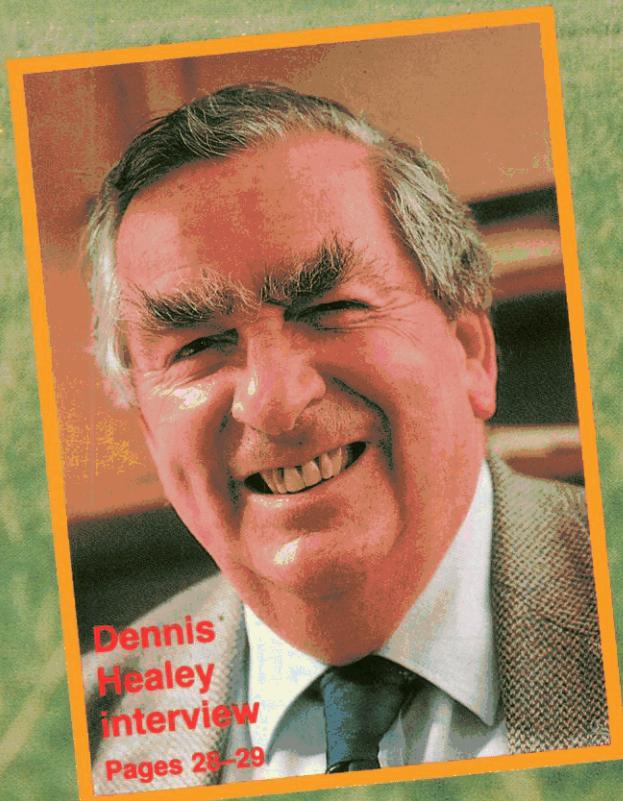


SOLDIER

NOVEMBER 12 1990

40 PENCE



Dennis
Healey
interview
Pages 28-29

On Gulf
standby:
659 Sqn
in desert
colours

VOLVO EXPORT

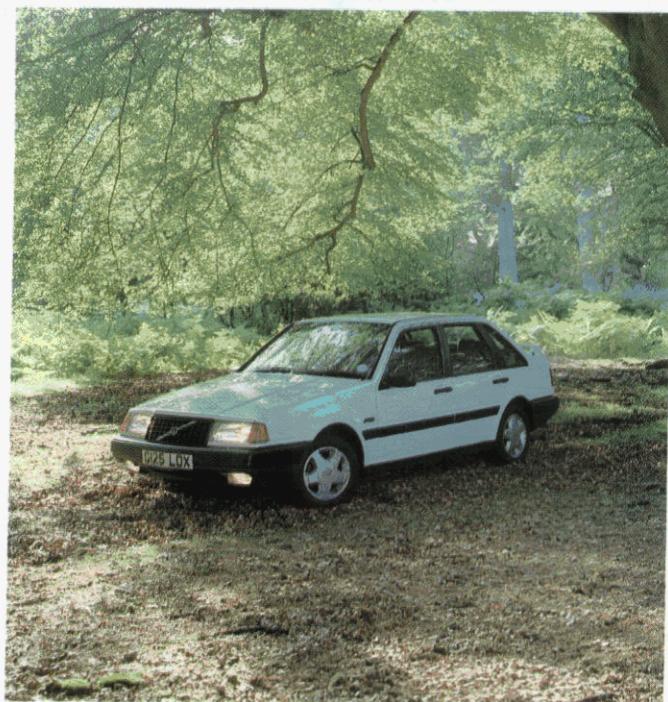
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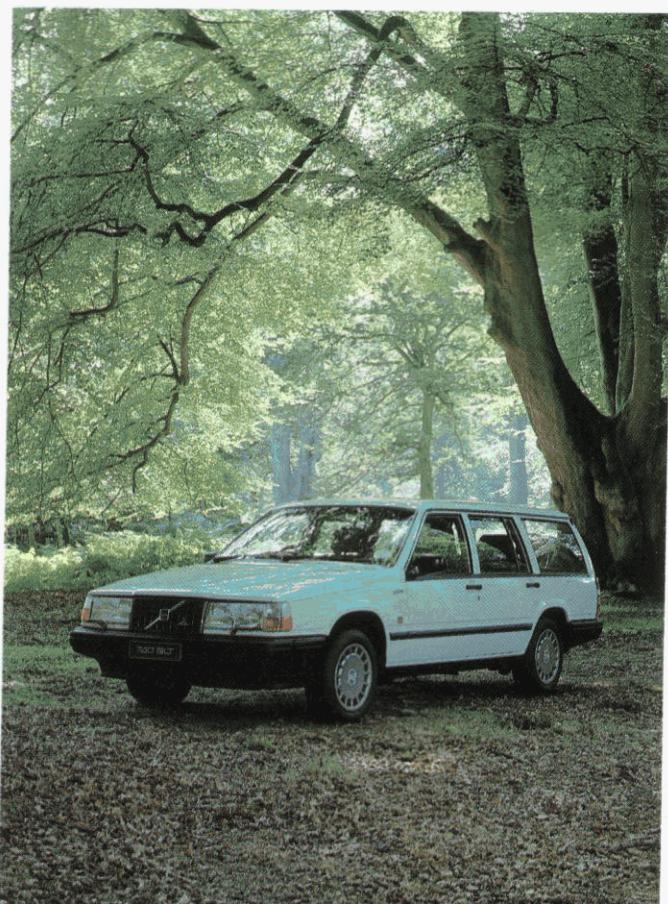
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FRONT COVER: Lynx Mark 7s of 659 Squadron, Army Air Corps on exercise in Germany. The helicopters have been painted in Gulf livery and are on short notice to deploy to the support of the 7th Armoured Brigade if required. Story and more pictures in Page 8.

Picture: Mike Weston

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine

Picture: Cpl Lee Palman RAF



Soldiers of 39 Engineer Regiment from Waterbeach near Cambridge on patrol at Tent City, Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia. Note the eagle insignia of the regiment

Build-up goes on

MORE than six flights a day left Germany as the main body of the 7th Armoured Brigade was lifted by RAF and chartered jets to Saudi Arabia.

First accommodation for troops in Saudi was either a large tented city or a port-side warehouse, close to where the first transport ship, *SS Dana Cymbria*, docked on October 18 and unloaded more than 100 REME and Royal Signals vehicles. First ashore was a vehicle of 7 Armd Wksp REME. Men and vehicles were greeted by Commander 7 Armd Bde, Brig Patrick Cordingley.

Two days later, the RFA *Sir Bedivere* landed 1 Armoured Field Ambulance vehicles and the first Challenger tanks of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. Tanks from the regiment and other elements have now deployed to a desert location.

Catterick-based 24 Airmobile Field Ambulance has been deployed to the Gulf to spearhead the move of 33 Field Hospital being formed at Saughton Camp, Chester. The unit has been reinforced by other RAMC units, including doctors and QA nurses from the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital at Catterick.

No loss of pay

NO MEMBER of the British Forces deployed to the Gulf will suffer financial loss.

Secretary of State for Defence Tom King said in reply to a Parliamentary Question: "The basic pay of Service personnel remains the same wherever they are stationed and includes an X-factor, currently 10.5 per cent for men and 9.5 per cent for women, which recognises the disadvantages of Service life, including the liability to serve in difficult and dangerous conditions."

He pointed out that entitlement to allowances and liability to charges varied according to individual circumstances and that the great majority of those taking part in Operation Granby would be better off.

"However, there are some
● Turn to next page

MoD acts to help wives left behind

WIVES working for the Army and whose husbands are serving in the Gulf are being guaranteed continued employment. And more jobs are to be created for them as part of a package of measures announced by the Ministry of Defence in a major welfare support scheme for 3,500 families left behind in Germany as the 7th Armoured Brigade deployed on Operation Granby, writes Laurie Manton.

The MoD also announced it would pay 90 per cent of any loading imposed on new or existing life insurance premiums because an individual was sent to the Gulf.

Families in the 7th Armoured Brigade's area of north west Germany are unusual in that they are a substantial community living away from home.

As an immediate measure, 12 family information centres have been established in major garrisons where dependents are most affected by the deployment. Some will draft in extra personnel from non-Gulf units.

The centres will offer a 24-hour service so that those

with a problem or in need of advice can visit or telephone. They will form a focal point for help from social workers, chaplains and lawyers if necessary, and will also be a source for disseminating up-to-date information from the Army in the Gulf.

A feature of the centres will be television monitors displaying "Granby Text", a teletext information service of up to 99 pages of information on finance, travel, accommodation and personal security. This will also be available at home on television sets which can receive Teletext services.

Key points in the welfare package are:

● **Married quarters:** If a wife wishes to leave her quarter in Germany and return to the UK, the Army will do its utmost to provide another quarter in the area of her choice.

● **Jobs:** Wives who work for the Army will be guaranteed employment, and more jobs will be created wherever possible to fill gaps created by the deployment of troops.

● **Insurance:** The Ministry of Defence will pay 90 per cent of any additional loading on life insurance premiums imposed because the individual is deployed to the Gulf. Policies up to £74,000 in value will be eligible. In the case of PAX, only 60 per cent of PAX is life insurance, the other 40 per cent is for accident insurance so the MoD's commitment to pay would apply to 60 per cent of PAX and PAXME premiums.

● **Mail:** Forces airmail letter

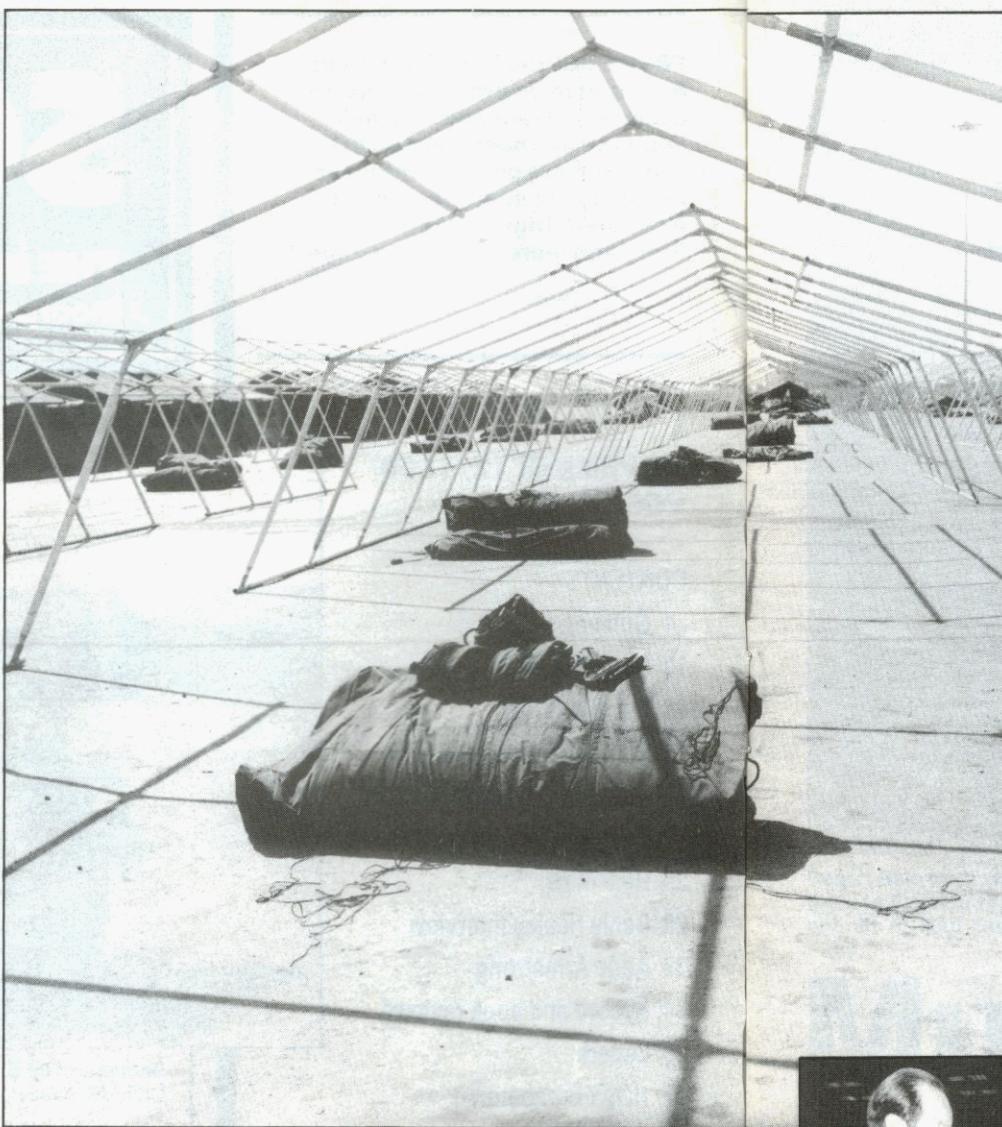
PAY

From Page 3

for whom the changes would result in a possible loss, so I have therefore decided that there should be an abatement to part of the charges paid by married personnel (a 50 per cent cut in Overseas Facility charges) from Germany and other overseas locations while serving in the Gulf.

