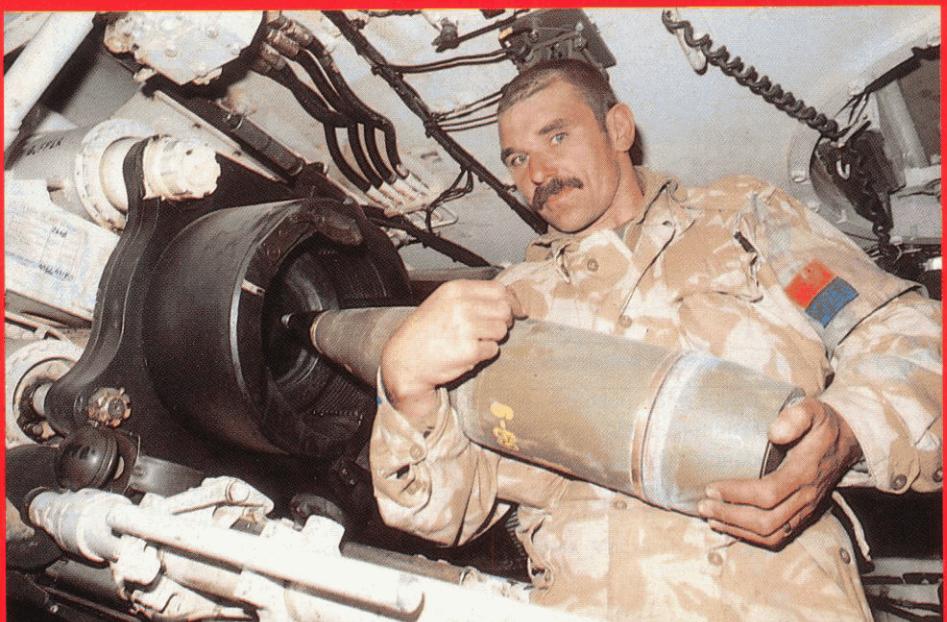
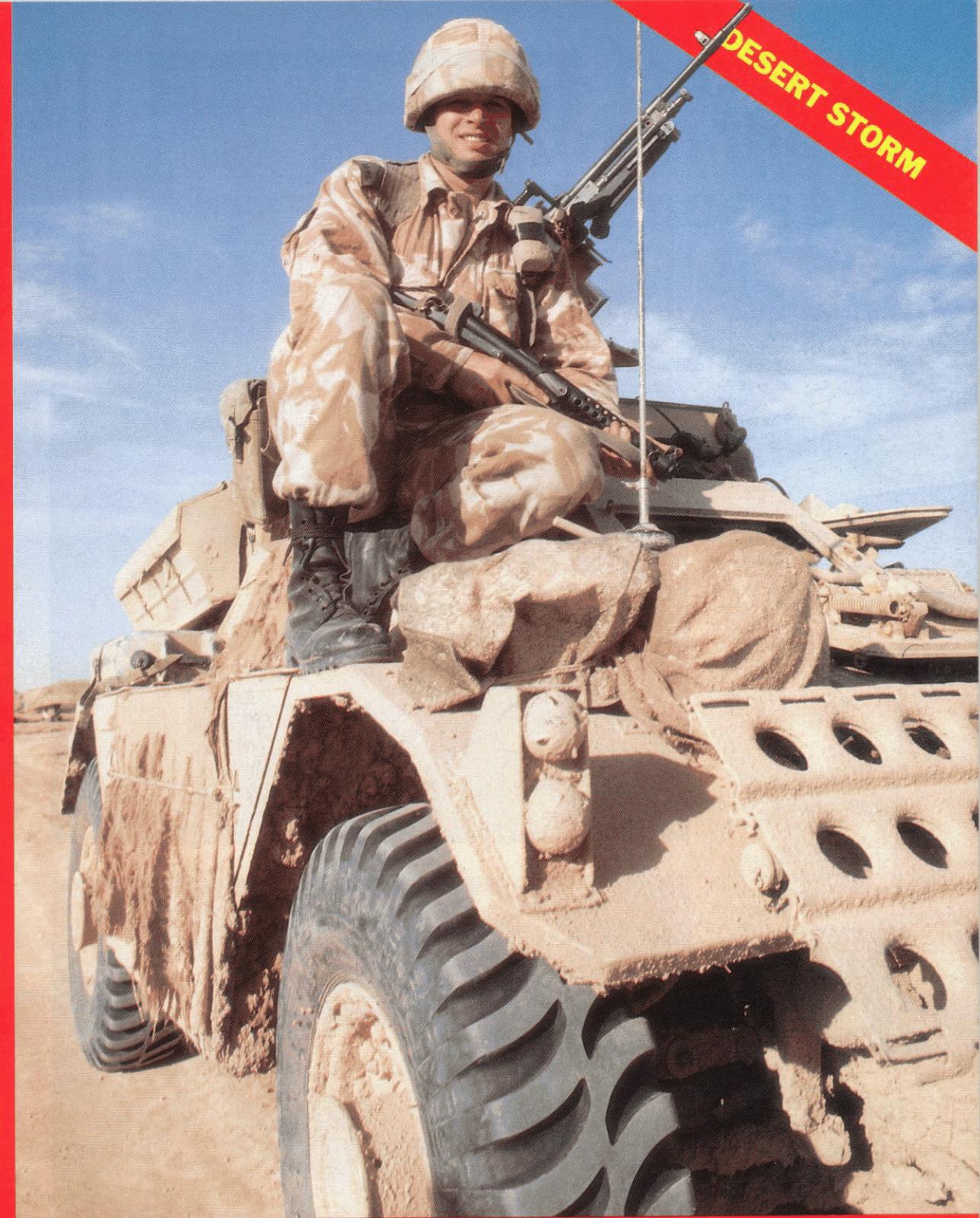


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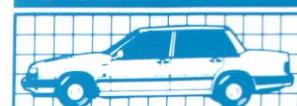
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FRONT COVER – (Main picture) LCpl Kerry Childs of the 16th/5th The Queen’s Royal Lancers on one of the recce regiment’s Ferret armoured cars pictured in a forward position in northern Saudi Arabia. See also Pages 22 and 23. The lower picture shows Sgt Mick Tincknell of 17 (Corunna) Field Battery, 26 Field Regiment RA, temporarily attached to 159 (Colenso) Fd Bty, loading a projectile into the breach of a M109 gun.

Pictures: Terry Champion

SOLDIER

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A message from the Princess of Wales

Princess Diana, who has requested
SOLDIER to convey this special
message to British soldiers
serving in the Gulf, is pictured with
Service families during a recent
visit to Germany



KENSINGTON PALACE

A message written to the thousands of you in the Gulf from the safety of my home in London can all too easily sound remote or condescending. But I do want you all to know just how much you are in our thoughts and prayers.

In the last few weeks I have been lucky enough to meet some of the families and friends you have left behind at Hohne and Paderborn Garrisons and RAF Gutersloh and Bruggen in Germany, and Royal Navy Devonport, Plymouth. They are all bearing up remarkably well: I was immensely proud to be able to see so many of them, if I may say so, you can be equally proud of the support they are giving you. I was also pleased to be able to visit the Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers, Mill Hill, to see how they are coping with the thousands of letters and parcels that are being sent to you.

Like everyone else following events in the Gulf hour by hour on the television screen, on the radio and in the newspapers, I am full of admiration for the extraordinary professional way in which you are all doing your jobs: utterly determined to do what is asked of you to the best of your proportion. I know that this is the result of years of training, hard work, and consummate self-discipline. But I would just like you to know that none of us back at home underestimates the difficulties and anxieties which you are experiencing, or the size of the task ahead of you.

Good luck and God speed.

Diana

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Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers prepare to board a Hercules aircraft in southern Saudi Arabia for a flight north to take up guard duties at a prisoner-of-war camp

From the front . . .

• Reports from the Gulf in this issue were filed by **Bill Moore**, with the exception of the 66 (Phoenix) Squadron RCT feature (Pages 14-15), which was dispatched by **Laurie Manton**. Pictures were taken by **Terry Champion** and **Mike Weston**. Manton and Weston have now joined Moore with forward elements of the 1st Armoured Division.

The next issue will include features on the Divisional Admin Area, the PoW camp established by 1 RHF and 34 Fd Sqn RE, and 32 Fd Hosp.



'Antique' Road Show goes on

AN extensive replica of the Iraqi lines was constructed to help the 1st Armoured Division familiarise itself with the type of opposition it could expect to meet.

Minefields, deep belts of barbed wire, tank traps and massive berms (earth parapets) were built for miles across an isolated stretch of the northern Saudi desert.

Viewed from an Army Air Corps Lynx of 654 Squadron, the position recalled pictures of the First World War, except that the bulldozed earthworks ran in straight lines instead of the crenellated or zig-zag pattern of the 1914-18 trench systems.

In Kuwait and on the Iraq border, such defences mark the forward edge of the battlefield and are covered by the fire of tanks and artillery supporting the infantry concentrated in strong points.

The mock Saddam Line in the desert gave British troops a practical idea of what they could expect

It was the centre of a number

of exercises including one in which both the 4th and 7th Armoured Brigades took part along with the Royal Engineers assault units and the artillery regiments which play such an important role - a total of 20,000 men and 150 tanks plus thousands of armoured and wheeled vehicles.

One of the most impressive sights was 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment (26, 31 and 77 Sqns RE) assembled in columns ready to give support wherever it was needed.

There were bridge-layers, combat engineer tractors, new Chieftain AVREs carrying fascines (as featured in SOLDIER last year) and elderly but effective Centurion tanks mounting a dozer blade and a turret containing a 165mm demolition gun able to destroy the biggest bunkers and shatter the thickest concrete.

The age of some of the vehicles has earned it the name "The Antique Road Show" in certain quarters and "Arthur Negus's Own". But no one wants to be without the

tremendous punch packed by the 165s.

While "32" waited for orders, the troops played football or Nerdles.

For the uninitiated, Nerdles requires two "wickets" to be set up composed of a spade (or shovel) and a small tin of compo (the contents of which are immaterial).

The compo is placed on the handle of the spade and players take it in turns to lob a hefty hammer at it with the intention of knocking it off. Defenders perform various gyrations and spectacular dives to prevent it touching the sand.

Points are scored according to the form of strike (if any), handle of hammer against handle of spade equalling one point and tin knocked to the ground being worth four. First to 21 wins.

A team of signallers were threatening the Combat Engineer Tractor champions when a warning order arrived and the spades had to be stowed.

There was no question of doing a Francis Drake. This

was no Plymouth Hoe. The enemy was in the offing.

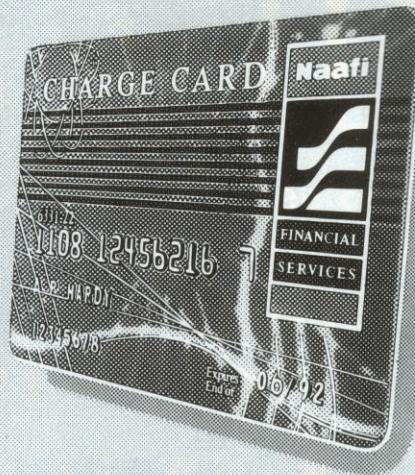
As the exercise vehicles headed south, planes overhead flew north, engines clearly heard. Occasionally distant flashes lit the dark horizon and seconds later came the crunching rumble of bombs exploding on genuine Iraqi front-line positions.

For the hundreds of truck and vehicle drivers any night move under tactical conditions calls for stamina and skill and in the dust and darkness, with only the dimmest of lights as guides, this was no exception.

At its best it is a dreary business but by dawn the columns were still intact and heading back to their allotted place on an unlovely pebble-covered plain which was once at the bottom of a vanished ocean. Sea shells still turn up there.

Overhead the bombers were still droning to and from their missions. The Antique Road Show brewed up and began to lavish care and attention on its vehicles. There would be time for Nerdles later.

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Turrets of QRIH Challenger tanks show above a berm in their "chummery" – a new tactical formation being trialled by the regiment. Inset: Lt James Rainbird, a QIRH troop leader



OLD NOMAD

Brigadier gets his 2 RTR tank back

THE tank in which Brig Christopher Hammerbeck is leading 4 Armoured Brigade – the Black Desert Rats – looks like any other Gulf war Challenger, but it has a special place in his memories.

When he slipped into his seat as he took it over in the desert he noticed a small cartoon – "a Chad is what they call it in my regiment" – pasted beside the commander's sight.

"I suddenly realised it was the same Challenger I'd had when I command 2 RTR," he said.

Traditionally the CO of 2 RTR leads from a tank called Nomad, and as the regiment is stationed in the UK at present, though like the rest it has a presence in the Gulf, he got in touch with the current CO and it was agreed that Nomad should carry Brig Hammerbeck into action.

Each of the innocent looking molehills dotting the unrelieved landscape concealed a Challenger of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, its gun pointing north.

The 4th Armoured Brigade has come into the war zone quietly and efficiently without

the publicity which surrounded its sister formation which came out some weeks before it. Its history is just as illustrious, however, and it saw heavy fighting in the Western Desert in the Second World War.

Brig Hammerbeck: "We may not be the most colourful brigade, but we have, I believe, a deep knowledge of what our business is. We are totally confident in our equipment and our ability to perform the tasks we have been given out here."

The major units in 4 Armd Bde are the 14/20th, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and the

3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, both armoured infantry units.

"It is correct to say we are infantry heavy," said Brig Hammerbeck, "but it doesn't bother me in the least. The armoured infantry battalions are very experienced and Warrior, of course, has immense fire-power. The fact that we have two armoured infantry battle groups makes us an obvious choice to deal with certain categories of the enemy. The division is very flexible and we could end up with more tanks than 7 Brigade under certain circumstances."

DIARY OF WAR

DAY 19

US battleship Missouri fires broadsides at Iraqi targets in Kuwait. Allied air forces have flown more than 44,000 missions since war began. Saudis reveal they captured 11 T-55 tanks and 70 APCs during fighting last week.

DAY 20

Syrian troops involved in ground fighting with Iraqi unit. Allied aircraft claimed to have destroyed one third of Iraq's key bridges and

damaged many more. Huge ammunition dump and Scud storage area in southern Iraq destroyed.

DAY 21

British ground forces including 20,000 men and 160 tanks complete "rehearsal" for assault on Kuwait. Four Iraqi jets intercepted on way to Iran and shot down.

● Turn to Page 17

Hussars in a huddle

THE Queen's Royal Irish Hussars have been experimenting with a new tactical formation when in reserve.

Instead of tanks being disposed 100 metres apart, troops of three now bulldoze a small berm (earthwork parapet) position which provides cover from blast and view and allows them to cover the ground all around them. In the middle of the four berms of a squadron is the squadron HQ with its tanks and vehicles.

In one of these Challenger "chummaries" SOLDIER found Blackrock, Ballykinlar and Ballyronan in a huddle after a long night exercise. All tanks of B Squadron (Maj David Swan) have names beginning with B.

"Psychologically, it is beneficial to have the troop living together," said Lt James Rainbird, the troop leader. "It makes for happier teams."

Many tank crews have now been living in the desert on or in their tanks since last November, with only rare breaks.

Video gift

A £50,000 donation by the Church of England Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Clubs (CESSAC) to British Forces Middle East will be used to form an Operation Granby video library with about 800 tapes to entertain personnel from all three Services.

