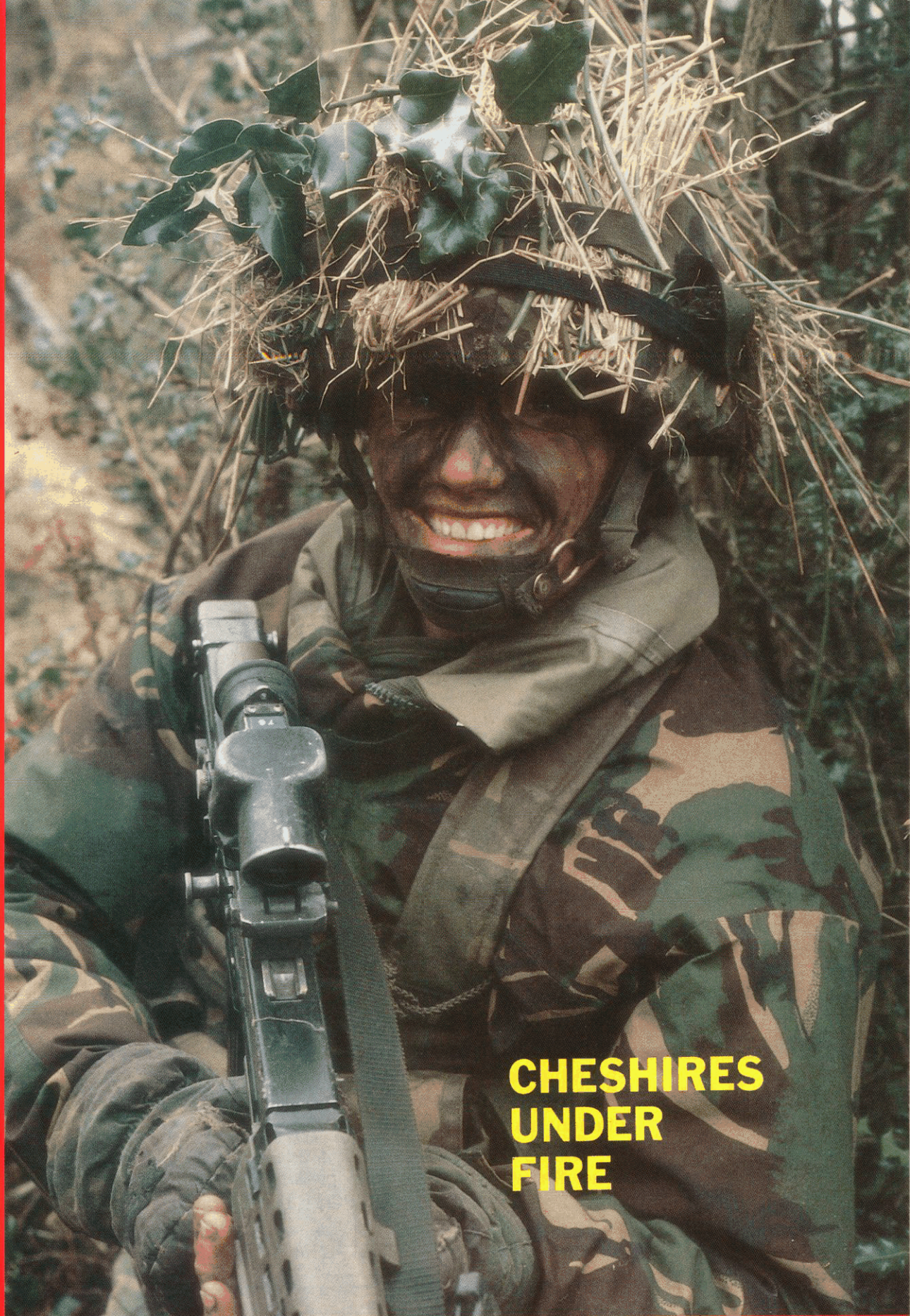


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S/29/03

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FRONT COVER – Main picture: Rained on, up to your knees and shot at into the bargain, but occasionally that's Northern Ireland for you. Like Pte Norman Bates of A Coy, 1 Cheshire, pictured near the scene of a border clash, you just have to keep on smiling. See Pages 20-25. **Lower picture:** American Huey Cobra helicopters at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, await shipment home. They are cocooned in plastic to protect the airframes against salt corrosion during the sea voyage home (Picture: Terry Champion)

June return for 4 Bde

IT IS expected that the remaining elements of the 4th Armoured Brigade battle group in the Gulf will return home by the end of June.

Defence Secretary Tom King said in a written answer in the House of Commons that Britain had no intention of retaining a permanent ground force in the area. By the end of last month 28,000 out of 45,000 personnel had returned to the United Kingdom and Germany, and

the main withdrawal was expected to be complete by mid-April.

Mr King said up to 5,000 personnel were being deployed to Saudi Arabia to manage the return of equipment and stores to the UK and Germany.

The remaining elements of 4 Brigade were operating as a battle group, said Mr King. About 1,500 personnel would be deployed to replace men in the battlegroups and to take

advantage of training opportunities while its equipment was still in the Gulf.

New units to replace those in the Kuwait battle group are, from Germany, D Squadron, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and HQ and two companies of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and 31 Field Battery, of 47 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which is based at Thorney Island.



Men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT prepare to drop supplies to Kurds in Northern Iraq. Bad weather caused this mission to be aborted.

Mercy drop

Despatchers cut leave to help stranded Kurds

THE decision to drop aid to the thousands of Kurds stranded in the mountains of Northern Iraq meant the recall from leave of men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, recently returned from the Gulf.

From 9am on Saturday April 6 until the early hours of the following day troops worked non-stop in their hangar at Lyneham, Wilts, receiving relief agency stores and

building a total of 32 one-ton containers (flat wooden base boards with straps and netting to hold the contents).

The first of three Hercules aircraft left at 1am with its load and the advance party of RAF personnel, who fly and maintain the aircraft, plus the first of the air despatchers on board. Two more fully-loaded planes left at 5am on Sunday with the rest of the RCT detachment, a total of an officer and 16 men.

"It was a tremendous effort by the whole squadron," said the OC Maj Jim Hunter, RCT.

The "Hercs" are flying sorties from a Turkish base as part of a US-led operation.

Relief operations are not new to 47 Squadron, which has earned a Wilkinson Sword of Peace for past efforts. Few achievements equal its despatch of nearly 32 million pounds of grain during the Ethiopian famine of 1984-85.

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End of track for tank movers

A SIMPLE ceremony at Cromwell Barracks, Hamm, Germany at the end of last month marked the disbandment of 617 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT after 75 years of service.

The unit has been based in Hamm for the past 41 years and for most of that time had been staffed by Polish expatriates – former German prisoners of war and displaced persons who had elected not to return to Poland after the Second World War.

They were formed into the Mixed Service Organisation (MSO), which was disbanded four years ago after serving the British Army of the Rhine for 40 years.

At the time of the farewell parade most of the unit's military strength was deployed in the Gulf.

The squadron standard was presented to Maj Charles Wilson RCT for display in the Royal Corps of Transport museum at Aldershot.



Lt Col Arthur Denaro leads men of the QRIH past their families on a belated St Patrick's Day parade

QRIH still got their shamrock

ST PATRICK'S DAY came a bit late this year for The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars ... six days late, in fact.

A prior engagement in the Gulf interfered with the regiment's plans to hold their annual parade on the big day.

Undeterred, the Desert Rats, led by their commanding officer, Lt Col Arthur Denaro, turned March 22 into St Patrick's Day and marched past their families in Fallingbommel, Germany.

The regiment paraded in their desert camouflage battle dress, with officers wearing their distinctive tent caps.

The salute was taken by Gen Sir Brian Kenny, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade.

Flown in specially from Northern Ireland for the occasion were 950 pieces of shamrock.

There was a royal visitor to watch the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers' St



The Duchess chats with Irish Rangers during their parade

Patrick's Day parade in Germany.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, flew to Stornoway Barracks, Lemgo, by helicopter to spend the day with the 2nd

Battalion and present the traditional sprigs of Irish shamrock.

The Duchess, who was met by the commanding officer, Lt Col Fred Allen, later met soldiers and their families.

SSgt David Clifford Tite RMP

Our list of those Killed in Action in the Gulf in the March 18 issue included the name SSgt David Clifford, Royal Military Police. The name should have read SSgt David Clifford **Tite**. The error is regretted.

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S/USD/29/4

Cambridge ready to open its doors again

CAMBRIDGE Military Hospital in Aldershot is to resume normal services on May 13 following the return of more than 400 medical personnel from the Gulf.

The hospital serves the

North East Hampshire and West Surrey communities, but virtually closed down last October when medical staff converted to their war roles in 22 and 33 Field Hospitals and deployed to Saudi Arabia in

support of British troops committed to Op Granby.

The success of the campaign and the small number of Allied casualties sustained during the ground offensive enabled the field hospitals to make an early

return to Britain.

One area of the hospital's work which was unaffected by the war was the Louise Margaret Maternity Wing where 2,000 babies are delivered each year.

Sapper sailors bridge the gap

HAMELN sappers were undaunted when bad weather prevented Under Secretary of State (Defence Procurement) Kenneth Carlisle from visiting them to watch a demonstration of the new M3 bridging amphibian on the River Weser.

They took the demonstration to the minister.

Men of 64 Amph Engr Sqn, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, motored up the autobahn to Herford where SSM Stevie Hanscombe and Cpl Russ Oldfield put an M3 through its paces.



It's Hong Kong Taffy's year

LCpl Gwilym Jenkins, the one with the beard and the horns, it quite a celebrity in Hong Kong where his star status is enhanced - thanks to the Chinese calendar, which is currently in the Year of the Goat.

His pet name is Taffy III and he is the mascot of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. He is pictured with Goat Major David Joseph.

Cyclists reach Kenya summit

SIX soldier from Eastern District are claiming to be the first Britons to climb Mount Kenya on mountain bikes.

Maj Terry Goulding, APTC, WO2 Tom Goodwin, RAOC, SSgt Jeff Edwards, SSgt John Johnson, Cpl Tony Smith and Pte Paul McClelland, RAOC overcame the effects of altitude sickness to reach the summit.

Hardest part of the climb was the final 750ft from the Austrian hut at 15,000ft. It took the team 45 minutes.

● Lt Debs Wadsworth led a 12-man expedition from 28 Signal Regiment, NORTHAG, to Mexico where they climbed Mount Malinche (14,636ft) and Mount Cofre de Perote (14,048ft).

Thanks... to an old ally

A PORTUGUESE Navy ship which supported the 1st (British) Armoured Division in the Gulf was the centre of a ceremony when it made its final call at Marchwood military port near Southampton. Brig Michael Betts, Director of Movements (Army), made a presentation to the captain of the *San Miguel*, which for six months had been ferrying equipment from Marchwood to the Gulf.

Gulf gift

A CHEQUE for £250,000 has been presented to the Gulf Trust by the United Bank of Kuwait.

NI visitor

THE Bishop to HM Forces, the Rt Rev David Smith, paid a two-day visit to troops in Northern Ireland.

On target

MARKSMEN from 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE achieved the double when they won both the island skill at arms meeting and the ESBA march and shoot in the same year.

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First lady of Kuwait?

Who was the first Service woman to enter Kuwait City as the country was liberated by Allied forces?

One person laying claim to the distinction is Cpl Catherine Bryden-Smith, WRAC, who has enlisted our help to try to discover if anyone beat her to it.

She is aware that other WRAC personnel must have entered Kuwait with the British 1st Armoured Division via Iraq, but reckons her flight into the city on March 2 might qualify her for the record book.

The story of why and how is one of those little classics which have emerged since the dust of war began to settle...

It seems that as the city was liberated, two British mothers emerged from their hiding places and headed for the British Embassy, where they begged for help to get much-needed baby food and nappies.

British Ambassador Mr Michael Weston contacted Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, and in no time Defence Ministry officials in Riyadh were popping out to the local supermarket for all the necessities, plus a few cuddly toys.

Meanwhile, Catherine was plucked from her post at the Field Records Office in Riyadh to accompany the baby bundles to the hitherto beleaguered city - on board the General's personal jet.

US orders hose-down

Shortly before leaving Saudi Arabia, SOLDIER staff in the Gulf came across what must qualify as the world's largest wash-down point, where the entire range of military vehicles belonging to the United States Army and Marine Corps were being hosed down with high-pressure water jets.

It seems US Department of Agriculture officials are insisting that every truck and tank has all traces of desert sand and dirt removed before it can be allowed back on American soil.

The department feels that tracks and wheels of dirty vehicles entering the country could import regional diseases

SOLDIER to Soldier



Cpl Catherine Bryden-Smith: first woman into Kuwait City?

Picture: Terry Champion

such as foot and mouth into the United States. The clean-up also applied to soldiers' boots.

As the first British equipment was being loaded aboard merchant shipping, a Defence Ministry spokesman said that as far as he was aware, the UK's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had no plans to introduce similar measures.

Odes to the Gulf

Among the many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of lines of verse written about the Gulf war are those of the prolific Tamar Segal, whose work has attracted the attention of some of the key figures involved in the conflict.

So determined is Mrs Segal that the war should be immortalised in verse that she plans to tell the story in a volume of 23 poems to be published soon.

"I feel that a record is so

Painting appeal

An appeal for funds to acquire a famous military painting for the nation has been launched by the National Army Museum.

John Prescott Knight's group portrait, "The Peninsular Heroes", which has been in private hands since it was painted in 1848, has been lent to the museum while the £69,000 purchase price is raised.

The 31 heroes of the Peninsular War portrayed include the Duke of Wellington, Sir John Moore, Gen William Napier and King George III.

important that, if I have to, I shall underwrite the whole project," she told SOLDIER.

Mrs Segal's Gulf work has found favour in the top echelons of the British Army and has been well received by President Bush and Mrs Thatcher.