"This will benefit most of those otherwise adversely affected.

"In addition, I have instructed that arrangements be made to recompense any individual who would still otherwise experience a net reduction in pay and allowances. These measures are intended to fulfil my assurance that no one will suffer financially as a result of service in the Gulf," he said.



forms (Blueys) are available free of charge for Servicemen in the Gulf and their families.

● **Travel concessions:** Each family will be entitled to two return trips to the UK by trooping flights while their husbands are away on a six-month tour. As an additional concession, these flights can now be transferred to enable relatives in the UK to visit families in Germany.

Wives making independent arrangements on civil flights may be refunded the cost of the public transport fares from London to their town of destination.

Numerous other matters are being pursued, including the need to ensure sports and social facilities are available and transport to local amenities is adequate. An enhancement of evening class courses is being studied and additional payphones are being installed in married quarter areas.

wives their entitlement to two travel warrants for leave journeys within BAOR to enable them to holiday in Europe, or travel by train or car to ferry ports.

Wives making independent arrangements on civil flights may be refunded the cost of the public transport fares from London to their town of destination.

Alternatively, families can take the notional cash value of a trooping flight place plus travel warrants to their town of destination, and use this to offset the cost of travel by ferry.

Soldiers on Operation Granby may also transfer to their

Take a tip

ARMY nurses and medics en route for the Gulf are being advised to go there with an open mind as possible.

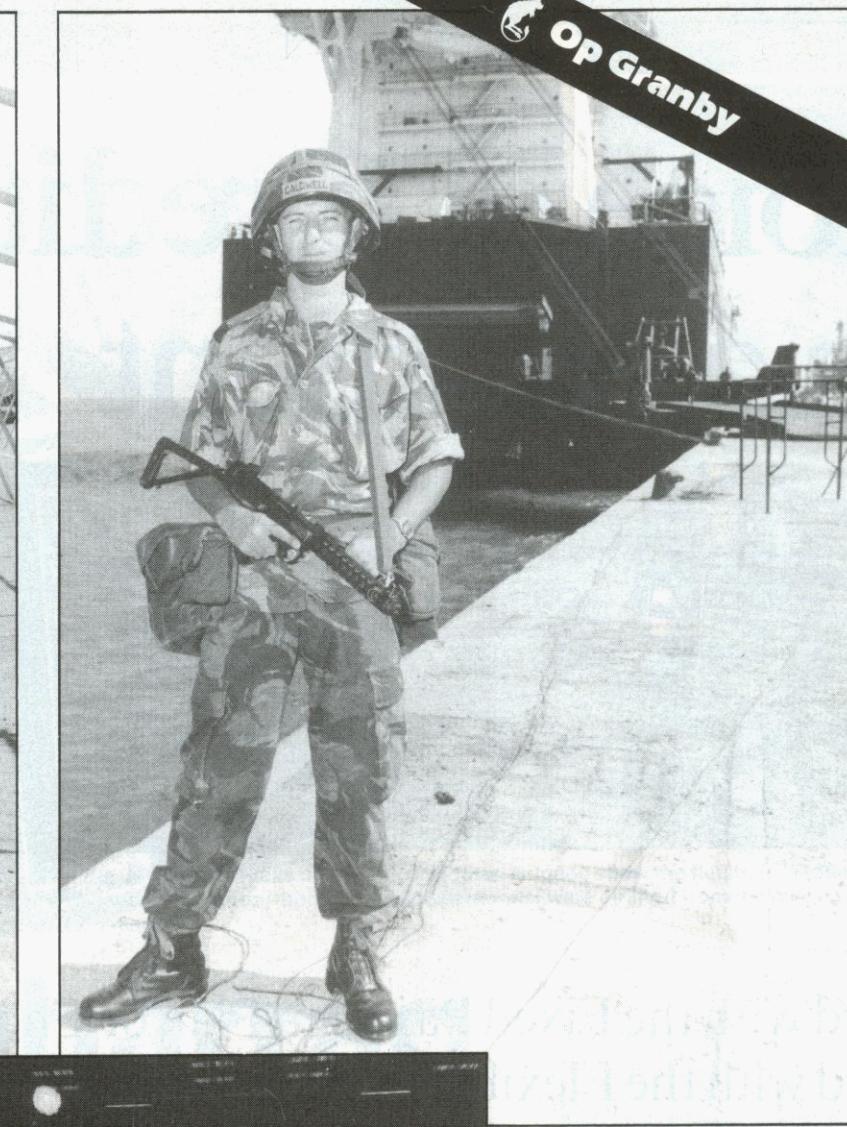
Capt Fiona Thompson, QARANC nurse tutor, has been emphasising details of its strict code of conduct, especially concerning dress and behaviour.

During lectures at the Cambridge Military Hospital,

Aldershot, she warned that anybody who steps out of line will be warned by a tap from a cane carried by religious guards. Other helpful advice for off-camps life included:

● **Do not** stare at, speak to, or pay undue attention to veiled women or to people who are praying.

● **Do not** enter mosques or the



holy cities of Mecca and Medina unless you are a Moslem.

● **Do not** attempt to transport or post prohibited items into Saudi Arabia; caution anyone who might post such items to you.

● **Do not** stay on the streets during prayer times, especially near Great Mosque and Fort areas.

● **Do not** eat, drink, chew gum, or smoke in the presence of Moslems during the month of Ramadan during daylight hours.

● **Do not** urge an Arab to uncover his head, indoors or outdoors.

● **Do not** display affection (holding hands, kissing) with members of the opposite sex.

● **Do not** sit and cross your

Buncrana road VCP explosion kills five

FIVE soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, died instantly and others were seriously injured when a terrorist proxy bomb in a car driven by a man whose family had been taken hostage exploded at a permanent vehicle checkpoint on the Buncrana Road on the outskirts of Londonderry.

A Royal Irish Ranger died in a similar incident at a PVCP on the main Belfast-Dublin road south of Newry.

The driver of the car also perished in the first incident, though in the second the man escaped in time to shout a warning.

Killed at Londonderry were LCpl Stephen Burrows, 30, from Blackpool, married with a three-year-old son; Kingsmen Stephen Roy Beacham, 20, from Warrington; Paul Desmond Worrall, 23, Runcorn; Vincent John Paul Scott, 21, from Walton, Liverpool; and David Andrew Sweeney, 19, Widnes.

Rgr Cyril John Smith, 21, from Carrickfergus, who died in the second incident, was the first member of his regiment to be killed on duty in Northern Ireland.

The Kings arrived at Ballykelly near Londonderry in February for a two-year tour.

Crimeline

A FREEPHONE Crimeline has been introduced by British Service police in Germany. Callers can contact the Criminal Records and Intelligence Office at Moenchengladbach 24 hours a day using the Bundespost system and calling Freephone 0130-842222.

painful and the shame would create an enemy.

● **Do not** openly admire an Arab's possession; he may feel compelled to observe an ancient custom and offer it to you as a gift.

● **Do not** offer pork products to an Arab. Pork products are prohibited by Islamic law.

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Desert Rats from several of the units which make up the 7th Armoured Brigade show the flag before boarding an aircraft at Hamburg for their flight to Saudi Arabia. In a two-week operation, more than 8,000 personnel were airlifted from the civil airport at Hamburg by VC10 and Tristar aircraft of RAF Support Command

Muharraq wards in use again

A FULLY-EQUIPPED field hospital is now up and running in Bahrain in former Service hospital buildings at Muharraq.

Extensive renovation work to buildings last used in 1971 has

created a 100-bed facility with three wards, X-ray department, path lab, casualty unit and operating theatre.

The 22 Field Hospital RAMC will serve a dual role - a conventional facility inside the old RAF hospital, and a tented version with full NBC protection alongside it.

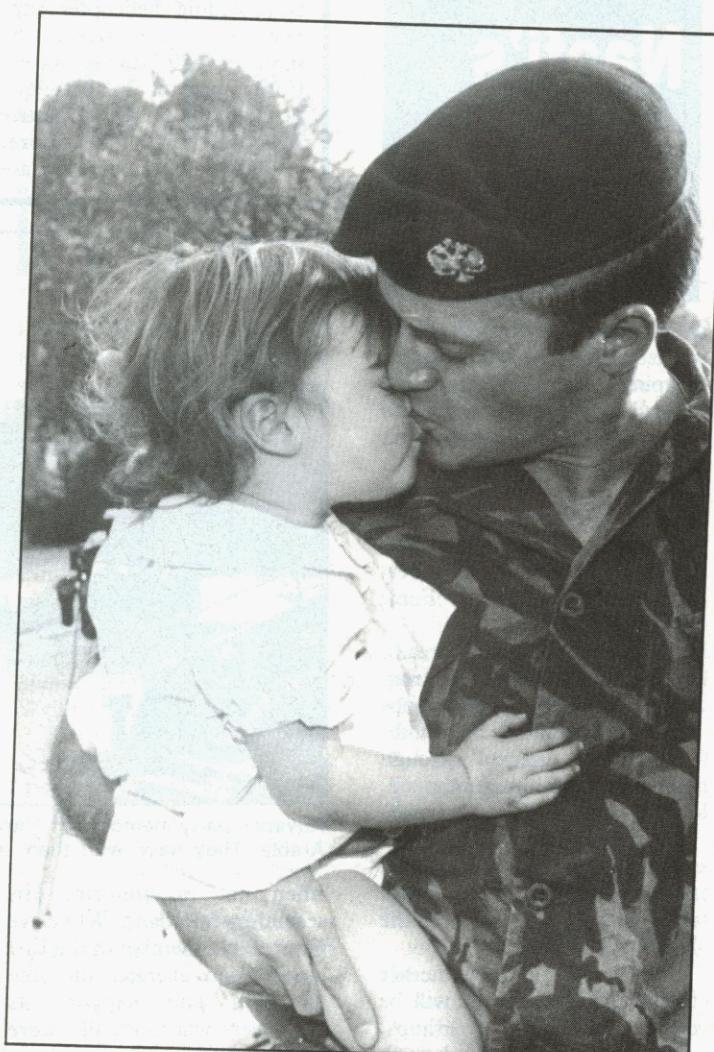
A total of 187 staff are in Bahrain as part of the RAF detachment to run the hospital, under the command of Lt Col Chris Town RAMC.

The staff includes ten doctors and a further 60 nursing and ancillary workers. Weeks of activity have transformed the derelict buildings into a hospital once again. New drains, power and water supplies have had to be added; a toilet block has been built and air-conditioning installed.

● Turn to next page



Sgt John Bush of 34 Sqn RAF Regt is treated by Lt Helen Owen and Pte Matthew Stevens of 22 Fd Hosp



Cpl Shaun Bannister of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards kisses his 20-month-old daughter Jennifer before leaving Wolfenbüttel, Germany to join British Forces in the Gulf. Shaun's wife Kathryn was also there to see him off. The QDG is providing a reconnaissance squadron equipped with Scimitar and Spartan to 7 Armd Bde.

Muharraq

● From Page 7

combat the scorching temperatures.

Ironically, the hospital would have been in use within 24 hours if the whole complex had been set up under canvas. But Lt Col Town has no doubts that the decision to bring the Muharraq site back to life was the correct one.

"We can, in theory, cope with anything of a surgical nature here," he said. "I have a lack of specialists, but I do have a number of surgeons who can meet the initial surgical requirements of any type of injury, certainly in terms of life-saving surgery."

The hospital was soon accepting its first in-patients, who were treated for complaints far removed from those the staff would expect to encounter in a conflict.

These included a severe case of tonsillitis and a broken arm which required treatment back in the UK.

Naafi's open for business

A nine-man uniformed Naafi team is now in Saudi Arabia keeping soldiers of 7 Armoured Brigade supplied with everyday essentials – as well as Christmas cards.

The nine, who normally work as civilians in Naafi clubs and shops, all volunteered to step into uniform as members of the Expeditionary Force Institutes (EFI).

They flew to the Gulf area to set up a bulk issue store from which they will supply troops with everything from toothpaste and soap, through shaving cream and suntan oil, to sweets, Christmas cards, paperbacks, and stationery.

Troops are even able to send flowers to loved ones through the Interflora service which the Naafi lads offer.

Demand will dictate whether further EFI volunteers will be dispatched to run shops, mobiles, and a second bulk issue store for which contingency plans have been laid.

Maj Kevin Royle, in charge of the Naafi EFI team, is a district manager in Worcester



Officers and men of 659 Sqn, AAC, pause for a team photograph while on exercise at Hohne

LYNX ON HOLD

LYNX Mark 7s in desert livery have become a familiar sight over German ranges.

Though the United States is providing helicopter support for 7 Armd Bde at the moment, 659 Sqn, Army Air Corps, part of 4 Regt AAC at Detmold, is at short notice to move, writes Bill Moore.

Pilots and ground crews are

constantly maintaining their skills on tank-busting exercises using TOW missiles.

"Morale is sky-high," said the OC, Maj Richard Folkes.