Terry's scarf boosts appeal

It's not often a lance corporal gets to model the latest fashion at the Ritz - with a little help from a rock star and a top football manager.

LCpl Nicky Reeve, WRAC, 20, based in the Ministry of Defence, tried a specially-embroidered scarf for size at the London hotel with Rolling Stone Bill Wyman (right) and Terry Venables.



The Managers Gulf Appeal, being launched to contribute to the Gulf Trust, came up with the idea of the green-and-gold scarves as a practical money-spinner - very useful for mopping the brow in the desert heat, or as protection from sandstorms.

The scarves sell for £2.50

each - or, alternatively, people are invited to send the money to the Gulf Trust as a contribution towards the bulk shipment of the neckware to the British Forces.

Venables, inspiration behind the appeal, has already given 500 "Manager" soccer board games to Gulf troops.

Big day out - at Watford

A PARTY of 46 wives and children of members of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, who left for the Gulf in January, met the Duke of Kent when he visited a new families' meeting place in Hohne on February 7. With Mrs Alison Turner looking on, he is pictured admiring a drawing by young Laura Rumney.

• Four Members of Parliament visited Oxford Barracks, Münster, on January 30. Dame Jill Knight, Sylvia Lloyd Heal, Dr Mahorie Mowlam and Emma Nicholson talked to families from the garrison whose menfolk are in the Gulf.

Fleet Coaches provided the transport, and after the game there were refreshments during which Watford and Sheffield Wednesday players met the families. Every child went home with £20 worth of promotional goodies.

Capt Keith Meakin, 27 Regt's Families Officer, said: "everyone had a splendid day."

Gulf Ceefax

A regularly-updated Ministry of Defence information service for the families and friends of Gulf personnel has started on BBC Ceefax.

It gives postal facts, help-line numbers and other useful hints and, in the event of casualties, will advise next-of-kin. It can be found on BBC1 Page 555.

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Picture: Mike Perring

Gulf goodies: Residents of Weston House, Petersfield, Hants, were quick to take advantage of United Carriers' offer to deliver parcels for onward dispatch to the Gulf. Warden Mrs Caryll Gratten (second from left) and residents help the firm's Alton depot manager Trevor Smith (rear right) and driver Phil Kimber load the boxes, which contained food, books, toiletries, T-shirts and boxer shorts. Weston House is now a local collection point for Gulf parcels, which United Carriers will deliver free to BFPO London

Telephone scheme welcomed

A SCHEME to enable British Forces in Saudi Arabia to make a limited number of free telephone calls home via the Mercury network was launched on February 11.

Defence Secretary Tom

King, expressing his appreciation for the initiative taken by British Aerospace, the National Westminster Bank and Cable and Wireless, said the scheme was a welcome addition to the Government's own overall arrangements for concessions on all calls. He welcomed the suggestion that other British companies might contribute to the scheme. Any extra money raised would go to the Gulf Trust.



Mark saves baby's life

QUICK-thinking Pte Mark McMonigle of The Black Watch saved the life of a child while on foot patrol in Newry, Northern Ireland.

Eighteen-year-old Pte McMonigle went into action when he noticed a frantic mother desperately trying to release her choking baby from a car seat.

He took over, released the infant, who by then was turning blue, and managed to remove a boiled sweet stuck in the baby's windpipe.

After giving the now recovered child a drink of water, Pte McMonigle checked that all was well before returning to his patrol.

"I was just glad that I remembered my first aid training and was there at the right time to help. It made a



Pte Mark McMonigle

nice change from a lot of what goes on around here," he said later.

Regiments reinforce Gulf units

MANY units deployed to the Gulf have been augmented with men from other regiments and battalions. These attachments have been made to provide the additional trained manpower required to bring the 1st Armoured Division up to its full combat establishment, a role that would be undertaken by reservists on mobilisation in general war, according to the Ministry of Defence.

The following units are providing substantial reinforcements to formed units in the Gulf: The Life Guards; 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; 9th/12th Royal Lancers; 17th/21st Lancers; 4th Royal Tank Regiment; 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards; 1st Battalion, Scots Guards; 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders; and 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

The cost

"The current full daily operating cost of the British presence in the Gulf arising from the invasion of Kuwait is estimated to be over £4m per day." — Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, House of Commons, February 1, 1991.

Messages on film

THOUSANDS of Service families in the United Kingdom and Germany have been able to send video messages to their men in the Gulf thanks to eight camcorders given to garrisons in Aldershot, Soest, Osnabrück, Fallingbostel, Hohne, Minden and RAF Laarbruch by Ferguson Limited.

The messages proved so popular that Ferguson sent a camcorder to the Gulf so that soldiers could record messages to send home.

They're the PBI — and proud of it

THEY used to be the PBI. Today they've added a letter to their name. They're the PBAI, the Poor Bloody Armoured Infantry.

At the end of the day, despite aircraft that can post a bomb through a letterbox, missiles that can "take out" a square kilometre, tanks that can shoot in the dark, it is still down to Tom.

Or in the case of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), to Jock . . . the lad with the Hunting Stewart Tartan patch on his helmet combat mark 6.

For the first time in the history of the British Army the foot soldier is going into action in an armoured vehicle which has been his home for weeks. He has slept beside Warrior, hidden it, dug it in, dug it out, maintained it and done everything but feed the brute.

He knows the power of its Rarden cannon and the fury of its chain gun; but he also knows that when it lurches to a halt in

It was hard to believe that the

• Photographs dispatched with this report had not been received at the time of going to press and will be used in a forthcoming issue

a gap in some battered berm (as the sand and earth ramparts are called) seven men have to leap out the moment the hydraulic ram pushes open the back doors and that from then on they will be relying on infantry skills as old as the Royal Scots themselves.

Skills such as sharp eyes, quick reactions, automatic drills, marksmanship, fire and movement and battlecraft. The guns can blow holes in it, the tanks can run over it, the sappers can dig all over it but only the infantry can clear and occupy ground.

Inevitably in every encounter comes the time when the outcome is settled by the SA 80, the grenade, and automatic weapons. Even the bayonet if necessary.

Flapping in a stiff breeze, the historic Lion flag of the old

Jocks relaxing at A2 Echelon (the admin area) in a particularly bleak stretch of desert in northern Saudi Arabia were dedicated to clearing Iraqis from trenches, bunkers and dug-outs.

Despite their relaxed attitude, they were under no illusion as to what lay ahead. They were highly appreciative of the body armour that had been issued. It had already saved one life during an exercise, they said, deflecting a bullet which would otherwise have gone through a soldier. He was now well on the mend.

"It's no as heavy as the kit ye get in Northern Ireland and it's aye warm . . ."

The warmth was important. The desert had been freezing at night.

The Jocks were far from dismissive of the enemy. They expected him to fight . . . and were prepared to "fight like something hell" themselves.

In front of HQ Fire Support Company (signposted "Edinburgh Castle") Pte Brian Hugill from Peebles occupied a fire trench well supplied with hand grenades, his SA 80, a machine gun and an anti-tank weapon.

He was, he said, "ready for

anything" but he didn't think he'd be troubled as the enemy was a long way "up yonder".

Going his rounds was CSM Dave Dickson from Portobello, Edinburgh, who said he had completed exactly 20 years' service the day war began.

The company, he explained, carried a lot of clout. The Recce Platoon fielded eight Scimitars and four CVR(T) mounting Milan anti-tank missiles in the compact turret (twin tubes on top of the vehicle). Each of the Warriors in the Milan platoon was full of missiles and had five firing ports, some of which could be used on a pintle on top of the hull.

"You can see for three kilometres on your feet," said the CSM, "and seven if you're up top."

The mortar line of eight 81mm tubes carried in AFV 432s was some distance ahead. The old vehicles need a bit of a start on Warrior when the movement battle starts.

In the next location CSM Gordon Lumsden was pleased with the fact that when the Royal Scots went to war the company clerk had become a rifleman. The company had been managing without one

Kingdom of Scotland, bright red and gold above a dreary camouflage castle, said in no uncertain terms that the Army's senior Line regiment was engaged in a serious affair.

The Jocks might be sitting in the sand waiting for Cpl Ian Laughland to give them a No 3 haircut ("that's no bad, but No 1 is reet doon to the wood"), or washing combat or queueing for stickies or drawing their "water money" . . . but there was a certain depth of expression in their eyes and an indefinable air of readiness, an atmosphere of anticipation that visitors could detect but not share.

In front of HQ Fire Support Company (signposted "Edinburgh Castle") Pte Brian Hugill from Peebles occupied a fire trench well supplied with hand grenades, his SA 80, a machine gun and an anti-tank weapon.

He was, he said, "ready for anything" but he didn't think he'd be troubled as the enemy was a long way "up yonder".

Made of six layers of Kevlar, it can be worn with the S-10 or AP5 respirator.

Two visors, one clear and one tinted, are adjustable — and one protects the wearer against laser beams.

Capt Paul Avery, a US



Above: Sgt Alan Isherwood with the new helmet. Left: How the AAC spends the night "in the field"

We help Army Air Corps trial passenger helmet

A NEW helmet for helicopter passengers — the AERDC Type 15 — is on trial with 654 Squadron Army Air Corps, a unit of 4 Regiment AAC which is playing an important role in the Gulf War.

It is designed so that one size can be adjusted to fit all heads.

Made of six layers of Kevlar, it can be worn with the S-10 or AP5 respirator.

Two visors, one clear and one tinted, are adjustable — and one protects the wearer against laser beams.

"Normally we sleep inside the aircraft," said Capt Avery, "but when the helicopter is

exchange officer, let SOLDIER try the new helmet on a desert flight. Communications — the voice module — proved to be excellent. A pro-forma was duly filled in on returning.

The day SOLDIER called, Capt Avery and Sgt Alan Isherwood had spent the night under a camouflage sheet stretched from the rear of the aircraft. Being in the field means exactly what it says in the AAC.

"It is very easy for the cockpit to become superheated," said Capt Avery. The covering protected radios and systems which

would otherwise be affected by heat, camouflaged the aircraft and protected it against chemical agents.

Combined with the areas covered by the main rotor hub cover and the tail rotor cover about 80 per cent of the helicopter surface area was protected, making it easy to decontaminate should it become necessary.

Sand filters which through centrifugal force expelled dirty air and let in clean air were expected to give much longer life to the aircraft engines.

no harm to learn the ages of a typical crew, that of Call Sign 21, of Bravo Company.

Cpl Grant McCullock, the commander, is regarded as "getting on" and he is only 30.

His men: Ptes Tam Gow, 2i/C, is 22; John Taylor, deputy vehicle commander, 25; Keith Young, LSW and LAW 94, 22; Stuart Cole, gunner, 19; Kevin Newton, LSW and LAW 94, 18; John Pryde, driver, 20; George Sutherland, rifle grenadier, 21; Allan Steel, GPMG, 20.

Britain is lucky that this armoured infantry has plenty of young men of similar quality . . . and that she can still count on the Royal Scots as she has been doing for more than 350 years.

PBAI perhaps — but proud of it.



Though an army may march on its stomach, it is also important that its feet are in good order. Lt James Gaselee ensures men of The Life Guards are able to put their best foot forward if any of their Challenger tanks go down in battle. He explained: "Foot inspection is as crucial to battlefield preparation as

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MPSC Gulf adviser's a man apart

Running a prisoner-of-war camp and ensuring all the Geneva Convention conditions are upheld in the treatment of Iraqis captured by British forces could be a political minefield.

But help is on hand for the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, tasked with handling the prisoners at one camp before they move on to another long-term location.

They now have the services of WO1 RSM Alan Licence, on loan from the Military Provost Staff Corps, to make sure they get it exactly right.

His expertise as RSM at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, brought about his posting to the Gulf. The Centre accommodates 200 Servicemen and women under sentence.

WO1 Licence's job is to advise the Coldm Gds on prison procedure.

Colleagues at Colchester are wondering if their 120-strong Corps is the only unit to have just one representative in the Gulf.

Band aid in the Gulf

A prime example of the sheer professionalism with which British Service bandsmen combine their musical and medical skills has come to light following a tragic incident in Saudi Arabia.

The Band of the Scots Guards, under the direction of Maj David Price, were visiting a diplomatic compound in the Eastern Province to give two performances to 300 members of the local British community.

Mr Ron Brooks, who was due to lead a short singalong at the second performance, was rehearsing old music hall numbers with the band when he collapsed with a massive heart attack.

Three bandsmen, LCpl John Marham and Musns Ian Killoran and Graham Haynes, immediately went to his aid and, thanks to their prompt and professional action, Mr

SOLDIER to Soldier



"Letter from the wife this morning, Arthur. She says thank goodness we're safe in Belfast and not in the Gulf!"

Brooks briefly regained full consciousness.

Sadly, he suffered a second attack from which he never recovered, despite renewed efforts by the bandsmen to revive him.

The incident will have further enhanced the regiment's pride in the way the bandsmen have reacted to their unexpected posting, quickly adjusting to their new role after being taken away from London Duties.

It is the second time in a year they have had their normal duties interrupted by medical service - the ambulance strike gave them a valuable opportunity to practise nursing and first aid.

One happy outcome of the concert in Eastern Saudi Arabia was that those who attended gave nearly £1,400 to a fund run by the Ambassador's wife, Lady Munro, for British troops in the desert.

Red rose souvenir

Events in the Gulf tend to raise public awareness of charities such as Broughton House, the home for disabled ex-Servicemen in Salford, Lancashire, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

More than 5,000 ex-Servicemen have been welcomed through its doors since 1916 when Col Sir William Coates encouraged the people of Manchester and Salford to donate £100,000 to set it up to cope with British Army casualties returning from the Front.

These days Col Donald Gibbs, the chief executive, has to raise at least that amount each year towards the £700,000

Love from Nuffield

More than £300,000 has so far been donated by the Nuffield Trust to provide amenities for the Forces in the Gulf.

The Army's slice of £256,086 has bought 225 televisions and video recorders, 165 Naafi welfare packs of indoor and outdoor equipment, three multi-gyms, 18 wide-screen televisions, six sub-aqua equipment

sets, 135 radios with headsets, two washing machines and two Teletext-Ceefax televisions.

This cash is in addition to the 1990 allocation of £800,000 used last year to provide welfare and recreational amenities for Servicemen and women worldwide, and the £1 million earmarked for similar projects this year.

cost of running the home, which has a staff of 60 looking after 55 residents up to the age of 94.

Despite substantial assistance from the Services, Broughton House is greatly dependent on public support. To commemorate this year's anniversary the home has commissioned a limited edition glass paperweight bearing its red rose symbol.

It costs £7.60, including p&p, and cheques, made payable to "Broughton House", should be sent to Broughton House, Park Lane, Salford M7 0JD.

List your name now

Army engineers planning a post-Service career by working in an EC country from 1992 would be wise to consider registering for membership of the Engineering Council.

News that continental employers are likely to draw a firm line between those with professional status and those without comes from the Institution of Plant Engineers.