A better deal on PCs

Many readers may not know that for the past four years a Personal Computer Association has worked on behalf of men and women associated with the Services to get value for money in the purchase of kit.

The PCA is dedicated to

getting the best deals on hardware, software and peripherals for computer buffs. Open days were held last year and more will be planned during 1991.

Contact point for details is Wing Commander David Woodman on 071 218 5989.

A cavalry celebration

This year's Army-led Royal Tournament will open on July 10 before an audience comprised largely of members of the Armed Forces who fought in the Gulf, and their families.

More than 6,000 husbands, wives and children will be the guests of the tournament organisers to celebrate Britain's role in the victory.

With profits going to the Gulf Trust and other Service charities, the show's main theme will be the history of the cavalry.

More than 2,000 men and women and 200 horses will be involved in the telling of the story.

Outside the arena, an extensive exhibition will include vehicles and equipment from the Gulf campaign.

Tickets are already available from the box office at the Exhibition Centre in Warwick Road, London SW5 (tel: 071 373 8141). The show runs until July 27.

Champagne thank you

Ten "champagne weekends" in luxury holiday cottages in the New Forest are being offered as prizes in a free draw open to all Army personnel who served in the Gulf.

Terry Moore, owner of the Ladycross Estate, said: "We wanted to make our own gesture of appreciation to our magnificent men and women who served in the Gulf."

Each prize of a bottle of champagne and up to three nights in a cottage for two is available between October 1, 1991 and May 31, 1992. Entrants should send a SAE and unit name to Terry Moore, The Ladycross Estate, Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7QL.

Closing date for entries is September 1.

In addition, the estate is offering a 7½ per cent discount on all bookings taken from Army employees.

YOU LUCKY DOG!

Just how lucky can a dog be? A black mongrel bought in Saudi Arabia by LCpl **Michael Garner** RCT to save him from drowning took his name from – and saw out the Gulf war with – Kilo section of 19 Field Ambulance RAMC (see SOLDIER, March 18). Kilo was flown to the UK by British Airways. The readers of the *Colchester Evening Gazette* are paying his quarantine expenses and he will find a ready-made family waiting when he comes out of kennels.

LCpl Garner, his wife **Debbie** and their 11-month-old baby **Michaela** are visiting him regularly and the vet has given him a clean bill of health. Kilo is due "home" in October.



★ Ron and Yvonne Buist ★ RAPC visit ★ pays off . . .

★ Dundee husband and wife Maj **Ron** and
★ Capt **Yvonne Buist** – plus mascot –
★ were among 250 soldiers from 205
★ (Scottish) General Hospital who returned
★ to the Gulf from Prestwick Airport.

★ Prominent in their reception were 70
★ personnel from the RAPC Computer
★ Centre at Worthy Down and the RAPC at
★ Bulford, who ensured that outstanding
★ pay problems were resolved on the spot.
★ To speed up the proceedings, British
★ Telecom helped the RAPC staff to link up
★ "live" to their mainframe computer in
★ Hampshire.

★ Locking in to Worthy Down from
★ Prestwick Airport are (from left) SSgt
★ **Steve Stanway**, SSgt **Gordon Coop-**
★ **er**, Cpl **Mick Worsnop** and Sgt **Dai**
★ **Hazleden**.



Oh brothers!



Recruiting is a lot easier when you can do it in threes – so life must be a doddle for the recruiters of Wakefield-based 8th Battalion, The Light Infantry. They have signed up six sets of brothers, plus two sisters, two father-and-son combinations, and a husband and wife.

Latest to join the family battalion are the **Pinsky** brothers. From left to right are Ptes **Nathan**, **Andrew** and **Matthew**. The three of them signed up on the same day just before Christmas.

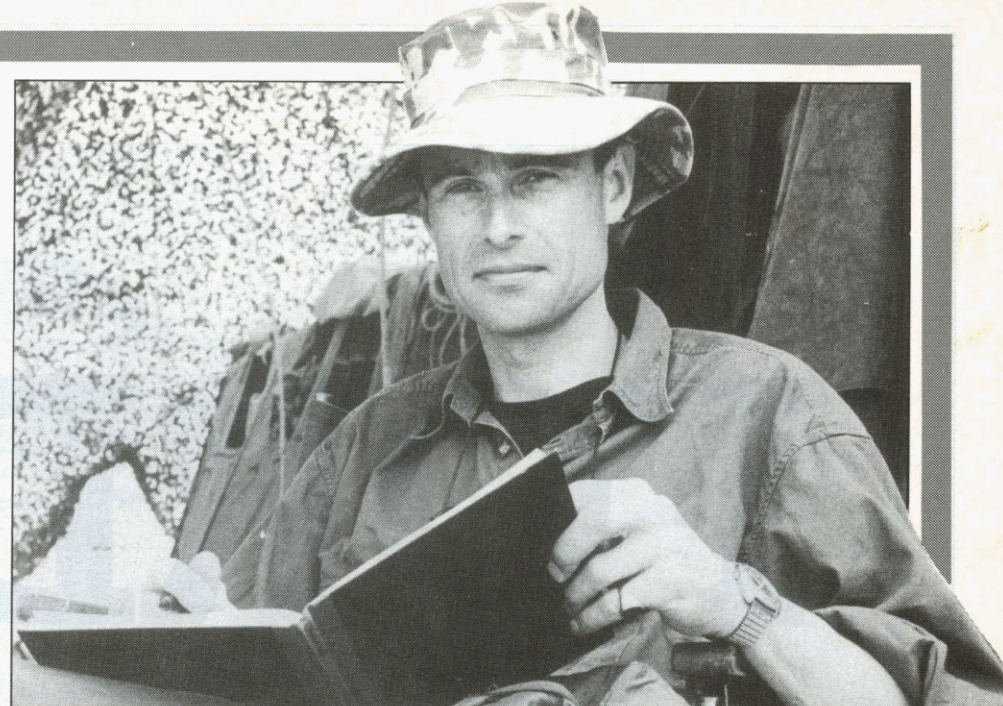
Artist John files his impressions

War artist **John Keane** (right) did not put brush to canvas during his stay in the Gulf.

Instead, he preferred to record his impressions in writing and on still film and video tape to refer to when painting started in earnest back at home.

In return for his sponsorship, Mr Keane is required to provide paintings to the value of £12,500 for the Imperial War Museum by March next year.

Previous exhibitions by the artist – who shared a tent with SOLDIER staff before the invasion of southern Iraq – have centred on Nicaragua and Northern Ireland.



War artist John Keane: painting word pictures

Picture: Mike Weston

PEOPLE

They're getting a move on



A happy band of movers from Marchwood-based 52 Port Squadron RCT at Al Jubayl maritime port in Saudi Arabia. These men will be responsible for loading vehicles and equipment aboard ships moving 1st (British) Armoured Division's kit back to BAOR and the United Kingdom.



CSgt **Winston Geddis** (above) of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers has a few medals – more than 170 of them at the last count! After 34 years of competitive shooting he has accumulated an impressive hoard of ARA medals and bars. CSgt Geddis has consistently been among the top 50 marksmen at Bisley and under his guidance the battalion has won the coveted China Cup four times. They were the champion TA battalion at Bisley in 1989 and 1990.

The lady's not a Scot



Lt **Sharon O'Connor** (above) isn't a Royal Scot, as we reported in the April 1 issue. She has been serving in the Gulf as assistant adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, and comes from a family with a long tradition of Army service. Sharon's father is Maj **Derek Walker** AAC, and her grandfather, **Charles Walker**, served 30 years in the Royal Engineers.

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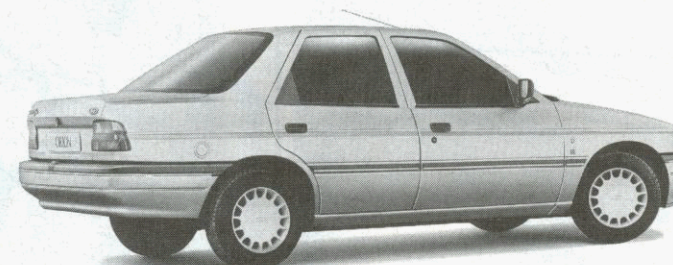
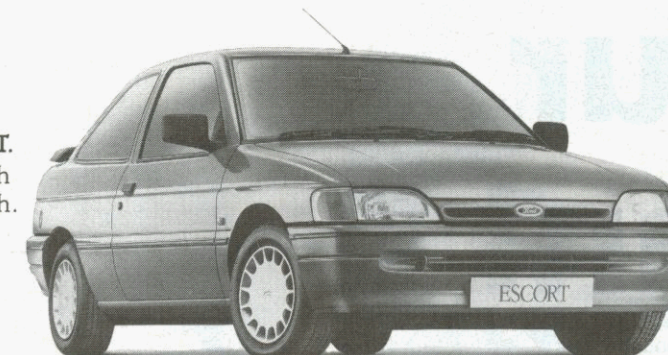
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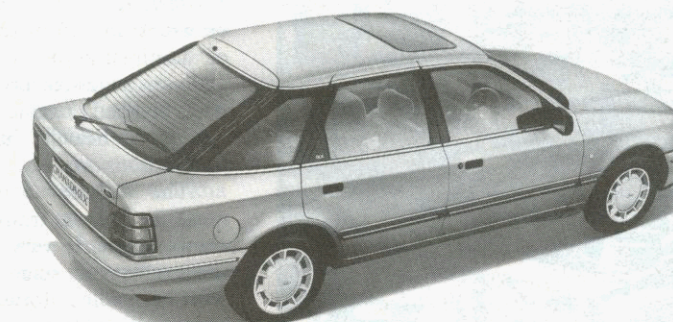
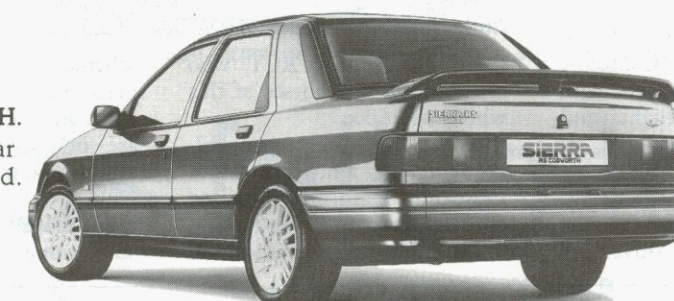
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Coming home? Tim's your man!

ONE of the most sought-after men in the Gulf is Capt Tim Holt, 10 GR. As the Operation Granby withdrawal takes place, he is responsible for allocating seats on aircraft returning to BAOR and the United Kingdom.

Troops and equipment of the 1st (British) Armoured Division and its Force Maintenance Area are involved in a complicated "consecutive withdrawal" from the Gulf.

Capt Holt explained: "Each morning, Maj Nick Lonsdale, QDG and I sit down with a list of allocated flights and compare it with a list of divisional sub-units to decide who has got to move where and when. Then we pass all the information to 29 Movement

Right: Capt Tim Holt with his "happy board". It lists the departures from the Gulf

Control Regiment RCT who are the real workhorses of this whole operation.

"They have the responsibility of creating a nominal roll of those units that I have allocated aircraft space to."

At first, the withdrawal

scheme moved just 700 personnel a day. "We carried out a little fine-tuning and we are now moving more than double that number," said Capt Holt.