Apart from packing a powerful punch when used for ground action, Lynx would be used for reconnaissance, communications and casualty evacuation (a role

which saved many lives in the Falklands conflict).

The squadron traces its origins back to 1941 (which means it will celebrate its 50th birthday next year).

It was one of the first "Air OP" units to land in Normandy in 1944 flying Austers – a far cry from its present equipment.



The squadron's aircraft are painted in desert colours and they are ready to go at short notice

The Lynx AH Mk 7 is fitted with infra red counter measures (see the box-like structure behind the engine).



Advance party members of 7 Armd Bde board an aircraft at RAF Guttersloh for the long haul to Saudi Arabia. They have with them a new Desert Rats' pennant

when not in uniform. His second-in-command, WO Dave Forster, is a member of the EFI cadre. Naafi operates full-time to train and support its volunteers who normally serve troops on exercise.

WO Forster said: "We've got sufficient supplies for a month at least. We've taken account of local restrictions on what we can take, such as alcohol and

pork, but that's been no problem."

Members of the team left with personal kit weighing 80 lb. containing lightweight combat clothing, water bottles, emergency rations, S10 respirators, and nuclear and biological-chemical suits.

Each EFI volunteer is fully trained to react in any biological or chemical attack.

Some already have experience in the area having been among teams serving troops on exercises in the Middle East earlier this year.

Naafi's managing director, Brig James Rucker, bade Maj Royle and his team farewell at EFI headquarters.

He told them they were about to participate in "a piece of history".



The 27 men who form the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards have been preparing for a different type of engagement in the Gulf. As they do when the regiment goes on exercise they have been split up among the Challenger crews. Bass drummer Cpl Stewart Orr is pictured cleaning the general purpose machine gun mounted on the turret



Picture: Mike Weston

On the right track? Men of 40 Fd Regt RA changed the tracks on all their vehicles before setting out for the Gulf. Here Gnr David Scott from Edinburgh (the 40th are The Lowland Gunners) puts a brave face on a tyresome job

40 Fd 'back' in the East

FOR THE batteries of 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, sweltering Gulf temperatures are an echo of their tropical past, writes Bill Moore.

All four began their existence in India in the 18th Century.

The senior of them, 10 (Assaye) Air Defence Battery, won its honour title in 1803 when a promising officer called Wellesley, then a colonel, defeated the Mahratta army.

He became the Duke of Wellington.

The unit in those days was the 3rd Company Bombay Artillery (formed 1755) and for its contribution to the victory 10 Battery is still entitled to wear a white elephant crest on its appointments.

As an anti-tank battery it took part in operations in the Middle East – including Syria and Italy in the Second World War.

A Bengal tiger is the insignia of 38 (Seringapatam) Field Battery which was raised as the 4th Company, Bombay Artillery, in 1768.

It represents the pets kept by

the Sultan of Mysore, Tippoo Sahib, whose fortress of Seringapatam was stormed through a breach the gunners helped to open.

The battery continued to serve in hot climates throughout the 19th Century, including Abyssinia and Burma.

As the 90th Heavy Battery, it found another hot-spot in Gallipoli during the First World War and in the Second served in the Middle East and Italy before joining 21st Army Group in Europe in 1945.

"The Jumbos", as 137 (Java) Field Battery is known, began life as No 6 Company, Bengal Artillery, in 1778.

Much of its early service was spent sailing around various islands in the Far East subduing enemy fortresses – hence Java in the title.

In one action it maintained a bombardment for five days at 800 yards.

After years in India and a spell as a coastal battery during the First World War the Jumbos served in Europe in the

● Turn to Page 11

ARMOURED INFANTRY!

FRONT-LINE soldiers of 7th Armoured Brigade serving in the Gulf will be the first British troops for centuries to fight a war protected by body armour if hostilities break out, writes Laurie Manton.

First supplies of the new Combat Body Armour (CBA) accepted into service earlier this year have been issued to the brigade, which has also been kitted out with a new desert uniform.

CBA is a lightweight (2.5 kg) flexible fragmentation protective vest that differs from the Northern Ireland "flak jacket" in that it is not a bullet stopper. Made from 100 per cent cotton, the desert combat suit includes a new desert DPM Combat Hat similar in design to the old jungle warfare floppy hat.

Most casualties in conventional warfare are caused by

shrapnel, explained an MoD spokesman who told SOLDIER that, worn in conjunction with the Mk VI helmet, CBA was expected to reduce casualties by up to 60 per cent.

More than 13,000 of the protective vests have been produced and the first batch of 5,000 was rushed to the Gulf to be issued to troops moving up the line from the Force Maintenance Area.

Made from 100 per cent cotton, the desert combat suit includes a new desert DPM Combat Hat similar in design to the old jungle warfare floppy hat.

Its wide brim will provide

extra protection to the head from the sun.

Eye protection includes goggles - similar to those used by motor cyclists to counter the effects of wind, sun and sand - and sunglasses.

There are no plans to issue a lightweight boot. The Boot Combat High Mk 1 (Improved) worn by the troops was trialled in extreme heat climates before being accepted into service. Desert chukka boots are being provided for off-duty wear.

There has also been a change of underwear!

Troops have been issued with special operational undergarments which consist of

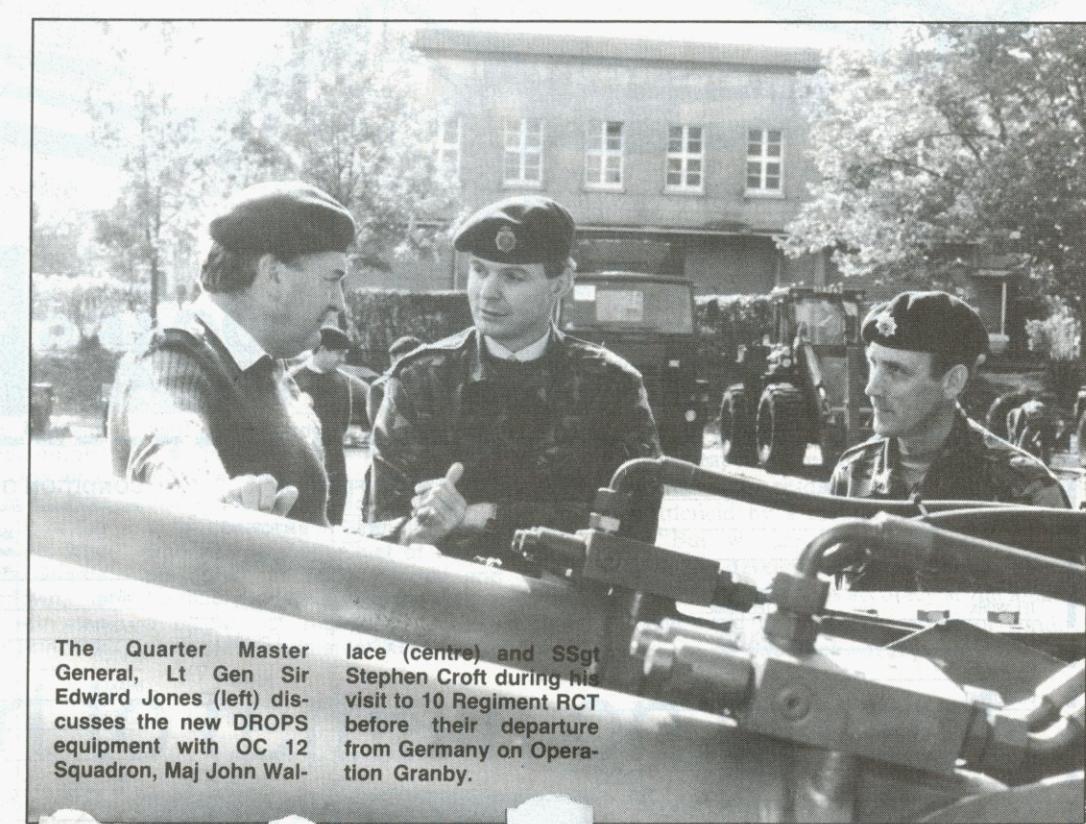
crew-necked, short-sleeved NBC T-shirts and NBC underpants that have elasticated waist and legs and a Y-front.

Sweat rags used to protect mouth, nose and ears from wind-borne sand are being used, together with a headnet designed to provide camouflage and protect the wearer against sand and insects.

Infantry deployed in Saudi Arabia have been issued with new 90 Pattern infantry webbing painted sand colour, and personal issue of the 58 Pattern water bottle has been increased to three for each soldier to combat dehydration.



These four members of 288 Movement Control Squadron RCT (V) were due to attend an annual camp in Germany but instead found themselves at Bremerhaven involved in the biggest movement of British armour since the Second World War. From left are Sgt John Hadley from Whiston, Liverpool; LCpl Pete Matthews from Wigan; LCpl Ian Hamilton from Croxteth, Liverpool; and Capt Bill Foulkes from Stockport



The Quarter Master General, Lt Gen Sir Edward Jones (left) discusses the new DROPS equipment with OC 12 Squadron, Maj John Wal-

lace (centre) and SSgt Stephen Croft during his visit to 10 Regiment RCT before their departure from Germany on Operation Granby.



Above - Gun detachments of 40 Field Regiment RA line up with their M-109s for a final exercise before the 155mm monsters were painted and shipped to the Gulf

Left - Men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment in training in Germany before their departure to Saudi Arabia. Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence Sir Michael Quinlan visited the Staffords at Fallingbostel during their final preparations

Right - SSgt Eugene Grant of the 543rd Area Support Group had nothing but praise for the ACC cooks of The Royal Scots during the loading operation at Bremerhaven. The Jocks were given every facility at Carl Schurz Barracks, the Group's Bremerhaven base



40 Fd back

From Page 9

Second then went into "suspended animation" until re-formed in 1958.

A campaign in China in the 1840s earned 129 (Dragon) Field Battery its honour title.

Its forerunners were batteries raised for the Madras Army - the 51st (Dragon) and 54th.

In the Second World War the battery fought in Burma in support of the Chindit operations in 1944.



Left - The new desert combat suit in sand, beige, and green



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S/PX/2/46

Warminster sharpshooters praise new L96 sniper rifle

EVEN in its first trials in 1980 the L96, the Army's latest sniper rifle now on general issue, exceeded the brief set for manufacturers in terms of field performance, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

The original General Staff Requirement was for a headshot at 200 metres, a first-round kill at 600 metres and accurate harassing fire out to 1,000 metres.

Qualified snipers from the Infantry Trials Development Unit at Warminster were praising it early on for more than meeting Ministry of Defence parameters.

Originally, ITDU was asked to trial all available British-made, quality target rifles, and used sniper teams from The Queen's Own Highlanders, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, Royal Marine Commandos and the Special Air Service Regiment.

Tests on handling, accuracy and tactical employment reduced the five contenders to the Parker Hale M85 and the Accuracy International PMI.

Maj Tony Harverson (Small Arms School Corps), 2iC Infantry Sales Team, was responsible for conducting the trials. He

said: "They both required further modifications to militarise them because they were, after all, off-the-shelf rifles. They needed to be rugged enough to use in a battlefield environment.

"Eventually, there was very little to choose because both were quite superb. But the advantages of the Accuracy International PMI were its accuracy; it was readily maintainable and less likely to lose its accuracy because of climatic changes."

The new weapon weighs six kilos. The 12-round magazine for infantry use employs 7.62mm ammunition. It replaces the 7.62mm L42A1 sniper rifle (a conversion of the .303 inch Rifle Number 4 Mark 1(T) to the 7.62mm calibre).

The Schmidt and Bender $\times 6$ scope on the weapon is adjustable – as is the butt to suit a long-armed person with different eye relief. The rifle's furniture is also designed for right- or left-handed users.

It has an aluminium alloy chassis stretching from the bi-pod fixture at the front to the butt casing at the rear. The action is bolted and bonded to the chassis to produce a rigid bedding arrangement. Different calibre barrels can be fitted.

The problem with the L42 was not its accuracy, but its maintenance, which needed special skills. With the L96, field stripping is basic without special tools.

Maj Harverson added: "Despite the school of thought which prefers other, heavier calibre rifles such as the .5 inch, this new weapon represents the optimum calibre which can be readily carried and used in the battlefield by a mobile sniper."

"But we are looking forward to the possible development of a heavier-grained bullet to improve its accuracy at the longest ranges and to defeat the effect of wind."

● See back cover picture



(left), Commander British Forces.

● The Duchess of Kent talked to many soldiers and their families when she visited the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards at their barracks in Detmold. The Duchess, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, presented 13 Long Service and Good Conduct Medals during her visit, watched a display of regimental activities and visited the regimental Kindergarten.

During a week-long visit to the Falkland Islands, the Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, went on patrol with the regiment's Zulu Company, now on a tour of duty in the South Atlantic Garrison. The Duke, who also laid a wreath at the Scots Guards memorial on Mount Tumbledown, is pictured at RAF Mount Pleasant with men of Z Coy and Maj Gen Malcolm Hunt RM

Stalwart to remain on guard

In brief

This involved 4 Troop of 64 Amphibious Engineer Squadron in a 50km convoy move, ferrying for 45 minutes, bridging for the duration of 150 tank and 400 wheeled vehicle crossings and then another 50km convoy. In all they did this three times – and still said they were looking forward to its introduction into service.