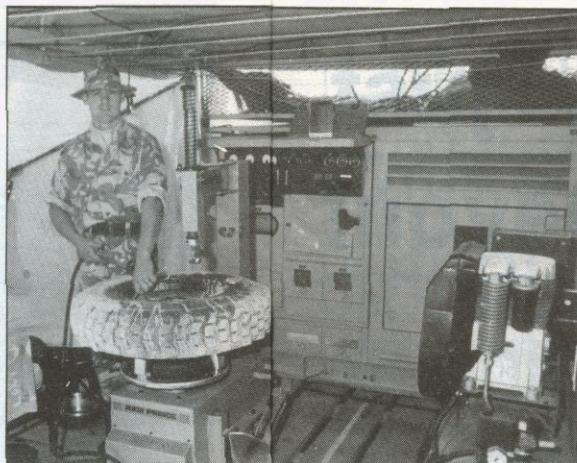
They say the engineer abroad enjoys a different status to his or her counterpart in the UK and is recognised only if "registered" with a professional body.

Time is running out, says the IPE, because the EC has issued directives for member states on this matter and the UK Government lists chartered engineers and incorporated engineers in the first directive. This will award registered engineers a professional status recognised throughout Europe.

Currently there is a move to equate the different standards of EC member states and it is unlikely that anyone seeking work will get professional recognition unless registered.

For the UK, says the IPE, the body to belong to is the Engineering Council and urges Army engineers seriously to consider registration as soon as possible and before standards are raised.

For information write to the Assistant Secretary, Institution of Plant Engineers, 77 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2EZ.



Purveyors of fine fuels

That's 66 (Phoenix) Sqn RCT

VITAL support to the British Forces serving in the Gulf is being provided by members of 66 (Phoenix) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

They have taken over responsibility of fuel re-supply from 9 Squadron RCT which has moved forward with 10 Regiment RCT.

Phoenix Squadron, normally based at Tidworth, forms part of 27 Regiment RCT and is commanded by Maj Jeff Little, RCT who told SOLDIER the

role of his squadron was three-fold.

"We run the POL for the Force Maintenance Area so that all vehicles coming into theatre can top up their tanks with petrol or diesel fuel before moving to the forward areas; move bulk fuel forward; and carry out other fuel tasks, including the removal of contaminated fuel from bulk fuel installations (BFI)," he said.

The unit is equipped with a fleet of civilianised HGV 1 tankers drawn from a local contractor. Most have a fuel capacity of 30,000 litres, but the squadron has two 50,000 litre tanks that Maj Little likens to filling stations on wheels.

There is also a fleet of smaller standard Army Foden tankers.

The squadron emblem, which has been stencilled on the front of all its vehicles, is a Phoenix.

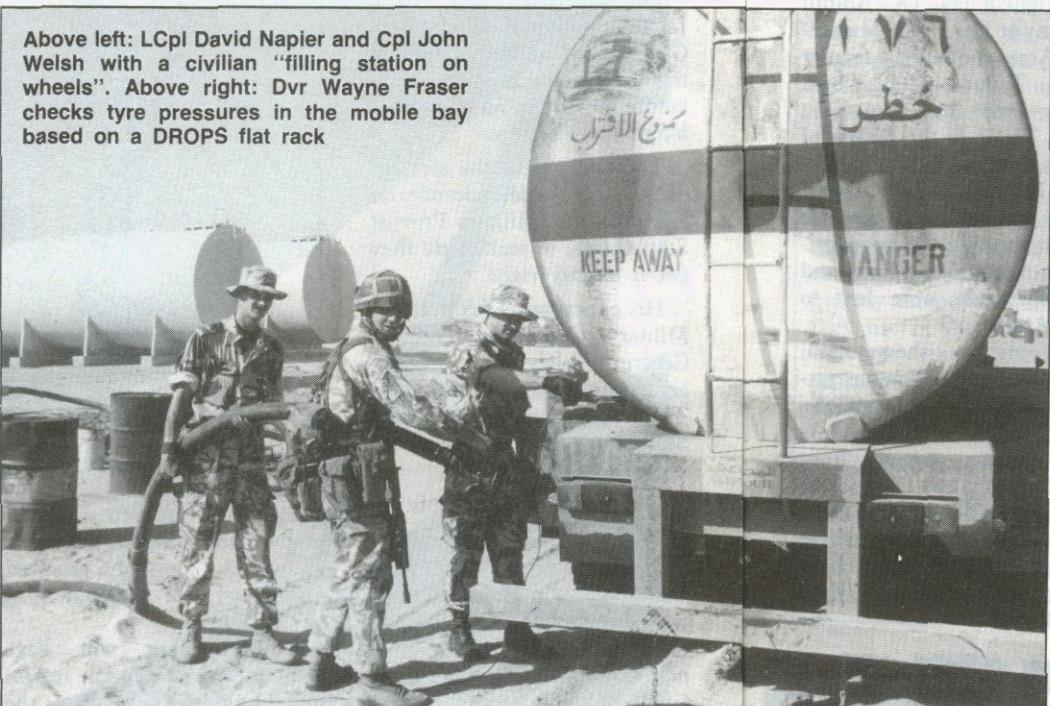
"The symbol was adopted because the squadron has been disbanded and reformed so many times, it is like the Phoenix rising from the ashes," explained Maj Little.

Maj Little is justifiably proud of the performance of all his soldiers, and understandably full of praise for the WRAC members of Gryphon



LCpl Jimmy Richardson (left) and LCpl Scott Baxter in a service pit dug out of the sand

Above left: LCpl David Napier and Cpl John Welsh with a civilian "filling station on wheels". Above right: Dvr Wayne Fraser checks tyre pressures in the mobile bay based on a DROPS flat rack



Troop who have adapted well to their arduous workload.

"Just before we came out here," he said, "we were tasked to put together an extra troop of fuel tanker vehicles. We did not have enough troops to man them so people were drafted in from all over the UK, including personnel drawn from recruiting offices and Army youth teams, as well as staff car drivers.

"Among them are 15 WRAC soldiers, under the command of Sgt Sheila Janson, who have done really well in adapting to the drive along the terrifying Main Supply Route.

"Where's the camel?" they asked. "No, you got it wrong," said the dazed soldier. "I said we got hit by a Scammel!"

Because of the massive mileages being clocked up by the vehicles, normal servicing periods have been halved. Hence the men have had to establish their own servicing bay and dig a servicing pit.

Unfortunately the chosen location was above what used to be a refuse tip for a nearby Saudi Arabian town. Once through the sandy surface, the diggers found themselves turning up buried rubbish. As a result, foraging rats became not only a nuisance, but a health hazard, too.

they have done really well." Life in the squadron is not without its moments of humour. Take the case of one young driver who informed the sergeant major that a truck had hit a "camel".

Off went a recovery vehicle with the sergeant major racing along behind in a Land Rover. The would-be rescuers arrived at the scene of the accident to find the driver staggering down the road.

"Where's the camel?" they asked. "No, you got it wrong," said the dazed soldier. "I said we got hit by a Scammel!"

A sharpshooter was tasked to pick them off with a .22 rifle.

The DROPS system (De-mountable Rack Off-loading Pick-up System) brought into service is proving its worth. A tyre-changing bay has been based on the DROPS flat rack,

giving it the flexibility to be moved to any unit that needs it.

With more tyre punctures caused by poor roads and cross-country driving, the mobile bay has proved a boon in keeping vehicles on the road.

"Most of the labourers



required. It has proved its worth and is a very valuable piece of kit," said Maj Little.

For one member of the squadron, Sgt Andy Taylor, service in the Gulf has proved an education - he has become proficient in Pidgin English.

His job is to liaise between the unit and the civilian contractor who supplies the vehicles, and because of this he has had to base himself with the contractor.

"A DROPS vehicle just comes along, picks it up and moves it to wherever it is



speaks a form of broken English," explained Sgt Taylor.

SOLDIER joined a tanker convoy for its re-supply run to BFI One which is used for the refuelling of local units in the coastal areas. At the BFIs, the fuel is stored in TFCs (Tank, Fabric, Collapsible) which have a capacity of 136,000 litres.

Said Lt Richard Gittins: "The BFIs are run exclusively by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. We work closely with them in loading and unloading the fuel, sharing our expertise.

They are experts in ground

dumping and we are experts in the movement of it, so it is proving a very close link."

The squadron moved more than 13 million litres in its first month of operation - an impressive figure - and yet the men still found time to raise about £1,000 for the children's ward of Odstock Hospital near Salisbury by holding a three-day charity screen clean.

Every time a vehicle pulled in for POL, its occupants were persuaded to contribute.

With carers and sharers like these, the British Army won't go far wrong.

Your shemagh... just the thing for Devon!



THE SHEMAGH, traditional Arab headdress, is being issued to British troops in the Gulf. It is the ideal wear for sandstorms.

The shemagh was on the packing list of 7th Armoured Division when it moved to the Gulf but none were available.

Then Maj Donald Campbell-Baldwin, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, OC Admin Company at HQ Force Maintenance Area, contacted a former Master Tailor of his own regiment who had also been Master Tailor to the Sultan of Oman's Forces.

In Britain, SSgt David Round was able to place a contract through the appropriate channels and the fawn and white shemaghs were sent to Saudi Arabia.

Our picture shows Maj Campbell-Baldwin demonstrating the shemagh on Dvr Chris Sainkey, RCT.

The major comes from Kilmelford, Argyll. Dvr Sainkey is from Bideford, Devon... not exactly places where shemaghs are likely to catch on with the male population when it is all over.

DOUBLED UP

5 Armd Fd Amb ready

presence of another doctor in the collection section enables the RAP to be more mobile. It can move forward with the battle, leaving us, with one foot on the ground, so to speak. As soon as we've cleared our casualties we can rejoin them. It is a sort of caterpillar movement. As the RAP moves forward it pulls us up behind."

"According to the Staff Officer's Handbook we are supposed to have a strength of 367," said the CO, Lt Col Bruce Reece-Russell. "Now there are more than 700 of us (including 50 drivers of the 28th Gurkha Ambulance Group)."

The Ambulance has two dressing stations - "Five Alpha" and "Five Bravo" - with a Forward Troop with six collecting sections under command.

These sections work right behind the battle groups in APC 432s.

Capt Chris Hobbs, of B Section, said the inclusion of a doctor (he was RMO of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in Germany) in the section was a new idea.

"We are co-located where possible with the regimental aid posts, which have doctors. The

ity on the crews of the armoured ambulances.

When SOLDIER visited, Call Sign 41 Charlie was manned by Bandsman Richard Martin, 27, of 2 R Anglian, from Kettering, Northants, and Cpl Pete Bateson, about to celebrate his 26th birthday, from Wakefield, Yorks.

In 44 Delta were LCpl John Cotton, 22, another Anglian (from Romford, Essex), an experienced medic, and LCpl John Senior, 24, RCT, from 4 Armd Fd Amb in Minden.

All were conscious that men's lives depended on them. The "medic" might have up to four patients in the 432 and had to be ready to change a drip or clear an air passage. Between them they had to decide whether, according to the condition of the casualties, the trip had to be as fast as possible or as smooth as could be.

They had an air of determination typical of the atmosphere of 5 Armd Fd Amb.

Cpl John Middleton, who with four other members of the

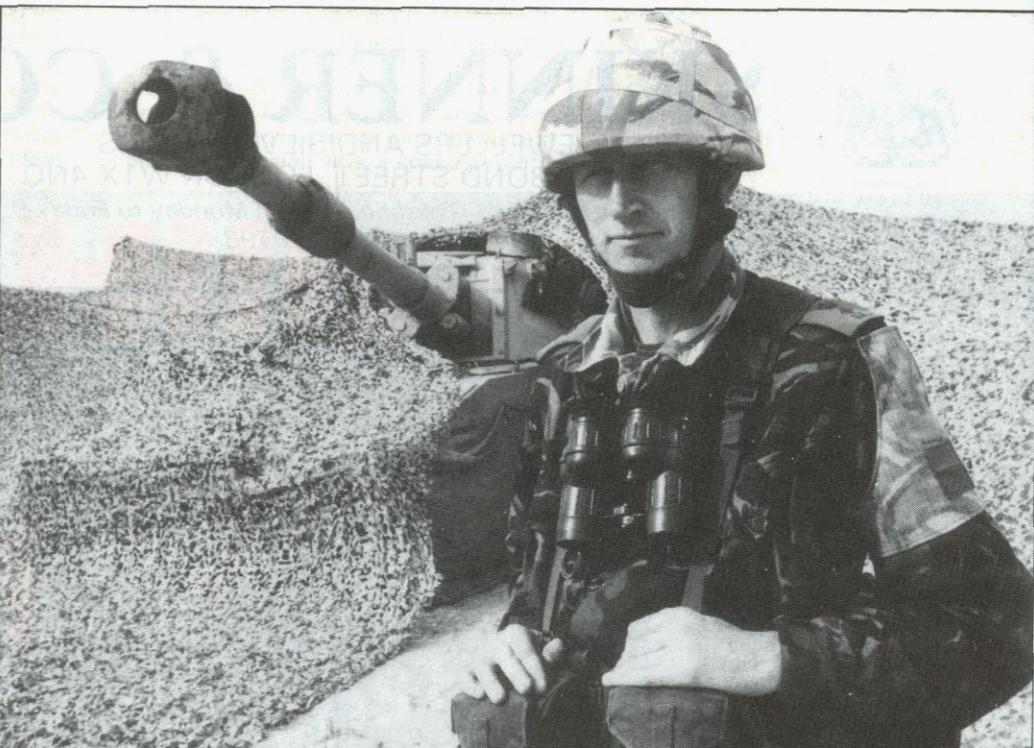
Little 'un with a lethal punch

WITH just over 400 men, 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery may be one of the smallest regiments to arrive in the Gulf, but what it lacks in numbers it makes up for in artillery firepower.

Since 1989 the men have been based in Gutersloh, Germany, where they were more used to the Abbot gun and Javelin missile, but have quickly adapted to the M109 they use in the Gulf.

When the Abbots are replaced by the AS90 they expect to be the first regiment to receive the new gun.

The regiment has three field batteries - 17 (Corunna) formed in 1757, 16 (Sandham's Company) formed in 1779, and 159 (Colenso) formed in 1854. There is also 43 Air Defence



Lt Col Mark Corbet Burcher, CO 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, pictured with the M109 which he says his men, more used to the Abbot gun and Javelin missile in Germany, have adapted to quickly. See also back cover.

Battery (Lloyd's Company) raised in 1771.

Conflict is not new to 43 AD Bty, whose blowpipe experience helped bring down seven Argentine aircraft during the Falklands war. The battery also provided artillery support for

Royal Navy ships on the Gulf Armilla patrol in 1988.

The battery went back to the Gulf with 7th Armoured Brigade in September, and the main body of the regiment moved with 4th Armoured Brigade in January.

The regiment has a long tradition of service in the region. As 4th Brigade Royal Field Artillery it was in Mesopotamia from January 1916 to May 1918.

Recruits are mainly from Sussex and Surrey.

UP

Royal Army Dental Corps (Cpl Harold Gregory and LCpls Colin Clarke, Bob Noran and Roy Jeffery), all combat medical trained for their war role, assured SOLDIER that the Casualty Decontamination Centre they manned would have everything in place at a few moments' notice should a chemical attack occur.

There is no bluster or bravado about the British troops in the Gulf. They show amazing adaptability and common sense, none more than the women. There are six of them at 5 Armd Fd Amb, two doctors and four QARANCs - three of them SNCOs.

The fourth "QA", the only junior rank present, was LCpl Cleo Cameron, 20, from Brechin, Angus.

