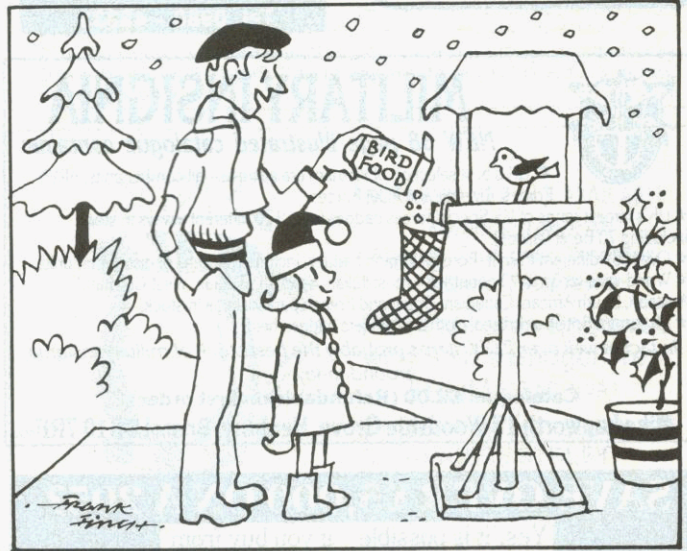
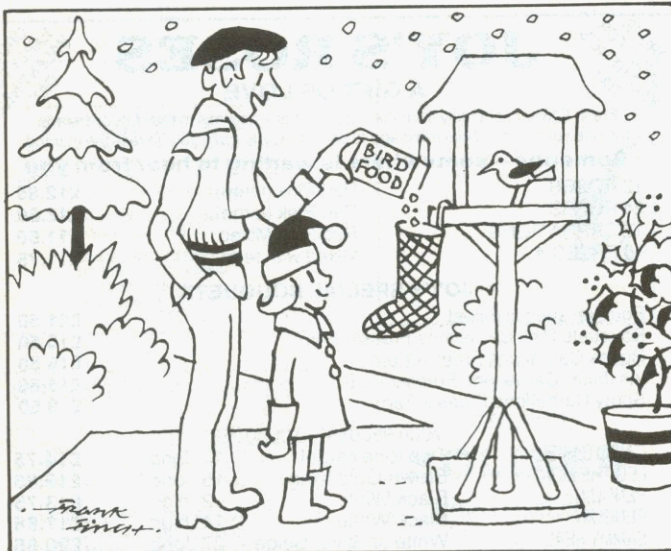
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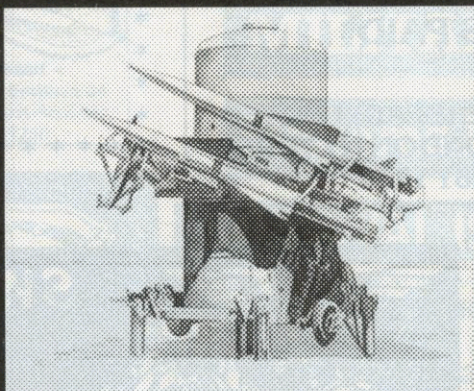
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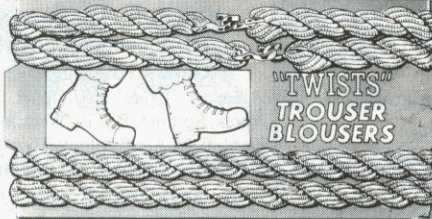
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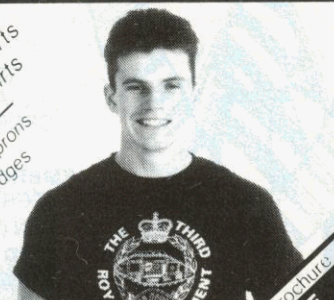
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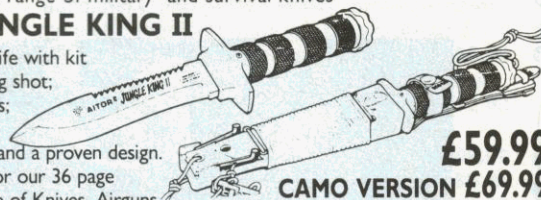
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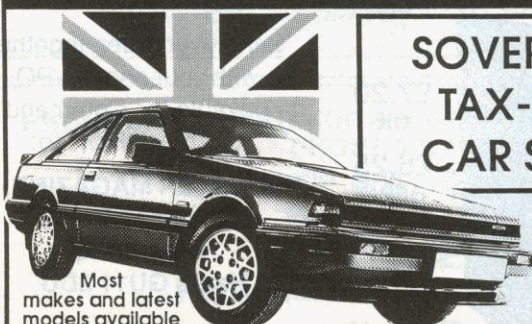
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# TERRIERS' LATE BID THWARTED