A TEAM from 35 Engineer Regiment, based at Hameln, came third in the US Army's annual medium girder bridge competition held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Eight teams competed under unusual climatic conditions for the

British – high temperatures, electrical storms and high humidity. The sappers, from 42 Field Squadron, did, however, outshoot the opposition on a modern electronic target range.

A TEN-STRONG team from 31 District Workshop, REME, from Catterick Garrison, beat 18 other teams (Regular and TA) in a two-day test of military and trade skills. Tasks included manufacturing and improvising spare parts under battlefield conditions and recovering an 11-ton Saracen armoured personnel carrier from a 60ft ravine.

Overall second, and top TA team, was 38 Signal Regiment LAD from Sheffield and third overall was 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment, Catterick.

TWO German towns have conferred honorary Freedoms on two Armoured Division Transport Regiments, Royal Corps of Transport. Duisburg honoured the 3rd and Bunde the 1st.

HIGHLIGHT of trials of the M3 amphibious bridging vehicle by 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, based at Hameln, was a simulated battlefield day.



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Watch your Ps and Qs in the Gulf

"Wee white once a day" may sound pretty basic advice, but for those en route to the Gulf it could save a lot of grief later on.

With dehydration a major problem, minimum initial daily liquid intake is about 26 pints. The requirement decreases as you become acclimatised.

But the message is that at least once a day your urine should run clear to ensure you are topping-up adequately.

This is just one of a series of fascinating facts covered in lectures dealing with aspects of self care, patient care, and customs and cultures in the Gulf. They have been given at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, whose staff are forming 33 Field Hospital in the Gulf.

The talks were being delivered by Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps nurse tutors, Captains Jan Westbury, Fiona Thompson and Lyn Morris, and Capt David Jenkins, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Their extensive research uncovered many useful tips. For instance, never use scented soap – it could set off the gas attack alarms. Do not use deodorant, because it is

DELAYED EXPOSURE

Commitments in the Gulf have led to changes in the arrangements for this year's Army Photographic Competition.

The judging, which was scheduled for October 31, will now take place on November 16 and the presentation lunch planned for November 29 in London has been rearranged for December 10 at the HQ UKLF Officers' Mess at Wiltton, near Salisbury.

Through SOLDIER, the organisers apologise for any inconvenience caused by the changes.

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

SOLDIER to Soldier



Giving an orange the needle . . . Pte Tracey Wright, of 33 Field Hospital, finds a thick-skinned "patient" as nurse tutor Capt Jan Westbury instructs in inoculation techniques during a Gulf preparation lecture at Cambridge Military Hospital. Looking on are LCpl Yvonne Beattie QARANC EN(G) and Cpl John McBain RAMC

important to sweat as much as possible.

An anti-dandruff shampoo is advised, along with cotton underwear and socks. Men and women should use hand cream to avoid cracked and painful skin. It is important to eat three meals a day, despite a marked decrease in appetite. Never forget to use Factor 20 sun cream and insect repellent.

Women will need to cover up when they go out in public.

Job search optimism

The new president of the Regular Forces Employment Association has warned that proposed defence manpower cuts of 60,000 will not make the association's job any easier over the next five years.

Admiral Sir Simon Cassells, speaking at the annual meeting, estimated it would mean dealing with at least an extra 2,000 ex-Regulars.

Last year more than 27,500 men and women left the

services and were eligible for the association's help. Of these 10,500, about 40 per cent, registered and just under half were found jobs.

But the admiral was optimistic about the future: "It is going to be a challenge, but we have done it before when there were defence cuts. I have every confidence we will be able to help them."

The association is considered as probably the most cost-efficient employment agency in the country – the overall cost of

a placing is only £314. RFEA's services are free to both employers and ex-Regulars, whose applications for assistance are not restricted just to their first civilian job.

The general manager, Maj Gen Derek Crabtree, reported that over-45s were now more in demand by firms who recognised that shortages of manpower were inevitable during the demographic trough.

He welcomed the establishment of the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation.



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Off on another patrol. Men from A Company board a Lynx helicopter inside Crossmaglen Barracks



Cheshires in South Armagh

THE beautiful area of South Armagh has for the past six months been "home" to soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment. When they began their roulement tour in May they half expected to be tripping over trouble.

It was the first time the battalion had returned to Northern Ireland since its two-year tour in the early 1980s when ten soldiers were killed in the Ballykelly pub bombing. As it turned out, it was only in the final few weeks in South Armagh that two Cheshires were injured when they came under machine gun fire.

A string of demanding operations were completed by the Cheshire occupants of Bessbrook Mill, a converted weaving mill, and its outstations. The apparent surface

calm was a measure of their success at keeping life running as normally as possible for the people of South Armagh.

Improvements in the area are small but noticeable. Two years ago most inhabitants of Crossmaglen would not have given a soldier the time of day; now the consensus is that much of the open hostility was given way to reluctant acceptance.

"Firm, fair and polite" are the watch words that now accompany every soldier on patrol.

A little courtesy and consideration at a vehicle check point (VCP) and out on patrol may not instantly solve the Province's problems but it gradually seems to be helping to build a better relationship between the uniformed guardians of law and order and the public whom



LCpl Nigel Peers on patrol above Forkhill Barracks

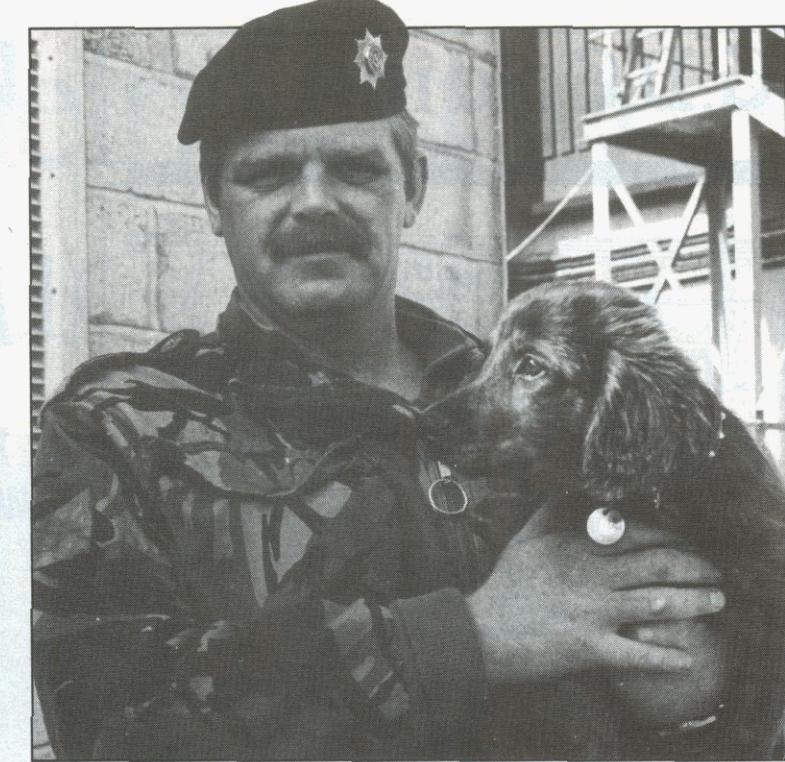
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Pte Lee Warrington (19), from Birkenhead, joined 1 Cheshire towards the end of their tour and is pictured here on guard duty during his first week in Northern Ireland

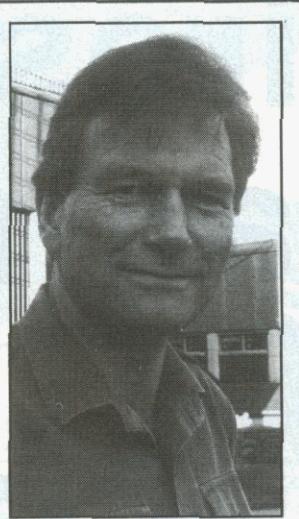


Pte Kevin Rushton, Cpl Michael Tweedale and Pte Robert Jackson (left to right) lived and worked in the cramped three-storey observation tower pictured behind them



Barney, a classic mongrel, was found as an abandoned, wet and ragged pup by soldiers on patrol in Newry. Sgt Les Heaps (above) and soldiers from A Company took him in and he is now a picture of canine health

Cheshires in South Armagh



Capt Hod Birkby is the fifth generation of Birkbys to serve with the Cheshires. His family history reads like a history of the regiment. Great-great-grandfather Hodgson Graves Birkby wore the Cheshire cap badge as far back as 1842.

His grandfather was killed at Ypres in 1918 and his father fought in the Second World War in Europe and North Africa.

Hod himself has served all over the world from Cyprus and Berlin to Bahrain and Hong Kong, and is due to leave the Army next year.

From Page 17
they serve.

Maj Martin Fuller, who commanded A Company in Crossmaglen, explained: "Ninety five per cent of the locals are not interested in terrorism and do not want to be involved. They are polite and might talk to you given the opportunity, when they feel they are not being observed and not threatened."

Twenty years of The Troubles have had their effect but the Army's polite approach is being noticed.

"There is no doubt that the very positive attitude taken by the Army is working and the barriers are coming down. The impression among local people is that the Security Forces are changing – but they have long memories," he said.

Commanding officer Lt Col Keith Skempton also stressed this point.

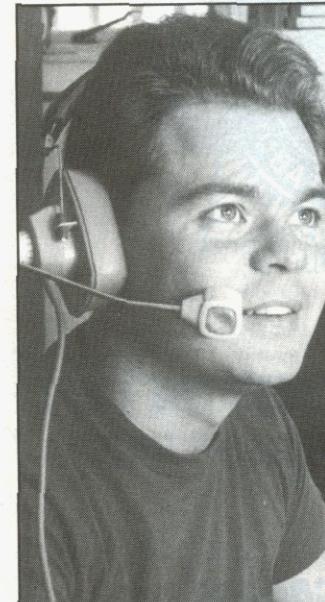
"When I was in Northern Ireland a couple of years ago there was no doubt that the majority of the community in South Armagh were very anti-Security Forces.

"Now I get the impression that because we have really worked hard on our attitude in the community, they do accept our presence a little more.

For an 18-year-old private, whose contemporaries back home may still be in the classroom or



Soldiers and RUC officers work together at a vehicle check point near Forkill. VCPs are very much part of the routine in the Province



Lt Andrew Wong (24) holds a Short Service Volunteer Commission and normally serves with The Royal Regiment of Wales. He was appointed Ops Officer with Support Company of the Cheshires based at Newtown Hamilton SF base where he quickly made a favourable impression.



A Lynx lands briefly on the helipad at Newtownhamilton and a patrol of the Cheshires sprints across the exposed space opposite the SF base. Helicopters give great flexibility to the commanders on the ground and keep the terrorists constantly guessing

stacking shelves in a supermarket, the responsibility of carrying a loaded weapon and having to make snap life-or-death decisions is daunting.

With 1 Cheshire's last tour of Northern Ireland ending in 1984, few of the younger soldiers had any previous experience of the Province, but Lt Col Skempton was impressed how quickly they adapted and matured.

"Operating in South Armagh

puts a lot of responsibility on a private soldier to ensure that he does his job properly," he said.

"The soldiers have met the challenge to operate successfully against the terrorist without alienating the community. It is not an easy task and the soldiers have really risen to it."

Many of them lived in cramped, basic conditions – often 12 men to a room in three-high stack bunkbeds. Their whole personal world has

to fit in an area little bigger than a shoe box.

Privacy was a luxury they left behind in England.

For the soldiers in the watchtowers and sangars, daily life was even more confined. Cpl Michael Tweedale and his three men lived in a three-storey armoured observation tower. Each level measures only about 8ft by 10ft and they shared three bunks between four because one person was

always on duty.

Their only source of relaxation was the television, their diet was down to their own culinary expertise and occasionally they managed to escape back to barracks for a shower.

"We have to get on. If we didn't, we would end up kicking each other!" Cpl Tweedale said.

As 1 Cheshire returned to its more permanent home in Chester, the battalion could

draw a great deal of satisfaction from a job well done.

Living in a constant state of alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the little luxuries of life that the rest of us take for granted assume a much greater importance.

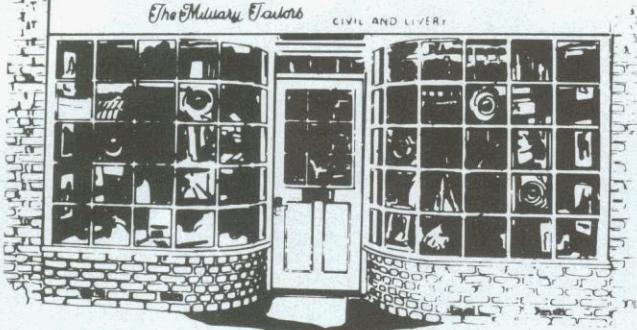
As one soldier put it, looking at his 100lb pack, webbing, helmet and rifle before going out on patrol: "I am just looking forward to walking down a street without all this."