With three-and-a-half years' service behind her she was a dental clerk's assistant before she was posted to the Gulf.

● For unavoidable reasons, this story arrived before the pictures taken to illustrate it. They will be used as soon as we get them. **Editor.**



Maj Alan Collett of 27 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery with Des, a stray puppy found in Jubail and adopted by British soldiers. Other pups in the abandoned litter have been named Saddam, Scud and Sniff Test. Maj Collett was posted to 27 Fd Regt from Sennelager-based 56 Battery of 39 Hy Regt RA

DIARY

• From Page 7

DAY 23
Defence Secretary Tom King announces that Britain is to send more RAF Buccaneer aircraft to Gulf. Lynx helicopter from HMS Cardiff destroys Iraqi craft.

DAY 25
US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen Colin Powell, chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, return to USA from Saudi Arabia after making first-hand assessment of bombing campaign.

DAY 26
Scud missiles fired at Israel and Riyadh. Iraq calls up 17-year-olds. Prime Minister John Major visits Munster, Germany to meet wives of troops serving in Saudi Arabia.

DAY 27
Iraq claims hundreds of civilians were killed in Allied air strike on Baghdad bunker. White House says bunker was well-known military target.

DAY 28
RAF Tornado bomber lost during attack on Iraqi airfield.

DAY 29
Iraq's conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait dismissed as a "bogus sham" by Prime Minister John Major.



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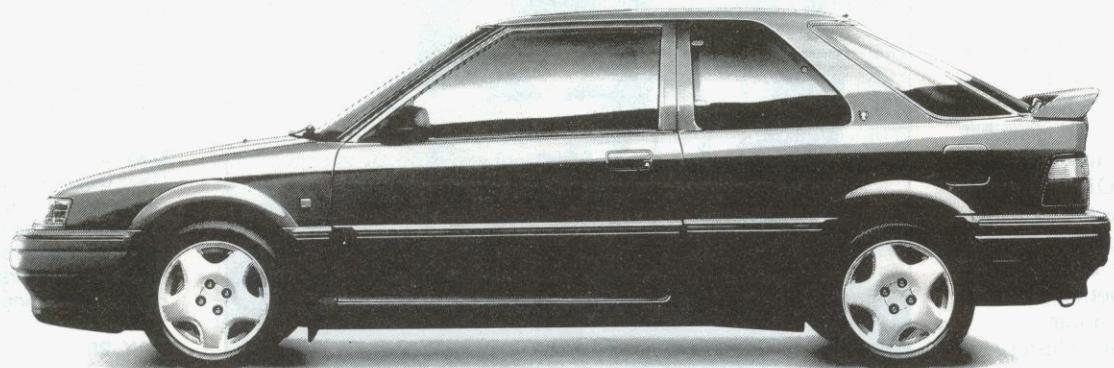
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WHEN a letter or parcel is posted to a Serviceman or woman with a BFPO address the civil Post Office forwards it to BFPO London.

The mail is then sorted to the many BFPOs all over the world. BFPO London dispatches mail daily to Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Royal Fleet

Auxiliary personnel worldwide using both civilian and military aircraft. Surface mails are usually transported by container services.

In times of conflict such as the Gulf operation, RAF aircraft are used extensively to move not only air mail but also surface mail where space permits.

All mail to the Gulf has so far been carried by air – reflecting the high priority the MoD accords it.

The Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Service is also responsible for the carriage of classified material and provides post office counter facilities in the Gulf.

Mill Hill: The vital link

IT was just one of thousands of letters passing through Peter Avery's hands as he helped sort the massive mountain of mail bound for the Gulf, writes Chris Horrocks.

But the front of the envelope stood out from the rest and made him stop. No unit, no location, no BFPO number. Just a name.

The Rev Avery, ex-Junior Para, ex-Royal Corps of Transport, who left the Army in 1982 to take up the ministry, paused amid the hubbub as the British Forces Post Office at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London coped with the busiest time in its history.

"I just stood and prayed," he said.

The name on the envelope belonged to one of the British prisoners of war held by the Iraqis.

There was not much more Peter Avery could do. The letter would go into a special file with many others from the UK awaiting the outcome of negotiations between governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations. As soon as the word came, the mail would be delivered.

When SOLDIER visited the BFPO sorting office seven million letters, packages and parcels had been sent to the Gulf since the British deployment started and Peter Avery was the only man among 60 civilians, mostly soldiers' wives, drafted in to cope with the extra work.

"It's our busiest time ever,"



Shouldering responsibility: LCpl Julie Thompson, PCS Mill Hill, shifts a sack

said Col Mike Browne, Commandant of the Postal and Courier Depot, "and the volume is increasing all the time. We have 200 staff on site and are going to need more.

"We have enough space at the moment as long as we keep the flow going. But if the traffic increased much more we would have to extend to another site and perhaps split the letter and parcel operations."

In three months, BFPO London sent 260 tonnes of airmail letters and packets and 191 tonnes of parcels by air to

the Gulf and by the end of that time was sending 600 bags of letters and over 1,000 bags of parcels out daily, weighing 16 tonnes.

These figures do not include the 250 bags of mail going direct to the Gulf from Germany and are over and above the normal worldwide postal traffic.

A third of Mill Hill's Regular military workforce has been deployed to help operate Forces Post Offices in the Gulf, along with other postal personnel from both the UK and

Germany. The resulting manning "gaps" have been largely bridged by tremendous extra efforts of the remaining Regular staff, helped by the civilian part-timers drafted-in from the locality.

Vital help is also coming from members of both the Postal and Courier Service TA and the Royal Naval Reserve Postal Section who have volunteered to do extra training at BFPO London.

Other Regulars, male and

● Turn to next page



Col Mike Browne, Commandant Postal and Courier Depot RE, Mill Hill, with Lt Col Paul Morris, iC Ops Cell



Time, ladies, please: Part-time civilian workers at the sorting office, check in with Sgt Alma Brown

Boosting morale, by the bagful

JUST as in any other office closely involved in the Gulf war effort, in the Ops Cell at BFPO London the telephone never stops ringing.

Apart from the normal operational calls, the team who man the desks often find the anxious voice of a civilian at the other end . . . the East London woman who wanted to know how she and other grannies should send the mountain of fruit cakes they had baked for the lads . . . the wife who has not heard for weeks.

Every call is dealt with sympathetically. Worried relatives are referred to welfare organisations up and down the country; units are signalled to ask if Private Bloggs has actually written all those letters he promised when he left.

Everything possible is done to ensure that morale both at home and in the Gulf is kept up.

Postal services in times of conflict have come a long way since the Wild West days of the Pony Express, but getting the mail through is sometimes easier said than done.

The responsibility of the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Service is to deliver to unit representatives in the theatre of operation. Then it is over to the unit's commanding officer to ensure that the mail is static, while



Nose for trouble: Sniffer dog Oben, watched by his RMP handler, checks out the mailbags at Mill Hill

delivered swiftly and securely.

With units often spread across a wide area for training or operational reasons, it is not always possible to know exactly how long it will take from posting to delivery – but the PCS guarantees that properly addressed letters and packets will normally reach the Gulf unit within five days of posting. Parcels normally take ten days.

A cautionary note, however: hostilities will have affected the movement of some parcels in the Gulf area and some operational delays are occurring for troops in forward positions.

"Some units are static, while

others are constantly on the move," said Lt Col Paul Morris, who runs the Ops Cell, "so in some cases mail chases people around."

But the success stories are legion. "Mail posted here on January 28 was received in Al Jubayl on February 1. And we know of one case where a person who wrote to a soldier in the front line received a reply in Northants seven days later."

So the chances are the fruit cake being gratefully consumed by those lads in the desert will be as fresh as the day it was baked by the grannies of East London.

Vital link

From Page 19

female, from units in the South East have also been tasked to assist.

Sgt Alma Brown, RE, who normally teaches in the training wing at Inglis Barracks, soon warmed to her wartime task of running the civilian force in the sorting office as she watched her team of part-timers double from the initial 30.

"This is brilliant – we are really enjoying playing our part in the war effort," she said. "It is at times like this that the Postal and Courier Service gets the recognition it deserves. Everyone appreciates the work we do."

One of the main benefits of having a Regular dedicated Forces Postal Service in peacetime is the ease and speed with which operational demands in time of conflict can be met by expanding on the core of expertise and experience built up over many years.

And there is a direct link between the quality of the postal service and the level of morale in the units in the Gulf. Mail is as vital as food and water.

"It is the link between husband and wife, mother and son, girlfriend and boyfriend," said Col Browne. "And if the mail is getting through, a soldier will know that the lines of communication are open. He knows he will get his ammunition. If he is injured, he will get back from the front-line."

"Imagine yourself in the desert asking yourself if you are going to get your water tomorrow. You know that if you're getting your mail, you'll also get your water."



Lone mailman: the Rev Peter Carey, one man among 60 civilian part-timers at Mill Hill sorting office



Good sorts: Capt Barry Wilding (centre), OiC Sorting Office, flanked by WO2 Roy Walker, staff assistant, and Maj Graham Meacher, give the post a helping hand

SOME families and friends are not using the correct form of BFPO address for the Gulf.

And while the Postal and Courier Service makes every effort to identify the individuals for whom it is intended, the mail may be delayed or even returned to sender.

This is the correct form:

Number Rank Name
Sub Unit
Unit
BFPO XXX

For example:
094 Pte Blanco
A Coy
2 Bn Blanks Regt
BFPO 639

To reduce the risk of damage, senders are asked to take extra trouble when packing parcels.

It's cheaper to go by air

ECONOMY Rate is now the only way to send parcels to Service people in the Gulf – and they all go by air.

Some families had been using the more expensive standard air mail rate, which has now been suspended.

The economy service – full title, Economy Service Concessionary BFPO Rate – would normally go by sea but will continue to be carried by military aircraft as it has since the start of Op Granby.

Transit time between posting and delivery is about ten days, although delays may occur as a result of hostilities or for operational reasons.

● Royal Mail Parcelforce Gulf Hotline: Freephone 0800 224466.

Forces concessionary rates also exist for other items of mail such as letters, greeting cards and packets. Separate rates apply for air mail and surface mail. Transit time is about five days (air) and ten days (surface) subject to the operational situation.

Forces Free Airlitters or blueys should be available at all Post Office counters for use by Service personnel and their next-of-kin and may be posted free. They should be endorsed "HM Forces Gulf" in the top right-hand corner.

Blueys are provided by MoD but distribution to civil post offices in the UK is the responsibility of the Post Office Supplies Department at Swindon.

Unsolicited gifts and greetings to unnamed members of the Forces in the Gulf should be addressed to: A Serviceman in the Gulf, BFPO 3000. The maximum weight for parcels is 10kg and blueys should not be used for this purpose.

Items must be pre-paid at the Forces concessionary rate of postage or delivered to BFPO London by one of the commercial sponsors of the mail to the troops.

● Families seeking further information should contact the Gulf Help Desk at the Ministry of Defence on 071-430 6243.

Desert photocall for 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers

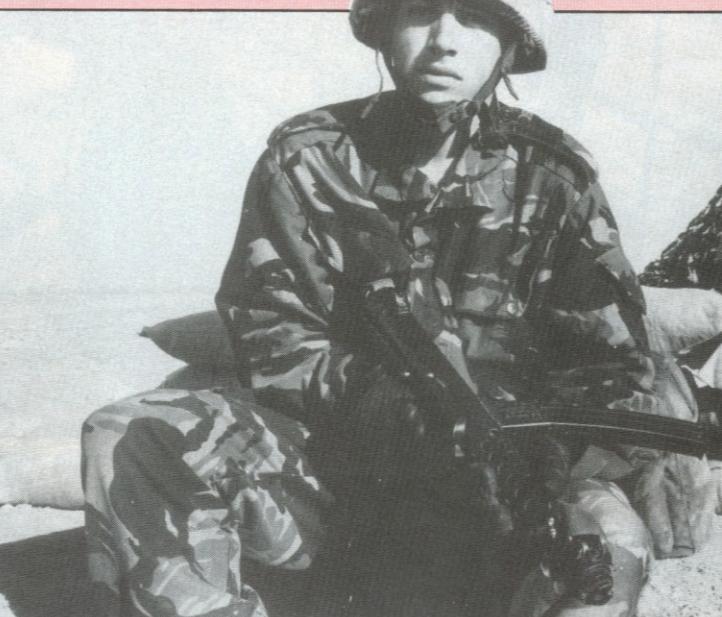
The men of 16/5 L from Herford in Germany provide the eyes and ears of the 4th Armoured

Brigade.

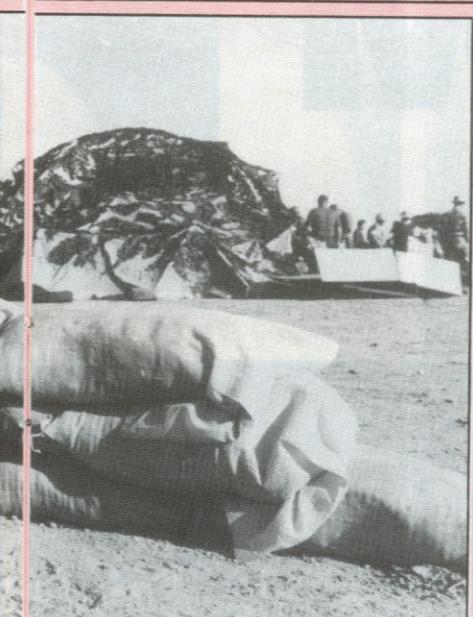
They are pictured here in a forward position



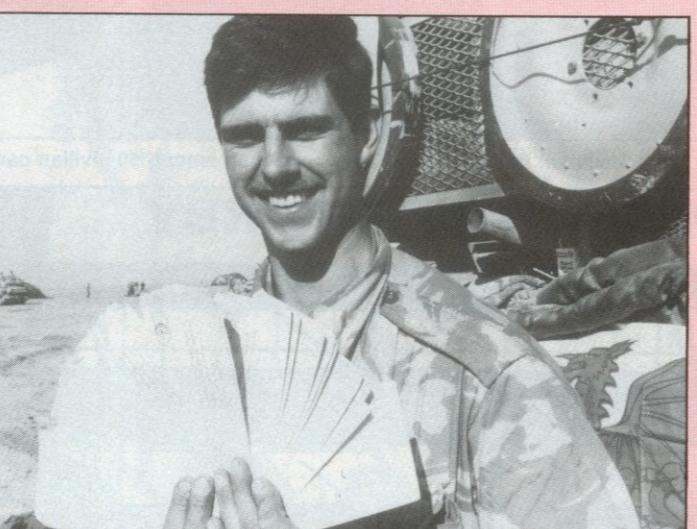
Sgt Alan Whale manages nicely without an automatic washing machine. He stuffs his shreddies in this cask, adds water and powder, and shakes it all about



On guard as 16/5 L exercise in an advanced position is Tpr Wayne Sutton



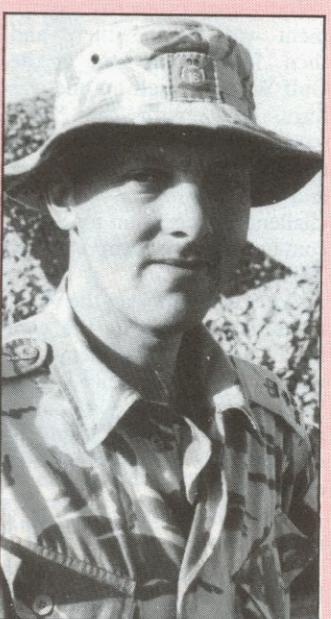
Pay day in the Gulf for soldiers of 16/5 L



Every day is a red letter day for Cpl Steve Davies REME attached to 16/5 L. He averages 15 letters a day, mostly from girlfriend Tracey, and has received up to 28 at one time!