"With all the bidding for seats going on, it's not unlike

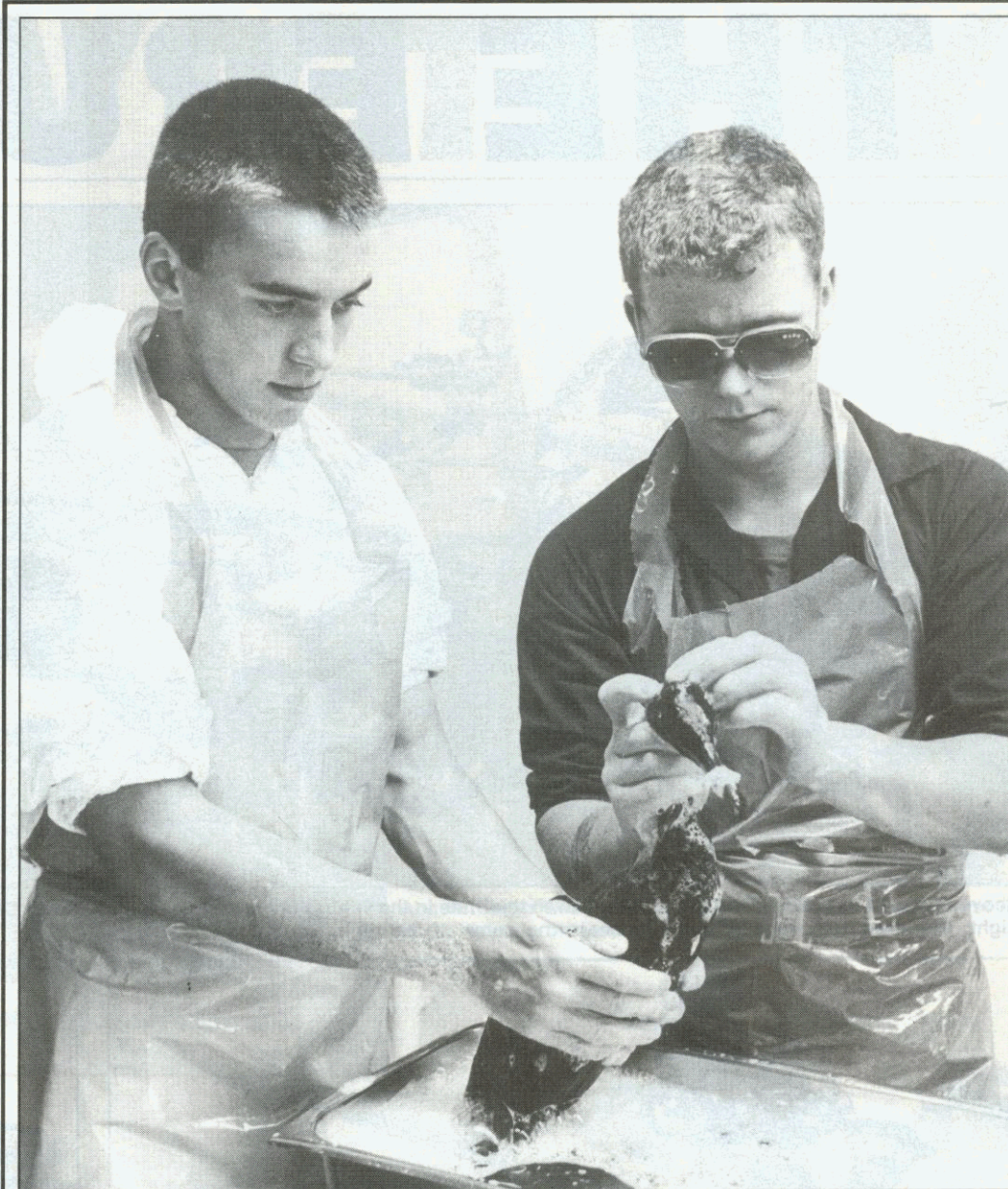
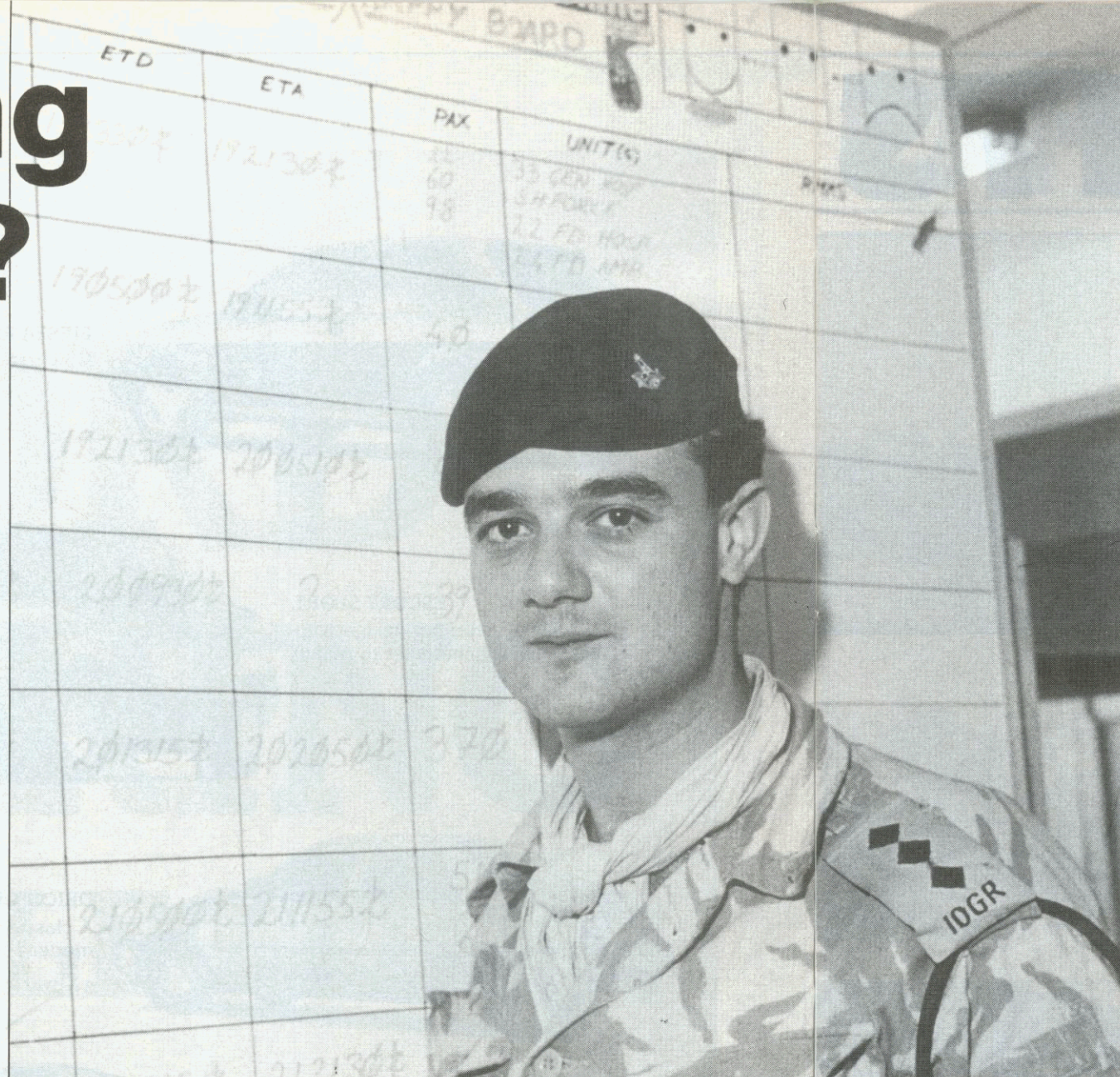
working in a Stock Exchange."

South Cerney-based 29 MC Regiment had deployed two squadrons to the Gulf to move personnel back by air and equipment by ship.

Explained Canadian exchange officer, Maj John Macleod: "Our plans cell organises the air and sea flows by deciding who or what goes on which aircraft or ship. A lot of administration is involved and our headquarters element here at the Logistic Support Group is heavily into communications assets.

"The withdrawal of equipment by sea is rather more complex and is very much at the embryonic stage, but we will be calling forward sub-units and consulting with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps to decide what needs to be put on the jetty so that ships can be loaded with the right combina-

Left: The world's biggest parking lot? Just a few of the 15,000 vehicles packed with freight and more than 47,000 tons of ammunition is expected to last several months.



LCpl Steven Bond and LCpl Fergie Grant gently clean oil off a stricken cormorant

Lads fall in to bathe the birds

BRITISH troops in the Gulf jumped at the chance to play a part in the battle to clear up the environmental disaster caused by Iraqi forces.

They are helping at the Jubail Wildlife Rescue Project where hundreds of sea birds caught in the life-sapping oil slicks are being treated and cleaned.

Rather than doing nothing while waiting for flights home, volunteers have donned aprons, overalls and protective glasses and are washing down dozens of cormorants and seagulls.

It is a risky business, as

members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers have discovered to their cost. The cormorant's long beak is razor sharp and many a painful peck has been inflicted.

"We have learned to tape up the ends of their beaks, which makes life safer," said Cpl Pat Kilbride, who was learning the ropes alongside US Marine Corps Sgt Jeff Kemp.

Close by, LCpls Steven Band and Fergie Grant were working to break down the oil binding the birds' feathers together.

"It doesn't get in their eyes because they have two sets of

eyelids, one of which is waterproof," explained Cpl Martin Coyd of 15 Field Support Squadron, RE, who was making arrangements for more members of his unit to come and help.

Cleaned birds rest quietly around a swimming pool that has been covered with a redundant camouflage net before being taken south and released.

The manager of the project told SOLDIER: "It's simply wonderful to have the help of the British Army and means we can save even more birds."



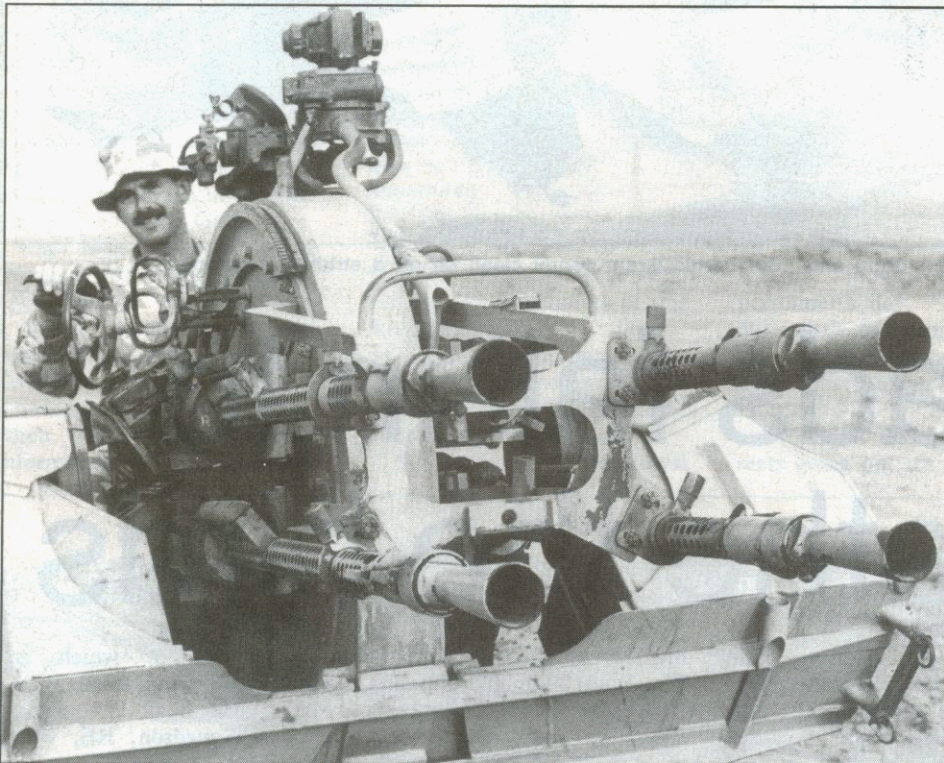
THE FRUITS OF VICTORY



Above: A line of Iraqi Soviet-made T55 tanks await their fate in the vehicle collection point near Kuwait City. Right: Captured self-propelled artillery bears the name of the regiment which has claimed it



Above: Gdsm William MacDonald and Cameron Simpson of the Scots Guards on patrol in the vehicle collection point



WO2 (SSM) Roy Packer of 1st Fd Sqn, 21 Engr Regt RE examines a ZPU4 14.5mm four-barrelled anti-aircraft gun



Sig Andy Johnston and Cpl Shaun Whittaker of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt take a close look at a BM21 multi-barrelled rocket launcher



Cpl Chris Barton of 1st Fd Sqn, 21 Engr Regt, inspects a Chinese-manufactured Type-59 tank. It is fitted with a KMT6 mine plough

Museums, ranges to gain

THE fruits of victory for the 1st (British) Armoured Division include a massive haul of Soviet-supplied military vehicles which are destined for new homes at a variety of British Army locations.

Sappers in Kuwait have created a large berm at a remote desert location where the captured Iraqi army vehicles

are being delivered for storage.

Many of the vehicles carry the names of the units who found them and who have put in a bid for them to be used as gate guardians or museum pieces.

Entry to the berm is strictly controlled, but SOLDIER was granted access to the collection. Row upon row of T55 and T62

tanks stand impotently by. All ammunition has been removed.

Artillery pieces abound, many bearing roughly painted legends such as "For Royal Artillery Museum". The ages and calibre of these weapons range from the sublime to the downright ancient.

Many first entered service during the 1930s and 40s. Long

barrelled 152mm field guns lie beside the stub-barrelled 203mm howitzers.

A trio of BM21 multi-barrelled rocket launchers jostle for space beside armour-cabbed Sajeel rocket launchers. There are also Frog missile resupply vehicles.

Other significant finds included chemical warfare moni-

toring vehicles, trucks carrying radio jamming and intercept equipment, and a whole library of Soviet instruction manuals.

Much of the kit is destined for close scrutiny by intelligence experts and scientists once it has been shipped back to the United Kingdom.

Indeed, boffins have already been examining some of the

more interesting finds.

Some of the armour is destined to play a major part in future Army training. It is possible that tanks and armoured personnel carriers will be sent to BATUS in Canada and Salisbury Plain to be used in wargames.

Two Iraqi army Land Rovers seem likely to earn themselves a

less warlike role. A sign on the doors indicates they will find use with the Army Medical Services ski club. Two captured trailer-mounted field kitchen units have been earmarked for the Army Catering Corps museum.

Intelligence sources indicate up to four-fifths of Iraq's army was captured or destroyed.

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Seeing for himself. GOC Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey (centre) adjusts his chin strap before setting out to visit the Cheshire trenches. From the left are Lt Col Bob Stewart, CO 1 Cheshire, RSM Dave Sherlock, the GOC, Maj Mark Blagbrough, and an RUC officer

A will to win

IT WAS a case of business as usual in Ulster throughout the Gulf conflict, despite the demands made on the rest of the Army.

"We did not lose a single asset or resource to the Middle East," Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey, GOC Northern Ireland, told SOLDIER.

"Some individuals were withdrawn because of, for example, linguistic skills but they were promptly replaced.

"The Arms Plot was changed but without affecting the Force levels here at all. We didn't in any way have a reduced capacity because of the Gulf."

He pointed out that the deployment of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, in Northern Ireland at Christmas actually gave the Security Forces increased capability.

The general was speaking at an RUC station after visiting men of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment still dug in after a fire fight with terrorists who unsuccessfully attempted to surprise them near a recently blocked border crossing.

As an infantryman (commissioned into the Devonshire and

GOC NI's message to men of terror

Dorset Regiment in 1959) who has served in Northern Ireland in every rank except major-general, he has first-hand knowledge of the province and its people as well. This tour is his seventh.

Recently he took the unusual step of talking to the media "because in the aftermath of the Gulf I thought there was something new to say".

Lt Gen Wilsey: "I was really talking about the power of the national will which the nation demonstrated when it had the resolve to go to war in the Gulf and take on, with allies, the fourth largest army in the world and defeat it.

"My message was really

meant for the terrorists – and there are some thinkers among them – to consider.

"If they believe that bombs and bullets are going to dislodge us because we lack the will or the resolve or the steadfastness to stay and do the job, they are wrong. They've only got to look at the Gulf to realise that it was not the case there and it will not be the case here."