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**Ena's
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When Ena Simmonite left her home in South Yorkshire to spend three months with her sister in West Germany, she never dreamed she would still be there a quarter of a century later. She started working for the 1st Armoured Division of the British Army as a typist in the REME headquarters and now, 25 years on, she has decided to retire to England. Before she left, Divisional Commander Gen Roger Wheeler presented her with his special commendation for "dedicated and exceptional" service.



Oh, brother!

The **Brannigan** brothers-in-arms have produced a hat trick for 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) based in Rugby. Maj **Pat Brannigan** (left), is squadron commander, brother **Michael** (centre) is a lance corporal radio relay operator, and younger brother, **Kevin**, aspires to be a TA officer.

Picture: Courtesy of Rugby Advertiser

PEOPLE



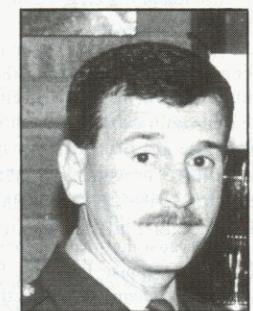
Lt Col **Derek McLean**, Commandant of the Signal Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster, presents Sgt **Madanbahadur Gurung**, 6 GR, who is instructing at the wing, with his City and Guilds Electronic Communications Operator's Certificate. He is the first Gurkha soldier in the infantry to receive the award.

When the Prime Minister's helicopter landed at the NCOs' Tactical Wing in Brecon so she could visit a nearby farm, it also gave her time to meet Army families. **Mrs Thatcher** is pictured here talking to Mrs **Anne Burke** and her daughter, **Charlotte**. Looking on are **Nicola Turner** and Mrs **Anne Bulmer**. Another visitor has been Brecon's Mayor who watched a platoon attack on Sennybridge training area.

UOTC medal men



**QLR
OCA
BEM!**



Sgt **Roy Derbyshire** (above) has received the BEM for his work with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment's Old Comrades Associations and Army Cadet Force in the Preston area.



Maj Gen **Peter Bonnet** (left), GOC Western District, presents Territorial Army Awards to six members of Birmingham University Officers' Training Corps during their annual camp at Otterburn. They were for various lengths of services, totalling 170 years! Recipients were WO2 **George Mead**, Maj **Douglas Dee**, Cpl **John Pearsall**, WO2 **Niall Murphy**, SSgt **Jean Midford** and Cpl **Norman Taylor**.

During a visit to the Cardiff Detachment of 203 Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers), Maj Gen **Peter Beale**, designate Director General of the Army's Medical Services (right) presented the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal to Sgt Maj **Peter Lord** (third left) and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to SSgt **David Robinson** (fourth left). Also pictured (from the left) are Col **Geoffrey Morris**, CO, Mrs **Rosalind Lord** and Mrs **Susan Robinson**.

Milestone

Fd Marshal **Lord Carver** was among guests at a lunch to mark the 130th anniversary of the Prince Consort Library, Aldershot, the personal gift of Prince Albert to the officers of the British Army. Pictured (from left) are Miss **Lorna Swift**, Services consultant librarian; **Paul Vickers**, librarian; Maj Gen **Dennis Ryan**, RAEC Colonel Commandant; Fd Marshal **Lord Carver**; and **Tim Ward**, assistant librarian.

Picture: Mike Perrin

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A proud record of service to others



When first posted into Northern Ireland all Royal Military Police NCOs have to complete six months of infantry-type patrols before they can transfer to a specialist branch. Pictured is Cpl Taff Edwards at work in Lisburn

THE reputation of the Royal Military Police in Northern Ireland as an independent, impartial police force, noted for its integrity, has grown apace with its long years of continuous service in the Province.

At the start of the Troubles in 1969, RMP strength consisted of two officers, 29 non-commissioned officers and a small Special Investigation Branch unit.

This grew steadily to a height in 1975 of two regiments with a total of 35 officers and more than 900 soldiers, including a WRAC Provost Company. Present strength is 16 officers and 438 NCOs.

The diversity of their tasks over the years reads like a shopping list of services

and support. In the early days military policemen were in great demand for a variety of tasks, some military and some to relieve a hard-pressed Royal Ulster Constabulary, and as such they were given the powers of constable.

Their tasks included escort duties, close protection, manning vehicle checkpoints, traffic control, vehicle and foot patrols, the collection and collation of evidence from soldiers making arrests, as well as

providing direct support to the RUC, "policing" the Army and manning their own

Tactical Areas of Responsibility.

Their responsibilities and expertise, like their reputation, continued to expand over the years, demanding flexibility, ingenuity and resourcefulness. As their tasks grew in frequency and importance, a variety of specialist units and teams were set up and run by the RMP.

These included the Courts and Witnesses Section, the Legal Process Office, arrest and find teams, RUC/RMP task forces, bomb disposal support, scenes of crime officers, complaints section, WRAC searchers, and terrorist recognition. Inevitably, the RMP were key figures in every arrest, find, shooting and

Words:
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures:
Mike Perring

● Turn to next page

Proud record

From Page 25

bombing incidence in the Province.

Today, although the RUC now has primacy and the RMP no longer has powers of constable, the Redcaps still have a major part to play.

They continue to carry out patrols, man checkpoints, act as an interface between the Army and the RUC, provide WRAC searchers, trace soldiers and ex-soldiers for court appearances, investigate claims and complaints, and provide close protection – while maintaining their traditional role as the Army's primary police force.

Over the years, units and individual soldiers have good reason to be grateful for the direct, specialist support the RMP has provided and this continues today, particularly in the provision of continuity NCOs, who help ease them through handovers and takeovers, and in getting to know their areas.

This has greatly enhanced the corps' relationships with other arms who have benefited from their police expertise.

The SIB provides not only essential investigational support for the Army, but also considerable assistance to both the RUC and the Home Office Police. It made an important contribution to the ten-month inquiry by the Stevens Team – an SIB officer became an integral member of the team and provided the main link between the military and the inquiry, helping to ensure its smooth running.

The rich tapestry of operations and the fact that the job is for "real" make postings popular, particularly specialist employment such as the close protection of VIPs.

But there is no automatic entry into favoured jobs. When first posted into the Province all RMP NCOs have to complete six months on normal operational duties before transferring to a speciality.

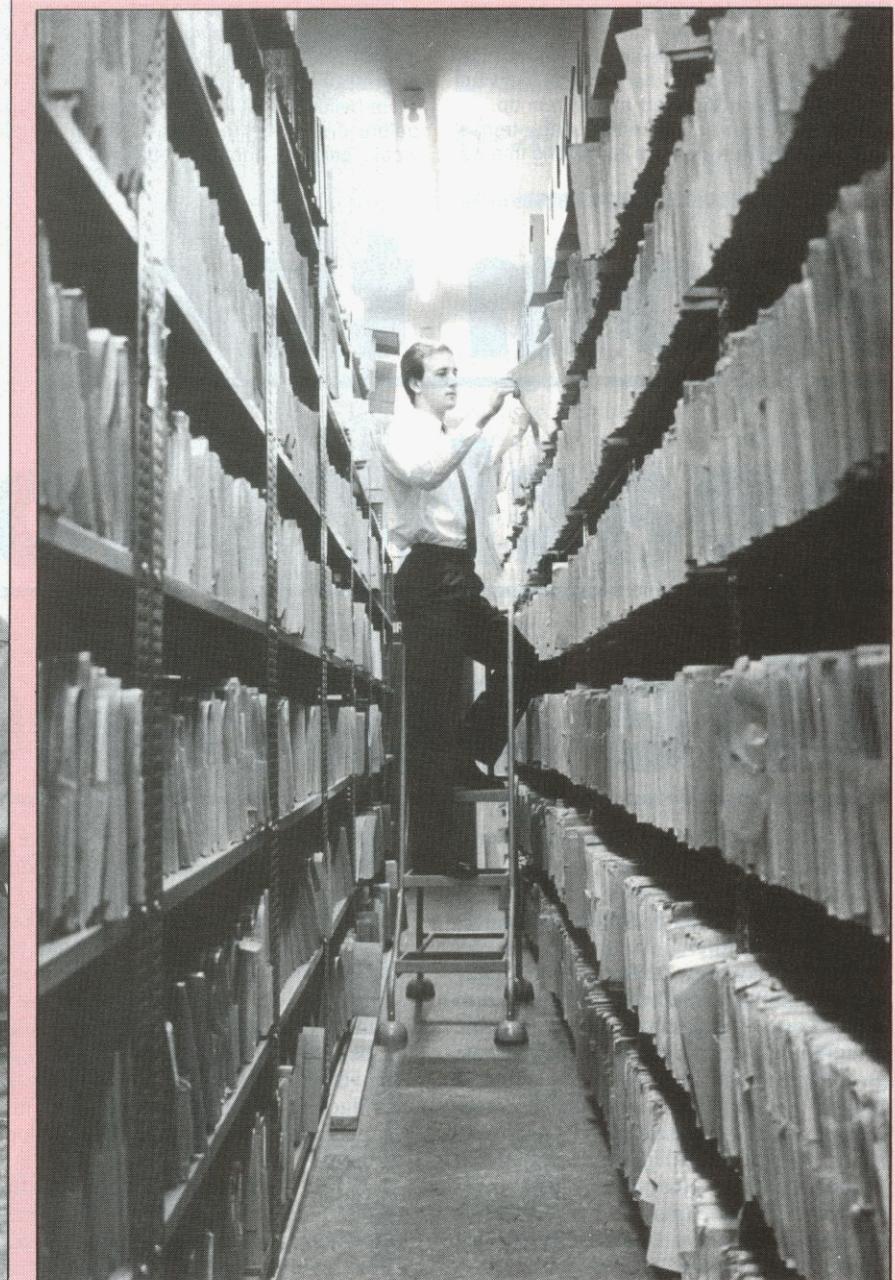
The Legal Affairs Department plays a vital part in linking to the Courts of Ireland and in dealing with claims and complaints.

As Maj John Baber, QC, explained, they are in a unique position to monitor the situation and recommend changes to operational procedures and training where there are legal considerations.

"We have to look closely at the actions of our soldiers on the streets in the face of complaints laid before the courts by



The quaint name for barracks accommodation dates back to pre-1977 days when Clooney Base, Londonderry, was used by the United States Navy. LCpl Cherie McLaughlin finds herself the centre of attention after her engagement had been announced to Cpl Colin Preece (right). Also pictured (from left) are Cpls John Cropper, Darren Ford, Neil Henderson and Mike Brette



Above – Information collated over the years fills this storeroom in the Criminal Records and Intelligence Office. Delving into the paperwork is Cpl Simon Scott. Left – Scenes of crime team SSgt Ian Brewster (with video camera) and SSgt Mai Downie

civilians, and are therefore able to identify where change is needed."

The Legal Affairs Department also assists soldiers and ex-soldiers during court appearances and can give valuable advice to units.

"Because all civil litigation claims come to this department for investigation, we are able to advise units on the type of problems their patrols are likely to come up against and provide solutions.

The Legal Process Office handled about 400 claims during the same period.

Clearly the RMP continues to live up to its motto, "Exemplo Duceamus" – By example we lead.

details of law which we ask them to explain to soldiers to avoid misunderstandings at a future date."

The sections that come under his wing are kept very busy – last year the Courts and Witnesses Section traced and returned to the Courts of Ireland more than 2,000 witnesses from 15 countries.

He said: "Throughout the current troubles in Northern Ireland the RMP has had a major part to play in helping to defeat terrorism by assisting our colleagues in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and by supporting the Army in the Province.

"From small beginnings, we rose rapidly to a point where some two thirds of our corps were here and we had powers of constable.

"Now the RUC rightly has primacy and our numbers have reduced accordingly, but we continue to assist the forces of law and order and to support the units and soldiers on the ground in their difficult 'policing' role in the Province.

"During this period the corps has proved to be a well trained, highly flexible multi-role police force. Its integrity, impartiality and professionalism has not only been acknowledged within the Army and by the civil police, including the recent Stevens Inquiry team, but more importantly by the general public.

"We have had to take on many roles and tasks in Northern Ireland over the years and our skills, expertise, relationships with other arms and Services and reputation have been enhanced as a result," said Lt Col Field.

"I take this opportunity to salute the high-calibre men and women of the corps, the WRAC provost and the WRAC searchers who have served here, both past and present."