Duty postman is a popular fellow. SSgt Paul Carey (helmeted) of Admin Troop, delivers the blues



Lt Col Philip Scott, commanding officer of 16/5 L

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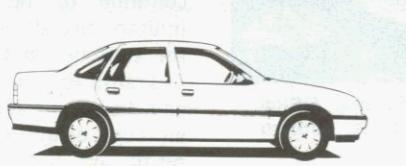
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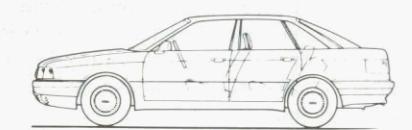
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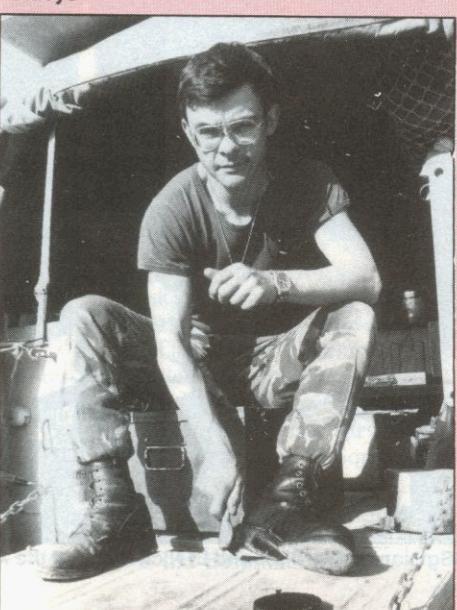
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Above: Cpl Simon Chadderton (left) administers an anthrax vaccination to Tpr Steve Graham. Right: Cpl Chris Kirby applies the polish. Sand works its way into everything



205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers) fly in to a . . .

BAPTISM OF FIRE

A BRITISH detachment which probably set a record in receiving its baptism of fire was a party of 205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers).

At 0200, within an hour of landing near Riyadh and while they were still sorting out their baggage on the airfield, a figure in a respirator and NBC suit ran over to warn them a Scud missile attack was imminent. Red Alert!

Individual protective equipment was donned there and then. It was Day One of the Gulf War. Though no one was hurt, what with the "fireworks" as the Patriot batteries engaged the missiles, the noise and confusion, it was a challenging reception for a unit containing a large proportion of Territorials.

Col Glyn Jones, the CO, takes great pride in the cool behaviour of the men and women who experienced their "baptism" so soon after arriving in theatre . . . and to whom Scuds became a nightly experience.

"Scud here, isn't it?" is a notice seen everywhere now.

As 205 (Scottish) General Hospital, the unit had its HQ at



Col Glyn Jones, the CO



Capt Teresa Bramley, a nursing officer from Edinburgh, at work in her new ward. The hospital has 600 beds, five operating theatres and ten surgical teams

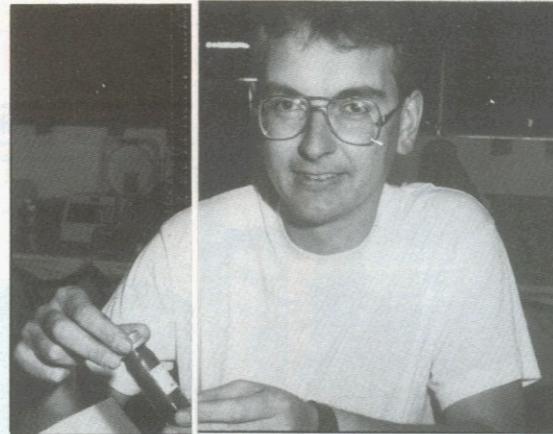
posted in and selected reservists.

Because of the mixture of personnel the Director General of Medical Services decided to change the name to 205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers), with a staff of 760 plus a laundry platoon.

The unit set up shop in an unfinished, unfurnished public building on the outskirts of Riyadh, a spacious but gloomy structure with bare concrete floors and massive pillars and cement beams – but with access to certain amenities such as washrooms and showers (the accommodation for personnel is in a camp a bus ride away).

When RSM Len Davis, a Regular WO1, showed SOLDIER round, 600 beds stood in neat rows – 200 for surgical patients, 200 for burns cases and 200 for evacuations.

Casualties are flown in by



Sgt Alan Ross groups blood



Home for 205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers) is a spacious unfinished concrete structure on the outskirts of Riyadh



Lt Col Eileen Curran, Matron of 205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers)



Cpl Niqui Hulme from Aldershot. Her husband WO2 (CSM) Dave Hulme RAMC, sergeant major in charge of recruit training at Keogh Barracks, is looking after baby daughter Rachael



Tri-Service co-operation. From left are CPO Michael Fitton RN, JTec Colin Longstaff RAF and LCpl Shirley Molloy and Sgt Ian Nash of the Army



WO2 Mike Drake from ABSD, Aldershot

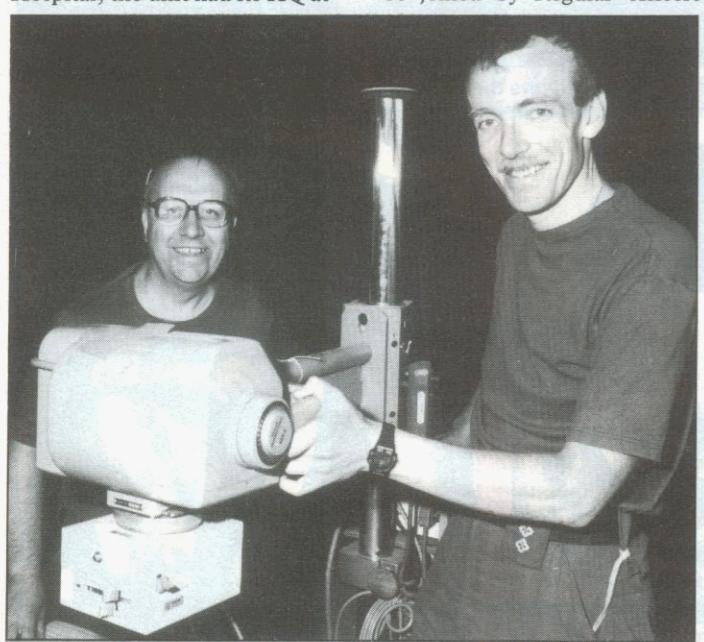
Sapper support

KEY figures in the establishment of 205 General were 14 sappers, six from 53 Field Construction Squadron RE and seven dedicated to the unit.

WO1 Mal Turner, Clerk of Works Electrical, and SSgt Charlie Chester, Clerk of Works Mechanical, were tasked to supervise the building work just before Christmas.

Their little workforce included carpenters, electricians, plumbers, bricklayers, painters and finishers, and surveyors.

The men from 53 Sqn having gone, two lance-corporals and five men will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the hospital's utilities.



SSgt James Wardlaw and Lt Nick Nicoll of the X-ray department

Clouston, is also a Territorial and was matron of 201 Northern General Hospital based at Newcastle which supplied 20 volunteers.

The 2nd Scottish General Hospital, set up when the Territorial Force was created in 1908, served in France during the First World War and,

Volunteer Medical Staff Corps set up in 1886 and the Glasgow Corps of 1893/4.

The hospital – through its parent – traces its ancestry to the Edinburgh Company of the

renumbered 23 Field Ambulance, in the Second.

The 205th was formed in 1967 by an amalgamation of all Lowland RAMC TA units. Despite the formation of the Gulf hospital the unit is actively training and recruiting.



LCpl Justina Willer is flanked by LCpl Dave Bradley (left) and Tpr Bob Cannicott at a vehicle checkpoint



Cpl Steve Pocock (left) and Tpr Andy Clarke concentrate in an observation post

Infantry tankies go back to armour

SOLDIERS of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment who spent six months patrolling Northern Ireland as foot soldiers have returned to their base in Germany, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

The immediate task for 3 RTR is to re-role as an armoured regiment and they will shortly be off to BATUS, Canada, for six weeks. And after that?

But the vehicle-orientated tankies had to acquire even more new skills, so the course was extended by two months.

Col Brummitt said his men had quickly adapted and had been further motivated by the prospect of a fresh challenge.

One problem had been that they were under-strength by about 80 men for their new role. Numbers had been made up from other units to give a final selection of 19 different cap badges.

The colonel explained: "There was no shortage of volunteers from young soldiers, but there was, of course, a shortage of commanding officers willing to let them go because they had their own

Army-sponsored student taking a master's degree in philosophy.

The regiment's last tour in Northern Ireland was in 1975. Normally infantry units undergo three months' concentrated training before deploying to the province.

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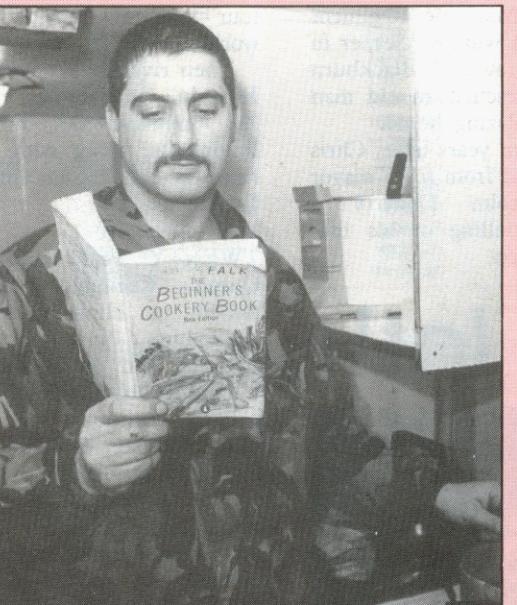


Ready to deploy by helicopter are Gds M Geoff Claplin (front) with Air Tpr Paul Perkins, LCpl Terry Randle and Pte Steve Pond

The new CO is Lt Col Andrew Ridgway, who is posted in from Cambridge University, where he was an



Tpr Philip Barber makes a four-legged friend during a foot patrol



Above: CO Lt Col Rod Brummitt. Left: Cooking at an OP is no chore for LCpl Neil Murray, 9/12th L. He enjoys it!



Right: Cpl Stewart Yound, 4 RTR, leaves behind the mark of the tankies. Below: Chef Sgt Mike Ede, a motoring enthusiast, helps out mechanic Cfn Horace Blunt

visitors, had been impressed. "It comes as no surprise to me. Morale is very high with soldiers keen on doing the job, a job which they find very satisfying," he said.

The Minister added that they were well-motivated and he felt there was a lot of benefit in soldiers having a complete change of role.

A member of the public from Ireland who crossed the border regularly had also written a letter of appreciation.

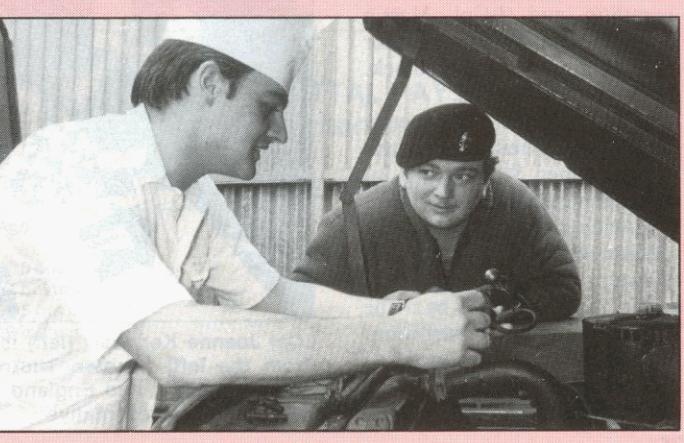
He said he was "greatly

impressed" by the tankies' efficiency, excellent good manners and cheerfulness.

"So often certain soldiers stand out in this regard, but all your men seem to be equally good," said Mr Hamilton.

"This type of attitude and behaviour is invaluable and is bound to have a good effect on those who may be either critical of them and their presence.

"For those on this side of the border who support and stand up for them, it makes our position very much easier."



Cyprus AAC to rescue in sea drama

AFTER a combined search and rescue operation in Cyprus involving helicopters of the United Nations, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Army Air Corps, a fisherman can count himself lucky to be alive. His colleague was not so fortunate.

The search began when the Rescue Coordination Centre in Episkopi (Headquarters British Forces Cyprus) received a call at dusk for help from UN headquarters in Nicosia, requesting assistance in locating two men.

They had been fishing from a rowing boat off the north-west coast of Cyprus and were thrown into the sea when the craft capsized.

In the darkness, and hampered by rough seas and strong winds, a Wessex helicopter of 84 Sqn, RAF Akrotiri was tasked to assist, aided by a Gazelle helicopter of 16 Flight, AAC, Dhekelia, equipped with



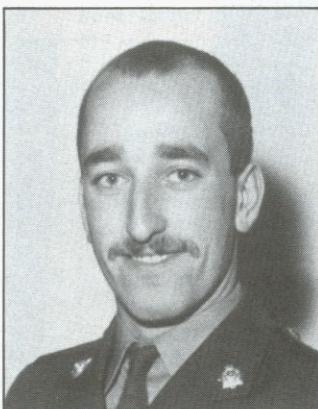
Cyprus helicopter crews involved in the rescue. On the left are RAF Wessex Mk V crew Flt Lt Tony Dewhurst, Flt Lt Pip Wolfendale and MALM Graham Goosey, and on the right ATpR Mick Ross and SSgt Tom Fewz in front of their Gazelle

"Nitesun". After a short stretch, one man was found clinging to the upturned boat and winched to safety by the Wessex.

Meanwhile, a Royal Navy Sea King from 820 Squadron took over from the Wessex. Despite a thorough search of the area the Sea King, operating from HMS Ark Royal, was unable to find the second man and the search was called off just before midnight. Further efforts to find the body were abandoned the following day.

SOUTH Barracks, Gibraltar, home for many British soldiers posted there since 1735, has closed as part of the Army's scaling-down of its presence on the Rock.

The last occupants were A and R Companies of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.



Dvr Chris Pepperall

DRIVER Chris Pepperall of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT was a window cleaner in his home town of Blackburn when he rescued an old man from his blazing home.

Now, two years later, Chris has received from town mayor Cllr Malcolm Doherty a certificate telling of his life-saving action.

A SWORD belonging to Lt Col Marcus Ervine-Andrew, the Army's only Dunkirk Victoria Cross, has been presented at his request to his old school, Stonyhurst College, near Blackburn.

It has been placed in the charge of the Andrew's Platoon of the College Combined Cadet Force and will be used as the top challenge trophy in an annual CCF competition.

SAPPERS from 35 Engineer Regiment retained the silver trophy for the Medium Girder Bridge competition, but were four seconds outside their world record of 8min 31sec.

