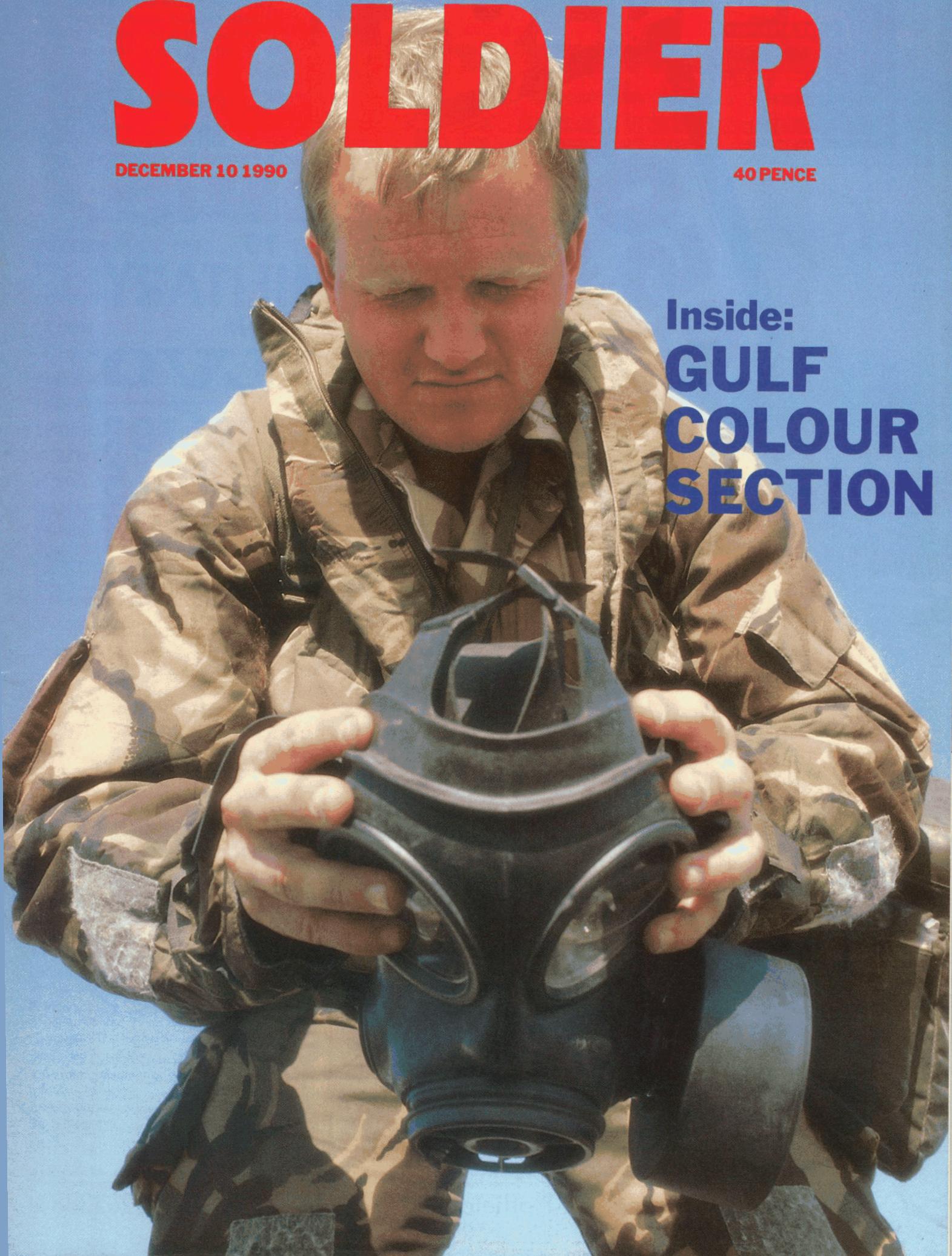


SOLDIER

DECEMBER 10 1990

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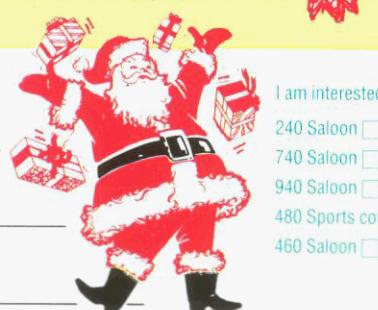


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FRONT COVER: Sgt Dave Chambers turns his back to the danger and closes his eyes as he dons an S10 respirator during NBC drills at a 7 Armoured Brigade base in Saudi Arabia. Personnel in the Gulf have to carry respirators at all times.

Picture: Terry Champion

Season's greetings to our readers and advertisers. The next issue will have the cover date January 7, 1991

DECEMBER 10, 1990

VOL. 46/25

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
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Defence Secretary Mr Tom King (left) gets first-hand experience of life on board a Challenger tank during live-firing battle runs in the desert of Saudi Arabia. With him are the Commander 7th Armoured Brigade, Brig Patrick Cordingley (centre) and Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British Forces Commander Middle East.

**4 Armd
Bde
on its way**



SOLDIERS of the 4th Armoured Brigade from Germany are on their way to Saudi Arabia to reinforce the 7th Armoured Brigade. Together they will form the 1st (British)

● Turn to Page 5

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Helicopter crash hero awarded QGM

SERGEANT John Howe of the Royal Engineers is to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his actions following a helicopter crash last year.

The aircraft crashed on Stanford Training Area, Norfolk, three minutes after taking off with Sgt Howe and five members of his troop of young soldiers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE, Dover. They were on a helicopter familiarisation exercise.

The aircraft crashed into a field, throwing

one soldier clear. The soldier sitting next to Sgt Howe had difficulty releasing his safety belt and started a panic.

Sgt Howe calmed him down, helped to release the belt, and prevented the soldier from rushing out into the spinning rotor blades.

By this time the wreckage had started to burn and threatened to engulf the soldiers in toxic fumes.

Despite this danger, Sgt Howe calmly

waited for the right moment to leave the aircraft. Disregarding his own safety, he helped the young soldier to get clear before returning to the burning wreckage to assist the badly-injured pilot.

He again returned to the aircraft to help four soldiers who were trapped. Unfortunately, his valiant effort was to no avail and he was beaten back by the intense heat.

Now a staff sergeant, he is currently serving in Northern Ireland.

4 Armd Bde on its way

From Page 3

Armoured Division with a strength of about 25,000 men under the command of Maj Gen Rupert Smith.

Most of the troops will fly to the Gulf after Christmas, by which time their equipment will have arrived by sea.

Announcing the reinforcement, the Defence Secretary, Mr Tom King, said the formation of a UK armoured division would represent "a potent increase in the fighting capability of British forces in Saudi Arabia."

British troops will continue to be under US tactical command for specific actions.

In addition to 4 Armd Bde (Brig Christopher Hammerbeck) with its armoured regiment of Challenger tanks, two armoured infantry battalions equipped with Warrior, an armoured reconnaissance squadron, a Royal Artillery field regiment, Royal Engineers and other supporting services, the Division will deploy with two Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) batteries, M109 and M110 self-propelled guns, tracked and towed Rapier, Lynx anti-tank helicopters and additional support helicopters.

The 4th Armoured Brigade was one of the original Desert Rats brigades and its badge is a black variation of the famous red 7th Armoured Division jerboa symbol.

Main firepower of the brigade is provided by the Challenger main battle tanks of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, and the M109 155mm self-propelled guns of 2 Field Regiment RA, both based at Munster. Armoured infantry comes from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) from Werl and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from Iserlohn.

Eyes of the brigade are Herford-based 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, equipped with Scimitar, and 23 Engineer Regiment from Osnabrück provides sapper support.

Two of the regiments, 14/20 H and 3



On their way to the Gulf. The Army's new MLRS (above) and the M110A2 self-propelled howitzer, pictured on exercise in Germany



RRF, have the Battle Honour Baghdad, awarded for service against the Turks in 1917.

Other components of the brigade include Javelin-equipped 46 Air Defence Battery RA and the Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

In addition, 32 Heavy Regiment from Dortmund equipped with M109 and M110

Your magazine

UNITS serving in the Gulf who are having difficulty in obtaining enough copies of SOLDIER Magazine to circulate among personnel are asked to increase their orders either through their unit headquarters in the UK and BAOR or by contacting the Circulation Department, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

howitzers, and 39 Heavy Regiment RA from Paderborn with MLRS give the Division a massive punch. Other Divisional units include Rapier-equipped 12 Air Defence Regiment RA (Dortmund), 32 Engineer Regiment (Munsterlager) and 4 Regiment Army Air Corps (Detmold).

BAOR support will include REME workshops.

As SOLDIER went to press, an announcement was expected that logistic back-up would be drawn from a number of formations based in the United Kingdom.

● Omitted from the list (November 26 issue) of units serving in the Gulf was 7 Armoured Workshop REME and numerous REME light aid detachments (LADs). Others with a presence in the area include 49 EOD Sqn RE from Chatham, 21 Engineer Regiment, RAEC personnel and chaplains of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

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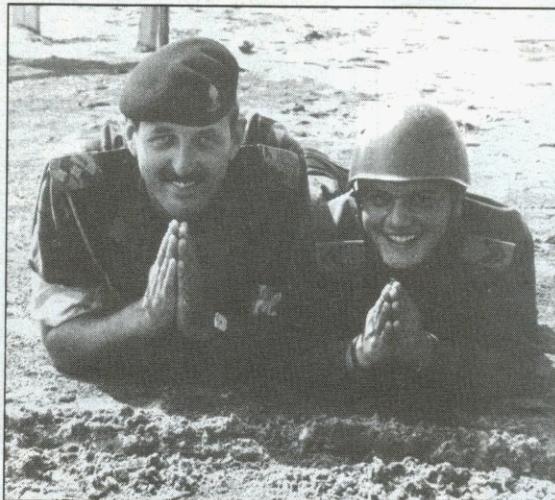
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Capt Geoff Holroyd (left) and an Italian officer obviously thought there was no harm in a little extra insurance before taking part in a "confidence-building" exercise during an exchange visit by sappers from Osnabrück-based 16 Field Squadron RE to Italian sappers based at Cecchignola, south of Rome. The test involved the placing of explosives in the middle of an 8m diameter circle marked in the sand. The soldiers lay down around the circle and the charge was set off. The sappers, part of 25 Engineer Regiment, survived - confidence intact!



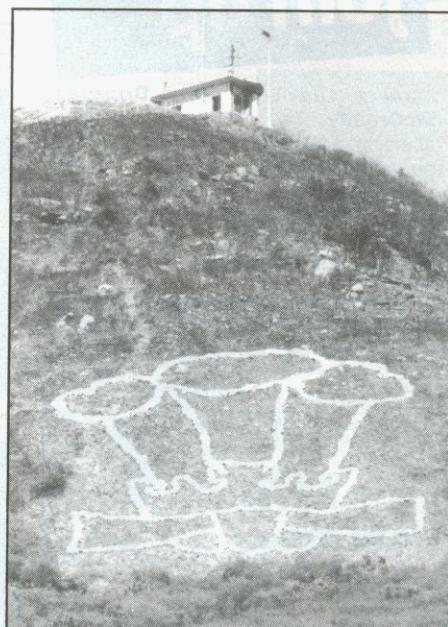
Mama mia! How's your confidence?

Restored - in blaze of glory

IT'S an ill wind . . . or in the case of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, an ill bushfire, that produces the goods. The battalion was doing its first stint of border duty since deploying to Hong Kong in August when fires raging along the border threatened a couple of villages and nearly destroyed the observation post perched on Crest Hill.

But the fires provided an unexpected bonus for 1 RRW, revealing the regimental crest built on a hillside overlooking Sheung Shui ten years ago when the battalion was doing a six-month emergency tour on the border.

In those days a massive influx of illegal immigrants was threatening to overwhelm Hong Kong and the number of captures ran into the thousands - rather more than the



The RRW badge restored to its former glory

400 caught in 1 RRW's most recent six-week tour on the border.

No sooner had the flames cleared the undergrowth from around the outline of the Prince of Wales's plumes than consignments of white paint and work parties were organised to restore the massive badge to its former glory.

Tanks reduction agreed

BRITAIN will destroy 4.5 per cent of its tanks, artillery, armoured vehicles, combat aircraft and attack helicopters - a total of 274 pieces of equipment - under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty signed in Paris on November 19.

The Army will lose 183 of its 1,198 CFE-registered tanks and 17 out of 3,193

armoured combat vehicles. There is no change to the number of artillery pieces, set at 636 for the British Army.

In all, NATO must eliminate 2,700 pieces of equipment, mostly tanks, under the terms of the Paris Charter, while the Warsaw Pact has to cut more than 48,000, of which 22,000 are Soviet tanks.

Duke opens TA centre

A NEW training centre for the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, has been opened at Burton-on-Trent by the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. The building is named after Capt William Coltman VC, one of the most decorated soldiers of the First World War, who served with the 1/6th North Staffords.

The Duke, accompanied by CO Lt Col Crichton Wakelin, watched C Company demonstrating a battle in a mock urban area.