Army XI 4,  
Territorial Army 2

THIS highly entertaining game between two well-matched sides was won by the Regulars, but it required three quality saves in the dying minutes to preserve their lead, writes Pat Massey.

Three times 'keeper Cpl Alan McWilliam (R Signals) was faced by one-on-one situations in his penalty area, but on each occasion he pulled off terrific saves to prevent the Army surrendering their hard-earned advantage.

Home pressure in the opening encounters might have brought immediate rewards, but the Regulars had to wait only until the tenth minute before opening their account when LCpl Chris Brown (RE) rapped in a SI Mickey Johnson (APTC) cross after Bdr Steve Bates (RHA) had made a telling pass.

But the TA equalised ten minutes later when LCpl Tony Pridmore (223 Sqn RCT) latched on to a free kick by skipper Rgr Jim Young (4 R Irish) and drilled the ball home.

Minutes before the interval

SI Steve Davies (APTC) fired home a real cracker of a goal from the edge of the penalty area after a flick by Johnson had created the opening.

An eccentric own-goal by Rgr Tim Clark (4 R Irish) put the Army further ahead after the interval. He headed a harmless-enough high ball past substitute goalkeeper Sgt Martin Fisher (409 Indep Sqn RE) when he plainly expected the referee to blow for off-side. The whistle did not blow.

When Pte Michael Inglis (94 Ord Coy RAOC) mesmerised the home defence with a waltzing dribble before floating in a cross, LCpl Steve Calderwood (4 R Irish) vollied in to close the gap.

He broke clear soon afterwards and looked certain to score before shooting wide.

Army skipper Sgt Clint Webbe (RA) restored the Army's two-goal lead when he headed home, unopposed, a Johnson corner kick.

Then came those frantic final minutes, with McWilliam twice making brave saves against Calderwood, and once against Inglis.



Sig Jimmy Strouts (2 Inf Div Sig Regt) disputes possession with a Middlesex player at Aldershot Military Stadium. No 11 LCpl Shane Smith (REME) is in close support. Gnr Mark Mahoney (RHA) scored for the Army in a 2-1 defeat. Bdr Steve Bates (RHA) flashed in a 35-yard "equaliser" in the second half, only to be denied because one of his colleagues had been caught offside. Middlesex have now won three of the four encounters between the two sides.

# Sappers go ahead, by a cannon-ball

THE Jones-Drake Trophy stood on the pre-match lunch table between the host, the Director Royal Artillery, Maj Gen Brian Pennicott, and his sapper opposite number, the Engineer-in-Chief, Maj Gen Richard Peck, writes John Quin.

The mounted Gibraltar cannon-ball, the prize to be fought for in arguably the largest inter-Corps rugby contest in the Army, was shortly to find its home for the next 12 months by returning to the sappers or staying put in Woolwich. In the end it travelled.

The oldest of the Corps' fixtures, the first game going back to 1889, remains very much a balanced affair and before this 1990 encounter the tally stood at 31 wins apiece with only four games drawn.

The fact that the sappers went one ahead in the series, and on enemy territory to boot, was no fluke and the scoreline of 29 points to nil was a true reflection of the engineers' ability on the day.

Both sides gave their all in an exhibition of uncompromising, hard but fair rugby, admirably controlled by international referee Roger Quittenton, who is to this fixture what Clive Norling is to the Varsity match.

The home team contained a mixture of experience and youth, including senior Army and Combined Service players as well as some emerging U21 talent.

Skippered by WO2 Martyn Lewis (7 RHA), the Airborne Gunners supplied much of the team, including Sgt Andy Symes, now promoted to the second-row, but muttering about this being his last representative season and partnering a youthful Gnr John Williams (14 Fd/RSA) of whom we shall no doubt see more.

The sappers were a more youthful side and were still running strongly in the last quarter when they were going "up the slope".