Their rivals at Woldham in Hameln, Germany were from 21, 25 and 28 Engineer Regiments, along with teams from the Dutch and American Engineers.

TWENTY years ago The Queen's Regiment was stationed in Howe Barracks, Canterbury. Now they have returned and on February 1 exercised their Freedom of the City in traditional style with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

The parade marked the return of the 2nd Battalion after service in Germany, Northern Ireland (six tours), Canada, Belize, Gibraltar, Cyprus, the Falklands and various parts of the UK.

OLD soldier John Lodge has not been forgotten by his old regiment - 73 years after leaving the service.

A sergeant in the East Yorkshire Regiment, now the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment, Mr Lodge has just celebrated his 100th birthday and received from them a gift of tobacco, London Light Cut, popular in the trenches in the 1914-18 war.

What a charitable lot!

FIVE soldiers from the Catering Department of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich have raised £500 for elderly patients in nearby Brook Hospital.

Sgt Richard Duff completed the arduous Snowdon marathon and LCpl Martin Wale abseiled continuously for an hour down a tower block. Both were sponsored.

LCpl Joanne Kennealy, LCpl Maria Jones and Pte Jane Polley donned St Trinian's kit and collected £300 on a tour of Woolwich public houses.

Meanwhile LCpl Kennealy's culinary expertise was very much appreciated by the Disabled Living Foundation, for whom she produced a massive cake to mark the organisation's 21st birthday.



LCpl Joanne Kennealy (left) is pictured at the presentation with (from the left) Barbara Thorn from ITV's *The Bill*, Tottenham Hotspur captain and England international Gary Mabbutt, and a Foundation representative

YOUR NEW PAY SCALES

A SOLDIER SPECIAL FEATURE

NEW pay rates for the British Army, Regular and Territorial are published on this and the following two pages.

The pay rise takes effect in full from April 1. It reflects the decision of the Government to accept in full the

recommendations of the 1991 Armed Forces Pay Review Body report, and amounts to a total increase of 12.2 per cent in the pay of the Armed Forces.

Main elements are an increase in basic pay of between 11.2 per cent and 18 per

cent. This includes an increase of 1 per cent in the X Factor for Regular Servicemen and 2 per cent for Servicewomen, and a reduction in a comparator earnings pension adjustment, equivalent to about a 1 per cent increase in the military salary.

MALE OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Rank	Service	Annual	Daily rates
Brigadier		50002.92	136.62
Colonel	+8 years	45050.94	123.09
	+6 years	43960.26	120.16
	+4 years	42887.88	117.23
	+2 years	41815.50	114.30
	On appointment	40743.12	111.37
Lt Col	+8 years	38689.86	105.71
	+6 years	37767.54	103.19
	+4 years	36845.22	100.67
	+2 years	35922.90	98.15
	On appointment	35000.58	95.63
Lt Col (Special List)		34400.34	93.99
Major	+8 years	29898.54	81.69
	+7 years	29280.00	80.00
	+6 years	28661.46	78.31
	+5 years	28042.92	76.62
	+4 years	27424.38	74.93
	+3 years	26805.84	73.24
	+2 years	26187.30	71.55
	+1 year	25568.76	69.86
Capt	On appointment	24950.22	68.17
	+6 years	23006.76	62.86
	+5 years	22472.40	61.40
	+4 years	21938.04	59.94
	+3 years	21403.68	58.48
	+2 years	20869.32	57.02
	+1 year	20334.96	55.56
Lieut	On appointment	19800.60	54.10
	+4 years	17191.02	46.97
	+3 years	16781.10	45.85
	+2 years	16371.18	44.73
	+1 year	15961.26	43.61
2 Lt	On appointment	15551.34	42.49
Univ Cadet		11763.24	32.14
	+1 year	6752.70	18.45
	+2 years	7751.88	21.18
	+3 years	8699.82	23.77
	+4 years	9501.36	25.96
2 LT (SSLC)	0-9 years	8824.26	24.11
	+9 years	94,2450	25.75

SERVICEMEN/WOMEN SCALE B RATES

Rank		Daily rates
Pte 4	Band 1	20.40
	Band 1	22.81
	2	26.45
	3	30.48
2	Band 1	25.49
	2	29.13
	3	33.16
1	Band 1	27.63
	2	31.27
	3	35.30
LCpl 3	Band 1	27.63
	2	31.27
	3	35.30
2	Band 1	29.50
	2	33.14
	3	37.50
1	Band 1	31.72
	2	35.36
	3	39.72
Cpl 2	Band 1	34.04
	2	37.68
	3	42.04
1	Band 1	36.52
	2	40.16
	3	44.52
Sgt	Band 4	39.79
	5	43.72
	6	48.02
SSgt	Band 4	42.06
	5	45.99
	6	50.29
	7	55.49
WO2	Band 4	44.96
	5	48.89
	6	53.19
	7	58.39
WO1	Band 4	47.92
	5	51.85
	6	56.15
	7	61.35

NOTE: For Scale A deduct 30 pence
For Scale C add 45 pence

MALE/FEMALE OFFICERS REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY) CAPTAINS ONLY

	Daily rates
Capt on appointment	64.32
1 year	65.43
2 years	66.54
3 years	67.65
4 years	68.76
5 years	69.87
6 years	70.98
8 years	72.09

MALE/FEMALE OFFICERS FROM RANKS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

	12 Yrs	12-15 Yrs	15 Yrs+
	£	£	£
Lt/Capt only	On commissioning	58.40	61.36
	1 year	59.88	62.84
	2 years	61.36	64.54
	3 years	62.84	65.43
	4 years	64.32	66.54
	5 years	65.43	67.75
	6 years	66.54	68.76
	8 years	67.65	69.87
	10 years	68.76	70.98
	12 years	69.87	72.09
	14 years	70.98	72.09
	16 years	72.09	72.09

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI) DAILY RATES

Rank	9 yr	12 yr	15 yr	18 yr	22 yr
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
LCpl	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Cpl	0.70	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.20
Sgt	0.85	1.20	1.45	1.75	1.75
SSgt	0.85	1.20	1.45	2.00	2.00
WO2	0.85	1.20	1.45	2.00	2.30
WO1	0.85	1.20	1.45	2.00	2.65

COMMITTAL PAY No change

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Age	Daily rates
17.5 and over	£ 20.10
17 but under 17.5	15.20
16.5 but under 17	12.52
16 but under 16.5	12.52
Officer cadets	22.56

● Pay for doctors and dentists will be the subject of a separate report.

ADDITIONAL PAY

Daily rates of additional pay have been increased as follows:

Officer pilots and flying instructors			Nil
Under training			7.94
Initial rate			13.35
Middle rate			20.16
Top rate			19.07
Lt Col after 6 years			17.95
Lt Col after 8 years			16.82
Colonel on aptt			15.70
Colonel after 2 years			14.58
Colonel after 4 years			12.90
Colonel after 6 years			11.22
Colonel after 8 years			6.73
Brigadier			
Soldier pilots and flying instructors			£
All ranks		Initial Rate	7.94
All ranks		Middle Rate	13.35
All ranks		Top Rate	20.16
Parachutists			£
All Ranks			3.00
Parachute jumping instructors			£
All Ranks			4.00
Air Despatch Pay			£
Under Trg/Lower Rate			2.75
High Rate			4.45
RCT helicopter crews			£
All Ranks			2.75
Aircrewmen			£
All Ranks			
Initial Rate		3.94	
Middle Rate		8.68	
Top Rate		10.21	
SAS			£
Lower Rate		Higher Rate	
All Officers and WO1			13.30
WO2, SSgt, Sgt			10.67
Cpl and below			8.67
Work of an objectional nature			£
All Ranks			2.00
Work of an objectional nature (exceptional)			£
All Ranks			10.00
Falkland Islands pay			£
All Ranks			3.60
Northern Ireland pay			£
All Ranks up to incl Brig			3.60
Gurkha Service pay			£
Lt Col and above			4.60
Major			4.00
Capt			3.40
Lt/2Lt			2.90
Gurkha Language pay			£
All ranks			
Lower Rate		Higher Rate	
Experimental pay			£
All ranks			per test
Sea command money			£
All officers/WOs			1.00
Academy Sergeant Major, Sandhurst			£
			5.20
Special Communications pay			£
Sgt to WO1			6.38
Sig to Cpl			4.78
Divers			£
All ranks			
Category		£	
ACAD			1
UDS: Army			2
AAD			3
ADS			4
ADI			4
Separation Allowance			£
UK and NW Europe			2.55
Elsewhere			3.30
Work in unpleasant conditions			£
Soldiers only			0.55
London Pay			£
Inner London		Outer London	
Basic Rate			2.34
Additional Housing Rate			1.43

ANNUAL RENTS

New annual accommodation charges are as follows (for daily rates divide by 366, which may vary by 1 or 2 pence per day):

ENGLAND, WALES AND SCOTLAND			
Married quarters			
Type	Grade		
Officers I	1	2	3
Officers I	2768	2512	1806
Officers I	2494	2263	1630
Officers I	2183	1985	1432
Officers I	1945	1769	1293
Officers I	1699	1549	1121
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers II	2072	1622	846
Officers II	1303	1051	473
Officers II	1124	908	414
Officers II	989	802	359
ORs DWO	864	707	348
ORs DWO	787	645	315
ORs DWO	703	575	282
ORs DWO	549	447	220
Officers III	2072	1622	846
Officers III	1303	1051	473
Officers III	1124	908	414
Officers III	989	802	359
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers IV	1945	1769	1293
Officers IV	1699	1549	1121
Officers IV	1444	1293	814
Officers IV	1249	1143	843
Officers IV	1150	1052	773
Officers IV	876	799	594
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers V	1699	1549	1121
Officers V	1444	1293	814
Officers V	1249	1143	843
Officers V	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers VI	1699	1549	1121
Officers VI	1444	1293	814
Officers VI	1249	1143	843
Officers VI	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
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Officers VII	1699	1549	1121
Officers VII	1444	1293	814
Officers VII	1249	1143	843
Officers VII	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers VIII	1699	1549	1121
Officers VIII	1444	1293	814
Officers VIII	1249	1143	843
Officers VIII	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers IX	1699	1549	1121
Officers IX	1444	1293	814
Officers IX	1249	1143	843
Officers IX	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers X	1699	1549	1121
Officers X	1444	1293	814
Officers X	1249	1143	843
Officers X	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
ORs DWO	1249	1143	843
ORs DWO	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	876	799	594
Officers XI	1699	1549	1121
Officers XI	1444	1293	814
Officers XI	1249	1143	843
Officers XI	1150	1052	773
ORs DWO	1363	1242	920
OR			

Loaded policy threatens house purchase

MRS X, wife of a soldier, rang to tell me she was extremely worried. Their plans to buy a house had been jeopardised by their endowment life policy being "loaded" with an extra £2,000 because of the Gulf war.

Special holiday helpers wanted

WITH the conflict in the Gulf placing a considerable burden on Forces' medical services there is an increasing likelihood that one of the knock-on effects could well be the cancellation of the annual summer holiday for Service special needs children sponsored by the Guild of St Helena and organised by the Service Children's Education Authority (SCEA).

Maj Peter Lewis, who runs the Special Needs Section at SCEA, is seeking volunteers from Service dependants, and especially those with nursing qualifications, to help prevent the conflict from affecting the most vulnerable members of the Forces' community.

The holidays will take place in Folkestone in June. Support staff will be required from June 12-21. There are no costs involved other than the willingness to work hard and enable the children to enjoy their holiday.

Lisa Benjamin of Perham Down, Andover, wrote this letter after last year's holiday: "I am writing to say thank you for my holiday last week in Folkestone. I really enjoyed myself and please could you say thank you to everyone who looked after me and made my holiday so good."

So please, if you can help to make it possible for the holiday to run once again in these trying times, we know there will be at least 20 very happy children as a result of your efforts.

Maj Lewis, on 081-854 2242 ext 4263, will be very happy to give you more details of the holiday and the important part that you can play in making it once more a great success.

Calls from other Service families revealed that this was by no means an isolated case.

I spoke to Bain Clarkson who advised me that a repayment mortgage would be worth looking at as an alternative. This form of

mortgage can be arranged by any independent insurance broker who is a member of FIMBRA.

There is a fee, with firms charging up to one per cent to arrange finance.

The problem with endowment mortgages for

Servicemen in time of war is that this type of policy carries a degree of life assurance, usually an amount equivalent to the mortgage advance.

Insurance companies not unnaturally fear a significant increase in

claims because of the crisis in the Gulf and so have loaded endowment premiums for Servicemen to protect themselves.

In the case of Mrs X and her husband this had added an extra £50 per £1,000 of the sum assured.



Meet the Bulford FOCUS team which processes telephone pledges to the Gulf Trust. From left to right are Sandie Pepperell, Tracey Pike, Elsa Jones, Nicola Liddicoat, Lady Wilkes, Gabrielle Tait, Barbara Spencer, Irene McCall, Shelagh Bywater and Roz Potts

TRUST US!

Minister turns to FOCUS

A 'phone call to Federation of Army Wives chairman Gabrielle Tait sparked off a major operation by FOCUS (Federation Office Computer Updating Skills) in support of the Gulf Trust launched by Defence Secretary Tom King on January 21.

The Ministry of Defence wanted to know if the Federation could process the flood of pledges to the Gulf Trust.

Gabrielle contacted Sandie Pepperell of FOCUS at Bulford and the challenge was accepted.

Unlike the South Atlantic Fund established after the Falklands war, the Gulf Trust will disperse monies to three Service charities – the Army Benevolent Fund, King George's Fund for Sailors, and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

FOCUS put out a call for volunteers to man the telephones – and needed them. There was a huge and immediate reaction from the public.

The FOCUS computers were soon under pressure so Roy Clarke of Birmingham-based Wise Computers was contacted and responded instantly.

Software was written by Tony Maleck, a colleague of Roy's.

The two men worked through the night with the FOCUS team to have the programme up and running

in time for the press conference at which Mr King launched the appeal.

The result was that volunteers such as Tracey Pike, Elsa Jones and Nicola Liddicoat were soon coping with a stream of pledges and enquiries ... and enjoying the work.

Elsa's comment on her first morning at FOCUS was typical. "I'm not an expert on computers," she said, "but I am willing to do what I can to help."

A number of Gulf Support Centres owe thanks to Roy Clarke. He was watching a local television report on one centre when he saw Lichfield Army wife Kelly Dundavon index-filing by hand. He thought he could come up with a better way for volunteers such as Kelly to collate information and offers of help – and within a day had acquired a number of computers loaned from business friends.

Word of his generosity soon got about, and now a number of centres, including Tidworth and Larkhill, have Roy to thank for computers and data bases.

Kuwaiti goodwill link

SSAFA Central Office hosted a goodwill reception for 20 members of the Kuwaiti Women's Delegation to meet 20 British Army wives whose husbands are serving in the Gulf, and their children.

The Kuwaiti refugees were anxious to show their goodwill towards the wives, who came from the garrisons at Tidworth and

Bulford. They wanted to share their worries over the Gulf situation, form a bond of friendship – and hand over gifts for the children.

Barbara Spencer, co-ordinator of 'TG3', the Tidworth Garrison Gulf Group, said there were so many families wishing to travel to SSAFA in London that it was impossible for them all to get on the bus.