RMP SALUTE

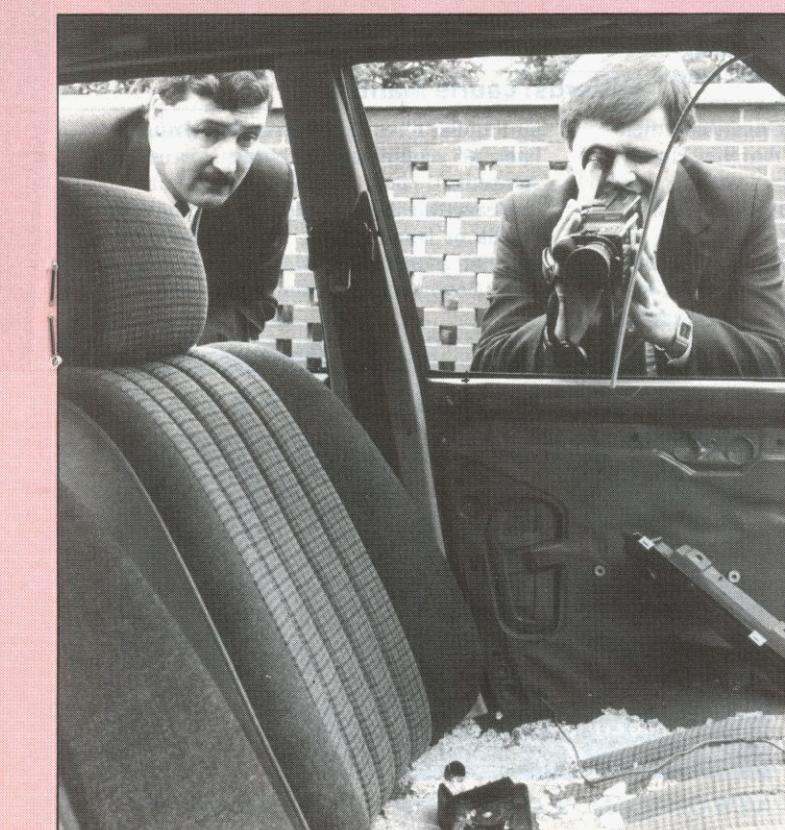
A GROWING appreciation of the Royal Military Police in Northern Ireland over the years has pleased a succession of Provost Marshals in the Province, including the present incumbent, Lt Col Robin Field.

He said: "The Royal Military Police in Northern Ireland has had a major part to play in helping to defeat terrorism by assisting our colleagues in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and by supporting the Army in the Province.

"Now the RUC rightly has primacy and our numbers have reduced accordingly, but we continue to assist the forces of law and order and to support the units and soldiers on the ground in their

Left – Cpl Steve Hancock and a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on duty at a vehicle checkpoint. The RMP acts as an interface between Army and RUC

Right – Sgt Taff Wellfoot, of the Special Investigation Branch, analyses a urine sample in a drugs test



Secretary of State for Defence when troops were deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland in 1969, Denis Healey was in hospital when the Cabinet took the decision, but had been very much involved in the run up.

"I went over and visited the troops immediately afterwards. It's interesting that we

put them in to protect the Catholics from the Protestants. So I was not only being cheered by the Catholics in Belfast, but my escort turned out to be the local head of the Provos."

He believes that if the Army was taken out before order was restored, Northern Ireland would become another Lebanon.



Professional army most needed now

Denis Healey believes the risk of an attack on Western Europe by the Soviet Union is over. The problem now is to police the frontiers inside Europe in case some of the new democracies swept away by nationalism start fighting one another over frontier issues.

"I think what we have to work towards is a new security system which includes the Soviet Union and East European countries as well as America and the West.

"In my view, peacekeeping needs much more professional forces than any sort of war.

"I don't think any conscripted force could have dealt with the problems we faced with Northern Ireland in the way our professional Army has dealt with them."

From the beaches to the benches

POLITICIAN, photographer and lover of poetry, the Right Honourable Denis Winston Healey MP has something in common with many of his generation. He was once a soldier.

On the day war broke out, he made strenuous efforts to join up and enlisted in the Royal Artillery, only to be disappointed when he and fellow students at Oxford were told to finish their degree courses before donning uniform.

After a year of frustration (and winning a first class degree), Healey turned up for training at the Royal Artillery field training unit at Uniacke Barracks near Harrogate (now the home of the Royal Signals Apprentice College).

He enjoyed basic training.

"Although the drill seems senseless at the time, it teaches you to do some of the basic things you have to do without thinking about it. In a way, that is true of all Army training – it doesn't tell you how to react in situations, but it cuts out thinking about the irrelevant."

He regrets being unable to complete basic training because a rupture led to hospitalisation. He was discharged straight to the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich

from where he was sent to replace a drunken bombardier at Swindon railway station.

Commissioned on to the General List – "Cross and Blackwell's Hussars, we called it" – he transferred to the Royal Engineers. "I switched from being a gunner to a sapper, albeit a very phoney type of sapper because people in movement control do not blow up bridges or plant mines, they are just concerned with moving troops around."

Bored with life as a railway traffic officer, he volunteered for Combined Operations as a military landing officer. For his training he was sent as an observer on a ship landing American troops in North Africa. He was recalled to England for a proposed landing in Spanish Morocco, subsequently cancelled when Spain remained neutral.

Joining initially the First Army and then Montgomery's Eighth Army, Healey found himself heavily involved in amphibious operations at Sicily, Calabria and finally Anzio.

For the Calabria landings, he was attached to 231 Infantry Brigade, an



British landing in Sicily in 1943

Words: Laurie Manton

all-Regular force led by Brig Roy Urquhart, later to command airborne forces at Arnhem.

Heavy weather forced the brigade's flotilla of landing craft to put in for the night on a beach near Messina. Some craft were lost and Healey supervised the

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Denis Healey

The **SOLDIER**
Interview

even captured some German officers in their pyjamas, but Churchill had taken away about half of the troops intended for the Anzio landing for a landing in Southern France.

"The result was we never had enough troops to hold both the beach head and the high ground inland which overlooked the beach. This resulted in troops on the beach receiving a pasting. It was like the trench warfare of the First World War.

"Although it was a tactical failure – because we didn't have enough troops to capture Rome which was the original intention – it was a strategic success because the Germans diverted a lot of divisions from the Central Front in Northern Europe to keep us in. So it performed a very useful function as things worked out, but it was very unpleasant for the men on the beach."

After three days, he returned to Naples and was dispatched to serve with the Poles when they attacked and captured Ancona. Healey's next job was to plan a landing in Yugoslavia – which had to be cancelled when Tito's partisans captured the area before the operation began.

He returned to England on leave to stand as Labour candidate in a safe Tory seat during the 1945 General Election. He lost and returned to Italy where Brig David Hunt (a future Brain of Britain) asked if he would assist in writing a history of the campaign in Italy.

It meant serving on, with the added attraction that the co-authors would live in an Austrian castle and have the opportunity to shoot chamois in their spare time. But Healey wanted to get home to his girlfriend and family so returned to England to become international secretary

of the Labour Party and, in his own words, started his "long, slow decline into politics".

Maj Denis Healey received a mention-in-despatches for the Calabria landing and was awarded the MBE in 1945 for his work during the Anzio landing.

His best remembered experience came at the time of Germany's surrender when he reconnoitred forward areas as the British moved into Austria.

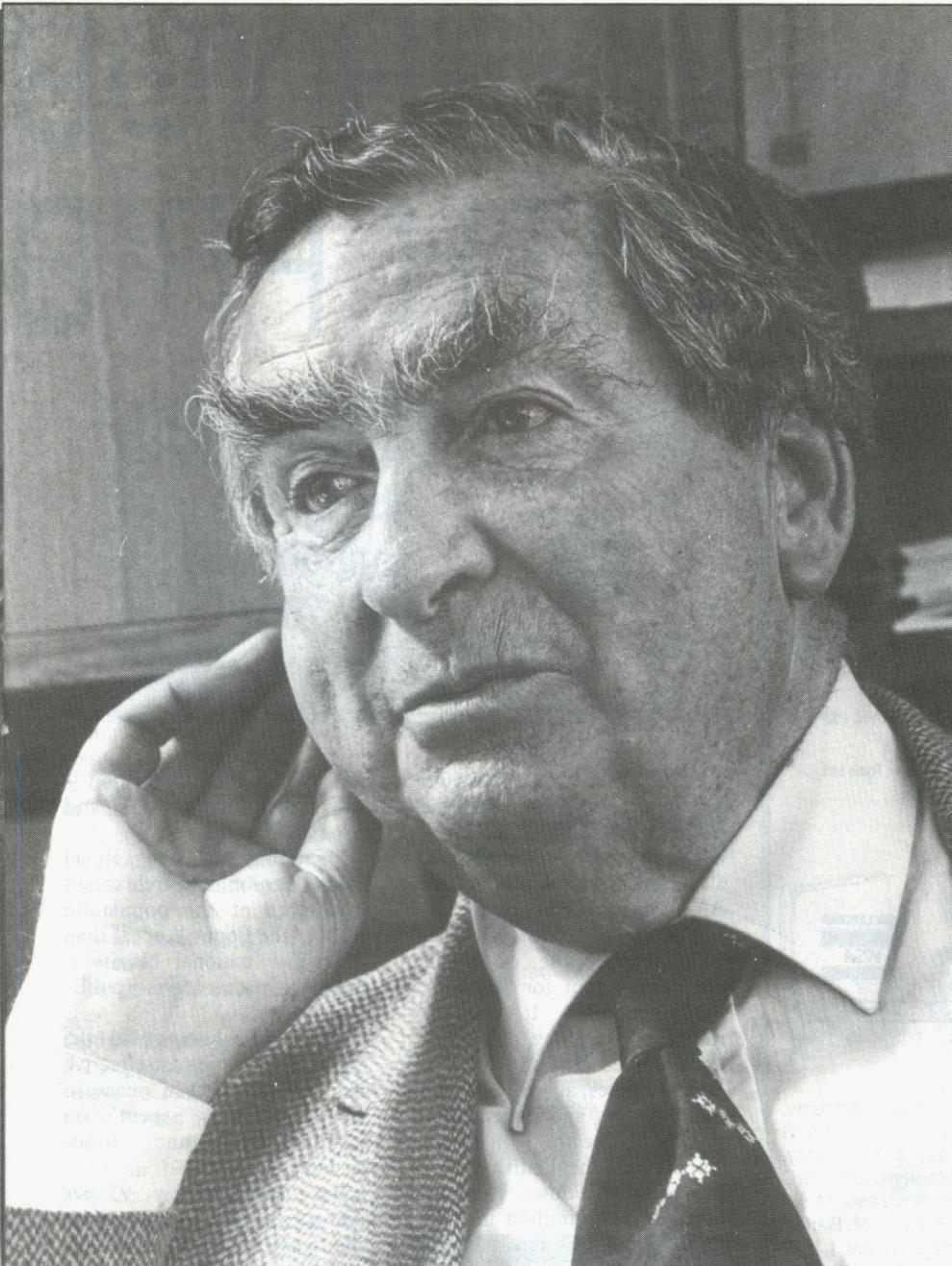
"I had a fascinating journey into Southern Austria. After fighting the Germans for five years, it was most extraordinary to find myself driving through long columns of German troops who were just walking home."

"Thirty years later, I wrote an account of the landing for a Sunday newspaper and Gen Urquhart, then retired, wrote to congratulate me saying 'Yes, everything was a balls-up!'"

He considers the Anzio landing a strategic success but blames Churchill for its tactical failure.

"Salerno was a disaster because the Germans knew we were coming and exactly where, so the troops involved took a terrible pasting."

"The great thing about real wars as distinct from training exercises is that



Denis Healey, who was a beach landing officer at Calabria and Anzio

Picture: Terry Champion

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"Salerno was a disaster because the Germans knew we were coming and exactly where, so the troops involved took a terrible pasting."

"The great thing about real wars as distinct from training exercises is that

at Anzio we had total surprise. We

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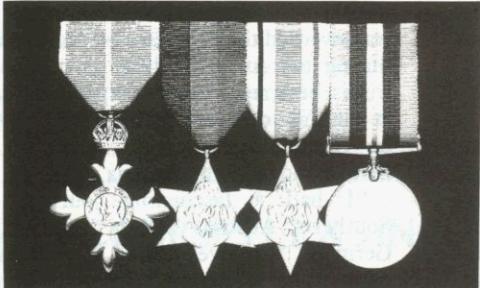
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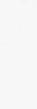
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WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE



**Royal British Legion
announces
the 70th
Poppy Appeal**

THIS YEAR is the 50th anniversary of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, and these milestones serve to remind us all of the debt we owe to our Armed Forces.

The Royal British Legion has been helping the ex-Service community, not for 50 years, but since 1921. It seeks to relieve need among those who have served in any of the British Forces, at any time, and their widows and dependants.

This will be the 70th Poppy Appeal and the British public has never let it down. A record of almost £12 million in 1989 indicates there is absolutely no sign that the public will fail to support it fully in 1990.

It is a British institution – universally recognised and respected.

According to the Royal British Legion, research shows that more of the population gives to the Poppy Appeal than any other national charity – there is tremendous public support.

The public knows that the Poppy Appeal is a cost-effective charity – only seven pence in the pound is spent on administration and fundraising.