People sometimes forgot that the Army had first gone to Northern Ireland to protect the Nationalist community. Over the years the scene had changed.

"In the early years there was a lot of street disorder and almost nightly battles in Belfast and Londonderry until 2 and 3 am. We worked in high intensity operations with lots of men. In 1972 there were 22,000 here for Operation Motorman (in which so-called no-go areas were eliminated). At that time the Army was in the lead. In 1976 police primacy became the government's policy.

"Troop numbers have gone down now to a figure which is suitable and operations are

much more selective, relying on intelligence and mounted much more in partnership with the Royal Ulster Constabulary."

The general emphasised this was a very good partnership. He had the greatest admiration for the RUC and for the Ulster Defence Regiment working with the Army in support of them. He spoke of recent developments including the demolition of permanent vehicle check points at Boa Island and at Derryard where two men of The King's Own Scottish Borderers were killed during a terrorist attack on the post in December 1989.

"The arrival of the Cheshire as temporary reinforcement for the units already here enabled us to get rid of both PVCs simultaneously in a clean operation.

"The purpose in closing them is to produce more soldiers on the ground for more mobile operations unpredictable by the opposition.

"I want to reduce the number of soldiers tied down in defensive locations and gather those released for offensive operations to defeat terrorism."

TRAVELLING LIGHT

1 Cheshire makes a quick return . . . but it didn't stop raining

THE professionalism of the Army in Northern Ireland has seldom shown itself to better advantage than during the recent quick-time deployment of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, to reinforce troops covering the closure of certain border checkpoints.

Only four months after most of them had completed a six-month roulement tour in South Armagh 500 men flew

into Ballykelly security forces base, their Hercules aircraft touching down in the early hours of a wet morning.

They had travelled light under orders to carry only enough kit on their backs to sustain them in the field for five days.

Waiting guides took them across the streaming runways to temporary accommodation.

The Quartermaster, Maj Ron

Goodwin, and his staff had already set up shop in the celebrated "Big Black Hangar" and from there company sergeant-majors collected ammunition, colour sergeants drew three days' rations, and the regiment signals officer, Capt Simon Ellis, drew 30,000 pencil batteries.

The troops were able to nap on camp beds (which were also waiting for them), the CO, Lt Col Bob Stewart, had 24 hours to issue his orders and the next day the Cheshires flew by Chinook to their operational areas. It was still raining.

"It didn't stop for three days and nights," said Maj Goodwin. "I've never seen rain like it."

The Cheshires went into the sodden border area remarkably cheerful, thanks to the waterproof Gore-tex suits issued to every man. Even Fire Support Company, plunged into Fermanagh's notorious lake district, kept dry.

The "loggies" are often forgotten in Northern Ireland so it was encouraging to hear Maj Goodwin praising the support given by 8 Infantry Brigade who were responsible for the operation.

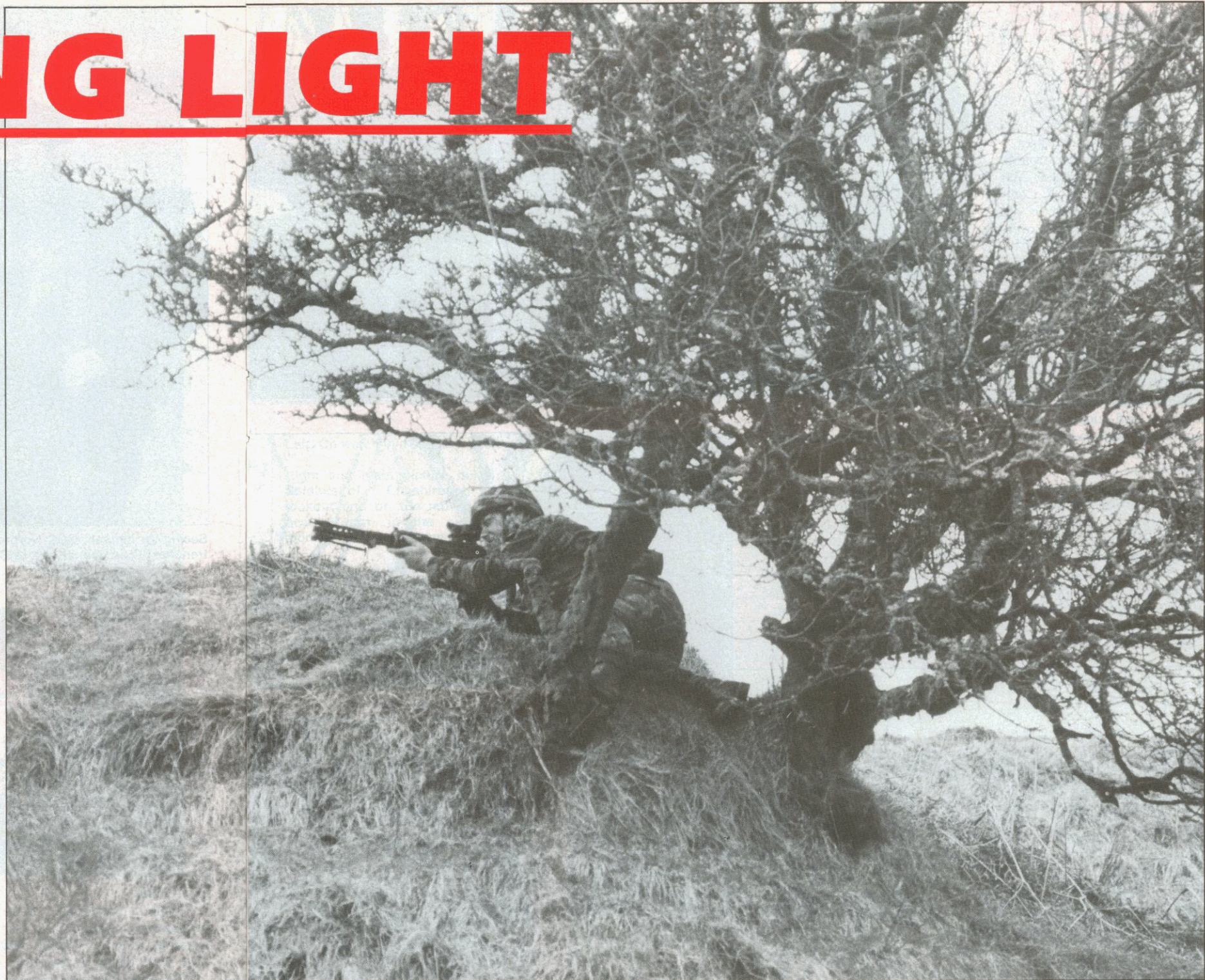
The day after he was "warned" for the move he flew from the battalion's Chester base direct to Ballykelly, "whizzed around the Province for 36 hours" and after a final discussion on requirements with the DCOS and FOO at brigade HQ, matters were settled.

When he returned with a three-man team he found a telephone installed in the Big Black Hangar, to which all the kit required was delivered either from units already in the province or from the regional stores depot.

"It was all there and everything worked," he said. Praise indeed!



No time for posing as a Cheshire moves at the double to make an urgent RV with a helicopter



A member of a 1 Cheshire patrol uses his LSW sight to examine a distant object



Lt Col Bob Stewart, Co 1 Cheshire

UNDER FIRE!

. . . but the reply was instant

THE ORDER to fire was given as the greenish-grey border dusk was shutting down a damp day. Terrorist fingers pressed the triggers of terrorist machine guns and emerald tracer streaked towards trenches which would-be assassins had been studying through binoculars. The bullets flying from the Republic of Ireland side of the Border had it all to themselves, it seemed.

A split-second later came the

reply. Orange tracer from GPMGs, SA 80s and light support weapons, flashed back at the firing point as 2 Platoon, A Company, 1 Cheshire, returned the compliment with interest.

Following the closure of border crossing point 114, they had dug themselves in to cover

it – and wait for the cement to dry.

The Cheshires had been protecting the sappers of 23 Squadron of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment as they cratered the road and filled a Braithwaite (a huge metal box) with concrete.

Two evenings earlier when

the Braithwaite was first filled, a gang of civilians had crossed into Northern Ireland and in 15 minutes shovelled out tons of wet cement before running away when a patrol appeared.

Subsequently when the Braithwaite was replenished four shots were fired over the

● Turn to next page

UNDER FIRE!

● From Page 21

heads of troops in the area. Anticipating further trouble before the cement dried, Maj Mark Blagbrough of A Company ordered his men to dig deep fire trenches with overhead cover on a hillside.

It was from one of these that LCpl Chippy Conway saw a suspicious silhouette at night-fall and told his men to train their weapons on the point while he went to warn another post. He had just reached it when the terrorists opened fire.

With stray bullets flying overhead and kicking up the mud he ran back to his original post to join in the action. Two flares lit the scene.

A number of soldiers had already been on the receiving end during an attack on an observation post in South Armagh and when a random shot, possibly a ricochet, struck the weapon of one private he simply changed his magazine and kept on firing.

For Platoon Sgt Stuart Kelly

it was the first time under fire.

"We could see the terrorist tracer lighting up in front of us and passing overhead. Everyone could see the firing point – it was blatant – and as soon as our rounds started to go down on them they ceased fire."

In fact "they" bolted. A loaded ammunition belt was abandoned on the firing point.

Dare one say, a decisive piece of One Upmanship!



At the double

Left: Cheshires at the end of a patrol move across country at the double to make an RV with a helicopter. If they were late it would mean a long walk home.



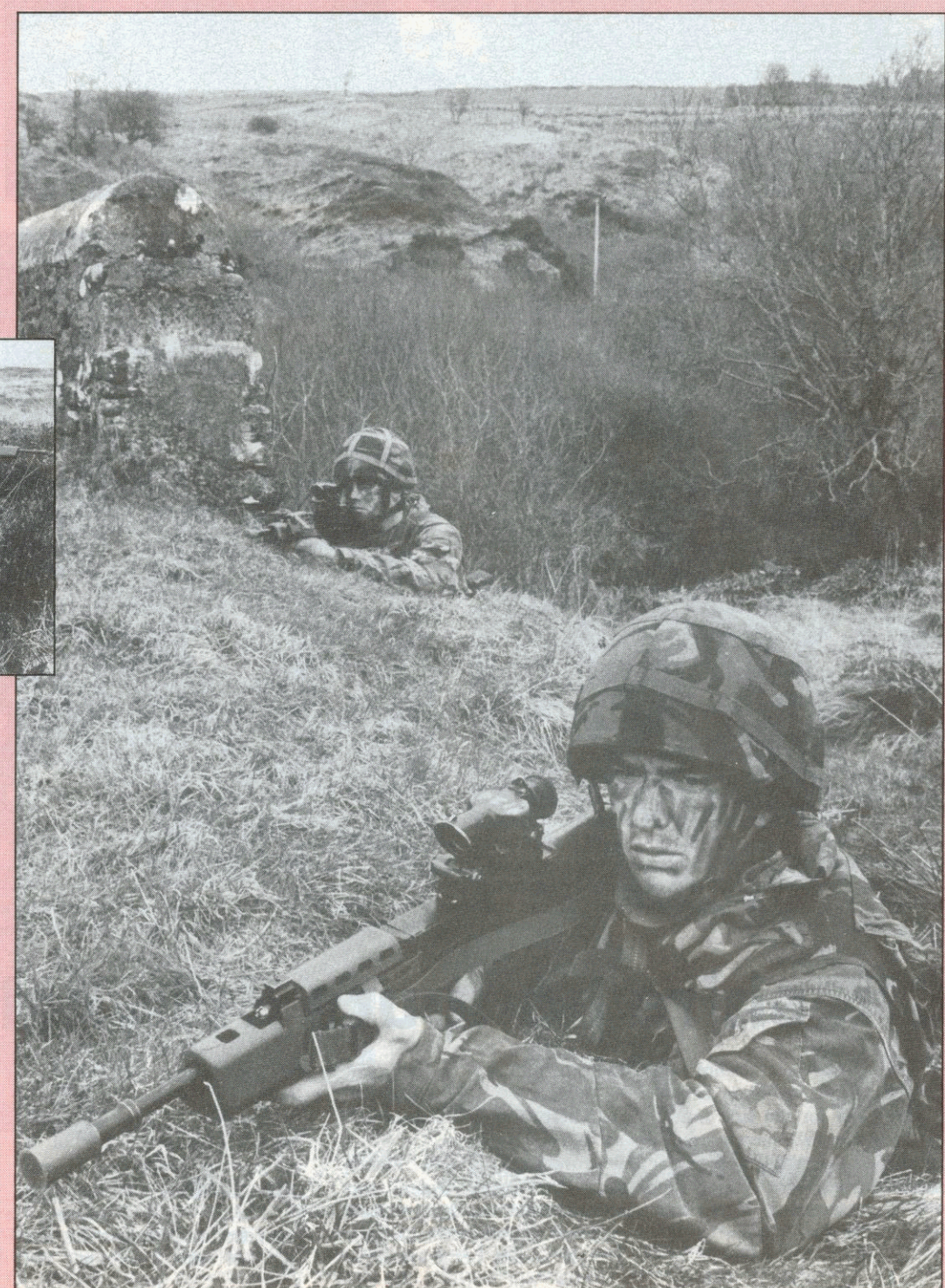
Right: Platoon Sgt Stuart Kelly was involved in the firefight. "We could see the tracer lighting up in front of us." It was his first time under fire