Sgt Jeanette Fullerton, whose fiancé is currently serving in the Gulf, said the response was just as enthusiastic through the HIVE at Bulford.

For the Kuwaiti wives, Mrs Huda Abdulla said: "Until last week I'd never heard of SSAFA, but it's a wonderful thing that you're here to support Service families."



Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653

Team effort on the home front

SERVICE wives, whether their husbands are in the Gulf or not, are rallying to help each other.

The Tidworth Gulf Support Centre is just one example. There the HIVE (Help Information Volunteer Exchange) has opened a special room for Gulf families.

Armed with an extra telephone and a fax, a small army of volunteers is making sure that the centre is open from 1000 to 2200, seven days a week. Volunteers report on a shift basis to offer help, advice, information or just a chat – face-to-face or over the telephone.

Barbara Spencer, the Federation of Army Wives district co-ordinator, explained: "The Tidworth HIVE realised last October that wives of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars band were going to need support, along with families of men from other regiments in the Gulf.

"What started as a coffee morning has grown into the excellent weekly garrison briefings to keep us in the picture."

Barbara said the whole of the garrison was pulling together.

"We have social events and recently BBC Radio Wiltshire arranged the disco for a marvellous children's party."

Radio Wiltshire has been particularly sensitive and supportive but media coverage has been a bit of a problem and there have been distressing reports of harassment, with reporters telephoning or knocking on wives' doors late at night to ask insensitive questions.

"We have had a tremendous response from local firms," said SSAFA volunteer Sue Crew, a former WRMP. "And wives, and even a police officer with a son in the Gulf does a shift."

Volunteer Christine Tadier, a nurse, explained that about 60 wives would be enjoying the Wembley Ice Show following an offer of concessionary tickets.

Sylla Frere, with new

baby Eleanor in tow, is one of the HIVE co-ordinators, and with Barbara keeps the centre running.

Full of praise for the work of both HIVE and Gulf Support Centre is Col Nick Channing-Williams, whose Families Housing and Wel-

fare Service works closely with both organisations.

Sylla reckons it is very much a team effort. All help, however small, is welcomed.

Eleanor, just a few weeks old, has not cried once during her mother's

shifts. She must be following in the footsteps of her great grandmother, Lady Seaton, Deputy Commander WRAF during the Second World War.

● **The Tidworth Gulf Support number is 0980 46104.**



Supporting Gulf wives at Tidworth are (from left) Christine Tadier, Sylla Frere and baby Eleanor, Sue Crew and Barbara Spencer

Children at war

LET's not forget our children during this time of crisis – especially those at school.

They are caught up in the war as much as the adults.

Education Secretary Kenneth Clarke welcomed advice from the National Union of Teachers on handling issues connected with hostilities in the Gulf.

The NUT has reminded its members that the

Education Act forbids partisan political views in teaching at our schools.

Mr Clarke says: "Teachers are in a unique position to help young people."

He urged schools to provide a stable and calm arena for discussion and said the common sense advice of the NUT reflected what the vast majority of teachers were putting into practice.

Premium refunds

REVISED premiums for Personal Accident Insurance Middle East (PAXME) came into effect at midnight on January 22, since when the unit cost for all applications has been £600.

Because of the new high premium the MoD will refund 90 per cent of the loading, which means the Serviceman ends up paying £268 for one £600 unit. Each unit, incidentally,

Helplines

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

● **Aldershot Gulf Support Centre 0252 331715.**

● **Chichester Gulf Support Group 0860 300024.**

● **Lisburn Gulf Information Desk 0846 609980.**

● **Tidworth Gulf Support Centre 0980 46104.**

● **North East Counties families' Gulf helpline 0748 832902.**

● **MoD helplines: Army 0345 717200; Royal Navy 0345 414544; Royal Air Force 0345 800900; Royal Fleet Auxiliary 0345 555500; civilians 071-839 5656 or 5492.**

● **MoD mail helpline 071-430 6243.**

● **Parcelforce hotline 0800 224466.**

● **Gift helpline 071-430 6240 or 6243.**

● **A special British Forces Post Office number – BFPO 3000 – remains open for people who wish to send unsolicited letters, cards and small gifts to Servicemen and women in the Gulf.**

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

is worth £10,000 of cover, and MoD will refund the extra loading on up to two units (or £20,000-worth of cover).

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You can get the right forms from pay offices, and advice on PAXME from the Army Agents, Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Bank.

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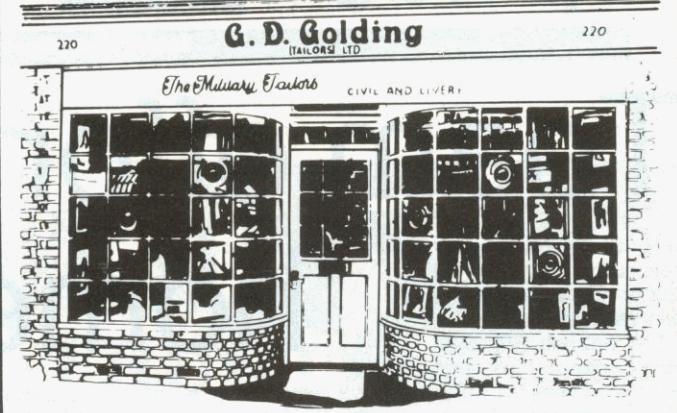
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Assailed... by armchair generals

AS far back as 1972, H J Eysenck, the well-known "shrink", said: "If television advertising is effective and there is little doubt that it is, why should television be less effective when it advertises

gratuitous violence, promiscuity and permissiveness generally?"

Schools daily report physical and verbal violence. The Services are not immune.

The media coverage of the

Gulf War has been, in my opinion, a disgrace, not least the speculation and regurgitation of speculative reports by armchair generals. - C T Wareing, ex-Sgt RE and Lt TA (ACF), Redditch.

Letter from a VC

YOUR reference (Feb 4) to the courage of two First World War Victoria Cross recipients finds an echo in a note I have just come across in one of the individual VC files which the late Canon W M Lummis MC presented to the Military Historical Society.

The note is in the handwriting of Cpl Charles Jarvis VC and was probably a postscript to a letter he sent to the Canon.

It reads:

"Man's inhumanity to Man makes countless thousands mourn" (Burns) - Chas A Jarvis VC, Ex-Corporal RE, Jemappes, Belgium, 23rd August 1914."

One may find some inspiration in this simple comment made by a soldier who had dared mightily and had seen so much sacrifice. - Dennis Pillinger, Maidenhead, Berks.

Reunions

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

● **University of London OTC Regimental Association** annual meeting will be held in Yeomanry House on Friday March 22 at 2000. Contact the Association at Freepost WC 5227, London WC1N 1BR.

● **The 150th Regiment, South Notts Hussars (Royal Horse Artillery) OCA** will hold its annual reunion dinner at the Strathdon Hotel, Derby Road, Nottingham, on Saturday April 13. Details from Mr D Sturgess, 64 Cycle Road, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2DW.

Searchline

● **Pte J Mason, West Yorkshire Regt:** Relatives sought so that First World War medals, found in Australia, can be passed on. Contact Mrs P Brady, 216 Newington Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4SD.

Thanks from America

The red hackle rules

EARLIEST reference to the white hackle with red top as worn by bandsmen of the Gordon Highlanders (Letters, October 1) is in the regimental history by Lt Col C Greenhill Gardyne, being worn by a drum major of the 92nd Regt in a drawing of 1823-27.

A photograph of 1865 shows a band sergeant wearing the hackle, as does also a water colour drawing of 1866.

Considering the hackle is not entirely red it is not exactly infringing any rule regarding the Black Watch having the sole right to wear a red hackle.

On the other hand, for many years bandsmen in certain other Highland regiments wore an entirely red hackle - namely, the 71st, 74th, 78th and 93rd.

Following the amalgamations of 1881, bandsmen of the Highland Light Infantry, Seaforth Highlanders and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders wore red hackles in their feather bonnets and bandsmen of the latter still do. - J Thomson, Edinburgh.

PLEASE convey to the soldiers of the British Army, airmen of the Royal Air Force, sailors of the Royal Navy and marines of the Royal Marines serving in the Gulf our thanks from America. We appreciate that British Servicemen were among the first to respond to the call by the United Nations to resist the aggression of Saddam Hussein and his followers.

My family recognizes the magnitude of this sacrifice and the dangers that all of you face as comrades at arms with our

United States Forces and those of the other coalition nations.

My sons, Andrew Corker McCoy (aged 12) and Todd Ian McCoy (aged 9) and I would be happy to correspond with any British Service man or woman who would like an American pen pal.

We will remember you all in our prayers. Prayers for your safety, your quick return to your homes and for peace. - William M McCoy, 11 Darnley Green, Delmar, New York 12054, USA.

Company policy

IF the Army must once again be further reduced in strength I am disgusted to learn that some regimental colonels, rather than accept reduction to company, squadron or battery as part of a "large area regiment", would prefer to disband.

These gentlemen misuse their power in this modern age and appear to have no sense of history or responsibility to the tens of thousands of men who have served locally in their regiments since the days of

Oliver Cromwell. With a reduction in strength, the company representing an original regiment is the only sensible method of continuing traditions and service.

I would point out that several years ago the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were reduced to a company but soon increased to battalion size. Could this not be the future of "independent" companies? - Edward A G Croucher, Diss, Norfolk.

43 RTR remained in England

IN reply to Mr S A Leonard (Feb 4) I agree that, as a regiment, the 43rd RTR, formerly the 6th Royal Northumbrian Fusiliers, was never out of England in the Second World War until the end of 1945.

Most of the chaps were drafted to different theatres of war. With about 50 others I was sent to the Middle East, arriving at Abbisiar barracks, Cairo, with, I believe, some members of the 44th RTR.

We joined the Heavy Tank

Training Squadron and were sent to the Western Desert to reinforce other regiments.

Regards to the chaps of the 44th - I did not see them again after leaving for the desert. - J Ellison, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.



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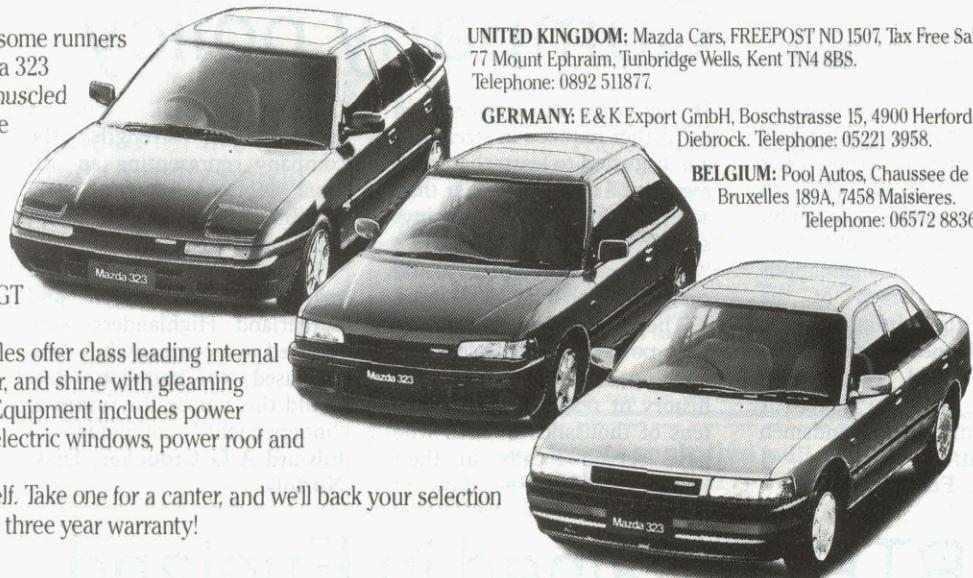
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Shocking truth of life at the front

JOHN Ellis's *World War II: The Sharp End*, recently revised, is not for the squeamish.

But then this book is about life at the "sharp end", so descriptions like this must be expected if readers want to know what it was like.

Fd Marshal Earl Wavell wrote in 1937 about the quality of "robustness" required by leaders in order to overcome the shocks of war and the sight of the dead and dying is one of the first horrors a soldier experiences.

John Ellis dismisses the realistic training introduced at Divisional Battle Schools in 1942 which emphasised the shocks to be expected in war and which many soldiers were grateful for when faced with reality; he should explore this aspect further as was is shocking.

He also examines what makes the infantry soldier, who bore 70 per cent of the casualties in the Second World War, go forward in the face of enemy fire and from the statements of men who served there, concludes: "It was the comradeship love for one another more than duty or loyalty to the cause."

He was apparently taken to task about this conclusion by a reviewer, himself a battalion commander, when the book was first published in 1980, who counter-claimed "it was leadership which kept men going in battle" and from my own experiences I must agree.

Ellis does not mention the words *esprit de corps* until the final page of his 1990 postscript which is admirably described by a US Marine as "loyalty to each other", a sense imbued in a unit that no one would let anyone else down; the essence of self-discipline, which is what discipline and leadership is all about. Perhaps Ellis should also explore this aspect further.

If this book does reach a third revised edition could Ellis please update the extended

Firearms – lock, stock and barrel

AT Waterloo the British fought with the same smooth-bore muskets they had used a century earlier – the "King's Pattern Musket for Land Service", approved in 1722 by George I.

This was despite the fact the Baker rifle had made its appearance in the previous decade, but it was not available in sufficient quantity to make any appreciative difference to the Army's marksmanship or fire power.

A watershed in weaponry development came in the 1840s with the self-expanding bullet; thereafter the range at which battles took place was extended dramatically.

Technological advance quickly followed with the introduction of easy-to-load metallic cartridge-firing breechloaders – the Martini-Henry and Snider rifles of the 1850s and 1860s.

"The Thin Red Line of Crimea fame now became a broad red tide sweeping all before it throughout Africa and the East."

The 150-year period covered by George Markham in his recently-published *Guns*

bibliography? Under "Notes and References" he claims that "Full details of sources are given in the bibliography under authors."

However, I gave up checking the notes in each chapter to find out the source of a quotation, which is important when over half the book consists of quotations, only to find no references to the author in the bibliography, which was very frustrating.

There are so many statistics in this book it has to be digested slowly, otherwise one can be overwhelmed by facts. I did notice, however, an omission among the causes of casualties by disease in the Middle East as no mention is made of infective hepatitis, which so seriously affected the Eighth Army, particularly in 1942.

These comments apart, this is such a remarkable compilation and analysis of the

of the Empire: *Firearms of the British Soldier 1837-1987* not only saw the most dramatic advance in firearms and ammunition but was also one of the most wide-ranging eras of activity for British forces.

The book links weapon development to the wars in which they were employed, thus providing insight to the variety and innovation in weaponry against an imperial background.

It is a well-illustrated and authoritative guide with a welcome explanation of the terminology of weapons and the ever-changing 'Mark system' which has long mystified all but the experts.

The Boer Wars at the turn of the century exposed shortcomings in some arms and, as a result, the greatly-admired SMLE rifle became the standard British infantry weapon. Lee-Enfield rifles remained the mainstay of the Army through two world wars, though a surprising number of derivatives and radically different weapons, both British and foreign, were also used. All are described

and illustrated in this book.

Rifles and carbines were the first choice of weaponry for the British Army in its imperial era, but machine guns and automatic weapons are also given more than adequate coverage. The chapter on early machine guns includes some "fascinating eccentricities such as the British Perkins Steam Gun of 1843, awesome but particularly unpractical."