Without the ball, you have

few options and the amount of ball that the sapper forwards won in every phase of the game meant that the gunners could do little else but defend.

The artillery managed to hold their opponents to two tries in the first half and when they had a put-in near the sapper line, it looked as though they may have been about to redress the balance, but the lively sapper front row, supported by a gigantic heave from the back, took the ball against the head.

The gunner chance had gone, never to reappear. At the post-match celebrations, the large number of colours handed out, about 11 to the sappers and not far short to the gunners, indicated that we shall be seeing a lot more of these players. It certainly gave Lt Col Graham Lilley, the Army Rugby Union's chairman of selectors, food for thought.

For the sapper committee it could not have been a sweeter farewell present for former chairman Lt Col Tony Boyd-Heron and his secretary Maj Jim Snape, both now off to civilian-type rugby jobs in the United States.

That's the price you pay for sending your Corps' team on a US tour!

The hospitality afforded at Woolwich was, as usual, first class as befits the game.

At the end the gunner secretary Maj Steve Hamilton, was seen, having got himself back into his wheelchair, propelling himself off into the sunset, muttering loudly "We'll get them next year!"

The Army senior XV is in action this month, opening their season, having entertained the TA prior to Christmas, by hosting Hampshire at the Military Stadium in Aldershot. Then the selectors have just seven games to get the side right to retain the Inter-Services championship and not least of all, the problem of who succeeds Maj Brian McCall as Army skipper. Any offers?

TWO new Army athletics records appear in the latest list issued by the Army Athletic Association – and one of them just happens to be a British and European record into the bargain.

Inevitably, the man who set it was WO2 (QMSI) Kriss Akabusi in winning the European championships at Split during the summer. His 47.92sec 400m hurdles shattered David Hemery's 22-year-old British record.

The other record fell to Berlin-based javelin thrower Gdsm Keith Rix (1 IG) who set a new standard of 62.94m.

Ironically, the Army 400m hurdles record is now superior to the Inter-Services best, which has to be recorded during the Inter-Services championships. Akabusi improved that during the 1990 championships at Aldershot, lowering the mark to 50.6sec.

Another Inter-Service best was achieved at Aldershot in 1990 by the Army women's

## Akabusi record set for long run

heptathlon team. Cpl Jackie Gilchrist (RMP Tg Centre) with 4,326 points, Lt Liz Bennett (22 Engr Regt), 3,520, and Cpl Liz Churchley (176 Pro Coy RMP), 3,654, bettered by 1,539 the old record which had stood to the Army since 1988.

They finished the seven-discipline event with a new high of 11,500 points.

Oldest record on the Army books is still in the 3,000m steeplechase, which LCpl Ernie Pomfret of 10 Hussars ran in 8m 47.92sec way back in 1964.

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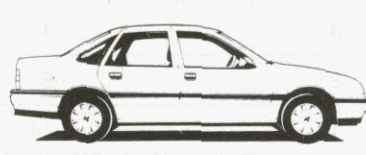
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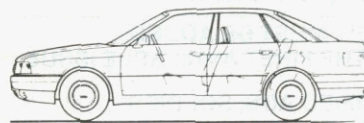
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# That was close!

THE Army's boxing heavy brigade ensured that the team recorded a 7-3 victory over a London ABA Select in a sensational match at Stoke-on-Trent.

With the match score level at three bouts each, honours were very much even, but the Army dominated the heavier divisions to win the final four contests of the night.

LCpl John Ineson (3 RGJ), Cpl John Dunn (Depot Queen's Division), LCpl Steve Burford (RH) on a first round knockout, and lightweight LCpl Wayne Rackham (2 Para) all won to give the visitors a deceptively comfortable margin of victory.

Almost every bout was razor close, with the Army's superior fitness telling in the end.

Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon described it as one of the best night's boxing he had seen for years.

Certainly the 2,000 spectators packed into the Victoria Hall, Hanley, felt they were getting their money's worth. Bout after bout was acclaimed by a standing ovation.

LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) got the Army ball rolling with a first-round stoppage, and there were wins for Pte Jamie McMullen (1 Cheshire) in the second round and a unanimous points decision for Pte Laurie Roche (1 LI).