DUBORA



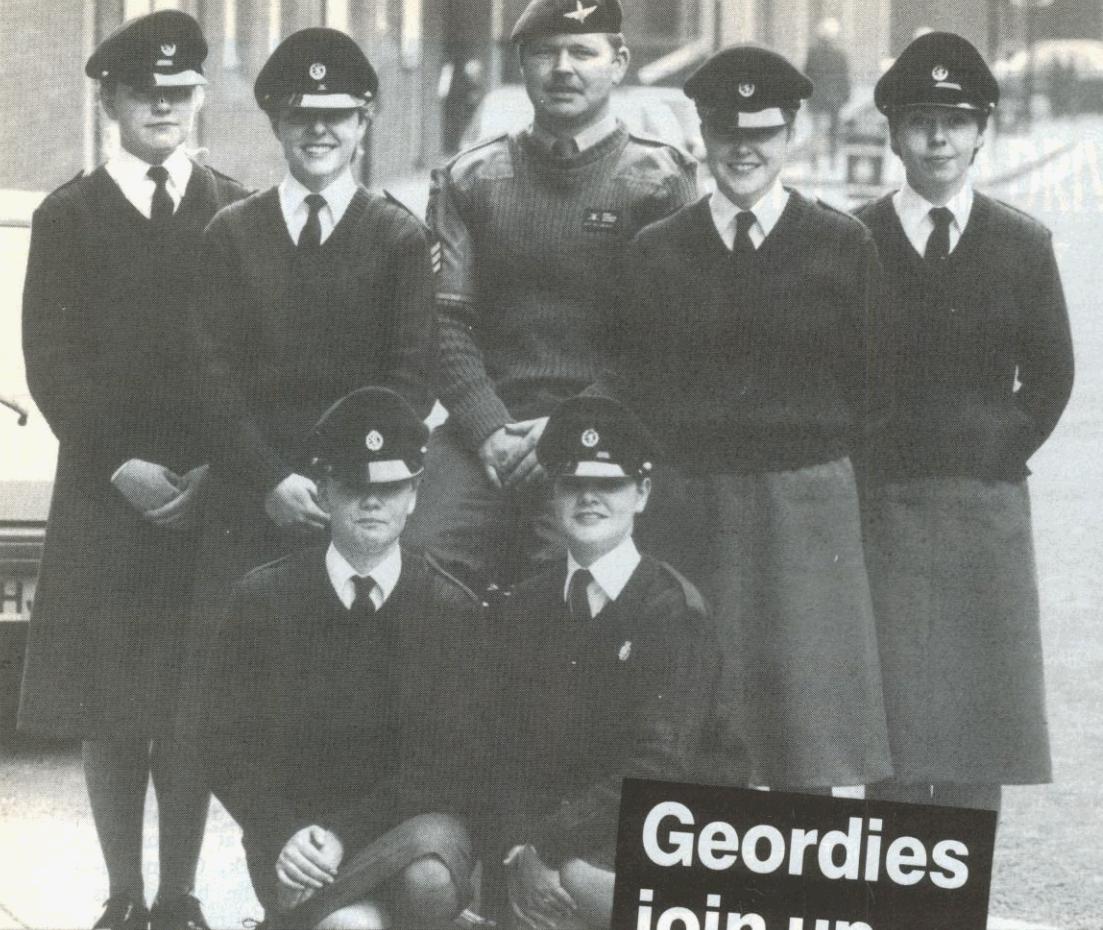
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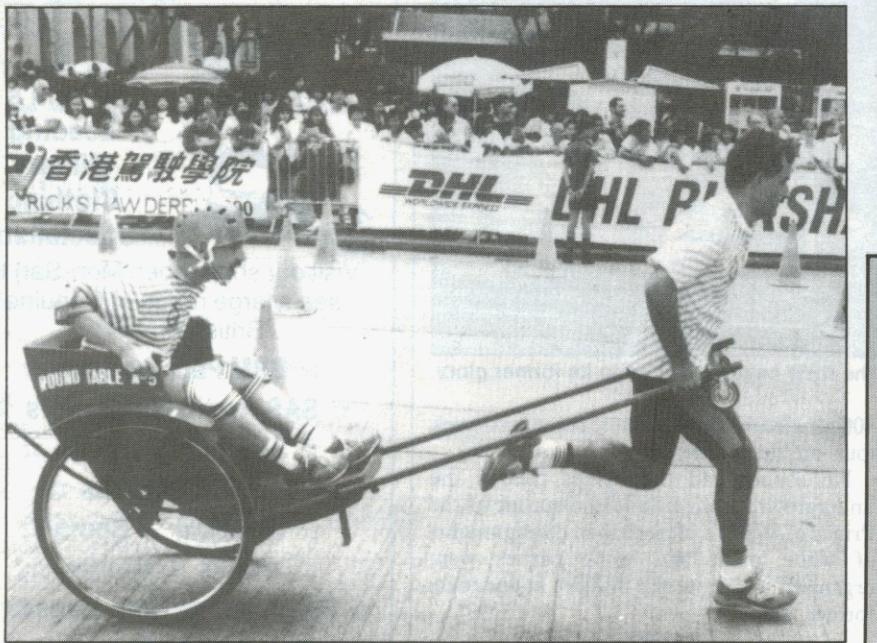
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Geordies join up

Recruiting staff at the Army Careers Information Office in Ridley Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, are especially proud of this photograph – five of the six girls pictured, who have completed basic training at Guildford, come from the area, the highest number of female recruits to pass out at once since the branch opened in 1961. The sixth, Pte **Susan Baston**, a qualified driver, thoroughly recommends Army life. In the centre is

careers adviser Sgt **Douglas McCready**. The girls are (from left), standing, Ptes **Emma Robertson** (tele op data), **Hayley Vowles** (supply specialist), **Diane Robinson** (tele op data) and **Karen Ray** (driver); kneeling, **Katherine McCarthy** (supply specialist) and **Susan Baston**.



Dog team third

SSgt **Paul Coleman**, SNCO Kennels at the Defence Animal Support Unit in Hong Kong, works up some pace during the Colony's annual Rickshaw Derby.

Paul was a member of the four-man Golden Paws relay team from HKDASU who took turns in a 100-metre

sprint up and down Chater Road in the centre of Hong Kong.

Being taken for a ride is Cpl **Malcolm Brown**, well protected with crash helmet and knee pads against any accidental spills. They were third in the final of the Disciplined Services Cup.



A new computer system for the HQ Catering Group (Aldershot) ration account is half the size of the old one and gets through the work twice as fast. Pictured trying out the system is the Director Army Catering Corps, Brig **Barry Bloxham**.

WANT to learn computing skills? A new applied computer learning centre could be right for you. It has just opened at the Army Apprentice College, Army Catering Corps Training Centre, Aldershot. Daytime lessons are available.



Trainee solicitor **Sharon MacDonald** experiences the sharp end of the law as a Royal Military Policewoman in the TA. Pictured with Rfn **Pete Walsh**, she is a member of 158 Det RMP, Bulford.

PEOPLE

Leslie takes tank tonic

A visit to the Tank Museum, Bovington, was a tonic for Second World War veteran **Leslie Ward** (72), who is recovering from a serious illness. He is pictured in a universal carrier – also known as a bren gun carrier – complete with the markings of The Dorsetshire Regiment with whom he served.

Long ...

The Band of the 3 Staffords is looking for some fresh oompah, following the retirement of trombonists Cpl **Bill Bottomley**, LCpl **Bert Sealey** and Bds **Ron Bubb**. In a combined total of more than 100 years with TA bands they served under 12 bandmasters.

servers!

Double rations

watched over by computer manager Mr **Keith Peyton**, and Col **Jack Bannister**, Commander Catering Group.



Missed out

Capt **Julia Palmer** was invited to attend the Woman of the Year Luncheon at The Savoy to honour her appointment as the first woman adjutant in the Corps of Royal Military Police. She is adjutant at the RMP Training Centre in Chichester.

Alas, a few days before the event she was rushed into hospital and missed her big day. Julia is now happily restored to health.



Racy music

While the remainder of the 2 LI Band are away on Op Granby, the bugles kept themselves in the public eye by assisting the 2 LI KAPE team. They are pictured playing a fanfare for the start of the Leeds marathon.

Picture: Yorkshire Evening Post

Gareth looks for family connections

SOUTH GEORGIA

PICKERSGILL ISLAND

© 1990 DEFENCE SIGNALS GRAPHIC GROUP LTD

En route to South Georgia, Capt **Garth Pickersgill**, Royal Signals, passed a small group of islands – the Pickersgill Islands. It has prompted him to see if his family is related to that of the man they were named after, a Lt Richard Pickersgill, Royal Navy, who sailed with Captain Cook when he discovered South Georgia in 1775. Like Captain Cook himself, Garth's family comes from Yorkshire.

A behind-the-scenes look at Loan Services in Brunei . . .

ACERTAIN APPEAL

LOAN Service attachments to foreign armies, Kuwait notwithstanding, still provide a certain appeal to members of the British Services, and Brunei proves no exception. More than 70 all ranks drawn from the three Services are currently serving with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, mainly in technical posts.

The force was first established in 1961 as the Brunei Malay Regiment, a battalion-strength infantry unit. This grew to two battalions, with air support being provided by *Tentera Udara* (Air Wing) and maritime assets under the control of *Tentera Laut* (The Flotilla).

Navy and air force elements are each commanded by a lieutenant colonel while a major general holds the position of Chief of the Armed Forces Staff.

Largest part of RBAF is its land forces, which besides two infantry battalions, have one armoured reconnaissance squadron, a light artillery battery, an air defence battery and an engineer group.

Current equipment in service includes Scorpion and Sultan



Maj Jan Ransom will be the last WRAC OC of *Compeni Askar Wanita*

APCs as well as 81mm mortars and Rapier missiles.

Compeni Askar Wanita (or Women's Company) currently has two members of the WRAC serving with it. Maj Jan Ransom is its officer commanding and responsible for the administration, discipline and welfare of its 284 members.

She rates the girls as highly-motivated, hard workers, finding them well trained in military skills such as drill, weapon training and jungle training.

The women have the M16A rifle as their personal weapon which they carry on parade with bayonets fixed, but like the WRAC they do not have a combatant role.

New development this year has been to introduce them to the role of searchers during Internal Security operations, but the next 12 months will see the end of WRAC involvement with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. Maj Ransom departs this winter when a Bruneian OC takes over.

"Up to now, there have been four WRAC officers commanding but all along our job has been to train the girls up to a standard where they can command themselves.

"They are more than able to command their girls now, and I am confident they will make a good job of it," she said.

CSM Mary Smith will remain in post until August 1991. She says the girls are well-behaved and disciplined, and finds few differences between them and WRAC personnel.

Part of her work involves organising RBAF permanent staff courses, including lessons in jungle map-reading.

A few miles from the base lie some of the married quarters used by Loan Service personnel and their families.

WO2 Bob Miles and wife Linda joined the Royal Brunei Armed Forces from the UK-

based 39 Engineer Regiment. In Brunei he works with the country's equivalent of the PSA, being mainly involved in maintenance projects such as renovation and refurbishment of buildings and bases.

He and his wife find a short-wave radio essential to keep in touch with home through the BBC's World Service. Newspapers from the UK are a week out of date.

"Getting women's magazines is a problem," said Linda. "Nowhere here stocks them."

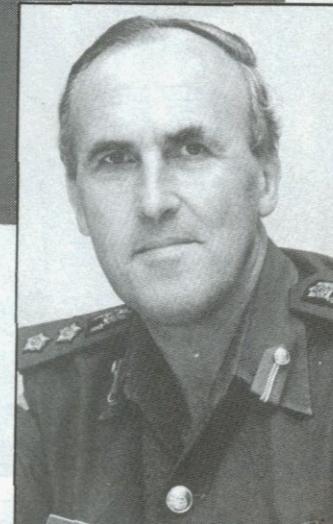
"Shoes are another problem. If you want your children to wear leather shoes, then bring a supply with you. Only plastic ones are found here."

"Grocery - wise, shopping is not a problem because you can get most household items that you would in the UK," advised Jan Holloman, whose husband Frank is a sapper Clerk of Works involved in writing maintenance contracts for RBAF.

"Life is what you make it. It's not a country for night clubbers - there aren't any. You make your own entertainment."

WO1 James and Jill Thomson were just taking over from WO1 (now Lt) Mike and Colette Hooley, RRW.

Mrs Thomson had just completed A Level sociology and was looking forward to starting a degree course until her husband got this posting. She was disappointed to find there were difficulties in continuing her studies in Brunei. "I'll have to continue my learning by correspondence course with the



Col Tim Cottis, late Staffords, is Senior British Loan Service Officer and commands all Loan Service personnel. Note his Royal Brunei Armed Forces uniform



More from Brunei in next issue



Left: Collette Hooley and 'Candy' with a few beasties found in Brunei. Nothing perturbs the cat, which provides an "early warning system" of snakes and scorpions

Right: Rattan furniture is a must when termites abound. Pictured here are WO1 (now Lt) Mike and Colette Hooley, WO1 Jim Thomson, Scots Guards, and his wife Jill



such details before getting to a Loan Service post.

WO1 Hooley was in the process of handing over his double-hatted post to Mr Thomson. He is Staff Assistant Loan Service and Senior Warrant Officer. His wife Collette was aware of dress restrictions before she arrived and advises wives to find out

"Going bra-less is an absolute no-no," she warned.

Said husband, Mike: "Films on video are fantastic here because there are no copyright laws. We often see them before general release. However, they are censored and a simple kiss will be blacked out."

The Hooleys consider them-

Left: WO2 Bob and Linda Miles (left) and WO2 Frank and Jan Holloman take advantage of the shade of a palm. Bob works on maintenance projects, Frank is a sapper Clerk of Works

CSM Mary Smith will remain with the Women's Company until August 1991

'Go for it. It's very rewarding'

— Army wife



"Candy miaows like mad when snakes or scorpions come near, so she's invaluable as an early warning system" explained Collette.

Had she any advice for families considering applying for a Loan Service posting?

"Go for it. It's very rewarding," she said.

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Above - LCpl Mark Nertley (front right) of the Green Howards gives a military attaché from Zimbabwe some hands-on experience of driving an ATMP while other attachés look on

Below - Men of A Coy, the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards deploy from a Chinook helicopter at Catterick during Exercise Gryphon's Flight



Airmobile force goes international

THERE WAS a truly international flavour at an action-packed military display in the North East of England.

Military attachés from around the world accepted invitations to see at first-hand Britain's unique airmobile force, 24 Airmobile Brigade, in action with soldiers from Germany, Holland and Belgium.

The military demonstration, at Catterick in North Yorkshire, was the culmination of ten days of a testing exercise, codenamed Gryphon's Flight, which deployed the fast-moving brigade to Salisbury Plain and to Otterburn in Northumberland.

A total of 800 soldiers took part in 24 Airmobile Brigade's major exercise in 1990 with tanks, armoured personnel carriers and Lynx helicopters supported by RAF Chinook and Puma support helicopters.

The exercise involved 273 Luftblende Battalion of the German Army, the Belgian Regiment Para Commando and pilots of the Royal Netherlands Air Force Light Aircraft Groups.

The 23 non-Warsaw Pact military attachés from as far apart as Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Mexico, the USA and Zimbabwe, watched a company of British and German soldiers being brought into a defensive



Pte Marcel Hohmann of the German 273 Luftblende Battalion points out a possible enemy approach to Sgt Kenneth Rowden, 1 Green Howards

position by Puma and Chinook helicopters to block an enemy armoured penetration.

The troops, armed with Milan anti-tank guided missiles and supported by Lynx helicopters fitted with TOW wire guided anti-tank missiles, engaged the enemy represented by Chieftain tanks two miles away.

This was the first occasion on which a multi-national airmobile force has exercised together, and is the start of a year's training leading up to Exercise Certain Shield in Germany next September which will involve a whole division of airmobile troops from Britain, Germany, Holland and Belgium.



Maj Lawrence Wright leads Burma Company's salute to Civic dignitaries at a Freedom March in Appleby



Jungle posting beckons

WITH deployment to Belize scheduled for next April the men of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment are gradually loosening their dependence on the Saxon armoured personnel carrier and placing renewed emphasis on more traditional transport – the boot.

To prepare for the rigours of extended patrols in jungle-clad mountains, the battalion has been running a series of arduous exercises in South Wales and the Cumbrian Fells.

The aim has been to ensure all ranks are practised in individual resourcefulness and endurance in a demanding environment, and that junior leadership is severely tested.

Exercise Mountain Lion 1 mixed both instruction and endurance. A long march over the Black Mountains and Beacons was followed by instruction in improvised crossing over an icy Welsh river under the guidance of SAS instructors.

Participants also learnt how to set traps and snares and to enjoy the culinary delights of rabbit stew.

Mountain Lion 2 practised troops in navigation over a 25-mile timed circuit carrying full kit plus weapons. By chance, the challenging navigation exercise was carried out in dense fog that restricted visibility to less than 20 metres.