Many little-known facts are to be found, such as that the Second World War Sten Mark III was manufactured exclusively by Lines Brothers, the toy makers.

Perhaps one may be forgiven for saying the subject is covered lock, stock and barrel in this single-volume guide that has been needed for some years, but it must also be said that an index would have made it an even more valuable reference. – BJ

Guns of the Empire: Firearms of the British Soldier 1837-1987 by George Markham. Published by Arms & Armour Press. Price, hardback, £19.95.

experiences of soldiers at the sharp end concerning fear, death, casualties, sickness, keeping alive, relaxation, morale, wives, drugs, water and so on it should be compulsory reading at Army training establishments.

One final quotation from Sgt Fraser 8 RSF: "It was

unbelievably good to sit quiet. No mud, dust, shell holes, dead cows, smells. It was good to lie back and know you were alive; good to shave, eat and sleep – above all to sleep." – PSN

World War II: The Sharp End by John Ellis. Published by Windrow & Greene. Price £18.95.

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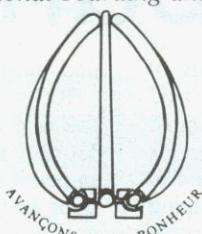
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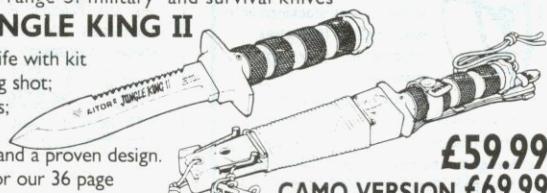


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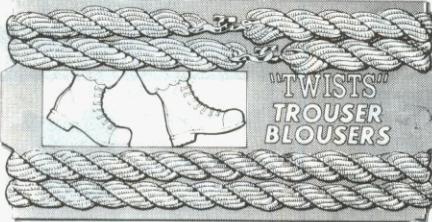
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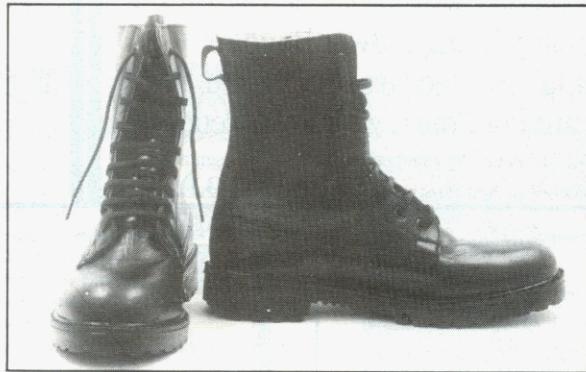
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Army cup hopes sink in the West

**Devon 1,
Army 0**

THE ARMY's challenge for the South West Counties Championship suffered a severe setback when they went down to defending champions Devon by a goal to nil at Bideford FC, writes Pat Massey.

The ground looked like a billiard table at the start of the match, but cut up badly and within ten minutes resembled a

SEE YOU AT HQ

JUST in time! Just as the snow arrived in Britain, stopping everything including British Rail, the timetable for the UK part of the Army Cup competition was completed, writes John Quin.

The Army senior XV, which up to this point in the planning phase had been going very well for the selectors, have now lost two vital games, both against the Universities.

The only consolation is that the other two Services are in the same boat. This leaves three more games – Met Police, Surrey and Combined London Old Boys – before the big one against the Royal Navy at Twickenham on March 23 for the Willis Trophy.

Don't forget to bring a gang from the mess or the club and enjoy the day to the full, starting with the pre-match parties in the North and West car parks where you are bound to meet old rugby friends.

Don't forget too, that AFFAS, the sponsors, are offering a prize for the most "enterprising" display in the car park!

The RAF ran out winners of the 1991 U21 Inter-Services championships, beating the Army in the last game after the boys in red had beaten the Navy and were looking good.

Now to the Army Cup.

paddy field. After that it was a muddy slog.

A slightly below-strength Army side had the lion's share of possession but got no closer to scoring than hitting an upright.

While not fatal to their chances, the result does mean that the Army must win their two remaining matches to qualify for the final of the competition.

**Combined Services 1,
Vauxhall League XI 0**

Just two weeks before their opening match in the Kentish Cup competition, Combined Services were given a much-needed confidence booster when they beat a strong

Vauxhall League XI by the only goal of a keenly contested match at Aldershot.

The goal came ten minutes into the second half when the

visiting goalkeeper palmed away a teasing cross from Cpl Alan Pluckrose (RAF). Sgt Alan Higgins (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig) was following up and promptly rifled the ball into the corner of the net.

Higgins was also in action at the other end, three times in quick succession clearing off his own line as the visitors threatened to equalise in the closing minutes.

Airmen dictate terms

THE three-day Inter-Service squash rackets tournament was played at the Lee-on-the-Solent Squash Club and sponsored by Teacher's Whisky. On the first day the strong RAF team beat the Royal Navy 5-0. The U-25 team also had a good 4-1 win, but the veterans lost 2-3, writes Lance Brett.

Next day the Navy fared no better against the Army and were again beaten 5-0. The Navy Under-25 team lost 5-0, but their veterans beat the Army 3-2.

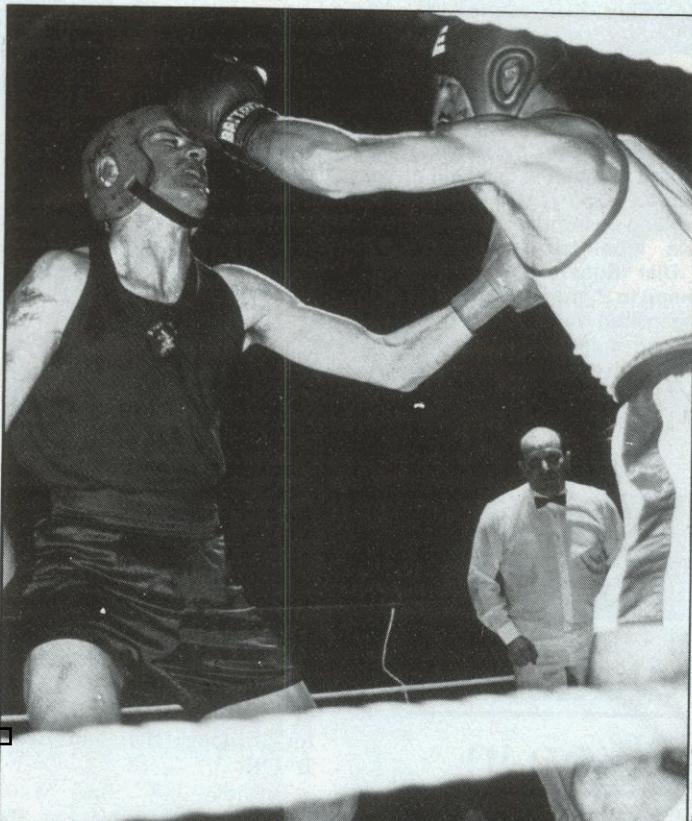
On the final day the RAF swept through the Army team with a devastating 5-0 victory. At first string Cpl Jim Clarke scored a major personal triumph when he beat Maj Robbie Robinson, the Combined Services and Army champion, 3-0. The Under-25 team also won 3-0, but the veterans lost 2-3.

The RAF were undisputed Inter-Service winners for the third year, their U-25's also won and the Royal Navy took the veterans title.

Winners of the 1990 Royal Engineers' squash championship held at Medway Squash Centre in Chatham were 35 Engineer Regiment.

They beat 12 RSME 4-0 in the final, with the match decided before the number one seeds, Spr Nick Turton of 35 Engr Regt and Capt Derek Collins of 12 RSME, had a chance to meet.

But in the open individual final Turton beat Collins 3-1 to become the Corps champion for the third consecutive year.



Picture: LCpl S Harris

Lightweight LCpl Stephen Boustead (right) of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, finds the range against LCpl Grant of 9 Para Sqn RE in their semi-final of the Army Grade 3 novice boxing championships. The referee is WO1 (GSM) John Duffus, QO Hldrs. Winners of a very competitive night's boxing were 3 Para, by seven bouts to two.

Those of you who are administrators of this game of ours, in whatever role, will no doubt feel some sympathy for the secretary of Army rugby as he battles annually to get the Major and Minor Units' Cup rounds completed on time, both here (including Northern Ireland) and in BAOR.

Well, Maj David Murray can afford a swift "half", as we are bang on schedule in all competitions.

Battling it out, weather permitting, for the UK Minor Units title will be the Permanent Staff of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate and 5 Airborne Brigade Log Bn, the winners earning a place

in the Army final in Dusseldorf on April 10.

In the major competitions, there was no surprises in the end and once more 7 Para RHA, the holders, meet up with the Dukes. The winners here will take on BAOR champions 1 RWF from Berlin, the match to be played at Aldershot on April 11.

The UK final, by the way, is to be played also at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on Thursday, February 28. Games throughout the competitions have been generously sponsored once again by Schweppes (GB), and for their continuing support the Army Rugby Union is very grateful.



Young Gunners hit 13 past Academy

Arsenal's young ace Andy Cole attacks the RMA Sandhurst defence during a match at the Academy to celebrate a 250-year link. The Royal Military Academy and Dial Square Football Club were formed in Woolwich in South East London, with Dial Square later becoming Arsenal and moving to Highbury, while the RMA Woolwich amalgamated with RMA Sandhurst. The RMA Woolwich dates from 1741 and so 1991 is the 250th anniversary of its formation.

Arsenal manager George Graham's young squad beat RMA 13-0.



LCpl Geordie Crawford, 22 Sig Regt, on his way to team success

SAME AGAIN

Watts and Dixon in control

Modest who defeated SSgt Ian Davies 6-3, 6-3.

In the main competition the four group winners who proceeded to the semi-final stage were Nigel Watts and Capt Alan Butterfield, RAEC, who both made the trip from BAOR, Cpl Simon Andrews, RMP and Sgt Eric Simpson, APTC.

In the first semi-final, Watts started slowly against Andrews, and when he was 1-4 down in the first set it looked as if an upset might be on the cards, but he recovered to take the match 6-4, 6-2.

The second semi-final was probably the best match of the tournament. Butterfield and Simpson were on court for 2½ hours, with both players contributing to an entertaining match which seesawed both

ways before Butterfield won 5-7, 7-5, 6-2, setting up a repeat of last year's final and a reward for making the trip from BAOR.

Birthday boy Nigel Watts retained his trophy, but the match was much closer than last year. After losing the first set 6-1, Butterfield will be encouraged by taking the champion to 7-5 in the second set.

In the play-off match for third and fourth places, Eric Simpson made a remarkable comeback when from one set down and trailing 0-4 in the second, he rallied to overcome Simon Andrews 6-7, 7-5, 6-3.

Although the ladies' event was less well supported it produced some interesting matches and one upset when Capt Karen Stack defeated Lt Anna Green in the group matches to set up a final against Maj Julia Dixon. Dixon proved too consistent in the final and won 6-3, 6-2, but Stack showed that she will always fight to the end and reaching the final will give her confidence for the coming season.

Hussars ski to victory

OP GRANBY commitments meant there was a lot of regrouping of teams at the 1st and 3rd Armoured Division combined ski meeting staged at Le Grand Bornand in France.

On the 1 Div side a powerful team of the Queen's Own Hussars swept the board in Alpine and Nordic combination races, while 22 Signal Regiment dominated the 3 Div results.

The only exceptions to their domination were 1 ADTR winning the 1 Div 4 x 10km team relay race and 50 Msl Regt winning the patrol race.

Cpl Dryder (QOH) won the individual giant slalom, downhill and individual slalom for 1 Div, while LCpl Geordie Crawford (22 Sig Regt) took the Div 3 individual honours.

Tpr Greaves (QOH) won the 1 Div individual 15km and Nordic combination prizes, with Pte Thorne (2 R Anglian) taking the 10km. Bdr Read (50 Msl Regt RA) won the 3 Div 15km and Nordic combination titles, with Spr Odea (26 Engr Regt) taking the 10km.



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And the smooth, muscular lines make an acceleration of 0-60 in 7.5 seconds seem almost predictable.

But this 205 isn't only a car for a once-in-a-blue-moon manouevre down the Autobahn.

A Bosch L-Jetronic fuel injection system makes it as adept at loping through city streets as it is advancing through open countryside.

And, no matter what sort of exercise you're involved in, all-round independent suspension and wide, low profile tyres make for first class roadholding.

Ventilated discs keep braking cool and efficient, while electric front windows, central locking and leather trimmed seats do the same for the driver.

There are a hundred other little things that go towards

making the 205 GTI 1.9 a special creature.

But one look should tell you all you need to know.

When we tell you it's still the classic hot hatchback, we're not pulling the wool over your eyes.

For details of tax-free sales contact Peugeot Talbot Export or one of the agents listed below.

PEUGEOT 205 GTI 1.9

Please rush details of your Peugeot Talbot tax free package. I'm interested in running a 205 309 405 605 in the following country.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

 **Peugeot Talbot Export**

454/490 Mile End Rd., London E1 4PE. Tel: 071-265 8844. Fax: 499 9478.

FOR DETAILS ON TAX-FREE SALES PLEASE CONTACT THE PEUGEOT APPOINTED EXPORT SPECIALISTS LISTED BELOW.

NATOCARS, WYLD'S ESTATE, BRISTOL ROAD, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET TA6 4RH. TEL: 02784 555 55. LOCAL CALL FROM GERMANY 01309806. RANGERS TALBOT MILITARY SALES, THE CORNER GARAGE, BULFORD ROAD, DURRINGTON, WILTSHIRE SP4 8DL. TEL: 0980 53434/53427. WEST GERMANY 0044980 54394. CHARTERS EUROPEAN SALES, EUROPA HOUSE, ARTHUR STREET, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 1HL. TEL: 0252 345665 OR ALBERSLOHER WEG 471, GREMMENDORF, 4400 MUNSTER, WEST GERMANY. TEL: 0251 614187. WALTER HAGEN AND CO., 4150 KREFELD, PESTALOZZI STRASSE 25. TEL: 02151 895338.

THE OVAL MOTOR CO. LTD., 60/62 WARMINSTER ROAD, WESTBURY, WILTSHIRE BA13 3PL. TEL: 0373 822262. AUTO MARKOTTER SALES & SERVICE, DANMSTRASSE 41, 4830 GOTTERSLORH. TEL: 05241 58222. ELIM EXPORT HARDTERLANDSTRASSE 200, 4050 MONCHEN-GLADBACH, WEST GERMANY. TEL: 02161 5101030. SOVEREIGN, BIELEFELDER STRASSE 129, 4791 PADERBORN, SENNELLAGER, WEST GERMANY. TEL: 05254 86492.

SOLDIER

Main picture: Men of 159 Battery, part of 26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, pose for a photograph with their M109 155mm self-propelled howitzer on a desert range in Saudi Arabia.

Inset left: Bdr Keith Simmons (left) and forward observation officer Capt Andy Southby, both of 26 Fd Regt, operate a target acquisition system for the regiment's M109 guns.

Inset below: A squadron of Scimitar recce vehicles of 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers in a forward position near the Iraqi border.

Pictures: Terry Champion