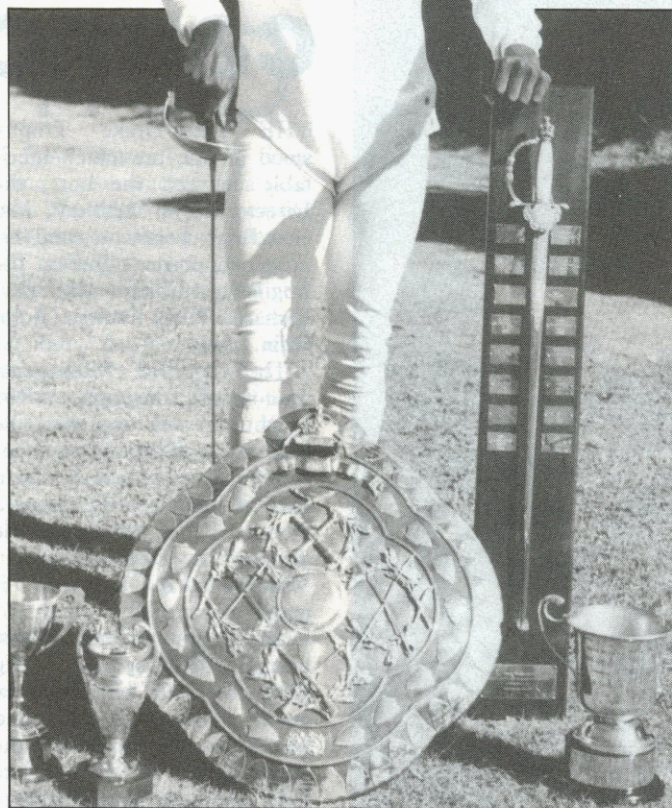
LCpl Rod Stoneman (RAPC att 3 Para) lost on points, Pte Darren Russell (1 R Anglican)

was stopped in the first round, and LCpl Tom Eckersley (160 Pro Coy RMP) was knocked out in the second round.

An Army select team beat Western Counties by four bouts to one at Bristol.

The Army-Royal Navy clash, the highlight of the Inter-Service team boxing championships, is due to take place at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, the "home" of Navy boxing, on January 31.

LCpl James Williams, hoping to fence for GB in the 1992 world event



Picture: Mike Perring

# James makes his point

LCPL James Williams, the Army's outstanding young swordsman, has been rewarded with his first international appearance.

He travelled to Munich in November as a member of the Great Britain sabre squad, finishing 89th out of 140 competitors in the individual competition, and fencing as a member of the national team against Austria, Germany and Hungary. As a result, he was selected for international appearances in Hungary and France.

Williams, currently based at the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE at Dover as an AIPT in the gym, has won the Combined Services Champion-at-Arms competition for the past two years, and is the current Wilkinson Sword Combined Services Master Swordsman and Army Champion-at-Arms.

He has recently been made captain of the Army fencing team.

# UDR sweep the board

TUG of war top dogs 4 Bn, The Ulster Defence Regiment dominated both the UKLF and Army championships, although the latter were hard-hit by Op Granby commitments.

In fact, because of Granby, no BAOR units contested the Army indoor finals at the 7 Para RHA gym in Aldershot. The organisers decided to go ahead only because of the following in the sport and the fact that so many teams had put in months of training for the event.

The men from Northern Ireland won the 600, 640 and 680 kilo competitions, with Junior Leaders' Regiment RA winning the 560k event and finishing as runners up in the 600k. The gunners of 47 Field Regt RA were second in the 560, the 640 and the 680.

It was the same story in the

UKLF championships at Depot Regiment RE at Chatham, where 4 UDR tugged their way to victory in the 600, 640, 680 and catchweight divisions. JLR RA were runners up three times (in the 600, 640 and catchweight), while 47 Fd Regt RA picked up a second (in the 680) and three thirds.

New Army tug of war secretary Capt Peter Hunt (Aldershot Mil 2454) wants to hear from unit representatives, regardless of the standard of their teams.

Important dates for the outdoor season include the UKLF championships at MCTC Colchester on June 23, the Army championships at ACC App College, Aldershot on July 6, and the Inter-Services at the same venue on July 25.



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A picture of co-operation. RAMC combat medical technicians of Collecting Troop, 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance in Saudi Arabia have joined forces with Royal Air Force Puma helicopter crews in the Support Helicopter Force which backs up the Desert Rats. Full story in Pages 24-25.  
Picture: Terry Champion



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