Nevertheless, the course, which involved a total climb of more than 1,000 metres, was completed by most teams in under eight hours.

The battalion should be up to the mark for Belize, where the daily rigours of life will be vastly different to those experienced at Meeanee Barracks in Colchester.



Pte Sean Greaney learns top-roping while enjoying the beauty of Ullswater

Bandmaster WO1 Jeremy Martin, and Band Major WO2 Nigel O'Keefe, the band is stationed in the Gulf, where its musicians will act as medical orderlies.

It

has been a busy year for the band starting with a three-month deployment in support of the Essex Ambulance Service.

This was followed by a run of

97 public engagements which included the opportunity to accompany Dame Vera Lynn at the 44th reunion concert of the Burma Star Association and play before the Queen Mother and Princess Alexandra.

The band also joined in the

Para 90 celebrations to celebrate the Border Regiment's role as glider troops during the Second World War. Under

TEAMS from 1 Kings Own Border's reconnaissance platoon have done well in competitions this autumn and won a gold award at the Cambrian Patrol competition.

The team entered the Colchester Garrison Three Peaks Race, and all the other



LCpl Lynne Blenkinsop takes a break from FIBUA training during the annual training period at Stanhope of 4 Kings Own Border. The TA battalion from Cumbria and North Yorkshire were involved in exercises with 4 QLR

Trophy time for Woofers

IT has been a very successful year for B Coy, 3rd (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. The company, from Sutton in Ashfield in Derbyshire, came first and second in the battalion inter-section competition, were runners-up in the battalion

Skill-at-Arms meeting, including a good number of individual and team prizes, and more recently won the brigade inter-platoon competition.

54 Brigade were in Sennybridge for two weeks for their annual camp, of which the competition was an integral part. Conducted over two days, it formed phase two of Exercise Viking Helmet and immediately followed an arduous three-day brigade exercise.

The competition, conducted over the rugged terrain of Sennybridge area, tested all members of the platoon in skills such as first aid, signals and marksmanship.

The only problem now seems to be finding a new company trophy cabinet that is big enough.



Drum Major Bob Ross leads the Corps of Drums into Carlisle Castle

Recce strikes gold

competitors saw were the heels of the Recce Platoon.

In addition to producing a creditable time of 32hr 20min, for climbing Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike and returning to Colchester, the company took on the role of a quick-response force and released a "VIP" held captive in a farm complex.

Hard going at Powys

AN intensely physical fortnight of exercises faced 158 Provost Company RMP (V) when they carried out their annual camp at their home base of Cwrt Y Gollen, Powys.

Their programme took the Territorial Army detachment on a 30km navigation exercise in the Black Mountains, FIBUA training, and a four-day field training exercise at Sennybridge during which the company took on the role of a quick-response force and released a "VIP" held captive in a farm complex.

Elephant ride goes on despite tragedy

LCPL Tony Martin decided to continue a charity motor cycle marathon across Africa, even though a close friend and fellow sapper had died during the attempt.

It was felt that something positive could be made of the tragedy earlier this year, and that it would have been the wish of LCpl Simon Howard (28), who died after coming off his machine in the Sahara wastelands.

Aim of the 7,000-mile trip from London to Nairobi in 28 days was to raise money and public awareness of the poaching of the African elephant.



LCpl Tony Martin

LCpl Martin explained: "I feel Simon, like many soldiers, died because of a war. He died raising money to help fight the war against elephant poaching."

The two men, members of 1/3 Troop, 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE, had set out with an Austrian civilian, Leo Brandtner. The two survivors went on to encounter many more problems, including sand and electrical storms and stoning and verbal abuse by local people. They were even detained as suspect spies.

Flat tyres and engine difficulties were regular occurrences, they were robbed of cash and equipment, and suffered diarrhoea, dysentery, mild malaria, dehydration and weight loss.

When they eventually arrived in Kenya - 46 days after departure - they encountered a small uprising.

LCpl Martin, appealing for donations, warned that if poaching continues, the elephant will be extinct in ten years. Cash can be deposited at any Barclays Bank in the Bike For Life African Account No 21082345 or cheques to Bike For Life Expedition, 49 Lansdowne, Woodwater Lane, Exeter EX2 5AR.



Ray Sheriff and LCpl Martin Ramsey, an instructor at Netheravon, who jumped in tandem

Picture: Mike Perrin

Ray's a fortune!

A BLIND ex-Para, determined to help old comrades worse off than himself, completed a daring 10,000ft parachute jump in tandem and raised more than £5,000.

Ray Sheriff, a former corporal in The Parachute Regiment, lost his sight and was riddled with bullets at Arnhem, having already survived serious chest and leg wounds in North Africa and Sicily.

Undaunted by his handicap and now aged 69, he made a good exit over the Army's training centre at Netheravon. His courage was described as "outstanding" by Red Devils team commander Capt Mike Muir.

Also raising money for airborne charities was Col Ben Arkle, Honorary Colonel of the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who



made a tandem parachute descent from 12,000ft at Topcliffe Barracks, near Thirsk, North Yorkshire. He is a mere 65 years old!

He was assisted by the members of the Black Lanyards, the 4 Para free fall parachute team.

Meanwhile Maj Leav Taylor, who served with the 1/7 Gurkha Rifles (17 Indian Division) in the Burma campaign, has raised £3,700 in a sponsored parachute jump at Dunkeswell Airfield. The cash will be shared between the Battle of Britain 50th

Anniversary Appeal and The Gurkha Welfare Trust in London.



Five first-term members of the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT/RAOC, Colerne, and one member of the permanent staff have raised £200 for the Harefield Heart Hospital.

They took part in the third London-to-Paris charity cycle race, in which JLdr Simon Mason, Morley Troop, distinguished himself. He consistently finished in the top ten places on each stage and was first across the line in Paris.



A variety of fund-raising events ensured The Scottish Division Depot, home to the infantry in Scotland and where all adult recruits are trained for Scottish regiments, was able to make donations to various good causes, including £500 to Childline Scotland.



Bruce Franklin, from Jamaica, is now wheeling himself around in style, thanks to B Company, the 1st Battalion, the Cheshire Regiment, who raised £400 to buy him a new wheelchair. The Chester-based soldiers met him a year ago when they were working on a community project on the sunshine isle as part of an exchange exercise with the Jamaican Defence Force.



Col Ben Arkle with members of 4 Para's Black Lanyards

A unique matron

For what is believed to be the first time, a man is serving as matron in a field hospital in an operational zone.

Lt Col Eric Gruber von Arni was Deputy Matron of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, an appointment which automatically carries with it the shadow post (for male or female) of matron of 33 Field Hospital on mobilisation.

His duties are the same as any other matron's – supervision and maintenance of nursing standards, training, and the nursing they require. Does it make any difference that he is a man?

"Not in the slightest," he said. (See picture, Page 31).

Exams go on

THE Gulf deployment has not prevented the Royal Army Educational Corps carrying out its normal duties.

SOLDIER found Maj Chris Bristow, Group Education Officer in Hohne until recently and now SO2 Command Info, searching for a cool quiet room – not for himself.

"I need somewhere six soldiers can sit their Open University exams," he said.

"They have been studying since February and it would be

SOLDIER to Soldier



How much is a spot of spud bashing worth? Quite a lot if you're a general! Maj Gen Tony Crowfoot, GOC North West District, put the peeler to work when he visited Saughton Camp, Chester, while 207 (Manchester) General Hospital, RAMC(V) were there. The CO, Col David Newsome, was so impressed by the general's expertise that he sent a £200 donation to the Army Benevolent Fund

a shame to waste all that work."

The students should have taken an examination in October but the Op Granby deployment prevented them.

This left only a spot in mid-November under the Open University rules.

"Their OU studies will continue – depending on their location – and the availability of free time. They'll start next year's work in February."

Lifelike Waterloo

Wellington described his recruits as "the scum of the earth" – proudly adding, "it is

really wonderful that we should have made them the fine fellows they are." It was this ragged army, many rescued from drunkenness and destitution, whom he led to victory at Waterloo.

This month at the National Army Museum the present Duke opens a major permanent exhibition, *The Road to Waterloo*, which takes a lifelike look at the men who fought for Britain.

Exhibits range from weapons, maps and medals to what the soldiers actually wore on campaign as opposed to regulation uniform.

Capt Siborne's remarkable 1838 model of the Battle of Waterloo, featuring 70,000 model soldiers, is on display for the first time for nearly 30 years.



CSgt Steve Pritlove, pictured dealing a card to Sgt Maj Ken O'Brien, will have been surprised to read in our November 26 issue that he and his fellow bandsmen have "transferred" to 13/18 H. In fact they are members of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Band based at Bulford and are now serving as medics in the Gulf. Sorry, lads.

Grave work continues

Although the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's work in Iraq has been delayed (see SOLDIER, Nov 26) the routine renovation of headstones elsewhere proceeds apace.

More than 3,000 new headstones were engraved in the past year and further re-engravings took place on site. Most of the new stones replaced those decayed by ageing and weathering or were placed on graves hitherto marked by private memorials. A number, sadly, replaced vandalised monuments.

Since the signing of an agreement with the German Democratic Republic three years ago, members of the Commission have visited two cemeteries where Commonwealth Servicemen are buried.

It is hoped that all the outstanding questions about First World War graves in what was East Germany can now be resolved even if, as in the case of the Zehrensdorf Indian Cemetery, confirmation is finally received that they were destroyed during the Second World War or soon afterwards.

The GDR agreement was the first to be signed for 18 years but this year another has been concluded – with Tunisia.

Last post

Latest recommended posting time for delivery of personal mail and parcels to HM Forces in the Gulf in time for Christmas are:

December 1: All classes of surface mail, including Economy Service parcels;

December 13: Airmail 2nd class letters, cards, packets, air parcels;

December 14: Airmail 1st class letters, cards, Forces Free Air letters.

These dates apply to BFPOs 638, 639, 641, 643, 644, 646, 647, and HM ships.

Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

More Pictures
- Pages 22-23

WE'D SEEN the Challengers of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars rearing majestically over the scrub-dotted dunes and watched great jagged tongues of flame from their guns compete with the brilliant mid-morning sunlight.

We'd watched the pall of smoke thicken as 155mm shells from 40 Field Regiment's M-109s, in positions miles behind us, crashed down on the objective.

Then came the Warriors scuttling forward and taking advantage of every depression to stay under cover.

The only thing missing from the battle scene was people – you couldn't count the TV crews festooned on armoured vehicles out to see the exercise. The courtesy and consideration of the Commander is legendary among the media and Brigadier



Words by **Bill Moore** (left),
pictures by **Terry Champion** with 7 Armd Bde in Saudi Arabia

Patrick Cordingley was personally giving a lift to a Spanish TV crew.

In the final analysis, however, it was left to the infantry, the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, to finish off the job and clear an entrenched position which had been wired in.

The sappers who would normally have also done a lot of

the dirty work were absent on this occasion having been involved in an earlier exercise.)

Sections of Staffords who had been sitting facing each other in the Warrior run-up to the objective, not knowing exactly what they would encounter, jumped out and plunged through deep sand.

They swarmed into the trench system and to bursts of automatic fire and the crack of grenades began to clear it. There was no mistaking the fact that they were using live ammunition and lots of it.

A Milan section lumbered to a flank and sent glowing white balls streaking on a seemingly random course as they guided the missiles on to their targets in the course of a simulated enemy counter attack.

At the end of the assault the faces of the young men who

crouched panting in the shallow trench could have been superimposed on the subject of any photograph taken from the archives of the First or Second World Wars.

Sweat streamed down their faces, soaked their uniforms.

White smoke from a phosphorus grenade drifted over and NCOs checked the numbers present.

In the back of their minds was the thought that only 100 miles or so to the north real trenches existed with a real enemy, but no one mentioned the fact.

For the moment, the closest enemy was the heat and the flies and the dust.

In the Gulf climate, to quote the words of the CO of the Staffords, Lt Col Charles Rogers, "an infantryman's work is knackering".

LCpl Terry Wright, from Knutsford, Cheshire, leaning against the wall of the trench with the vitals of the Milan, would not have disagreed with this description.

Nor would his comrade, Pte Terry Cresswell, from Dudley, Worcs.

Both Terrys are experienced soldiers – the first with five years' and the other seven years' service.

Pte Cresswell, a friendly soul not given to speech-making, one would imagine, came out with the understatement of the year when he thoughtfully commented: "The sand is a bit much".

Pte Cresswell should have said that the sand is almost too darn' much. Not only is there too much of it (the Eastern Desert seems to lack the stony plains found in the Western Desert where the original Desert Rats fought) but there are too many sorts.

There is coarse, supercoarse, fine, very fine and fill-your-



A pause in the action for these men of armour during the live-firing exercise involving QRIH Challengers, Warriors of the Staffords and 40 Fd Regt RA M-109 guns



A Challenger of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars raises a cloud of dust as it prepares to open fire.



Men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment shelter in a trench they had stormed.

THE SIGNALMEN manning the white Portakabin serving as the communications centre at the main British entry port in the Gulf thought they were being "wound-up" when handed a message for "SOLMAG".

One of them insisted on checking "The Book" and was rather surprised to find our official address listed. The message that went off was only one of about 500 handled that day.

The workload of the 85-man detachment from 30 Signal Regiment (which includes five RAF men) is as heavy as its learning curve has been steep.

Not that the regiment, from Blandford, home of the Royal Signals, had much to learn about the actual operation of the new portable VSC 501 equipment being used on operations for the first time.

Handling it in the extreme conditions of the Gulf is what taxed everyone's ingenuity.

The regiment (Lt Col Neil Donaldson) deployed in the second week of August and the detachment commanded by

Signals set a red-hot pace in the sun

Maj Andy Allman flew to Thumrait in Oman to support the RAF Jaguars based there.

About a third of the men had experienced the heat in Namibia earlier in the year but were hardly prepared for the ferocious temperatures they met.

In Oman thermometers recorded 54 degrees at times.

The signalmen had prudently taken fans with them and air conditioning units were bought in the region . . . but the battle

was only beginning.

Because of the immediate urgency after Iraq seized Kuwait, the troops worked through the heat of the day before becoming acclimatised.

They were plagued by flies and had to conserve water supplies.

Many suffered unpleasant stomach upsets.

But they did the job.

The equipment also wilted under the scorching sun.

Though the terminals in the backs of the Land-Rovers are air-cooled, they were intended to operate in a temperate climate, not an oven.

When they overheated their safety switches tripped and operators had to wait half an hour for them to cool down.

The detachment did what it could to shade vital equipment, and erected tents over Land-Rovers, but it was a constant struggle.

(Another detachment at Tabbuk later drove a Land-Rover into an ISO container, installed air conditioning and worked behind its closed door.)

When the Jaguars moved from Thumrait, the signals detachment flew to the Eastern Province port in Saudi Arabia where the 7th Armoured Brigade was due to disembark.

The battle with the heat continued, but the height of summer was over.