Put the other way, 93 per cent goes to benevolent services like residential and convalescent homes, sheltered employment, advice on pensions and a

whole range of schemes designed to meet the needs of the ex-Service community.

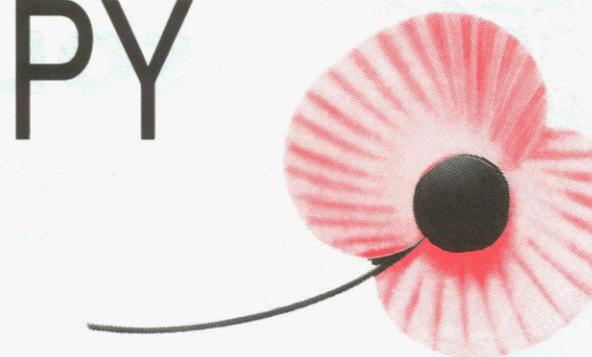
That need is increasing as the ex-Service population gets older. The Poppy Appeal must raise more money if services are to be sustained and improved.

A much-needed seventh residential home alone will cost £6 million. Currently the Legion helps around 100,000 people each year and it is estimated that no fewer than about 18 million – one in three of the population – are eligible in case of need.

This a year when freedom is the thought uppermost in many minds throughout the world. In this country we have it in a measure which is still the envy of many.

However, it was preserved at great sacrifice, and the Royal British Legion seeks through the Poppy Appeal to help those whose personal sacrifice has helped – and is still helping – to protect our freedom.

So, in 1990, as we read of dramatic events in other parts of the world, give thanks for your freedom. Perhaps you might consider giving more for your poppy.



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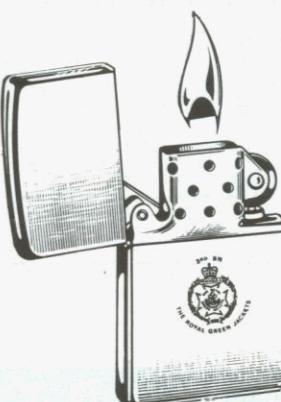


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and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

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It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Homes and, for the old, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

"They've given more than they could – please give as much as you can."

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.



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Discounted housing – a few facts from MoD

The whys and the why nots

I HAVE put a number of queries raised about the Joint Service Discounted Scheme to Chris Furlong at Defence Lands. This is the result.

Q. Why aren't all surplus MQs put through the Joint Services Discounted Scheme?

A. "Our firm policy is to dispose of surplus married quarters through the scheme.

"Regrettably not all surplus MQs are suitable and inevitably there must be exceptions to this policy including flats and maisonettes in England and Wales.

"This is because it is the Department's policy to divest itself of its interest when surplus property is sold.

"If the law is changed to enable us to sell the 'freehold' of individual flats and maisonettes to individual purchasers we will consider putting such property through the scheme.

"We do, in fact, already offer flats and maisonettes through the scheme in Scotland because the leasehold concept does not exist north of the border.

"The second exception is quarters which have been built to a design designated as defective in law or those with serious structural defects requiring expensive remedial work.

"The third exception is quarters which are not suitable for individual sale, for example, those with a common roof space, interconnecting doors or so-called 'flying bedrooms'.

"MQs in Northern Ireland classed as unsuitable for security reasons are also excluded.

"The final exception is where MQ sites comprise an integral part of a much larger site being sold on the

open market or where the infrastructure is considerably below the standards required for adoption by the various statutory undertakers (Highway and Local Authorities, Electricity and Water Companies).

Q. Can anything be done to increase the number of estates put through the scheme?

A. "On the point concerning bringing roads and utilities up to standard, I have a budget which I can use to fund the necessary work needed to allow us to offer MQs for sale through the scheme.

"For example, at one location we are prepared to spend £700,000 and at another £225,000 in order to bring roads, paths, drainage, etc, up to adoption standards.

"I cannot identify these locations at present because negotiations are still in progress. I

can tell you, however, that we spent £66,000 on connecting 46 houses at RAF Lyneham (Preston Lane and Argosy Road) to the Thames Water system in order that these houses could be sold through the scheme.

"I made a special case for this expenditure to be exempted from the moratorium on new defence spending which was imposed earlier this year and approval was readily given."

Q. Has it been agreed that in future bulletins the date when the MQ was valued will now be placed beside the current market value? Due to the drop in house prices, purchasers are finding they are not getting the full 30 per cent discount.

A. "I recognise that



All smiles at Chelsea Antiques Fair which raised £2,000 from donations to the Haig Homes Appeal which aims to raise £3m to refurbish 800 properties for ex-Servicemen. Pensioners Hutchings and Moy (right) flank Maj Gen Barry Pollard, actress Fiona Fullerton and TV personality Richard Baker, who supports the appeal.

Your questions answered

prospective purchasers of MQs advertised in Bulletins believe they are not receiving the full 30 per cent discount because house prices have often fallen between the time the property was valued and the time when the mortgage lender is valuing the particular MQ.

"On the same tack, the National Audit Office, which reports to Parliament on how we spend money voted to us for defence purposes, has expressed concern that in a rising market, the delay between valuation and sale could lead to a loss of public funds.

"Any system which took account of falling prices would have to operate when prices were rising.

"One possible solution would be to publish a price with the rider that the quoted price may vary up

COUNCIL EASES HOUSING RULES

GREAT YARMOUTH Borough Council has changed its rule for Service personnel wishing to register on its housing waiting lists. Those living in barracks,

married quarters, lodgings or other rented accommodation and who have family connections with the borough are now eligible to register.

They may also register on the waiting list within 12 months of leaving the Service, proving they have family connections or employment within the borough.

Service personnel who think they will need to be rehoused in the area are strongly advised to submit an application as soon as possible. Rehousing on discharge will depend on the period of time already spent on the list.

Requests for rehousing before discharge will be considered by Great Yarmouth on their merits in accordance with the council's points scheme, and time spent on the waiting list will be taken into account.

Requests for housing from Service personnel being invalided out, widows of Servicemen and women divorced or separated from Servicemen will also be considered.

Write to the Department of Housing and Architectural Services, 1-3 South Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2QH (tel 0493 856100).

COURSE OF A LIFETIME

GETTING hitched? Then why not take advantage of the Side-by-Side courses designed for those about to be or just wed. The courses are designed to prepare couples for married life in the Army.

And what better place to hold such a course than in the lovely 40 acres of Bagshot Park, Surrey. Courses are free to serving personnel (there is a small charge for non-serving partners) and forthcoming dates are: March 4-8; July 8-12; October 21-25; and February 10-14, 1992.

A wallow in tunes of war

BRITAIN AT WAR

Various artists

THIS one, I feel, is for anyone over 60. The remainder fall out. Most younger listeners would probably wonder why so many of these once popular, even idolised, singers and comedians are still revered by those who remember the Second World War. No use trying to explain why it is so, only to say this is how it was, and will be again if a third world war should ever come.

By this I mean ephemeral songs and ditties designed to enliven the spirits of the populace at war, to raise a smile, a belly laugh, or aimed directly at the men in the front line.

Here are 38 such songs, ditties and sketches with only nostalgia and remembrance in mind, with sentiment dependent on the circumstances with which you associate the tune or words.

Gracie Fields has pride of place at number one; thereafter it is a string of names beloved of the over-sixties and almost unknown to the rest.

Ronald Frankau, Harry Champion, Jack Warner, Tessie O'Shea, Western Bros, Arthur Askey, Joe Loss, Harry Roy, Carroll Gibbons, Flotsam and Jetsam, Vic Oliver (with his violin and very risqué jokes), George Formby, Stanley Holloway, Al Bowlly, and many more.

Apart from *The Last Time I Saw Paris* not one song has survived the war, except in the memories of those who lived through it - *Careless Talk, Fanny is Evacuated Now, No Like da War, When They Sound the Last All Clear, The Spitfire Song, Victory Roll Rag, FDR Jones, Heil Hitler Ja! Ja!, and (if you can believe it) They've Blown the Feathers Off the Nightingale in Berkeley Square*.

It all ends with what is claimed to be nightingales singing against the drone of real bombers.

Join Ian Wallace's hippopotamus and have a good wallow.

● From dealers only, on CD, cassette, or 2 LPs, trade prices.

Duke of Wellington's make up for a lack of numbers

SHOWCASE

Band of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment
Conductor: Bandmaster C North

LONG time no hear from the DWR. Another of those bands doing well on restricted numbers, 20 in their case, and with a little help from their friends in the Yorkshire Volunteers.

Since the military band repertoire was scored for a minimum of 26 players you can see the problem for our young bands and bandmasters.

Unfortunately, tragically

almost, they do too well for their own good, creating an impression with "those who matter" that there is no problem.

In a very well played programme the marches are *Standard of St George, Sound Brass*, one by Mr North called *Normandy Veterans*, and *The Wellesley*, the Regimental March. Two medleys that are receiving much recording time are *James Bond 007* and the *Marvin Hamlisch Showcase*.

Solo items are *Love Changes Everything* on euphonium, a

piccolo solo on Praetorius's *Bourée*, and *Misty Mountain Lullaby* on a flat trombone.

A pleasant enough programme, though after so long an absence from the recording studio I would have gone for music associated with the regiment's county. There is still plenty of it to be recorded, and why not perhaps the finest march ever written - *Wellington?*

● From Music Masters or DWR Band, Clive Bks, Ternhill, Market Drayton, Shropshire. Price £6 inc.

A Welsh Guards fanfare

CELEBRATION

Band of the Welsh Guards
Conductor: Major P Hannam

THE Welsh Guards is the youngest of the Foot Guards regiments and this year celebrates the 75th anniversary of its formation in 1915.

This disc, aptly titled *Celebration*, is just one of the many contributions to a year marked by the regiment marching with bayonets fixed and Colours flying through many a Welsh town, giving concerts, receiving new Colours, and no doubt a liberal

quaffing of good Welsh ale.

The programme starts with a

musical tribute to several

directors of music the band has

had in its 75 years by playing a

fanfare by Maj Hannam, Leslie Statham's march *Great and Glorious*, Tommy Chandler's well known *Imperial Britain*, Arthur Kenny's *Cardiff Castle*, and Derek Taylor's compilation *Calon Lan*.

After all that it gets really national, even parochial, with the regimental and company marches, *Cwm Rhondda* of course with regimental choir in

good voice, as they are in Joseph Parry's *Myfanwy* and *Ar Hyd Y Nos*.

The corps of drums again in *Flag and Empire* before all three elements join together for *Sospan Fach, Land of My Fathers* and *God Save the Queen* to end a programme played and presented with a fervour only the Welsh seem to generate on such occasions.

● Available from Welsh Guards, Chelsea Bks, London SW1, cassette only, price £7.50 inc.

From the beat

BRIEF mention of two cassettes not strictly qualifying for these columns.

The Hampshire Constabulary, who help patrol so much Army property within the county, including the Army's home town, Aldershot, has a long-established band which has always benefited from having so many ex-Army bandsmen around.

Available from Mrs L H White DL, The Keep, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1EG is a cassette made from a BBC broadcast by the band of 1 DCLI under Peter Parkes, now a brass band luminary, in about 1958.

The cassette was made in 1984, and is quite a rarity, the purchase of which will aid hard-pressed museum funds - £5.20 inclusive.

It includes the *Duke of Cambridge* march, *Irish Washerwoman, Yeoman of the Guard, and One And All*, the regimental march.

And I must say it - the officer

certainly has a gradely beat.

● From Mr A Sainsbury, 144 Miller Drive, Fareham PO16 7LW. Price £5.25 inclusive.

Mametz by Colin Hughes. Traces the fortunes of Lloyd George's "Welsh Army" to a fateful encounter at Mametz Wood on the Somme. Published by Gliddon Books. Price £10.95.

Through Hell for Hitler by Henry Metelmann. Resident in Britain since 1948, this former member of the National Socialists and Hitler Youth who served in a Panzer Division in the Second World War has written of his beliefs and experiences as a tribute to those who fell victim and a warning for those who might consider such action in the future. Published by Bridge Books, Wrexham. Price £14.

The cassette was made in 1984, and is quite a rarity, the purchase of which will aid hard-pressed museum funds - £5.20 inclusive.

Guardians of the Humber by Jeffrey E Dorman. The story of the Humber defences 1856-1956. Published by Humberside Leisure Services in their Heritage series. Price £6, or £6.65 from County

'Jacqueline' story reads like Le Carré spy thriller

OFFICIAL ineptitude . . . lack of personal security . . . or the treachery of others? Why did "Jacqueline" have to die?

Readers of "Jacqueline", *Pioneer Heroine of the Resistance*, by Stella King will be in a position to make up their own minds - for there is plenty of evidence available in this extraordinary account of the recruitment, training and field operations of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in France from 1940 to 1945.

It tells the story of one agent in particular, the "Jacqueline" of the title, real name Yvonne Rudellat, who died of exhaustion in Belsen shortly after it was liberated in April 1945. She was the first female SOE operator to have been commissioned into the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) to help.