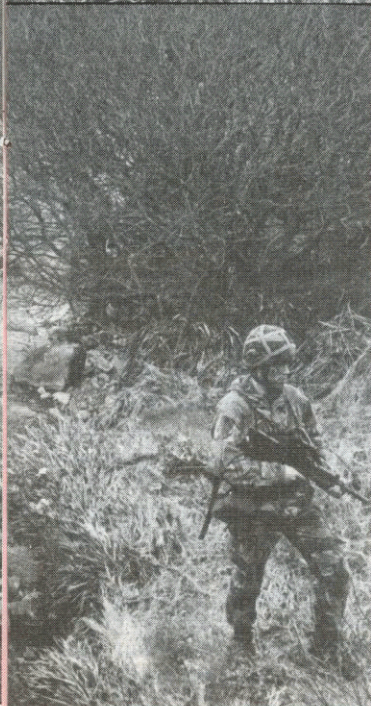
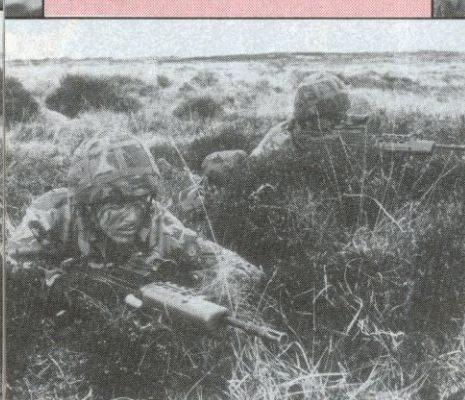
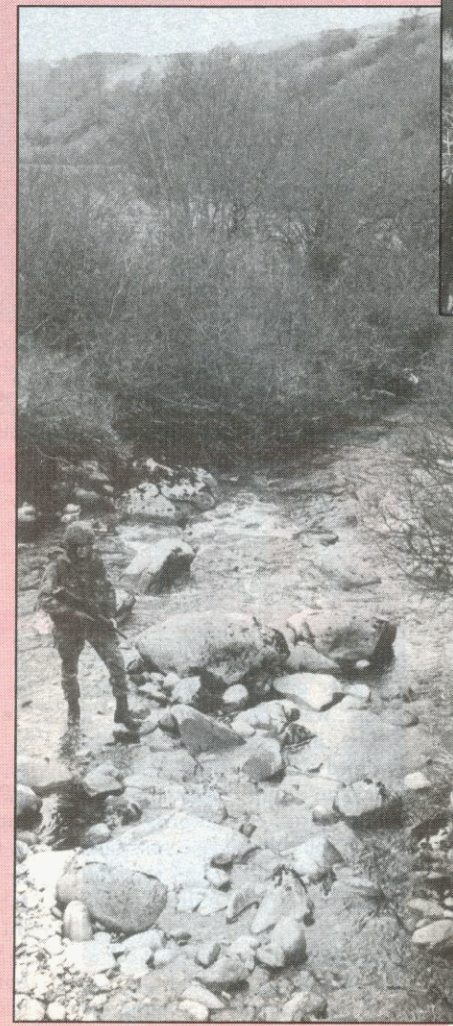
Left: On watch in a border trench

Right and main picture below: Soldiers of 1 Cheshire on the lookout and on the move in a beauty spot. In the summer months it attracts many tourists

Inset below: A 5 Platoon hide in the heather, with Cpl Richard Phillips (foreground), and, using his scope, Sgt Keith "Tarby" Tarbuck who couldn't wait to get home to watch Manchester United



What all the fuss was about. The Braithwaite barrier – brim-full of concrete





Above left: A Poncho to keep the rain off, a ditch for cover, and a GPMG for protection. This was a fire position of 2 Platoon, 1 Cheshire, on the Ulster border, spring 1991

Above: Determined is the only word to describe these men of 8 Platoon, C Company, 1 Cheshire. They had just choppered back from a gruelling search operation in Tyrone

Right: Well-dressed Cheshire's spring collection. Cpl Ronnie Goodwin, son of the Quartermaster, models the helmet, Norwegian shirt, Gore-tex suit, "personal stereo", chest webbing, map case, and fetching hip accessories containing smoke grenades



Pte Bob Davis, of the MT, on duty with 5 Platoon. Also with the rifle companies were the officers' mess stewards, Pte Dave Davis and Pte Bob Bratchell. Travelling light, the battalion was able to call on every man



Lunch in the line. The soldiers were dug in along a hedge and well camouflaged. A platform between their individual trenches provides the perfect dinner table

Cheshire honours Ballykelly dead

THE airlift of the Cheshire to Ulster took the battalion back to Ballykelly for the first time since it left in 1983 having been the target of a callous terrorist bomb attack.

Without warning a device exploded in the Droppin' Well public house on December 6, 1982, killing 17 people, eight of

them members of the regiment (a soldier of 3 LI and two members of the ACC also died, as did six civilians).

A monument now stands near the guard room and shortly after the Cheshire flew in it was announced that a short service would be held there. Anyone who wished to was

welcome to attend. In the event the whole battalion turned out in the rain to hear the Rev Michael Bryce, Padre of 1 Kings, the resident unit, lead them in prayer. They included the CO, Lt Col Bob Stewart, a company commander at the time of the bombing, the adjutant, Capt John Donnelly,

who had been a platoon commander, and the QM, Maj Ron Goodwin, then RSM.

They were touched by the appearance at the service of the CO of 5 UDR (co-located at Ballykelly), Lt Col Mike Hart, and his wife. Lt Col Hart was also a Cheshire company commander at the time.

Meet the Big Black Hangar Gang



Here they are . . . the Black Hangar Gang! They are the men behind Maj Ron Goodwin (right), QM of 1 Cheshire. When the battalion was flown into Ballykelly airfield, everything was waiting for them in a huge aircraft hangar. Among the

troops Maj Goodwin kitted out was his own son, also Ron (see picture above). Another son, Richard, is serving with the RAOC and has just returned from the Gulf, and daughter Jacqui is married to a staff sergeant in the RAPC



The Gurkha Princes

Left: Prince Charles at ease among his men – like the Gurkhas he enjoys a joke

Far left: Blackthorn in hand, kukri on his belt, ear defenders in place – Prince Harry watches his father firing a heavy machine gun. Sgt Bishnu Kumar Pun explains the drill

Below left: Prince Charles catches sight of a Desert Rat with a kukri – the “flash” worn by 28 Gurkha Ambulance Squadron in the Gulf war

Below: Gurkha badge on his helmet, Prince Harry emerges from the turret of a Chieftan tank of the 17th/21st Lancers who were on exercise with the Gurkhas

Pictures: WO2 Arthur Thomson RAOC

FOR THE soldiers it was a very special occasion, but for a small boy it was also a wonderful day out with his father.

Six-year-old Prince Harry gave the appearance of enjoying every minute of his visit to the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, on exercise on Salisbury Plain. Awaiting him when he arrived with Prince Charles, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, was a pack containing many of the things a Gurkha officer in miniature needs.

The little prince was already wearing his own combat uniform, but he was issued a jungle hat bearing the Prince of Wales's Plume badge of the 1st/2nd to go with it, plus the one-pip shoulder slides of a subaltern. He was also given an officer's blackthorn (walking stick) and – enough to thrill any boy's heart – a small version of the famous kukri, the Gurkha battle knife, to hang on his belt.

The prince took home presents for his older brother William – a larger blackthorn and slides carrying two pips.

The Royal visitors watched the Gurkhas going through house clearing drills in the Salisbury Plain FIBUA village and saw a firing of Wombat, sometimes described as the world's noisiest anti-tank weapon and now only in use with lightly-equipped forces.

Prince Harry was given a ride in a Chieftan tank of the 17th/21st Lancers, working with the Gurkhas, and his father fired a heavy machine gun.

The Prince of Wales, who last visited the 1st/2nd (generally known as the 2nd Goorkhas) in 1979, was accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir John Chapple, Chief of the General Staff.

He presented the British Empire Medal to CSgt Sudan Dewan and formally commissioned 11 officers. As a father he will be pleased to learn the impression Prince Harry left behind. The general view was that he was “a very well-behaved little boy”.



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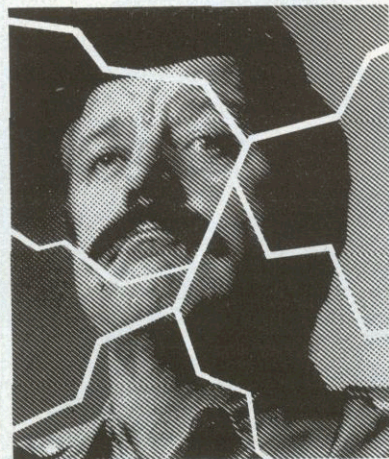
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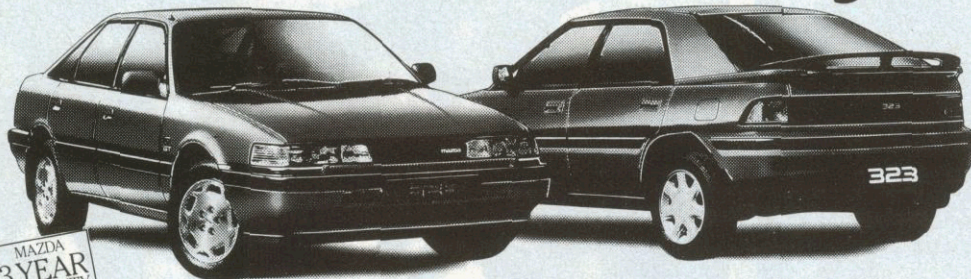
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2 LI invited to a Trumpet Dance



A Company headquarters concentrates on the battle run over Yakima, 130 miles east of Fort Lewis

Range warfare

DESPITE the Gulf war, the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry deployed from Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth to Fort Lewis, Washington State, USA in February for a month-long series of exercises and adventure training under the Exercise Trumpet Dance programme.

The battle group was completed by soldiers from 5, 6 and 8 LI, a flight from 658 Squadron AAC, and a troop from 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

During the first week, the companies made good use of the testing and diverse ranges at Fort Lewis. The Tire House, a building constructed out of tyres, allowed extremely realistic FIBUA drills to be conducted with grenades and automatic SA 80 fire.

Also included in this phase of the exercise were command tasks, FIBUA exercises in a mock European village, a battle inoculation range and fitness training.

East of Fort Lewis lies Yakima Firing Centre and The Multi-Purpose Range Complex – probably the biggest electric target range in the world. Each rifle company carried out a 36-hour live

firing exercise in both attack and defence. Final phase of the Yakima exercise was a company attack which demanded good use of the ground and a high level of determination and fitness.

The mortar platoon was based at Yakima and not only supported the battle runs but also conducted the joint training with an American mortar platoon. The anti-tank platoon went through by sections to fire MILAN, achieving some excellent results. Bugle Platoon, in its sustained fire role, was also available to the companies and its fast, accurate sustained fire was much admired by the US Army.

At the US Army's Camp Bonneville, each company went through an arduous training package, combining hillwalking on the Pacific Crest Trail and landlauffing on Mount Hood.

The battalion reformed in Fort Lewis at the beginning of March for the inter-platoon competition. This started with a move by boat from the port of Tacoma to the training area and then a helicopter flight to the 40km route.

Eventual winner was the recce platoon.



A platoon sergeant on Yakima Firing Centre

A first-class experience

Household Cavalry, King's Troop fly the flag at Spruce Meadows

SERVING with The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery is both prestigious and glamorous, not least for their dashing and instantly recognisable ceremonial uniforms, writes **Jennifer Griffiths**.

A party of seven soldiers from each found themselves feted wherever they went during an official visit to Canada last year, and some are planning a return visit at their own expense.

Meanwhile – as this selection of behind-the-scenes photographs show – life was soon back to normal at their barracks in Knightsbridge and St John's Wood. The glamour quickly faded as soldiers returned to mucking-out the stables.

But memories of the trip to Canada – such as finding themselves pampered first class passengers on the 16-hour flight – helped to make light of equine chores.

The cordon bleu journey there and back was especially memorable for Tpr Mark Stafford and Tpr Keith Oxley. It was the first time they had flown.

Their officer in charge, Lt Jonathan Lydiard-Wilson, said: "When they do get around to travelling by Hercules, it will be a complete culture shock."

The luxury flight set the scene for the rest of the visit to Calgary, Alberta, for the Spruce Meadows Masters, which in 15 years has grown into one of the world's premier international equestrian events.

They took part in a variety of ceremonial occasions, including escorting the British show-jumping team in the Parade of Nations, and appearing mounted at presentations.

During their stay accommodation was provided by the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry and Lord

Strathmore's Horse.

Capt Brian Payne led The King's Troop. He commands the Left Section (E and F guns). These horses are the state funeral team for the Royal Household.

Even 5,000 miles away the minutiae of British ceremonials was uppermost in Capt Payne's mind as he and Lt Lydiard-Wilson studied the programme.

Capt Payne explained: "The problem is we need time between each event to ensure our kit is up to scratch."

The riders were hoping for cool weather which did not materialise, so time spent mounted in full kit was carefully monitored for protection of horse and rider.

The opportunity to visit Canada was especially welcome for Trumpeter John Dewe, whose father lives just 50 miles away from Calgary. Mr Dewe attended the show and John extended his stay to visit his father's home in Edmonton.

There was also a reunion for Corporal of Horse Jeffrey Bell. His father, Alan, who emigrated 12 years ago, travelled from Vancouver to camp out near Calgary so they could meet.

Back at the St John's Wood and Knightsbridge stables there is a pre-dawn start to mucking-out and feeding horses. But the temporary change in lifestyle for the soldiers at Spruce Meadows included girl grooms doing the early-morning stable chores.

Though Sgt Ross Algar of The King's Troop is eventing rather than showjumping, he looked enviously at the arena and confessed he would love to have competed there.

He has been riding since he was four and broke in his first horse when he was 11. He holds the British Horse Society's Assistant Instructor Certificate. His girlfriend, Rebecca Howell, was the first British



Trumpeter John Dewe provided the fanfares at the 1990 Spruce Meadows Masters in Calgary



Lt Jonathan Lydiard-Wilson, officer in charge of The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment contingent

woman to graduate as a Master from the Spanish School of Riding.