A satellite station was opened in the headquarters of the Force Maintenance Area in a small room which also served as the comcen.

As staff began to arrive and the move from Germany got under way the number of messages increased dramatically.

The detachment finally obtained a Portakabin to hold the comcen. In one 16-day period it handled 7,900 messages.

The signalmen deployed in the field with the VSC no longer resembled the text-book style detachments which lined up for the Press at Blandford on a sunny day in August.

On that occasion three-man "dets" had manned a Land-Rover towing a trailer contain-

ing the segments (petals) of the satellite dish and other parts.

But you can't tow a trailer through the soft sand of Saudi.

When SOLDIER visited the "dets" they were using six Land-Rovers and no trailers. The satellites were being carried in the backs of the vehicles.

Men do two weeks in the desert and a week at the port.

"We're finding out which kit works best in the heat and how best to operate it," said Maj Allman.

The comcen in the white Portakabin is probably the busiest in the world relative to its size.

The soldiers who made it, along with the detachments in the desert, RHQ at Riyadh and others at Dhahran air base, were to be relieved at the beginning of the month.

They were able to return to Blandford happy in the knowledge that they had laid a sound foundation for their successors.

(● Joint Communications Unit – Page 27).

Medics make it a DIY hospital

REPEATED short blasts on a Land-Rover horn scattered what passes for calm at 33 Field Hospital . . . NBC State 2 – trousers, smock and boots on but hood lowered.

No one in the Gulf ever moves far from their individual protective equipment and Capt Diana Donegan, a Dundee nurse, stopped her briefing and slipped into the required dress.

The "State" advanced to Romeo and respirators were donned – "Gas . . . gas . . . gas."

Nurses helped each other adjust their hoods over their helmets.

When the all clear was sounded some ten minutes later – one long blast – the foreheads reappearing were gleaming with perspiration. It was 10.30am, hot and getting hotter.

Capt Donegan looked at her watch. "I think I managed to change in six minutes this time."

The practice was over, points were noted. Someone had put on a smock over a tee shirt, leaving their arms vulnerable – two layers of clothing are considered essential – two drivers had not reacted quickly enough, and so on.

For the Staffords (and the men of the Royal Green Jackets, Prince of Wales's Own and Grenadiers, and other infantry regiments serving with them, weapon cleaning has become a matter of perpetual attention. No one is taking any chances.

One of the virtues of being armoured infantry is that the SA 80s, LSWs and other automatic weapons are not exposed to the dust or dirt of an approach march as at Alamein or on the Somme.

They arrive ready for use.

Lt Col Rogers: "The vehicle gives us a good deal of all-round protection. If you had to cover the distances to be traversed on your feet you'd be puffing and grunting . . . Warrior gives us the speed and momentum to get onto a position. But it's still a question of fighting through it."

"An infantryman's work hasn't changed . . . it's just become more sophisticated."

Unlike the sand.



Ward report at 33 Field Hospital

DESERT ANGELS



Col Ian Creamer

The aim was to establish a 400-bed hospital capable of handling anything.

Col Creamer: "We are called a field hospital but we are acting in a general role and as an evacuation hospital. We have surgical teams, an ophthalmic and burns treatment capability and maxillo facial surgery."

In Germany, on exercise, the field hospitals treat only Priority 1 Casualties (P 1s) and send the rest down the line (P 2s and walking wounded P 3s.)

"Here," said Col Creamer, "we will treat anything that comes through the front door. We'll arrange their evacuation as well, as we're the last hospital they'll see before they are flown or shipped out."

The layout shown to SOL-

● Turn to Page 30

How the big guns got their range

LIVE FIRING exercises have been carried out on the Jerboa Range laid out in the desert in Eastern Saudi Arabia by a team of experts brought in specially for the job.

They were Maj Peter Rose RA, from Larkhill, who looked after the gunners' side; Capt

Ronnie Whiteside, Scots DG, from Gunnery Wing Hohne, and Sgt Maj Skip Rae, 14th/20th Hussars, from the RAC Gunnery School, Lulworth, for tanks; and QMSI Tony Reece, from the Small Arms School Corps, for the infantry.

The British team flew the initial recce with the United States Marine Corps helicopters and thought they were looking down on a depopulated desert.

"Once we got down to the detailed recce on the ground we discovered the desert was full



Sandy work in the trenches for men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, pictured here during a live-firing exercise in the desert

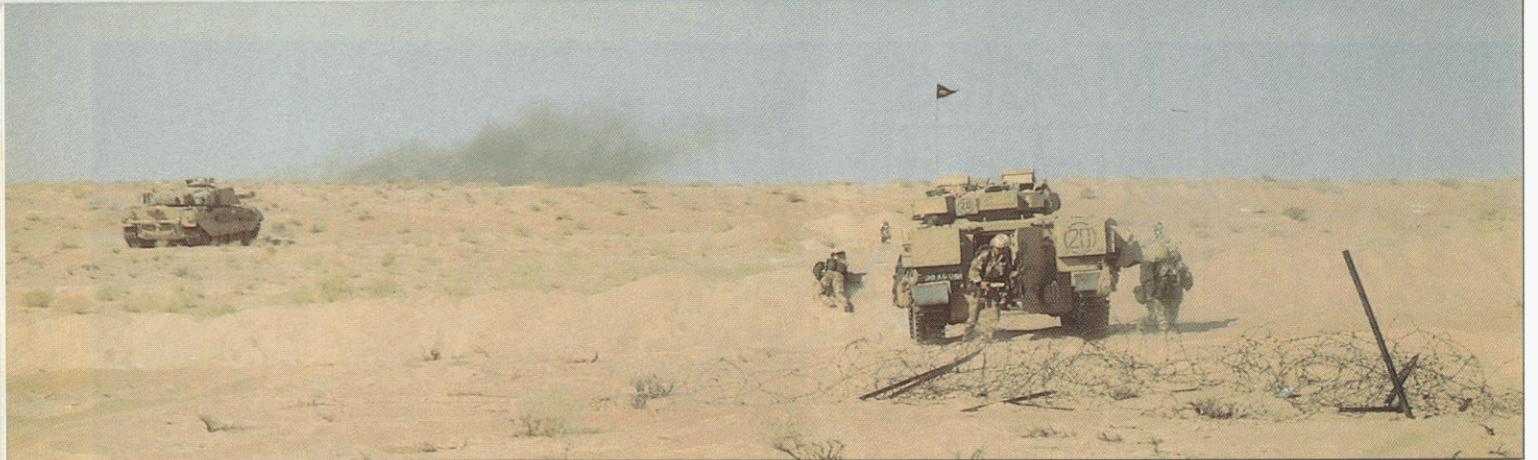
of Bedouin. They were all over the place . . . villages and individual families with flocks of sheep and goats," said Capt Whiteside. "This meant the templates we laid out were extremely tight to ensure the complete safety of Bedouin.

"To make sure they didn't stray into the danger area the perimeter of the range was patrolled 24 hours a day with picquet posts and flags around it . . . all the usual range paraphernalia over a vast distance."

Helicopters ensured the range was cleared every morning before use.

It was actually smaller than the Hohne range but nevertheless the team provided an eight-mile battle run for tanks and left with the knowledge that the Battle Group fired all its weapons.

Later the range was returned to its natural desert state.



Smoke rises in the distance as a Challenger opens fire.



A line-up of Warriors provides added firepower for the attacking Staffords.



Camouflaged command post in the desert, complete with REME repair unit.



It's all down to the Staffords for the final assault.

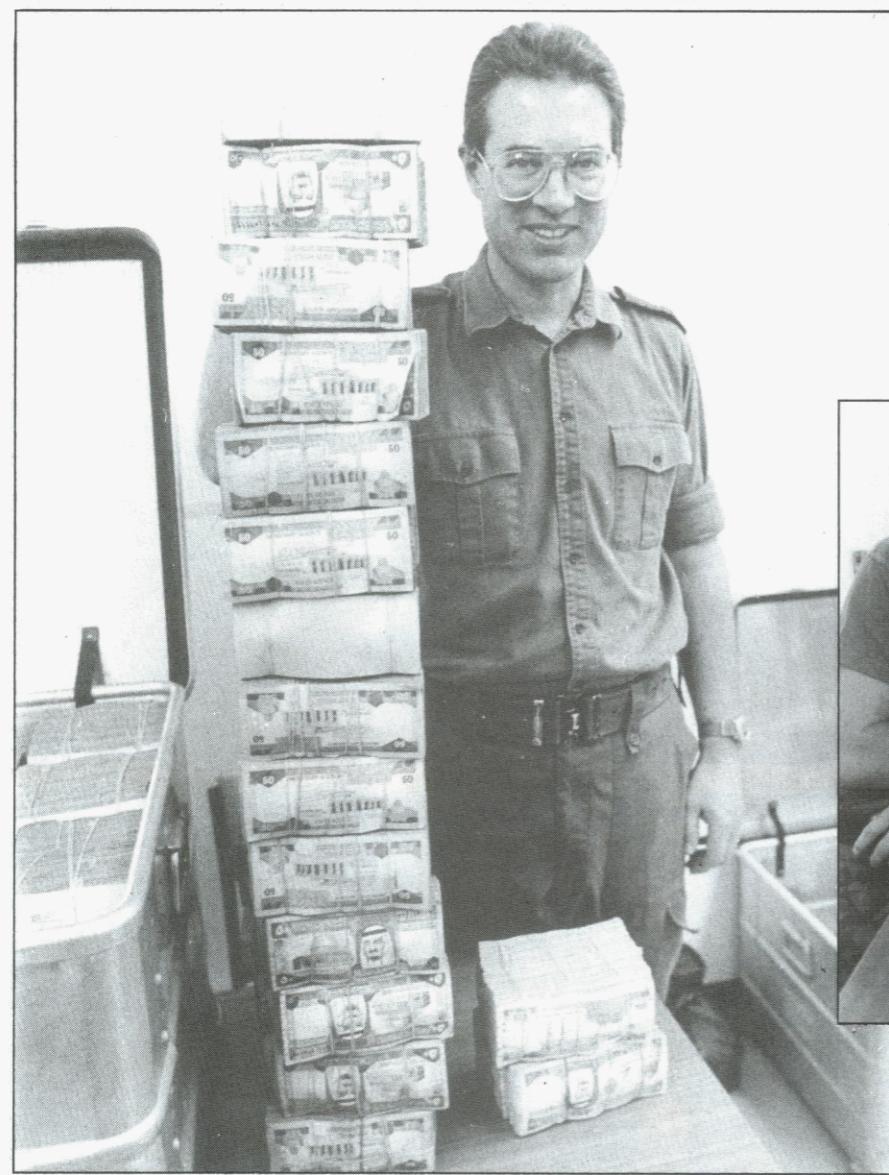


Lt Col Arthur Denaro, commanding officer of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in his Challenger.



Staffords move in while the QRIH tanks in the background move on.

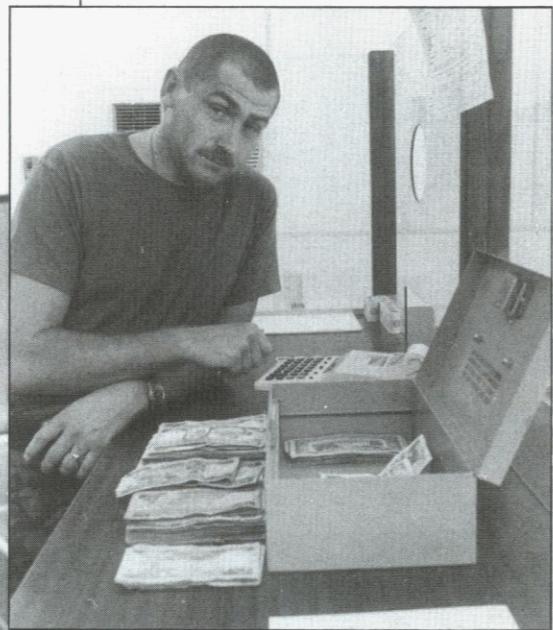
LOADSAMONEY!



PEOPLE in Saudi Arabia like hard cash, so when Op Granby began Maj Roger Thompson, SO2 Finance, flew in with nearly a million dollars in notes. Ready money is used by the Field Cash Office to pay companies and contractors such as refuse removers.

On the left is Maj Peter Myatt RAPC who runs the FCO with SSgt Mick Townsend and Sgt Kevin Kent.

"We're the bridge between the paymaster and the banking system," said Maj Myatt. "We are similar to a clearing bank ourselves."



Above - SSgt Mick Townsend in the Field Cash Office. He changes up to £3,000 of notes a day for coins to be used in the 'phone boxes.

Chambers in the sand for man of law

MAJ Richard Austin must be the only soldier to "hit the beach" in the Gulf, so to speak, with a packing case full of law books.

He is the only representative of the Army Legal Corps in Saudi Arabia, now installed in "chambers" in HQ Force Maintenance Area.

As Force Legal Officer his primary role is to advise the 7th Armoured Brigade's Commander, Brig Patrick Cordingley, on the laws of war, and the Geneva Convention in particular, should the needs arise.

"That involves the care of the wounded, treatment of prisoners of war and what means are legal when waging war," he said.

"As far as chemical warfare is concerned Great Britain has said she will not use chemical weapons first but we have reserved the right to use them if they are used against us."

Maj Austin is also available to advise on disciplinary matters, but there had been a negligible requirement in this

respect during his first month with the Force.

He had, however, been consulted on domestic matters such as divorce and matrimonial disputes.

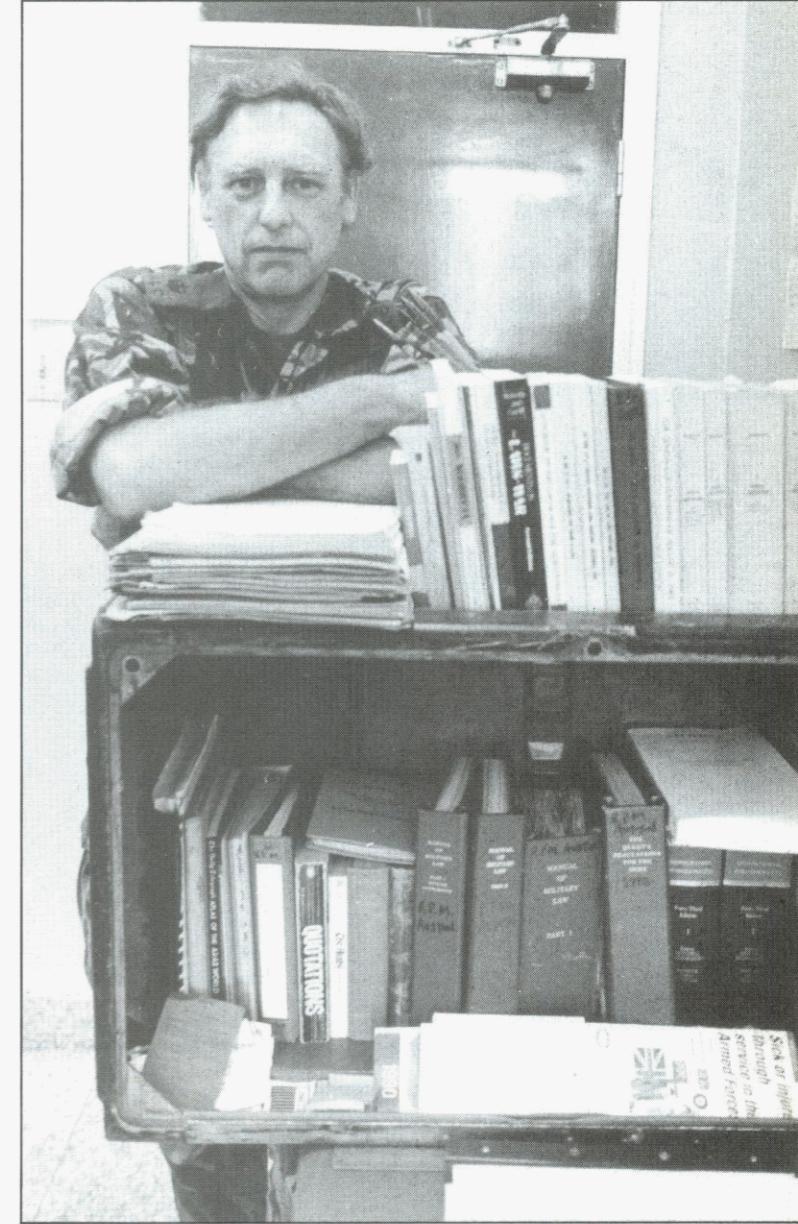
And he revealed that his colleagues in the Army Legal Corps had been in great demand to advise on wills and testaments in the period immediately before the 7th Armoured Brigade left Germany.

Maj Austin can't be called "a barrack-room lawyer", but he may well fit the description "combat advocate".

He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery from Sandhurst in 1962, retired as a captain in 1974 to study law and was called to the Bar.

He practised until 1984 when he went back into uniform as a contract officer (gunner) with the armed forces of the Sultan of Oman.

It was in 1987 that he joined the Army Legal Corps ... "returning to the fold, you could say".



Maj Richard Austin of the Army Legal Corps in "chambers"

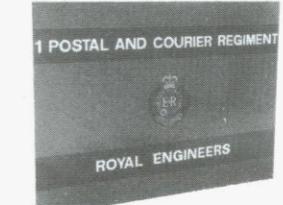
LOADSAMAIL!



Good sorts

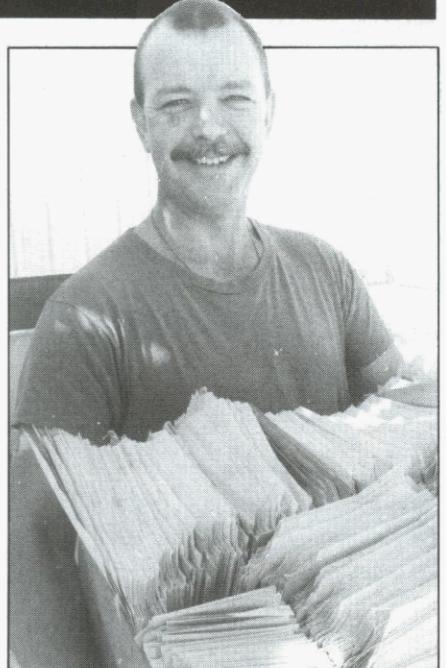
Left - LCpl Joe McGinty of 1 PC sorts mail for units in the Gulf theatre

Right - Carrying mail back to their unit are (from left) Tpr Peter Armstrong, Pipe Maj David Johnston and Tpr Steve Burlow of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. Even when off duty, soldiers carry weapons and respirators



WO2 Dick Mackenzie (right) with a box of blueys. The British Forces Mail Aerogrammes are being processed by 1 Postal and Courier Regiment RE in Saudi Arabia and flown back to Britain by the RAF at the rate of 45,000 a week. The Gulf Posties are receiving and distributing incoming mail from home by the ton - up to 100 bags a day are being handled.

The mail men also provide a normal counter service at three locations in the Gulf.





Above - A gigantic Galaxy aircraft unhinges its jaws to disgorge a Puma helicopter already painted in desert livery.
Left - LCpl Gillian Fraser, staff clerk
Below - Spr George Holwill on high ground with a tented camp spread out below him in the background



Pictures: Cpl Lee Paiman RAF

More hot work for 30 Sigs

FROM one hot spot to another - that's life for 45 men from 30 Signal Regiment now making up the Joint Communications Unit in Saudi Arabia.

Many of them were involved in the United Nations force which last year helped to ease Namibia's path to independence.

The signallers, normally based at Blandford Camp in Dorset, are under the command of Capt Steve Felton, R Signals, and 2iC SSgt Dougie Wright, and have attached 15 personnel from the RAF's Tactical Communications Wing.

The regiment now has soldiers in six locations in the Middle East in support of Operation Granby.

The detachment arrived on August 10, the first British Army unit in theatre. Their primary job is to provide communications for a RAF Tornado squadron based in the



The second-in-command, SSgt Dougie Wright

area, and they work a wide variety of equipment, including satellite stations, a world-wide HF radio detachment and ground-to-air communications.

They also provide the RAF data system, ASMA.

Much of their work requires the help and co-operation of the Saudi authorities.

Relations are cordial,



A Tornado F3 long-range interceptor of 11 Squadron RAF, normally based at RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire

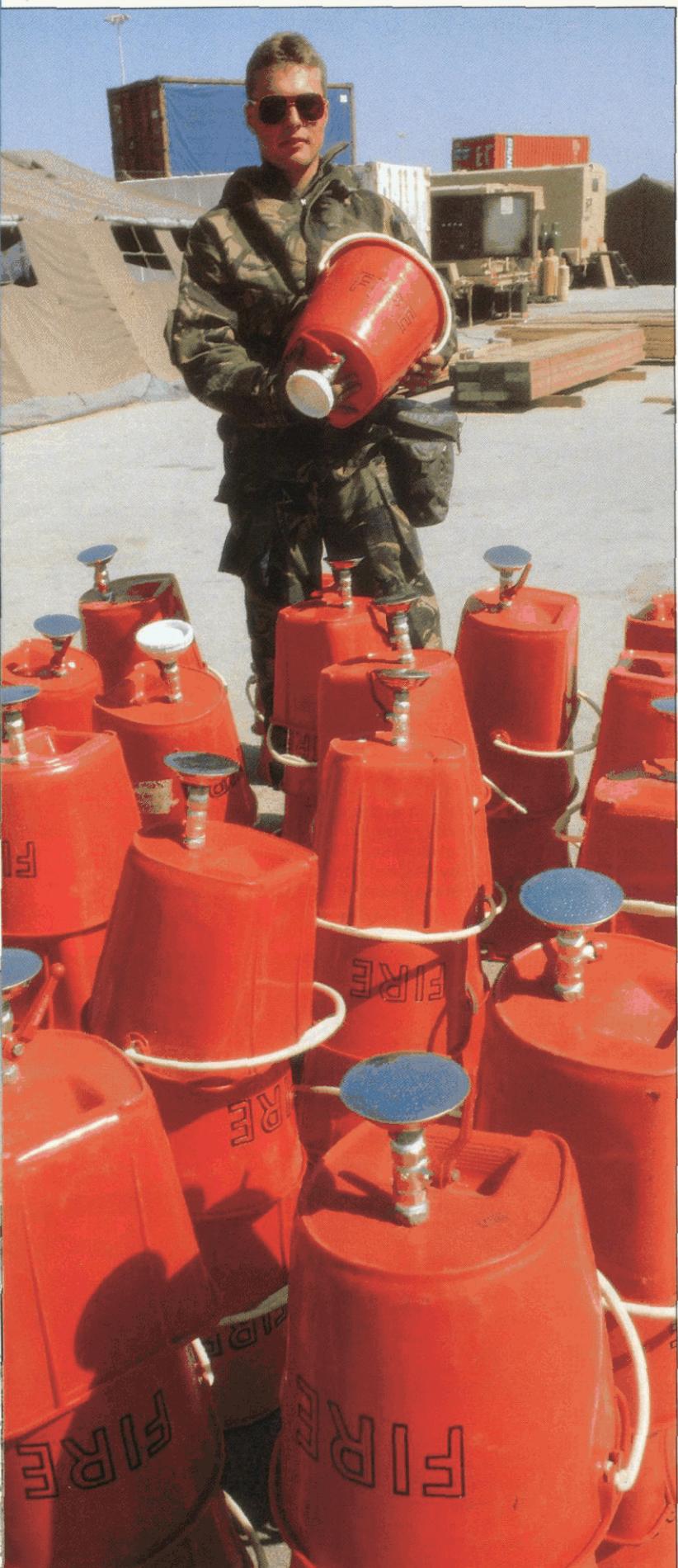
although the slower pace of life has caused some frustrations.

Close links are maintained by the JCU with United States communications units and there have been many cases of mutual assistance.

The 30 Sig Regt detachment is accommodated in a residential compound belonging to British Aerospace, and lack of

space is more than compensated by the presence of air conditioning.

Despite long hours, the signallers have found time to play sport and make occasional trips to haggle in the local market. According to Capt Felton, some of his team are learning Arabic, albeit with mixed results.



THAT'S COOL!

Here's one way to keep clean, stay cool and put fires out at the same time. Spr Gerard Bateman prepares to install showers in Tent City.

**With the Patriots of Foxtrot Battery,
2nd Battalion, 7th Air Defence Artillery,
11th Air Defence Brigade**



Set up for business... a Patriot missile system run by Foxtrot Battery, the US Army's top shots

Meeting trouble head-on

THE matter-of-fact manner of the young American officer was reassuring.

"We are very confident people," said First Lt Brian Tate, from Arkansas.

He was sitting in the air-conditioned Engagement Control Station of Foxtrot Battery, 2nd Battalion, 7th Air Defence Artillery.

Outside, four Patriot missile systems pointed at a business-like angle to the clear blue sky above a vital port installation in the Gulf.

Earlier Capt Edwin Robles, a New Yorker, told SOLDIER that Patriot, introduced as an improvement on the Hawk missile, was "the only thing in the inventory that can shoot down a Scud missile".

The Scud is a tactical ballistic missile of Soviet design in possession of the Iraqis.

To make a kill the Patriot rocket has to meet the target head-on and the unit insignia, a red arrow representing the

threat point to point (with a black arrow representing the defence), sums up the situation nicely.

Each of the launching systems mounts four long box-like cannisters marked "rocket ammunition with explosive projectile".

The American gunners had drawn an electronic boundary around the busy port and if an incoming enemy were to penetrate the "footprint" (template) defined on the display screens in the command post two would be fired automatically.

The Patriot was designed to counter hostile aircraft and "can see further and shoot further than the Hawk".

Capt Robles: "The basic missile can engage at 124km out, but you'd probably wait until the target got to 80 or less to increase the kill ratio to 99 per cent."

"In this theatre our role is a bit reversed. The hostile

aircraft mission has been given to the US Air Force and Hawks.

"We'll only engage aircraft if any satellite picks up the Iraqis loading them up with chemical ammunition. We'll want to engage them first. We'll tell our aircraft to move out of the way, the Hawks to hold and give up their mission, and we'll shoot it out."

The Patriot does not have to meet aircraft head on but can engage a target crossing its front.

The battles are fought from the Engagement Control Station which is always manned by three men - a fourth coming in if a Scud attack is identified.

The Tactical Control Officer (during SOLDIER's visit this was First Lt Tate) sits in front of a screen with the task of protecting friendly aircraft. A touch on a computer button shows a little circle with a "T" in the centre indicating a "True friend" (American aircraft). Other symbols denote allied aircraft.

Alongside him sits the Tactical Control Assistant who carries out the engagement procedure when an attacker is identified.

"We can track more than 50 targets at a time and engage them in multiples," said First Lt Tate.

Another rank mans the comms desk in the control station, making up the three-man team (plus a fourth, an



Warrant Officer Ron Beaumont from Ohio, Foxtrot Battery's maintenance officer

officer, if Scuds are reported).

A refinement available to the Patriot batteries is the ability to jam enemy electronic devices trying to interfere with the missile's system.

Patriot ammunition being expensive, gunners are lucky if they fire two a year in peacetime. Foxtrot Battery won the inter-battalion competition, which makes them the hot shots.

Warrant Officer Ron Beaumont, Foxtrot's maintenance officer, who hails from Ohio and sets up the launchers, has fired ten... and scored a hit each time.

joining. Most of them had been with the battery ever since.

It was comforting to know that though Foxtrot, as top shots, were up front nearest the aggressor, five other Patriot batteries were ranged behind them.

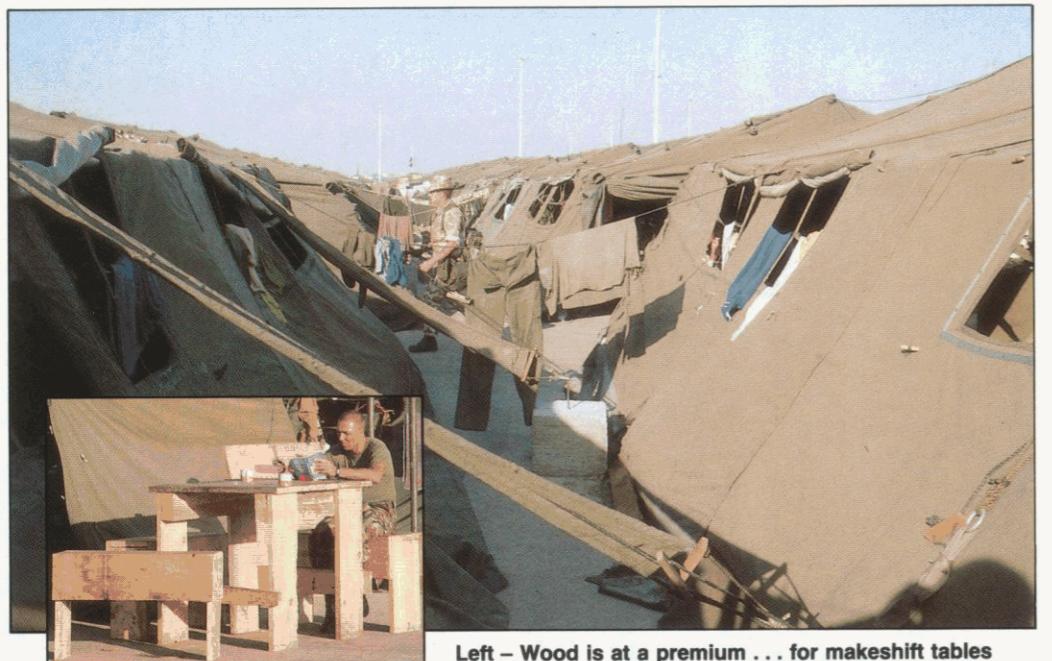
A number of visits to the Patriots have been made by groups from 7 Armoured Brigade, many of whose troops are encamped only a short distance away. They have been very impressed by what they saw.