Meanwhile, Bdr John Garner made more contacts in the showjumping world. He explained: "When the King's Troop was appearing at Olympia, our stables were next to those of John Whitaker, one of the famous British show-jumping brothers. I got to

know his groom and I visited their stables in Yorkshire."

Gnr Brian Elliott's plan to join 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery was thwarted by an ankle injury, and the King's Troop was his next choice. He said: "I love showjumping and have won quite a few competitions with the troop."

Tpr Philip Allum has been with the Troop for two years



Pictures: Mike Perring



Sgt Ross Algar of The King's Troop is planning a return trip to Canada. He is pictured in the tack room

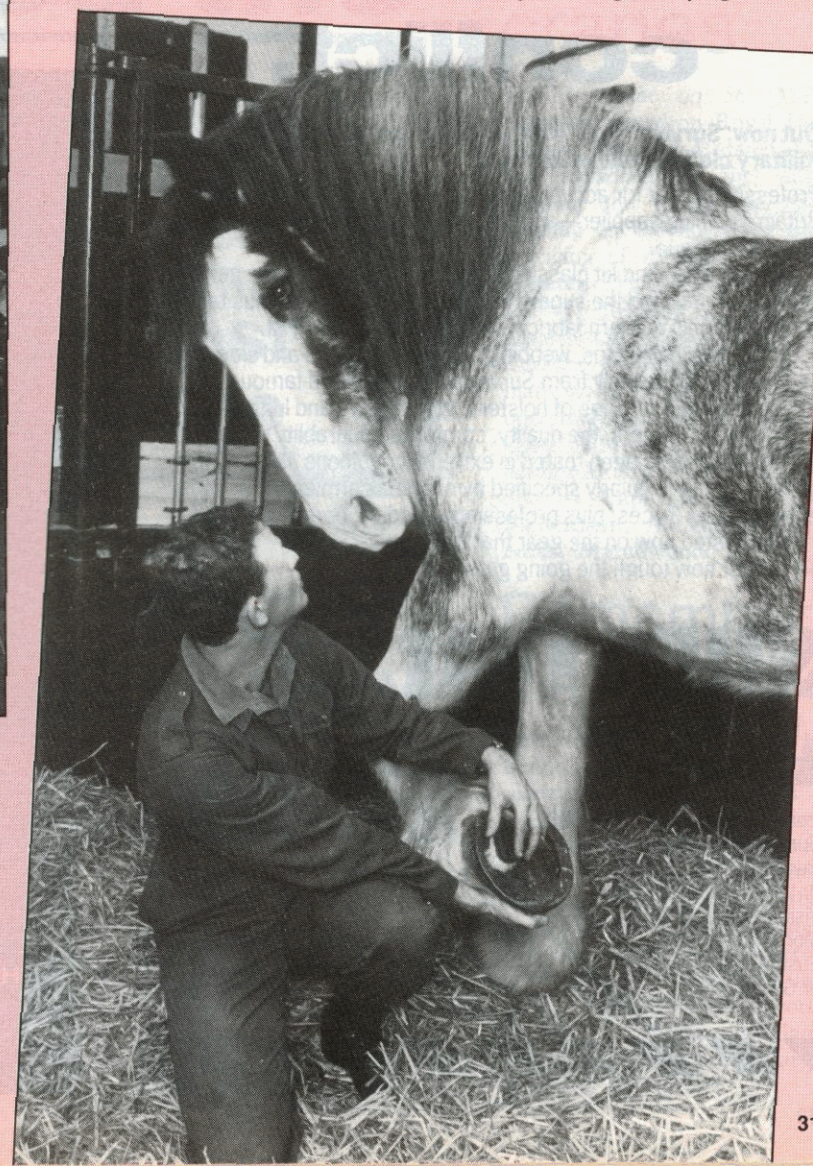
and was originally taught to ride by Romanies.

Vital to the success of the party's smart appearance at Spruce Meadows was Lance Corporal of Horse Mark Goodwin, the saddler. His task was to ensure saddles and kits were in good condition.

The British Army's visit to Canada was sponsored by GEC Alsthom International Inc.

Right: Belisarius (Basil to his friends) is the senior drum horse, Blues and Royals. The massive Clydesdale, being groomed here by Tpr Keith Oxley, has a wonderful temperament and loves to have his forehead scratched – off duty, of course

The delights of Spruce Meadows seem a long way away when, like Gnr Paul Townley (centre) you are in the early morning sweeping detail



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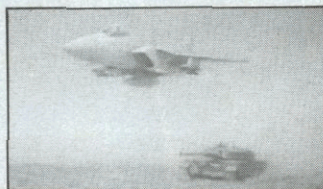
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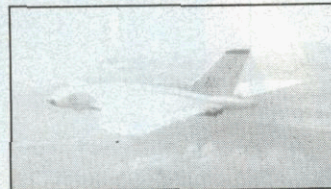
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Will Gulf lads get a medal?

DESPITE 54 dead and 69 wounded in the Suez Canal Zone from October 1951 to March 1952, the Ministry of Defence rejected the award of a medal on the grounds that "events in the Canal Zone were in the nature of everyday tasks and although troops were involved in skirmishes and there were casualties, the situation was not deserving for a recommendation of the grant of a General Service Medal".

I hope the die-hards who used this as a criterion have faded away or a lot of soldiers who served in the Gulf and expect a gong are going to be disappointed. — C L Golder, Bolton.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



He backed the wrong horse!

I HAD to write to you, as I usually do at the beginning of April each year, on the subject of the April Fool spoof in **SOLDIER**.

This year you have me worried! Everything published appears to be of a serious nature — except the story on Page 7 headed "Gren Gds make horse sense".

I believe we are being taken for a ride with the article about the "Inkerman Light Horse" in the Falklands.

Am I right, or have you caught me out this year? — Alec Coleman, Manchester.

● It seems we managed to fool

Mr Doug Howie of the Defence Land Agency surveying the plot which was purchased at a reported £1,041,991. Lt Col Ian Rogers, the Project Officer (right), looks on.

It's a first for the Districts . . .

How the West was one

THE first Districts to combine under the UKLF District Structure Review are North West, Western and Wales, forming the new Western District this year.

At the same time, the new establishment has been confirmed and

their present location, the Command and now with good access to the

meetings and Soldiers on backpacks of cover little more than a day over the terrain. Mount saddle horses, they can manage day.

The Greggs horses from the covered 120 and northern coast Falkland in the 2nd Lt Robert "Inkerman" Light Horse and a light horse.

Dateline April 1

most readers this year, probably because the subject of our spoof was of such a sensitive nature that it touched a few raw nerves. You got the page right, Mr Coleman — but the clue to the spoof was in the headline, "How the West was

one" and in the picture caption, which mentioned the figure £1,041,991 (a cunningly-disguised date). Credit for the ingenious hoax must go to certain friends in Western District with a wicked sense of humour. — Editor

REUNIONS

● **All Second World War veterans** are invited to a "We'll Meet Again" weekend organised by the Monte Cassino Veterans Association in Chester, August 30 to September 1, 1991, including an afternoon at the races, a concert compered by Charlie Chester and a service in Chester Cathedral followed by laying of

wreaths and a parade of standards through the city. For details, write with SAE to J Clarke, 41 Aldermary Road, Manchester M21 2QW (tel: 061-881 4594).

● **The Queen's Regiment** grand reunion will be held at Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts, on June 30, at noon.

More on Page 37

Details from Maj W D Marshall on 0227 763434, ext 4254.

● **Royal Tigers Association:** The Royal Leicestershire Regiment annual reunion will be held at Leicester on June 22 and 23, 1991. Details from the Secretary, TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester (tel: 0533 622749).

Fighting cranes

YOUR article on 56 (MT) Training Squadron Royal Engineers (February 4) stated that the squadron is the only fighting unit giving specialist training on the operating and servicing of the Cranes Field Medium 315.

Port Division School of Transportation Royal Corps of Transport at Marchwood runs many courses which include the operating and servicing of the Coles 315 crane. The Joint Service Mobile Crane Course is one. — Capt (Retd) M A Richardson, McMullen Barracks, Marchwood.

Remember the Scots?

THE letter from Anne Marie Bennett Grignon (March 18) referred to "English soldiers".

However, it is well-known that four out of seven regiments from the Scottish Division alone have been serving in the Gulf, as well as the Welsh and Irish personnel stationed here.

We would be grateful for use of your page to put the record straight. — Fus William Falconer and Fus Barry Donnan, BFPO 649.

Still they move the goalposts

COUNTING the Cost: Will 1983 be the year in which anomalies in benefits for Service families are resolved?

I wrote those words eight years ago and now I feel obliged to write in the same vein.

Now, as then, I write: Service families are losing thousands of pounds a year in benefits to which, in theory, they are entitled but which in practice they are unlikely to collect.

Today the position is much the same as in 1983. The various Government departments over the years understandably have had to move the goalposts, but one group seems to have been forgotten when rules and regulations are made.

So we still have the problem of eligibility to apply for DSS benefits, contributory and non-contributory. Other problem areas are local authority provision of housing; educational – especially discretionary – grants; and employment for wives overseas.

Other areas of concern include the provision of computers for British Forces schools abroad and the review of allowances.

The Forces are called upon to be dustmen,

firemen, and ambulance drivers and are sent to the world's trouble spots such as Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf, but Kipling's words still have a grain of truth in 1991: 'It's Tommy this an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out,

IN MY VIEW

the brute'. But it's 'Saviour of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot.'

Tommy may have to accept that being a Serviceman has a number of disadvantages in comparison with civilian life.

One main area of concern is the way various government departments interpret "Habitually Resident", "Ordinary Resident" or "Non-resident" for Service personnel and their families, bound up with the number of years that Service personnel serve in Europe or elsewhere overseas.

Families can be placed at a disadvantage on their return, in comparison with other groups which do not have the MoD's "accompanied service" policy.

Mr King is first into SSAFA's big draw

DEFENCE Secretary Tom King hands his money over to LCpl Maria Sumner WRAC and claims ticket Number 1 in SSAFA's national "Three Car Draw".

Mr King urged everyone to buy tickets in aid of the association, which supported British Forces' families during the Gulf war and will continue to offer that help for the rest of their lives.

"It's a way of saying 'thank you' to all our Forces," he said.

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body, whose recommended pay rises took effect this month with no staging, did identify areas of concern which led it to reinforce its view that the disadvantages of Service life have grown in proportion to the general advantages.

In its report the Body mentioned increased working hours and guard duties – which often prevented Servicemen taking full leave entitlements – and evidence of increased turbulence for families.

The report said: "Many



Maria (23) served at Al Jubayl with 33 Field Hospital RAMC during the war.

Natocars of Bridgewater and Volkswagen sponsored the top prizes in the draw, which features three

cars – a Passat L Estate, a Polo CL and a Polo Fox.

Tickets are available from dealerships and local SSAFA offices and will be on sale until just before the draw is made on December 6.

of the concerns expressed in previous reports still continue, such as the difficulties in securing employment by spouses and dependants and the problems faced by Service personnel in entering the housing market because of the peripatetic nature of Service life.

"Uncertainty about future job security arising from 'Options for Change' is a new concern."

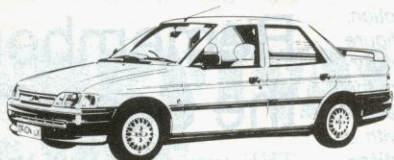
One ray of hope from the Gulf crisis is that it has reminded people – and Lord Henley, Minister for the Disabled, has recog-

nised – that members of the Armed Forces frequently have to be overseas and often in situations of great danger in the service of their country: it is only right that the structure of the social security benefits system should recognise their special position.

He has accepted that periods abroad should be treated as residence in Great Britain for Severe Disablement Allowance. Surely this interpretation of residence should apply in other areas: I do hope it will be accepted by other Government departments.

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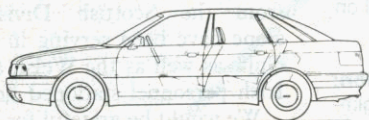
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Guide to healthy travelling

ANYONE considering holidays abroad should read "The Traveller's Guide to Health" issued by the Department of Health, available from travel agents, post offices, and other sources (or ring Freephone 0800 555 777). Even travel within Europe requires health planning and everyone should apply for a Form E111 which is free and ensures treatment under EEC regulations. Not having it could prove very costly to anyone involved in an accident. Some other form of holiday medical insurance is also advisable.

Advice on Glynn's

CUSTOMERS of Glynn's Financial Services in Warwick, whose membership of the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association (BIIBA) and of the Armed Forces Insurance and Investment Brokers Committee (AFI & IBC) has terminated, are advised to consult their pay offices in respect of any insurance they may have taken out with the firm.

Gulf TA Help Desk set up

THE Ministry of Defence has set up a Help Desk for Territorial Army personnel

and reservists returning from the Gulf. In some cases difficulties

have arisen over jobs, mix-ups over rent, repossessed accommodation,

financial, medical and dental problems.

The desk is manned by SSgt Richard Lamb, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards; WO2 Gordon Lamont, Scots Guards; Sgt Jan Hope, Royal Corps of Transport, and LCpl Peter Thrush, Royal Signals.

It operates from 9am - 5pm on weekdays and there is an answerphone service at weekends.

The office is expected to be operational until July 31.

Help desk telephone numbers are 071 385 2233 and 071 610 0670.



The TA helpers. They are (clockwise from front) WO2 Gordon Lamont, Sgt John Hoe, LCpl Pete Thrush and SSgt Rick Lamb

BFPO change

A NUMBER of wives, mothers and friends of personnel who had been attached to the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf have complained about postal delays.

I understand that this is because when the brigade returned to Germany its BFPO 644 number lapsed.

Some of the attached personnel were then posted to other units so mail sent before they could advise people of their new address is likely to have gone to Germany.

The Army posties tell me that ex-BFPO 644 correspondents should now address their letters care of the FMA, BFPO 637.