When the SOLDIER team left, there were two more "very confident people" in the Gulf.

Tent City scenes . . .



Above and below – Crowded “city” streets, with a premium on cleanliness



Left – Wood is at a premium . . . for makeshift tables



Outdoor dining room. Weapons and respirators are carried at all times

33 Field Hospital

● From Page 21

DIER was the result of a fourth attempt. A hospital of similar size has not left Britain's shores intact since the Second World War and the expertise is lacking.

Col Creamer: “We started with one design and then were told we'd have more space. We worked on another plan and then saw the situation on the spot and changed it again.

“Then the sappers came along and said it would be better for various reasons if we moved the wards around . . . so we moved them through 90 degrees.”

The “we” referred to those of the hospital's own staff, doctors, nurses and support that had arrived up to that point, about a quarter of the full strength – which gradually rose to half – of the 400-plus establishment.

This meant 24 hours a day shift working, heaving canvas over frames and for ever making-up beds.

Col Creamer: “We have 400 beds for the whole hospital and they arrive as a frame and two ends, mattress, blanket, pillow and sheets. They have to be married together and carried into the wards.”

All ranks joined in the work and Col Creamer was delighted with the nurses who have “settled in marvellously”.

The heart of the hospital is a surgical working area and 100 beds under complete collective protection.

A first-line shield is provided by the roof and walls of the warehouse, which can keep off any unpleasant chemical liquids dropped from the sky.

Under it are the normal frame tents and under them the “bubble” system which has been developed during exercises in the UK and North West Europe.

What is virtually a long sausage is inflated by pumps and kept in shape by air pressure.

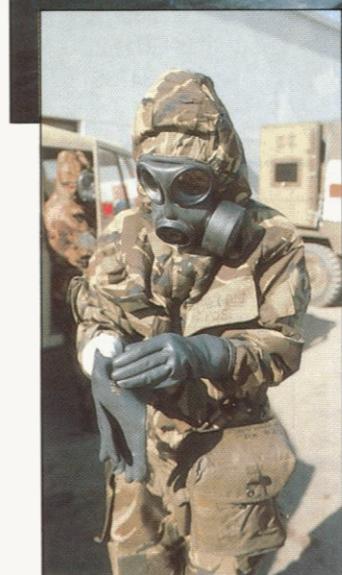
Air locks allow the admission of decontaminated casualties. The pumps work the whole time to maintain the pressure but the fabric can also be held up by lines or “33” poles.

Col Creamer: “The high care casualties will all be in collective protection where we can continue to work on them

● Turn to Page 33



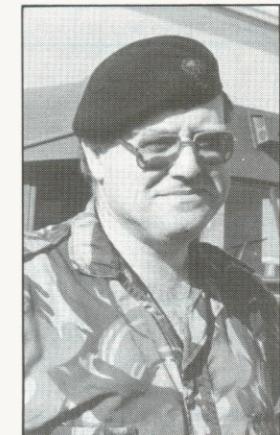
LCpl Kate Burgess folds bed clothes in an empty tented ward



Capt Di Donegan puts on her NBC kit



Maj Pat McKay (left) and Maj Maggie Macdonald. Last time SOLDIER caught up with them was in Nepal at BMH Dharan before its closure



The matron, Lt Col Eric Gruber von Arni

Long way for a field op!

PATIENTS have been trickling into 33 Field Hospital since the first bed was made but none got there more quickly than Bdsm Paul Cox of the 13th/18th Hussars.

“I know these guys,” he told his chums as the SOLDIER team walked into the ward. “They were on our bus to the airfield.”

So we were. But we went to

● Turn to Page 33



Men of the Pegasus Band of The Parachute Regiment, tasked to supply medical support and staff decontamination chambers. When this picture was taken they were also guarding the hospital against possible terrorist activity. Wearing a beret in the centre is WO2 Jack Warner, the band sergeant major

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Hospital

● From Page 30

throughout a chemical attack.

"The remaining beds are in conventional tentage and, should we ever face chemical attack, we will put the low care patients in casualty bags."

These envelop a patient, with a "window" to see through.

"We've worked out the air flow so the whole complex is an integral citadel against chemical attack," said Col Creamer.

The colonel took over at the Cambridge Military Hospital (within sight of SOLDIER's offices) only two weeks before the Gulf crisis broke out.



Bdsm Paul Cox

Patients

● From Page 31

our tent that night. He was around only two hours when he was whisked off to hospital where he was operated on the next day for an abscess.

When we saw him he was chatting to Spr John Lord of 3 Tp 1 Sqn 21 Engr Regt and Cpl Gary March, REME, one of whom had become the first man to lose his appendix on Op Granby.

On the other side of Bdsm Cox's bed was Pte Ian Steele of 518 Coy, Royal Pioneer Corps.

He was being treated for acid burns received in the UK.

WO1 Peter Walker in the next bed was another victim of the desert. A member of 1 Armd Fd Amb hygiene section, he had been helping his men move a trailer "when the sand collapsed and my back went". WO1 Walker had a slipped disc and was expecting to be casevac home.

"The establishment of

Why was allowance slashed by £70?

I WOULD, like many other soldiers, like an explanation as to why our LOA was cut by around £70 a month from August 1. Being based in Berlin is expensive compared to the rest of BAOR. As a corporal I can survive comfortably, but privates relied on that LOA to help them.

We hear the excuse about the FFR and exchange rates changing, but what about the times when our FFR was only 2.71 and the exchange rate 2.98?

Whoever works out our LOA must have a very secluded lifestyle and can't be a very sociable person. There is lots to do in Berlin, but you need money to do it. Single soldiers have to go out socialising more because they have no family with them.

Anyone who disagrees obviously hasn't lived in an army camp. A night out here costs approx DM150 (£50) because of the price of beer and so on, which is nearly double that in the rest of Germany.

Clothes are expensive, and don't forget, the only help we get to go home is one free flight a year.

People based in London are paid more than us, and they're worried about soldiers bouncing cheques and being overdrawn? You don't give them much choice when you cut their wages by £70 in one month.

On behalf of all single soldiers in Germany (especially Berlin), is there any chance of someone explaining why it happened – in simple English preferably for the not-so-intelligent among us. – **Single soldier, Berlin (name and address supplied).**

An MoD spokesman replies: "As you know, LOA is not a form of overseas inducement pay such as is paid to Servicemen in Loan Service posts in certain countries. LOA is designed to compensate Servicemen for the essential extra costs they incur in maintaining the same lifestyle in the overseas theatre as they would expect to lead in the UK.

"The establishment of

HEALTH visitors, registered midwives and general nurses moving to British Forces, Germany who would like to work for SSAFA should contact the

Anne Armstrong



Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653

LOA: All the facts

Inflation in UK to blame

LOA rates is a complex matter, so I shall try to keep this letter simple.

"Every three years a survey is carried out of a broad cross-section of Service personnel in the UK. The results of this survey are then used to establish an expenditure pattern for various ranks under 32 separate budget headings.

"These are then used as the basic cost-of-living in UK for the established lifestyle of the different ranks. The differences between the ranks are used as the basis for a complex factor plan, which determines the different rates of LOA payable according to rank.

"In the overseas theatre, the lifestyles of two 'marker' ranks are costed across the same 32 budget headings. The marker ranks are corporal and captain, married and single. Any special-to-theatre costs are then added (for example, extra soft drinks in hot climates).

"The difference between the marker ranks' cost of living in the overseas station and that in the UK becomes the LOA payable to those ranks. If the cost of living overseas is greater than it is in the UK, then a positive rate of LOA is

"Repricing is also done, on the same basis, in the UK each year. Clearly, if prices have risen more steeply during the year in the UK than they have in the overseas station, then

Midwives wanted by SSAFA

Assistant Director Health Western Europe, Miss Wendy Stabler, HQ SSAFA, JHQ, BFPO 140 (tel: 010 492 161 47 2139) for more information.

the resulting comparison will lead to a lower rate of LOA than was in issue previously.

"The update team does not go out to 'cut' LOA. It carries out a purely mathematical exercise, and has no control over what the end result will be.

"When the pricing is carried out overseas, it is done in the local currency. The resulting figures are then converted, at the FFR, to give the daily rate in Sterling. If the international currency market is such that a change in the FFR is necessary, then the conversion of the LOA rates is carried out again, using the new FFR, to give a revised Sterling rate.

"At the moment, with the rate of inflation relatively high in the UK, prices are tending to rise more quickly here than they are overseas. I leave it to you to draw conclusions as to which way you think LOA rates are likely to move."

LOA headings

These are the 32 LOA budget headings: Car, public transport, clothing, laundry, dry cleaning, stationery, postage, telephones, food at home, cigarettes, confectionery, household cleaning materials, toiletries, drinks at home, drinks out, drinks in mess, meals out, cinema/spectator sport, dances, mess functions, home entertainment, newspapers and magazines, television and video, records and tapes, sport and hobbies, food in mess, mess subscriptions, hairdressing, baby-sitting, toys, holidays and insurance.

Chronicle of the First World War, Volume 1: 1914-1916 by Randal Gray with Christopher Argyle. Meticulous day-by-day record with information presented under nine headings – Western Front, Southern Fronts, Home Fronts, African Operations, Eastern Front, Sea War, Air War, Turkish Fronts and International Events. Plus introductory essays, tables, maps, sources, and glossary. Published in Facts on File. Price £20 casebound.

Chronicle of the Second World War edited by Derrick Mercer. A massive 792-page record told in newspaper style – the stories unfold, with abundant illustrations, as if they have just happened and with the benefit of hindsight. Among distinguishing features of this latest milestone in popular history are the respected journalists who helped produce it, the military experts and historians who backed them up – including Field Marshal Sir John Stanier – and the 38-page index. Published by Longman Chronicle. Price £29.95.

Mediterranean Safari by Tony Daniell. Adventures and activities of 59 Field Company Royal Engineers from March 1943 to October 1944, recalled by the company commander. Published by Buckland Publications Ltd. Price £9.95.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Battle of Britain by Michael J F Bowyer. One of a number of publications marking the 50th anniversary year. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £17.50. Others include **Battle of Britain Day** by Alfred Price (Sidgwick & Jackson, price £15); **Battle of Britain** by Len Deighton and Max Hastings (Michael Joseph, price £12.99 softback); **Eagles High** by Peter North (Leo Cooper, price £12.95); **Fight for the Sky** by Douglas Bader (republished by Sidgwick & Jackson, price £11.95 softback); **The Boys' Own Battle of Britain** by Peter Cross (Pavilion Books, price £7.99).

The Blue Cross at War by Carmen Smith. Based on the annual reports of "Our Dumb Friends' League" in two world wars. Available from The Blue Cross Field Centre, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX8 4PF. Price £6.70 inc. p & p.

Brush Fire Wars – Minor Campaigns of the British Army since 1945 by Michael Dewar. Dealing mainly with

counter-insurgency operations, this revised paperback edition covers the campaigns in Palestine in 1947, and then in succession those in Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Aden, the Persian Gulf, Borneo, Guyana, Belize and Northern Ireland. Published by Robert Hale. Price £6.95, paperback.

Loopy – An Autobiography by George Kennard. Engaging and humorous biography of 'Loopy' Kennard, former commanding officer of the 4th Hussars and post-war personality. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £12.95, paperback.

A Corporal's Odyssey by Gerald Hancock. Forty-seven page account of the author's war service from 1939-1946 including Greece and North Africa. Published by Merlin Books. Price £2.99, paperback.

Diary of a Wartime Cruise by Vic Went and Reg Stacey. Account of the two Army paymasters who voyaged on the SS *Empress of Britain* before it was sunk in October 1940. Published by Merlin Books. Price £15.99 for 1, 3 and 5, and £17.50 for No. 9.

It ends with Magic – A Milligan Family Story by Spike Milligan. A combination of fact and fiction is used to blend together a charming account of the history of both sides of his family. Much of the book details military recollections of his forebears' service to the Crown. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £15.99.

Trading in Death by James Adams. An examination of the international arms trade, from the IRA to Afghanistan, dealing with topics such as the competition for

a new tank for the British Army and the Iran/Iraq war. Published by Hutchinson. Price £16.95.

The World in Conflict 1990 – War Annual 4 by John Laffin. Clear and comprehensive account of the world's many wars, as they happen. A useful work of reference which presents a complete and objective military assessment of each conflict, analyses the tactics of the belligerents and speculates on likely future developments. Published by Brassey's. Price £19.95.

Action Stations – Military Airfields is a popular series of aviation histories detailing military airfields in various regions of the UK. The books have been reissued in revised editions. First batch includes: AS 1 East Anglia, AS 3 Wales and the North-West, AS 5 South-West and AS 9 Central South and South-East. Published by Merlin Books. Price £2.99, paperback.

And the mail got through!

WITH the Posties back on a war footing in the Gulf, a recently-published book about their experiences in the last action takes on a special significance.

Based on the journal of Maj (Retd) Ian Winfield RE (PCS), *The Posties Went To War* describes in chatty style how, with a small team, he set up and ran the Postal and Courier Service in the Falklands between April and September 1982.

He writes with feeling about the "built-in embiggenances", not the least being that the line of communication stretched back 8,000 miles and that the mail was competing for transport space with such essentials as fuel, ammunition, clothing and food.

"Looking back on it," he says, "I am amazed that mail got through at all!"

The fact that it did – and with remarkable regularity and punctuality – he ascribes to the goodwill of all concerned.

In a foreword which serves as a fitting postscript to this review, Maj Gen Jeremy Moore, the former Commander Land Forces Falkland Islands, pays tribute to the achievements of the administrative and logistic staffs and units in the 20th Century in which few soldiers knew the names of

"With the necessary minimum of explanation, and that appropriately confined to the introduction and a few footnotes, Maj Winfield's journal gives a very good picture of the confusion and lack of information which we soldiers call 'the fog of war', and the frustrations which go with it; but more importantly what stands out for me is the professionalism with which problems are overcome, and the sense of humour which lightens even the worst days."

For Falklands . . . read Gulf? – CAH.

The Posties Went To War by Maj Ian Winfield. Published by Square One Publications, Saga House, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UA. Price £5.95 paperback.

There are numerous contributions from men who

THE LOVEABLE FIELD MARSHAL



Fd Marshal Plumer

appointments were as post-war Governor of Malta and, later, High Commissioner of Palestine. In both offices Plumer had to face disquiet and riot, but quelled troubles by showing the same stability and quality of leadership he had displayed as an army commander.

Not everything in the author's assessment of his subject is entirely complimentary: "Like Haig, Plumer made his mistakes, especially in his handling of the ill-conceived and executed attacks by the ANZAC Corps . . . in which the objectives were too optimistic and his confidence in the ability of the troops to cope with the impossible conditions misplaced. Perhaps he should share part of the blame with Haig for failing to halt the offensive."

One cannot read this book without pangs of regret over the fact that Plumer's career has become so obscure, caused mainly by his own wish for privacy, both in life and death.

Powell remarks, "His name is forgotten in his own country, but in Ypres, in Malta and in Jerusalem, streets and squares still bear his name." – BJ

Plumer: The Soldier's General by Geoffrey Powell. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £19.50 hardback.

Hull Pals at war

IN recent years there has been a succession of books concerned with the locally-raised battalions, the Pals, formed by several north country regiments in the 1914-18 war. In the latest of these, *This Righteous War*, Barrie Barnes tells the story of the Hull Pals of the East Yorkshire Regiment.

The book is dedicated to the author's grandfather, Pte Robert Harris Weasenham, whose stories of life in the trenches inspired a study that resulted in a thesis to gain a Master of Philosophy degree.

The first, the 10th Battalion, or the "commercials", was so-called because "the majority of them came from the commercial classes".

"They were the nobs

battalion and used to snub you a bit."

During their 4½ months on the Somme the Hull brigades were constantly in and out of the line. There were 1,947 men killed while serving with the 92 (Hull) Brigade. Those who remained returned home on May 29, 1919, the mayor closing his welcoming speech by inviting the men to light refreshments and the officers to a luncheon. The story of the Hull Pals was over. – BJ

This Righteous War by B S Barnes. Published by Richard Netherwood Ltd. Price £14.95.

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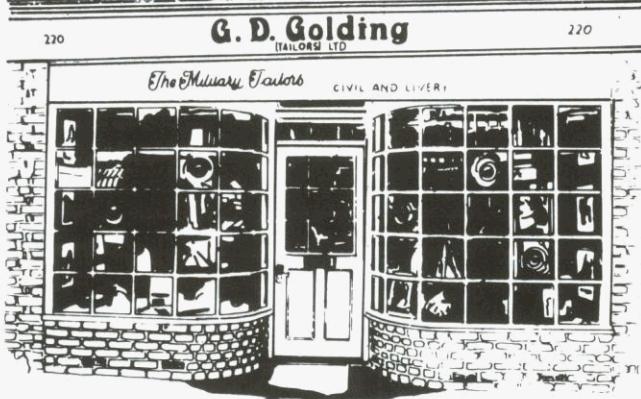
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East African triumph recalled

FIFTIETH anniversary events in 1990 have marked such momentous episodes as Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, which prompts me to wonder if in 1991 any celebration is planned for the 50th anniversary of the first Commonwealth victory of the

Second World War.

I refer of course to the conquest of Italian East Africa by Gen Platt's British and Indian forces from the Sudan in the north, and Gen Cunningham's British, South, East and West Africans and Rhodesians from Kenya in the south.

Healey blame ill-directed

DENIS Healey (November 12) considers the Anzio landings to have been a "strategic success" but goes on to blame Churchill for the operation's "tactical failure".

Surely, Mr Healey, if any one person can be blamed for the tactical failure at Anzio it has to be the corps commander on the spot - the American General Lucas. It was Lucas who failed to make any exploitation at all of the initial success of Operation Shingle.

And, of course, sight must not be lost of the disastrous ending to the other prong of the overall plan, the crossing of the Rapido river, which saw the US 36th Texas Division cut to pieces in their attempt to break the Gustav Line and thereby create a bridgehead from which the Allied forces could strike north and link up with the seaborne assault at Anzio.

Mr Healey is being very mischievous indeed when he blames Churchill for taking away "about half of the troops intended for the Anzio landing for a landing in Southern France."

Not only is he being mischievous but he is also totally mistaken in his dates as the landings in southern France - Operation Dragoon - did not take place until August 1944.

Suez medals

PENDING the outcome of a meeting between Col P S Newton (Letters, Sept 17) and Ministry of Defence officials, correspondence on the subject of a Suez medal has been held over. Meanwhile, the Editor thanks the many readers who have written on the topic.

In fact Churchill had strenuously opposed the plans for Dragoon, or Anvil as it was originally called, as he preferred the emphasis to be kept on operations in Italy.

The decision to launch Dragoon was taken by the American Chiefs of Staff and approved by Roosevelt, to Churchill's dismay. It is very unfair and very unjust of Mr Healey to try to lay the blame for the fiasco which led to the war in Italy dragging on through the winter of 1944-45 and into April of 1945 on Churchill.

But perhaps Mr Healey suffers from a memory defect, for I see that he even refers to being escorted by the local head of the provos on a visit to Belfast in 1969. Surely even he knows that the provisional IRA did not come into being until mid-1970?

That is a more charitable view of his recollections than to suggest, as some might, that party political considerations might just have had something to do with his comments on a great wartime premier. - Richard Doherty, Londonderry.

A blow to the unit

IN a recent issue, referring to the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, you mention that "the unit has a recce role".

May I mention an incident that occurred nearby 20 years ago when I met the then Assistant Sergeant-at-Mace of Rochester City Council, an ex-soldier. I asked him which unit he had served in.

Though vastly outnumbered they overcame an Italian Army of more than a quarter of a million men and conquered 700,000 square miles of one of the world's most inhospitable areas. That merits recognition - N J Howes (ex CSM), Lyndhurst, Hants.



REME role

YOUR article "They're in the Gulf" (November 26) made no mention of the important role of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Op Granby.

REME personnel, as I am sure you are aware, serve with most units deployed in the Gulf, either in Light Aid Detachments or in Armoured Workshops. - Cpl S Askew, Arborfield.

● *Apologies to the REME for this inadvertent omission - Editor.*

Good luck!

AS a Desert Rat of the Second World War I wish the 7th Armoured Brigade in Saudi Arabia the best of luck - especially through the sand storms. Follow your motto, *Fear Naught*. - J Ellison, ex-43rd RTR, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

Searchline

● **Rhos-on-Sea, 1943:** Details of units, particularly RA/REME, based/billeted Rhos-on-Sea, N Wales, 1943, sought by Ms Margaret Robinson, 15A Shrewsbury Road, Birkenhead L43 1UU.

● **4th Air Landing/Anti-Tank Battery RA:** Allied crossing of the Rhine March 23-24, 1945. Any personal recollections appreciated, especially from anyone who knew Lt George Valentine RA. Replies to E Phelan, 6 Farlton Road, London SW18 3BL.

● **Resettlement research:** Ex-Sgt RCT conducting survey of employment of ex-Service persons would like to hear from anyone who has sought a position with a local authority, and details of outcome. Please contact F W Taylor, 21 Whitefield Road, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs PR1 0XJ.

● **22nd British Field General Hospital, Taranto 1945:** Former German para engineer wishes to thank the surgeon (major) who saved his arm on April 20, 1945. Anyone with information please contact Carl Bayerlein, D 7100, Heilbronn, Postfach 1217, W Germany.

● **Sgt Frank Irwin:** who served with 94/95th Field Battery RA, 18th Field Regt RA, India Command, in Second World War, sought by cousin in New Jersey, USA. Please contact in first instance Miss Mary Davies, 61 St George's Road, Hull HU3 6EE.

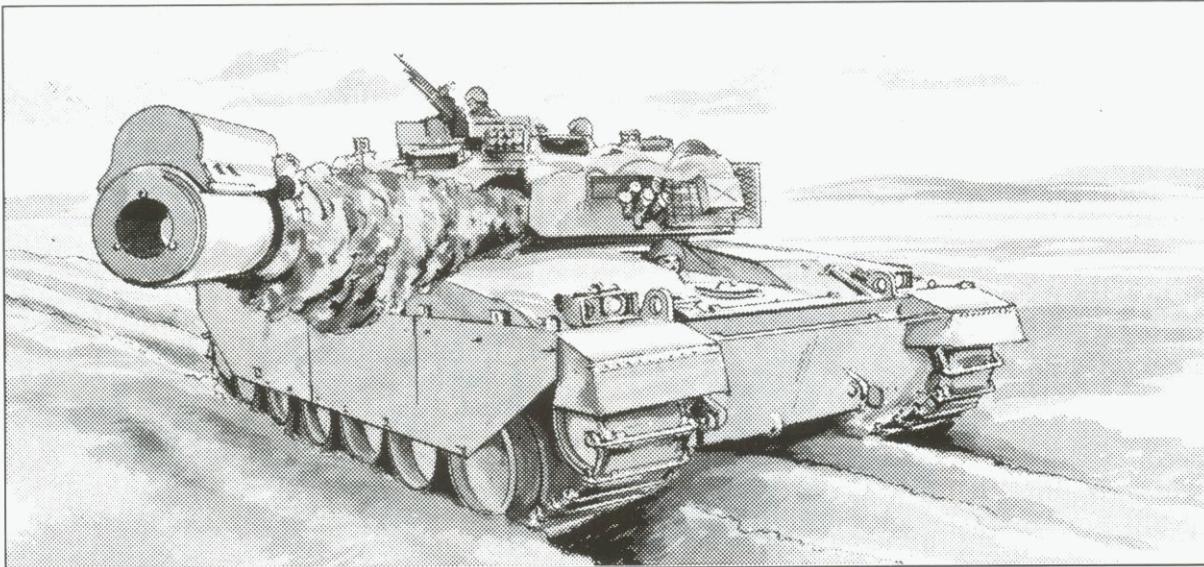
● **Gilman Barracks, Singapore 1952-55:** Ex-Sapper would like to hear from others who served. Contact M F Johns, 37 Thornton Road, Belvedere, Kent DA17 6DD.

● **Lt Allan Boyd Brodie:** Anyone who knew Lt Brodie, of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars RAC, killed in action July 23 1944 and buried at Ranville, near Caen, France, please contact Chris Satter (great nephew), 24 Kings Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3PQ (tel: 0252-332154).

Reunions

● **59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE:** To mark the squadron's 20th anniversary the biennial reunion will be held on May 24-26, 1991 at Crownhill Fort/Seaton Barracks, Plymouth. Details from Capt A G Gilbert RE, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Seaton Barracks, Tavistock Road, Plymouth PL6 5DL (tel: 0752 772312 ext 276).

● **Trucial Oman Scouts:** Following inaugural reunion on October 27, 1990 details of 1991 event available from Mr T Ward, 44 Weller Avenue, Rochester, Kent ME1 2LG (tel: 0634 404528).



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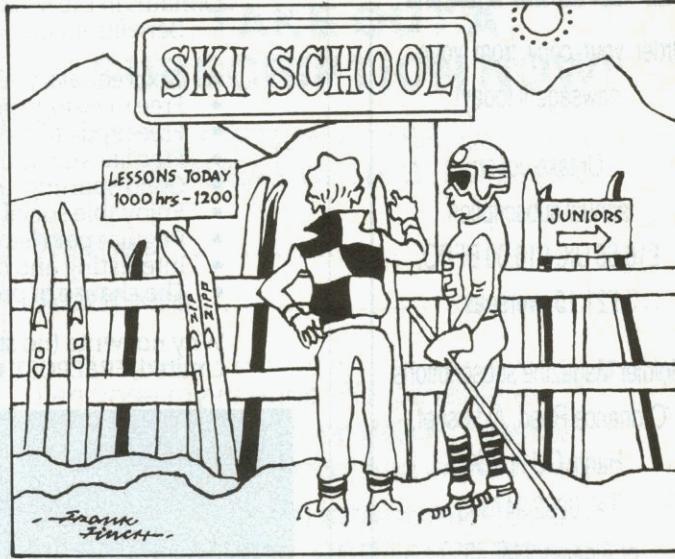
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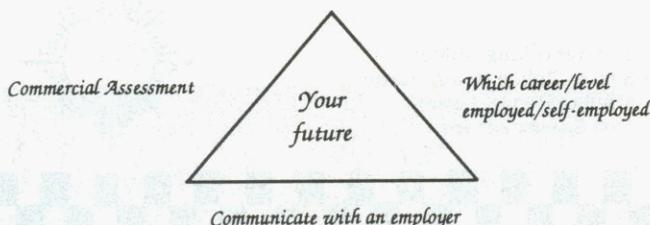
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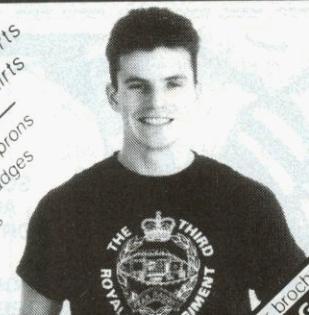
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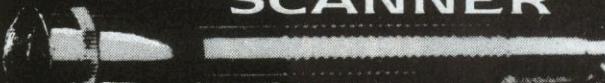
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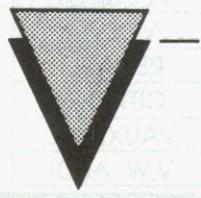
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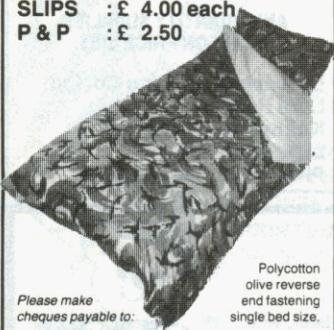
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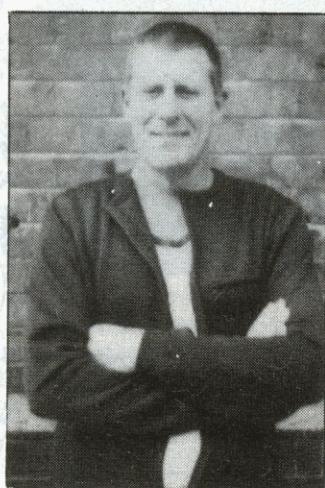
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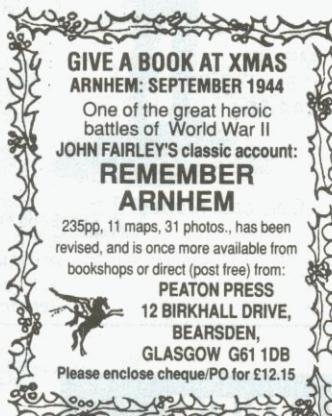
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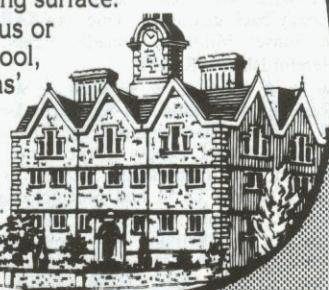
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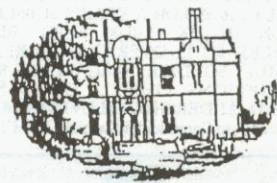
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Shoulder holsters for Browning, Colt etc. £19.50. Chest rigs 9 x SA 80 magazines plus maps etc £29.50. P & P £1.90 all items. Comkit, PO Box 10, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 3WA. Tel: 0558 668585. 9/91

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Large hanging Nazi banner - blood red base - swastika on white roundel two part size 80 x 45 inches. Offers tel: 0425 273282. 51/90

East German steel helmets, new condition £40. Russian Soldier's belt and brass buckle £10. East German Soldier's grey belt and buckle £10. Price includes postage. Starling, BMH Munster, BFPO 17. 01/91

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Commemorative Certificates of military service. Send SAE for descriptive list to Military Documentation, Rodingside, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5TR. 51/90

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Afrikacorps Tunic Cap. Webbing, water bottle, bayonet arm band (original). SS enrolment document. Cap, silver ring, jack boots, gloves, luft, cap. Swap badges, medals, daggers. 174 Powis Ave, Toll-End, Tipton, W. Midlands DY4 0RH. 51/90

Austrian surprise

THE ARMY boxing team lost by four bouts to five to what was virtually a European select team in Worgle, Austria.