● The BFPO 3000 appeal has been wound up. More than 100 tons of mail and parcels were sent to Gulf troops via BFPO 3000.

STRUCK OFF

I HAVE HAD a disturbing phone call from a corporal's wife who was among those who learned just before Christmas that their names had been struck off the Medway Housing Society's list along with other Service families.

The Society, you may remember (SOLDIER, April 15), took over the local authority's housing stock.

The wife writes: "We were hoping to live in or near Rochester but when we applied for one of the Society's low cost houses or shared ownership we were told we were not

eligible even though my husband and I come from the area and should be able to find the cash.

"Does this mean we have to apply for 'homeless' accommodation or can we get a surplus quarter until we find a place to live?"

"My husband has served 15 years in the Army but a corporal's pay does not qualify us for a big mortgage. With two teenage children we look like being homeless in eight months. What can we do?"

The only advice I can give to this wife is to appeal

against the decision and to seek help from the Army Legal Corps.

At the same time she should apply through a unit for a surplus married quarter for special welfare reasons. The unit can request a quarter from the Controller FHWS, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN - but she must make sure she supplies copies of the letter from Medway in support of her application.

I have written to the Housing Minister at the Department of the Environment asking what safety

clauses there are, if any, to protect Service families when local authority housing is transferred to an independent organisation and does not come under housing co-operative rules.

I advise serving soldiers who were on the lists of the following councils which have transferred their stock to write asking if they have been removed from them: Chiltern, Christchurch, Sevenoaks, Newbury, East Dorset, Mid-Sussex, South Bucks, North Bedfordshire, Medina and South Wight, Broadlands, Mid-Sussex and Swale.

Waived

OP GRANBY personnel should check their pay slips to see if their Overseas Facility Charge has been abated. For personnel who were paying OFC at their previous duty station the abatement for married personnel was 50 per cent; for single/married-but-unaccompanied personnel and Service couples on Gulf duty the full OFC was waived.

We will never forget you



Please Remember

A donation, a covenant, a legacy or through the Payroll Giving Scheme to The Army Benevolent Fund will help soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in distress

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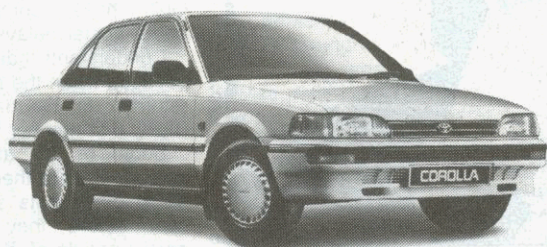
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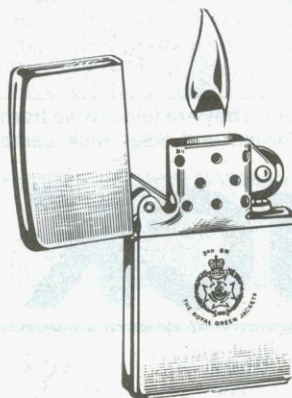
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Reunions

● **The Royal Berkshire Regiment OCA** annual meeting (members only) and reunion will be held in Brock Barracks, Reading, on July 27-28, 1991. Details by sending SAE to Maj (Retd) J J Thompson, The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2EX.

● **The Northamptonshire Regiment Comrades Association** annual reunion will be held at Northampton on June 29 and 30, 1991. Details from the Secretary, Gibraltar Barracks, Barrack Road, Northampton (tel: 0604 35412).

● **Royal Pioneer Corps Association** annual reunion will be held at Northampton on June 22 and 23, 1991. Details from the General Secretary, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (tel: 071 834 0415).

● **Trumpeters:** The annual reunion of ex-Badgies (enlisted Royal Artillery pre-1939) will be held at Larkhill on Friday July 26, 1991. Details from A J C Taylor, 43 Wellington Way, Salisbury SP2 9BU (tel: 0722 320735).

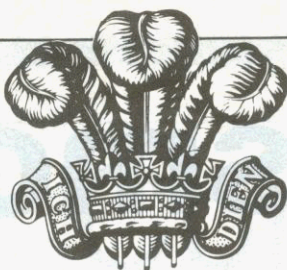
● **Camp 5, North Korea, 1951-53:** Reunion details from Bob Erricker (8 Huss), Sunnyside Nurseries, Rudgwick, Horsham, Sussex RH12 3BT (tel: 0403 822896).

Searchline

● **Bill Travis and William Bide:** Dutch families are urgently trying to trace these two former soldiers, remembered for their kindness and help. Mr Travis was with 56 Infantry Brigade HQ in the 49th West Riding Division (The Polar Bears) near Nijmegen, Holland, in 1944. Mr Bide served with the 2nd Battalion, The Essex Regiment, attached to 56 Infantry Brigade in Tilburg, Holland, in 1945. Anyone with information please contact Mr H M Conn, Secretary, The Essex and Royal Anglian Regiments Association, 144 Woodman Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5AL (tel: 0277 201244).

● **Peter Philip Vierke,** ex-Sgt, Second World War (European Theatre), sought by daughter, Mrs J Grimsey, 6 Loyal Street, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350, Australia.

● **Sgt Denis Moynihan** and wife Eileen sought, with view to renewing friendship made in Malta 1955-57, by Len and Joy Smith, of 18 Pepys Close, Saltford, Bristol BS18 3LS (tel: 0225 872851).



The Royal Wessex Yeomanry's alternative approach

Guardians of a proud lineage

MOST regiments have suffered amalgamations in their past. Look at the names 17th/21st Lancers, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the Blues and Royals.

Even some with a title such as The Royal Regiment of Wales or The Queen's Regiment hide a collection of proud histories behind today's name and its traditions.

Now it is likely that more amalgamations may take place to cater for a smaller army in a hopefully more peaceful world.

To the onlooker, the most visible signs of the living history of the Army are its uniforms and insignia.

Each time regiments are amalgamated, new uniforms and badges must be designed for the new unit, and there are many cases of imaginative solutions to the problem of keeping as much of each component regiment's traditions alive in the new insignia.

The two main spells of amalgamation took place in 1881 and 1922, with a further round in the Sixties, and in every case the battle honours of all regiments have been retained.

Regimental days, those celebrations of past glory and continued pride, have also been retained, so the officers of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, for example, still drink a toast to the French army after the Loyal Toast.

This custom was passed on from the Devonshire Regiment who were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government during the First World War . . . and the ribbon is still proudly worn as a sleeve badge in No.2 Dress by all members of the regiment.

The badges worn by an amalgamated regiment often show traces of the past. For



Three-in-one solution

example, the cap badge worn by members of The Queen's Regiment consists of a dragon within the Garter with the Prince of Wales's feathers above and a scroll reading "Queen's" below.

The dragon dates back to 1707, when it was granted to the Buffs in recognition of their origins in the Trained Bands of London, who went off to fight the Dutch under a dragon banner in 1572.

The Garter is drawn from the badge of the Royal Sussex Regiment, and the Prince of Wales's feathers are from the Middlesex Regiment's badge.

Remaining with the Queen's Regiment, the collar badge shows the White Horse of Kent (Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, also worn by the Queen's Own Buffs) on a Garter Star and a single feather – the Roussillon Plume which commemorates hat feathers taken from the vanquished French Royal Roussillon Regiment by the 35th Foot – later The Royal Sussex Regiment, before becoming part of the Queen's – at the Battle of Quebec.

In The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, formed in July 1871 by the amalgamation of the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) and the Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons),

dress distinctions of both parent regiments feature in the uniform today.

The forage cap worn by the Royal Scots Greys had a distinctive zig-zag white band around it, and this has been combined with the yellow facings worn by the 3rd Carabiniers to give the cap with a yellow zig-zag band worn by members of the Scots DG today.

Most of the full dress uniform, worn mostly these days only by bandsmen, is based on that of the Royal Scots Greys, but all ranks wear an arm badge of the Prince of Wales's feathers on the left sleeve. This distinction was originally granted to the 3rd Dragoon Guards (who amalgamated with the 6th Dragoon Guards to form the 3rd Carabiniers in 1922) in 1765 when they were given the title "Prince of Wales's" on the occasion of the third birthday of the then Prince, George Augustus Frederick.

An alternative approach is that adopted by some units in the Territorial Army.

Each squadron of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry, for example, has its own badge and distinctions, being those of one of the original Yeomanry regiments from which today's regiment was formed, and there is no regimental badge or guidon for the regiment as a whole.

So A and C Squadrons wear the Portcullis badge of the Gloucestershire Hussars while B Squadron wears the Prince of Wales's feathers of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and D Squadron proudly bears the badge of the Royal Devon Yeomanry.

by
Megan C Robertson

How Portsmouth soldiered on

THERE can be no other such comprehensive account of life in a British city during the First World War than *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, John Sadden's story of Portsmouth and Gosport.

This is also his maiden book and he should not rest on his laurels, which he thoroughly deserves, but should find another subject to research as well as this.

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His dry sense of humour permeates this book, such as the account of the rounding-up of aliens in 1914: "One man, visiting a nearby village to attend the funeral of a relative, was arrested by soldiers while leaving the church. As he was escorted away under armed guard he disconsolately remarked, 'I had not been to church for 15 years and this does not give one much encouragement'."

This was the first time that the effects of war, including the bombing of cities by Zeppelins, conscription, rationing and enormous casualties from the battlefields, were felt by the civilian population and Sadden paints a most detailed picture, enhanced by some 300 remarkable photographs and copies of advertisements.

"The spirit of 'Business as

usual' knew no bounds, but not everyone welcomed the martial activities. For one well-to-do lady resident of Clarence Parade, the passing of the vulgar tripper was now a matter of regret; his loud exuberance on the common opposite had been bliss compared with the piercing calls of the Army bugler which, she bravely complained, was 'a source of torture to shattered nerves'."

But other ladies did their bit to release men for the front by joining the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Royal Air Force, the Land Army, the Corporation tram and water services, the munition factories and the dockyard.

Others still sold their services to the thousands of Servicemen passing through Portsmouth and Gosport, few of whom took Lord Kitchener's

advice to "avoid any intimacy with women", with the result that venereal diseases reached such proportions that free medical treatment was provided and more than 20,000 cases were treated in the first two years.

When the war was over memorials were erected outside Portsmouth City Hall to the estimated 6,000 men and women who died and on the sea front at Southsea, a Naval Memorial to the 9,000 men of the Empire who had "no other grave than the sea".

Gosport's war memorial was more practical - a hospital. - PSN

Keep the Home Fires Burning.

The Story of Portsmouth and Gosport in World War 1 by John Sadden. Published by Portsmouth Publishing and Printing Ltd. Price £12.95.

Tale of intrigue and treason

BRITISH soldiers waiting in Venlo on the German-Dutch frontier in the spring of 1945, apprehensive of the great amphibious crossing of the Rhine that was to come, were unaware of the dramatic incident that occurred near the town some 52 months earlier, when the leading British intelligence agents in Holland were snatched by the SS in an audacious kidnapping.

Everyone likes reading "secret war" stories and in *Betrayal at Venlo* Leo Kessler gives us several stories in one book, each intricately linked but all capable of standing alone as a tale of high adventure.

The author points an accusing finger from the start: "If the truth of what had been going on at this frontier that November came out - a British Prime Minister negotiating with the enemy two months after he had declared war on their country, and a 'royal', disguised as a major-general in the British Army, actively engaged in discussing treachery with that same enemy as late as 1940 - the whole nation's confidence in the ruling class, perhaps even in the dynasty itself, might be irrevocably shaken."

The opening chapters are concerned with two unconnected plots which might have brought the war to an early end, but one of which could certainly be interpreted as treachery.

One involved the British agents in Holland, Sigismund Payne Best and Maj Richard Stevens, acting under instructions from London, negotiating with Germans who were mistakenly believed to be planning the overthrow of the Nazis.

The other, a plot born in the mind of an unlikely German, a far from youthful Swabian carpenter, Johann Georg Elsar: "... this humble little man preparing to assassinate the Führer seems to have had no

Contaminated view of Haig

ANYTHING published at this late date which examines Douglas Haig as the First World War British commander on the Western Front must be inspired by new thinking or backed by the discovery of hitherto hidden material.

In the latest book on the subject, *Haig's Command: A Reassessment*, Denis Winter sets out to analyse what he believes to be a major historical fraud.

He claims to have discovered strong evidence that informal documents relating to Haig, such as his diaries, as well as official confidential material, were over the years tampered with and in some cases even removed altogether; it is asserted that official war records, both political and military, were systematically distorted during the war as propaganda, and subsequently put through extensive laundering for the Official War History.

"What did startle was a collection of GHQ and Army Command material which had no counterpart in the Public Record Office ... The one conclusion making sense of the anomalies was that falsification on a considerable scale must have taken place for so many documents to have been held back ..."

Altogether, the book is more than a criticism of Haig; it amounts to a character assassination, much of the justification for which seems to stem from the works and



Field Marshal Haig

some unpublished papers of Charles Bean, the author of the Australian War History.

Winter's view of Haig is summed up fairly early in the book: "His period of command, first of a corps, then of an army, had exposed grave professional weaknesses in a man whose rise had always owed more to intrigue and patronage than to any evidence of talent as a soldier."

Assessments of the Battles of the Somme, Passchendaele, and Cambrai show up miscalculations and blunders on the part of Haig.

In the Official History, the Somme, Haig's first campaign, is presented as a battle forced on him by the French, whereas it is pointed out by Winter that Haig prepared the battle badly, using it as a diversionary attack. Some diversion, with over half a million casualties to its name!

"Whether in terms of ground gained or damage

inflicted, the Somme has all the appearance of a disastrous experience for the British Army; why was the battle fought? What went wrong? Why did Haig persist from July to November?"

As partial answers to these questions, Winter points out three basic weaknesses shown at the Battles of the Somme and Passchendaele: "A faulty selection of the battlefield, an inability to break the crust of the enemy's position at the outset and a failure to exploit such fleeting opportunities for breakthrough which appeared."