Expecting to meet the Austrian national squad, the Army boxers found themselves up against five local men, a Swiss, two Hungarians and a Rumanian.

There were victories for Pte Rod Stoneman (RAPC att 3 Para), Cpl Neil McCallum (10 RCT), Pte Laurie Roche (1 LI) and Cpl John Dunn (2 R Anglian).

LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), LCpl Lee Innes (38 Engr Regt) and Pte John Culwick (23 Para Fd Amb RAMC) were unlucky to lose narrow majority decisions, LCpl Tom Eckersley (160 Pro Coy RMP) dropped a unanimous points decision and LCpl John Ineson (3 RGJ) was stopped in the second round by Hungarian Gyorgy Galler.



Picture: Mike Weston

Over and out goes WO2 (QMSI) Kriss Akabusi, the British 400m hurdles record-holder, as he marks his departure from the Army with a final leap at the Military Stadium in Aldershot where he has run with distinction on so many occasions during his 15 years in uniform. His retirement was marked at the Army School of Physical Training by the presentation to him of a crystal rose bowl. It was given to him by Brig Peter Woolley, chairman of Army athletics and a former commanding officer of WO2 Akabusi

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Gunners in command

Army XI 3,
Oxford University 3

IT must be the Year of the Gunners in Army football circles, writes Pat Massey.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery, having dominated the six-a-side tournament, went on to win for the first time the prestigious Corps Quadrangular Tournament at Bordon.

On the opening day the gunners and REME shared four goals and the Royal Engineers beat the Royal Signals 2-1. But the gunners walloped a disappointing Signals' team 4-1 on the following day while REME beat the sappers 3-2, and the odds seemed to be heavily on one of them winning the trophy.

On the final day REME were surprisingly beaten 1-0 by Royal Signals and the gunners sweated out a 1-1 draw against the sappers to ensure the point they needed for their first victory in this competition.

Deprived of the services of many of the Army reserve team because of the major Corps Quadrangular Tournament, a scratch Army side did well to hold visiting Oxford University at Aldershot and share six goals.

The home side dominated the early exchanges and were unlucky not to take a quick lead. Instead, a defensive error allowed the students to go ahead. Sgt George Paddock (RAOC) levelled the scores with a far-post header from a corner by Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT).

Second half goals for the Army were scored by LCpl Welsie Wells (R Sigs), who was borrowed from the Royal Signals squad, and Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR).

BEATEN BY THE CLOCK!

LCPL Dave Neal of Cdo Ord Sqn ran the fastest lap at the Army cross country relay championships at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot - even though he can't prove it.

There was a malfunction of printer watches and by the time race officials realised there was a problem, 11 men and two women had crossed the finishing line.

Neal ran a storming final leg, reducing FOD Dulmen's lead of nearly a minute to just a few seconds as he crossed the line. It was a thrilling finish to the four-leg relay in which minor units filled seven of the top ten positions.

FOD Dulmen were first home, so winning the minor units' race with Cdo Ord Sqn second. Third overall were 1 Armoured Division Signal

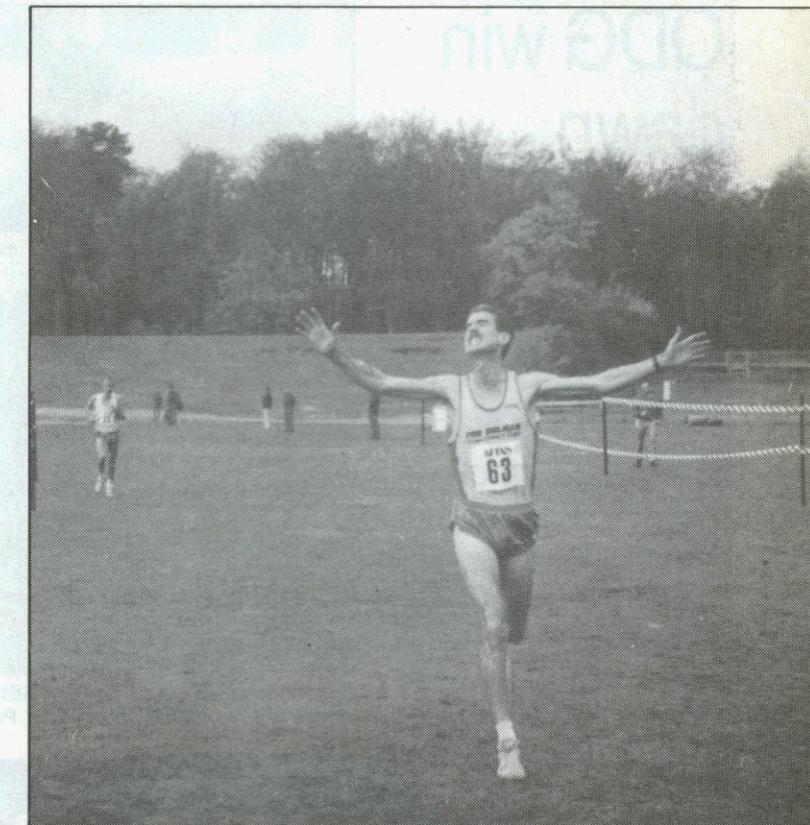
Regiment, who thus won the major units' trophy ahead of the highly-rated 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

In fact, 1 PWO were relegated to fifth overall because Depot Para, the third placed minor units team, also finished ahead of them.

School of Signals from Blandford were third in the majors, followed by 7 Para RHA, 1 PWO B team and 1 Para. Thirty teams took part in the major units' race.

In the minor category, which attracted an entry of 24 teams, Depot Queens Division, PCD RE, and 264 Sig Sqn also showed up well.

Six veteran teams entered, with Depot Queens Division taking the honours in front of Hereford Garrison and Central



Sgt John Lennon (FOD Dulmen) crosses the line in first place, followed by the rapidly closing LCpl Dave Neal (Cdo Ord Sqn)

Vehicle Depot Ashchurch.

First in the junior race was AA Coll Chepstow, followed by AA Coll Army Catering Corps and Princess Marina College, Arborfield. Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe's A and B teams were first and second in the youth race, with the

apprentice cooks third and Junior Para fourth.

WRAC Centre Guildford won the women's race ahead of 10 Coy WRAC and PCD RE.

The race was run over four legs of 2½ miles each.

Organisation for the event was provided by 7 Para RHA and Mr Tony Cox of sponsors, the Armed Forces Advisory Services, helped Army athletics chairman Brig Peter Woolley to present the prizes.

Tidworth marathon

NEARLY 90 competitors entered the inaugural Tidworth Garrison and UKMF triathlon championships staged in the Tidworth and Bulford area.

Winner of the women's title was 2nd Lt Liz Bennett, who completed the 400m swim, 12-mile cycle ride and 4½-mile run in 1hr 30min 24sec. Sgt (SI) Pete Chapple (22 Engr Regt) finished in 1hr 12min 19sec.

Glider contact

THE telephone number given in our story on Army gliding (October 29 issue) was incorrect. AGA secretary Lt Col John Hawkins can be contacted on 071-632 6440.



British skier Lt Hugh Hutchison RE receives the keys to a new car from Mr Terence Herbert of sponsors Carforce International during the Daily Mail International Ski Show at Earls Court. Hugh is serving with 35 Engineer Regiment based at Hameln, West Germany. A mogul specialist in the British freestyle team, he started skiing when he was four years old. Last winter he was first at the Army Alpine championships in Les Menuires, France, in the slalom, giant slalom and super giant slalom, and won the slalom and downhill in the Inter-Services at Megeve in France

QDG win dawn encounter with US Marines

IT HAD to happen sooner or later. In the Gulf region, where a lot of the lads from BAOR in particular are now firmly entrenched, someone produced a rugby ball and a game ensued, writes John Quin.

The British Armed Forces have, down the ages, spread the rugby gospel all over the globe.

Indeed, some of the modern leaders in world rugby owe their rugby inheritance to visiting British troops of one hue or another. So it may prove in the Gulf, where recently 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards took on the American Marine Corps champions, the 9th Communications Battalion attached to the US Marine Expeditionary Force.

According to SSgt George Clegg of QDG, the match took place at 7am local time on a construction workers' camp soccer pitch. Kick-off was at such an unearthly hour to avoid the heat, although the temperature was already in the nineties! The game was played over 20 minutes each way, with water being drunk at every opportunity.

George reports that "some initiative had to be used to mark out the pitch", and



Sgt Johnny Mathis (1/3 Tg Regt RE) finds himself surrounded during the Army's match against Oxford University. A report appears in Page 52

Picture: Mike Weston

ENGULFED

despite its stony nature, the only injuries were a few cuts, bumps and bruises.

The Yanks, as expected, were big, hard and fast, but the Welsh-recruiting QDGs ran out the eventual winners, 12pts to nil.

No kicks were allowed at goal – there were no uprights!

The only thing missing was the third half, due to the alcohol-free nature of the host nation. However, as often in rugby, many firm friendships were forged as a result of the game.

Back to the UK, where the

Now it's rugby in the sand

Army Cup is in full swing, with a definite pattern beginning to emerge. We are now at the second round stage, and of the eight remaining ties, the old war-horses are starting to re-appear.

The men of 8 Signal Regiment take on the Dukes, while Troops Hereford have to wait on the outcome of the clash between 16 Air Defence Regiment RA and the Green Howards. The Welsh Guards should be too strong for 42 Survey Regiment RE, while in a clash of the sapper/gunner training regiment, 17 Regiment RA host 1 and 3 Training Regiments RE.

The 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment have to hope that they can get back from Kenya in time to meet either 29 Commando Regiment RA or the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, while it is an all-gunner clash when 7 Para

RHA meet the Royal School of Artillery. Finally, in the Major Units Cup, SEME host near neighbours 47 Field Regiment RA from Thorney Island. We shall look at the minor units section next time.

Now, news of a project to beef-up Army rugby. A sponsorship has been struck with McDonalds, the giant fast food firm, which should benefit rugby players in the Army where it matters, at unit level. The aim is that money generously given by McDonalds will be ploughed in at the grass-root level to help unit rugby clubs advance at inter-unit level and within their Districts.

Final details have yet to be worked out, but watch this space.

To end, fancy a trip to the USSR? Well, it has just been announced that the Combined Services have accepted an invitation to tour in Russia next May.

Again details have to be worked out, but the invitation given when the Bears played Combined Services in an historic encounter at Aldershot Military Stadium last year has been accepted.

See you in Moscow.



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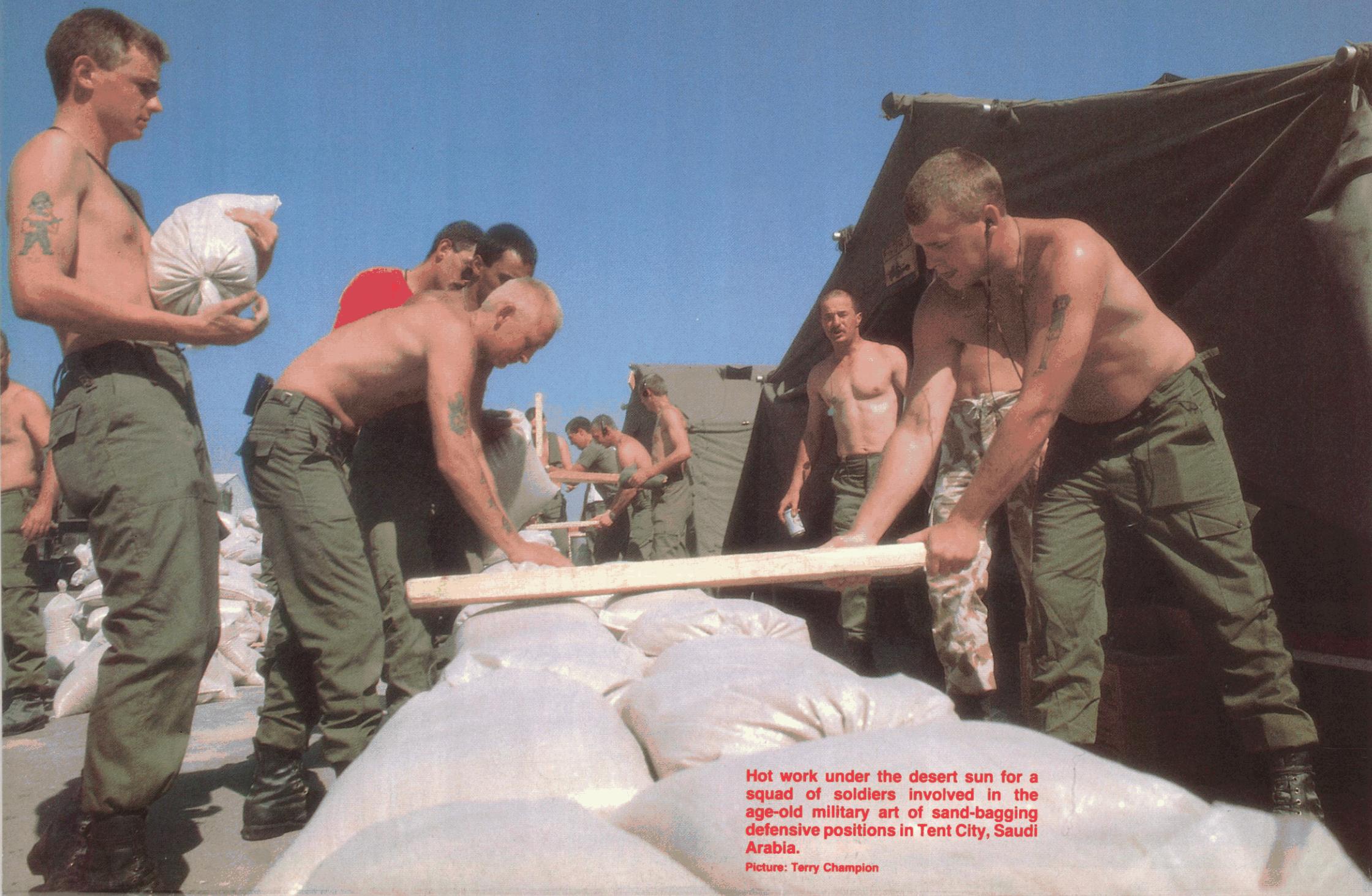
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Hot work under the desert sun for a squad of soldiers involved in the age-old military art of sand-bagging defensive positions in Tent City, Saudi Arabia.

Picture: Terry Champion