This is a book that will give ammunition to those who believe that most commanders in the First World War were either extremely thick or unfeeling butchers.

In the case of Douglas Haig the accusations are that he was, variously, devious, stubborn and unimaginative, his errors making him responsible for the horrific bloodshed staining all accounts of that conflict.

But there are pundits who equally earnestly believe that the Allied Command, and Haig in particular, had no alternative to launching these offensives.

Without them, the Central Powers, it is claimed, would almost certainly have gained control of Europe. - BJ

Haig's Command: A Reassessment by Denis Winter. Published by Viking. Price, hardback, £18.99.

great thoughts, no doubts, no uncertainties, no fears. He seemed possessed solely by that one fixed idea: he must kill Hitler."

Elsar very nearly succeeded with his one-man attempt, using a home-made bomb in a Munich beer hall, whereas the ill-conceived British plot could never have been anything other than a disaster, with a number of far-reaching consequences.

An amazing mix of familiar

names springs from the pages of this book: Anthony Blunt, R A Butler, David Eccles, Kim Philby, and a certain Czech, a "teenage private named Hoch, who would later become Private Leslie du Maurier, and finally Capt Robert Maxwell". It must be said that by no means all the names dropped had any connection with the intrigues.

The book is the result of some enterprising research on

the part of Leo Kessler. "Naturally after the war no one wanted to be associated with any wartime deals with Hitler. It is probably for this reason that the papers relating to the whole episode will not be available till the year 2015 ... By then, gentle reader, most of us will be dead." - BJ

Betrayal at Venlo by Leo Kessler. Published by Leo Cooper. Price (hardback) £15.50.

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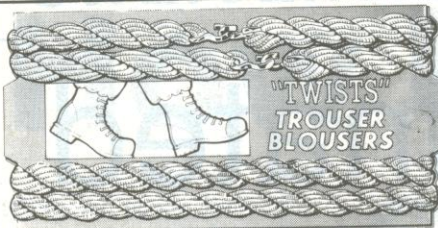
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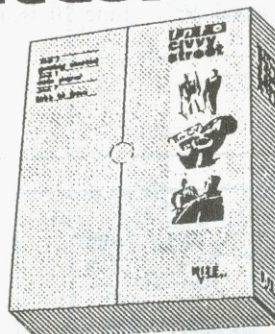
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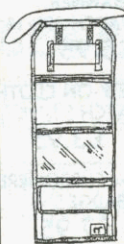
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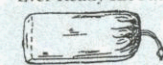
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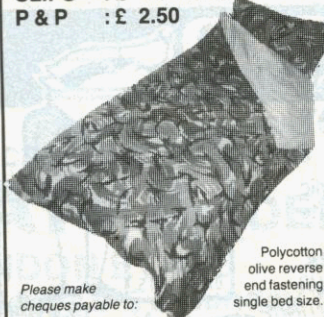
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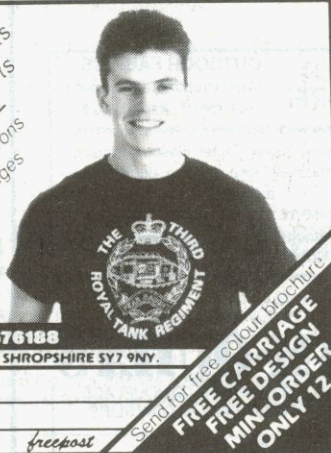
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RAOC turn on the style to leave sappers trailing

FOUR goals by skipper SSgt Aubrey Smith and two by Sgt Glynn Bourne gave Training Centre RAOC an ultimately flattering 6-0 victory over Military Works Force RE from Chilwell in the UKLF final of the Army Minor Units hockey championship played on the artificial pitch at Aldershot.

The Blackdown side, defend-

ing their title for a second-time, scored five of their goals in the latter half of the second period to put beyond doubt what had, until then, been a well-contested match.

MWF RE soon showed themselves to be worthy finalists and play flowed from end to end. Smith broke the deadlock from a short corner

midway through the first half. The sappers might have levelled but for a fine save by Maj Richard Eccles in the RAOC goal.

Capt Tim France provided a fine service in the second period to Cpls Simon Palmer, Mark Hunter and Glynn Bourne to impose the Training Centre's grip on the game.



SSgt Aubrey Smith (centre) blasts one of his four goals for Training Centre RAOC in the UK Minor Units hockey final at Aldershot

Quick air strike blasts Army

Army 0, RAF 1

WITHIN 17 seconds of the kick-off to the final match of the Inter-Services championships at RAF Uxbridge the ball was nestling in the back of the Army net, writes Pat Massey.

Sgt John Barron from RAF Wyton rose to a flighted cross and steered it wide of Sgt Nigel Wiscombe (42 Svy Engr Gp) in the Army goal. It was a shock start from which the visiting soldiers never recovered, and it gave the Royal Air Force the championship.

The home side had much the better of the first half exchanges, controlling play, quick on the break, and always looking dangerous in the Army area.

LCpl Chris Brown (JLRRE) saved further embarrassment with a goal-line clearance, and such was the RAF stranglehold that it was 35 minutes before the Army had a meaningful



WO2 Mick Kidney of 17 Tg Regt RA and Depot, supported by Bdr Simon Parfitt (right), outstretches Gnr Carter of defending champions 14 Fd Regt/RSA Larkhill in the UK Major Units hockey final at Aldershot. The Woolwich-based team won the all-gunner final by three goals to two

shot on goal – and that by defender Brown.

Wiscombe made two good saves to keep the Army in the game, and the visitors stepped up the pressure in the closing stages – at some risk of being caught on the break.

But they seldom looked like converting their very few chances into goals and it was only justice that the better side won.

Dutch Armed Forces 4, Combined Services 1

Combined Services travelled to Oss to take on the Dutch Armed Forces in the final match of this year's Kentish Cup competition and found that their opponents – who host the Military World Cup in June – were anxious to atone for their 3-0 defeat by the Belgians.

With skipper Twan Scheefers (PSV Eindhoven) in brilliant form, club mate Rick Scheper in goal, Ulrich Gobbel (Feyenoord) and Sparta brothers Gerard and Dennis de Nooyer in the team, the Dutchmen did not disappoint.

Scheefers converted an early penalty which was cancelled out a minute later by Cpl Russ Wilson (RM).

Army 'keeper Nigel Wiscombe made two excellent saves as the Dutchmen stepped up the pressure, while Sig Jim Strouts, playing his first full game for the senior side, went from strength to strength.

With the game running away from them, Services sent on LCpls Pat Fagan and Sean Withers of the Irish Guards, and both did well.

Depleted through injury and

late withdrawals, the British side was grateful for the assistance provided by BAOR and RAF(G), from where former Army player Capt Micky Doig RE drove to the ground at short notice with Withers and Fagan to boost the squad.

3 UDR 3, 2 LI 1

It was a case of second time lucky for 3 UDR's footballers, who beat 2 LI at Tidworthy Oval to win the UKLF section of the Infantry Challenge Cup.

Last year the UDR team were beaten in the final on a penalty shoot-out. LCpl Kirk and LCpl Adams (2) scored the UDR goals and they were meeting 1 IG, the BAOR champions, in the Infantry Challenge Cup final.



We're the champs! The 3 UDR football team celebrates victory in the UK Infantry Challenge Cup final

When losing leaves a bitter taste . . .

THE subjective nature of boxing's scoring system can be the most cruel aspect of an already tough sport, writes John Elliott.

What happened to the Army boxers at the George Wimpey All-England semi-finals at Birmingham makes one wonder why two personable, dedicated and talented young athletes bother with the years of punishing physical effort necessary to compete at this level.

Nobody in the Army camp thought Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT) had lost a round against Michael Aldis, yet the Southern Counties man

was awarded the fight on a majority.

Worse was to follow when super-heavyweight Sgt Dave Abbott (Gren Gds) took on Clayton Brown of the Midlands. Abbott's corner were convinced he had won with even more conviction than McCallum – yet Brown was given a unanimous points decision.

On both occasions the large crowd was quick to voice its collective disapproval of the judges' verdict. The Army boxers were by no means the only ones to suffer – several other controversial decisions

provoked enthusiastic and justifiable debate.

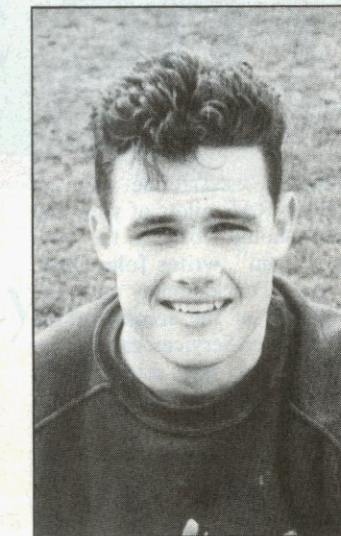
Pte Loz Roach (1 LI) and Pte Darren Duggan (R Hamps) are both through to the semi-finals of the NABC championships to be staged at Aldershot. Duggan, a bantamweight, won his quarter-final at Milton Keynes with a knockout which belied the fact that it was only his sixth competitive bout.

Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon has been called up for international duty again. He flies out to the European Championships in Sweden from May 6-14 as assistant to the national coach, Ian Irwin.

Depot in final again

THROUGH to the final of the Army Minor Units squash championship for a third consecutive year are the Light Division Depot team, who were due to meet the BAOR champions at Bielefeld on April 13.

In the UKLF final Light Div Depot beat near neighbours RAPC Training Centre. The Depot was represented by Sgt John Murphy, Lt Tony Harrison, Maj Peter Luard, Cpl Charlie Brown and WO2 Sandy Shaw.



JLdr Paul Jones (above) of the Royal Green Jackets won the Army junior squash championship without dropping a game on his way to the final.

Paul, the Oxfordshire Under 16 champion before he joined the Army, met JApp Shaun Hudson of AAC Chepstow in the final at Arborfield and won 9-4, 9-2, 9-0.

Nigel wins TA title

Winner of the Territorial Army's cross country title was Pte Nigel Adams, who led Cardiff-based HQ Coy, 3 RRW to victory in the team event. A Sqn, 21 SAS were second and HQ Coy, 4 RRW third.

The veterans' race was won by Cpl Ferguson (251 Sqn RCT), and the women's title by OCdt Bartlett (EMUOTC).



Picture: Chris Dixon

Wonder winger Rory Underwood finds himself surrounded, but still scored two tries

The sting on the wing

RAF 30, Army 12

THERE used to be a saying among RAF pilots of yore that they should "beware the Hun in the sun", writes John Quin.

At Twickenham on the occasion of the second of the 1991 Inter-Services games, the Army could have adapted that to read "beware the sting from the wing".

As the Army players trooped into the dressing room at HQ, they passed the chalk board which gives news of any late team changes. The Army side read no changes and the RAF showed six.

Was there turmoil among the light blues who had recently returned from the Hong Kong festival?

The game started well for a confident Army side going for four championships in a row, something no Service has ever achieved.

A try inside three minutes by the forwards suggested that record could well go. It was not to be.

The numbers on the RAF threequarters' shirts bore little resemblance to their true position on the park, and when No 11, one Ft Lt Rory Underwood, the well-known flying winger, took up position at full back (allowing shirt No 15 to take up the fly half berth) we knew something was afoot.

In the end the RAF deserved their record victory over the

Army. There was a great display by their forwards, who at first stifled the Army's possession and then turned it into a steady stream of good quality balls for their own backs.

Underwood was allowed the freedom of the park to run in either direction at the red line, and in two unforgettable moments scored tries which lifted his own side as much as it made the job for the Army lads more difficult.

His England team-mate, B international Cpl Paul Hull, did the rest with the boot.

The RAF must now be favourites to take this year's title, although the Royal Navy may have other ideas about that.

Nevertheless, the future for

the Army side looks good. There is a lot of raw young talent there and I don't think that they will make the same mistake given the opportunity next season.

In the next issue, we will have a report on the Army Cup final between 7 RHA and 1 RWF.

● RMA Sandhurst were awarded the inaugural AFFAS Salver for their splendid turn-out in the North car park at Twickenham before the annual Army-Royal Navy rugby match.

The award, for the most enterprising unit or mess lunch, was conceived to encourage Army participation in the pre-match car park entertainment, for many years dominated by the matelots and their coach-borne contingents.

Cambridge on target

CAMBRIDGE UOTC won the closest-ever final of the UKLF Inter-Unit small bore target rifle shooting competition held at SEME Bordon. The result was decided on the last cards to be fired, with Cambridge taking the trophy by a single point over Lisburn Garrison.

Third were 1 D and D after a protracted struggle against RAPC Worthy Down.

The match was fired using latest 1989 pattern NSRA targets with smaller scoring rings, so the students' winning score of 1,534 (out of a possible 1,600) stands as a record.



SSgt Steve Mulloy

Sappers run wild

OP GRANBY had a dramatic effect on entries to this winter's Running Wild cross country league at Detmold, Germany, with race attendances dropping from over 200 the previous year to about half that.

But it did mean that RAF Gutersloh's domination of the major units' competition was ended by the Hameln-based sapper regiments, with 28 Amph Engr Regt finally emerging as champions in the final race ahead of 35 Engr Regt with Gutersloh third and a much improving 1 (BR) team fourth.

Only three minor units raised teams on a regular basis and the honours were taken by 1 Corps Tps Wksp with 10 Fd Sqn RE second and 4 Ord Bn third.

Clear overall winner for individual honours was 28 Amph Engr Regt's SSgt Steve Mulloy.

Bielefeld beat Herford in the women's races for the second year.

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These men of B Section, 174 Provost Group RMP, are engaged on traffic control at the Convoy Mounting Area at Al Jubayl in Saudi Arabia. More than 3,500 vehicles awaiting their return to Germany and the United Kingdom lie behind them.

Picture: Terry Champion