There is one major difference, however, from the Le Carré analogy with SOE: the operators in the former are highly professional whereas those in the latter were very amateur, with little training.

This was inevitable with a wartime organisation starting from scratch, but there have been justifiable accusations of incompetence, including the emotional notice which appeared in *The Times* for many years: "In loving memory

Museums Officer, Central Library, Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF.

Thirty Days to Dunkirk by Brig Guy F Gough. Story of the involvement of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Fusiliers in the rearguard action of May 1940 that allowed the BEF to escape at Dunkirk. Limited edition of 1,000. Published by Bridge Books, Wrexham. Price £14.

Remember Arnhem by John Fairley. Updated version of the limited edition first undertaken by the author in collaboration with *Pegasus* in aid of the Airborne Forces Security Fund. Available to SOLDIER readers at £12.15 (post free) from Peaton Press, 12 Birkhall Drive, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 1DB. Author will inscribe copies on request.

The 4th KSLI in Normandy, narrated by Maj Ned Thornburn from eye-witness accounts. Published by the 4th Bn KSLI Museum Trust, The Castle, Shrewsbury SY1 2AT. Price £5 (£6.30 inc p&p).

BOOK REVIEWS

Son's footnote to the Rommel memoir

IN 1939 Erwin Rommel first published the memoirs of his Great War experiences. It is a classic book by an infantry officer.

Rommel's memoirs have been reproduced as a complete and unabridged edition of the first English language version published in Washington DC in 1944.

There is one important difference: the latest edition carries an introduction by Erwin Rommel's son Manfred, now Oberbürgermeister of Stuttgart.

"In the German Reich prior to 1933, professional soldiers were not allowed either to become involved in politics or to vote. Therefore the soldiers considered themselves as apolitical and thereby not responsible for politics . . .

"But after Hitler had become Chancellor of the Reich in 1933 . . . this principle became fatal.

"In general, it is worth mentioning that all secondary virtues such as bravery, discipline, loyalty and perseverance only have validity so long as they are used in a good cause. When a positive cause becomes negative, these virtues become questionable."

As we know well, there was to be a dramatic and tragic conclusion to Erwin Rommel's life of service to his country after Hitler learned that his field marshal was turning against him.

"Hitler, therefore, decided to exterminate my father, and this decision was implemented on October 14, 1944. He asked for the favour of ten minutes' respite to say goodbye to my mother, myself and his staff officer. This was granted. And so we knew how he had to die . . .

The book is worthy of purchase if only for Manfred Rommel's introduction. - BJ

Infantry Attacks by Erwin Rommel. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £14.95.



The last picture of Yvonne Rudellat - 'Jacqueline' - taken from a false identity card

BOOKS IN BRIEF

What More Could a Soldier Ask of a War? by A J Lane. Autobiographical account of a sapper's experiences in the Second World War. Published by The Book Guild. Price £14.95.

Small Wars by Col C E Callwell. New edition of Callwell's *Tactical Textbook for Imperial Soldiers*. First published in 1896 as *Small Wars: Their Principles and Practice*, and revised in 1899 and 1906. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £17.95.

The Vanishing Cockney by Bill Springle. Collection of Cockney and Army reminiscences by this Chelsea Pensioner who served with the 17/21st Lancers as a cavalryman and later with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Available from Scripta, 20 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5AH. Price £4.95 inc. p&p.

LETTERS

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London Guard Mounting disappointment

I EXPECT that the Guards Division will give the correct answer to Mr Cregan (October 1) regarding Guard Mounting in London.

I would like to point out, however, that 48-hour guards have been the practice for about 20 years from September to mid-April. For the past few years this has been brought

forward to mid-August. It is not necessarily a "winter schedule".

Regarding his point about having men from other regiments to fill in the blank days, it is necessary to say that when 48-hour guards started this year, so the time came for the RAF Regiment to carry out its public duties.

In the past 20 years or so the presence of outside units has not increased the frequency of Guard Mounting.

Lastly, in London the ceremony does take place every 48 hours, weather permitting, even on Sundays. In Windsor the ceremony does not take place on Sundays.

It is disappointing when

48-hour guards start, especially as the number of tourists both at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor seems to be increasing. It is also very difficult to explain to a disappointed three-year-old boy that the soldiers are present on one day and not another. — **Mrs Averil S Skinner, Old Windsor, Berks.**

It's all in the pen

YOUR informative article on chemical warfare (September 17) included a passage which said that after a casualty had injected himself with atropine from a Combo pen he then took "a calming Valium pill" contained in the shaft of the pen.

The latest Combo pens incorporate the Valium-type drug in the atropine itself, removing the need for a separate tablet. — Capt R A Piper, 35 Engineer Regt, BFPO 31.

• This improvement also means that casualties do not have to remove their mask in order to take the pill. — **Editor**

Cap peaks

IN RESPONSE to "Cap peak slashing ridiculed" (August 6) we would like to inform your correspondent Capt Johnson that we do not break the laws on tailoring with regard to our cap peaks. The adjustment to cap peaks is carried out professionally by the tailoring shop. — **Junior Ranks, Milan Plt, 1st Bn Scots Guards, BFPO 30.**

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"old" 6th RTR who feel they have been left out of the history of the Royal Tank Regiment. The 6th RTR very seldom gets a mention, possibly because the war diaries were twice destroyed by enemy action. — **A Hunt, ex-WO2 RTR, West Beach, South Australia.**

• Mr Hunt's Regiment was, of course, part of the 7th Armoured Brigade during the Sidi Rezegh battle. — **Editor**

• **A Squadron 1st King's Dragoon Guards:** Details of personnel serving at Magdee Barracks, Malaya in 1958 sought by Miss Stephanie Winter, 24 Cossesham Road, St George, Bristol BS5 8DL.

Reunion

• **The Royal Regiment of Artillery Association** Exeter branch annual dinner, dance and social evening, Saturday November 24, Rougemont Hotel, Exeter, 7.30 pm. Details from Derek C Scholfield, 5 Madison Avenue, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AH.

Thanks

I WAS pleased to see Maj O'Sullivan's comments on the Wolds Waggoners (Letters, August 20) and their tribute to these wonderful men of the soil by naming their motor cycle display team after them.

My thanks to Maj O'Sullivan and 217 (Yorkshire) Squadron RCT(V). I hope to see them in action one day. — **T Wilson, Hull.**

by Mouse



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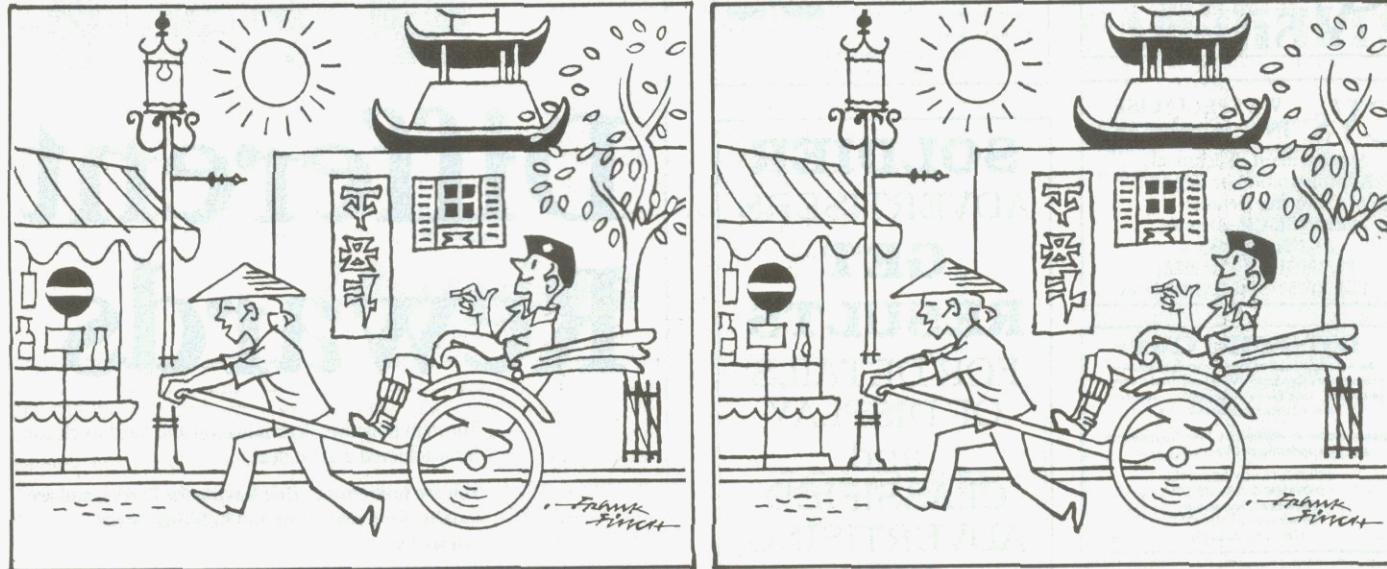
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The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the December 24 issue.

Winner of HOAY Competition No 497 is Mr G Coles, of North Shields, Tyne and Wear, who receives a £50 cheque. Book prizes go to the two runners-up, SSgt Delonnette, of Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, and Mr B Slater, of Sheffield.



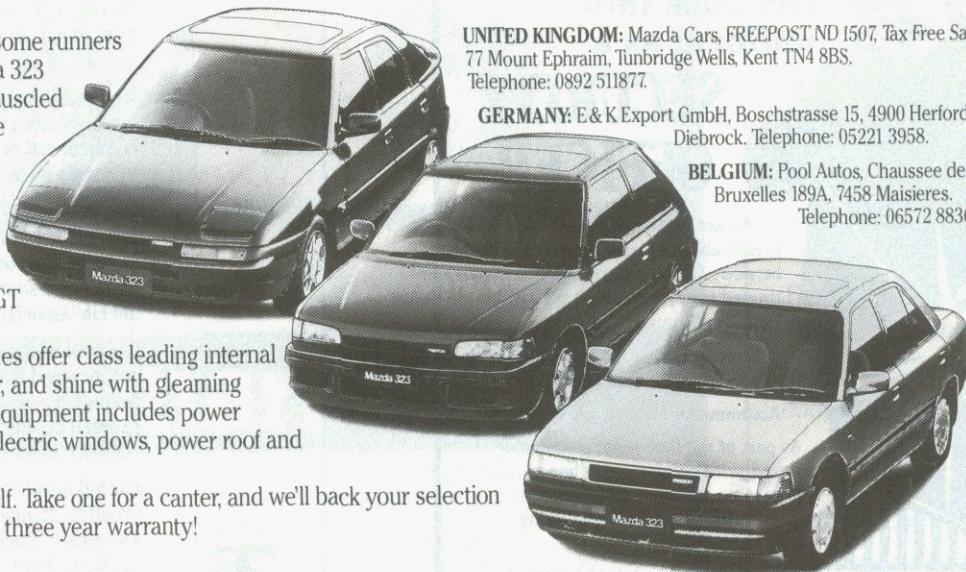
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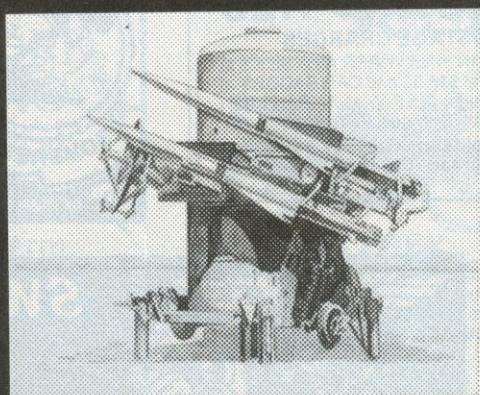
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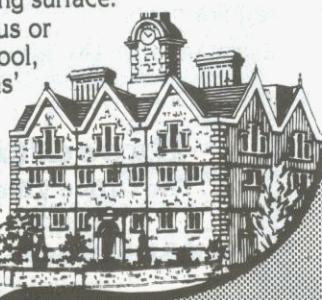
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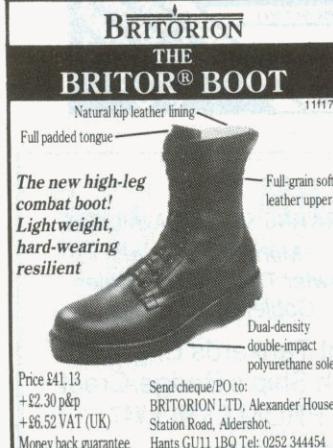
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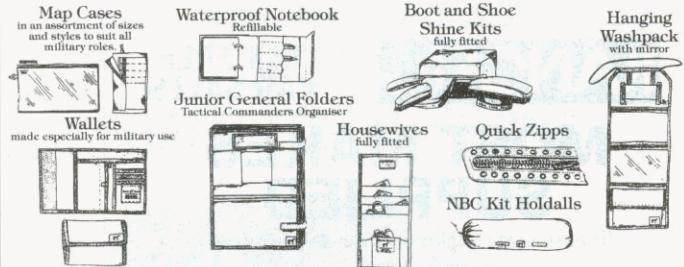
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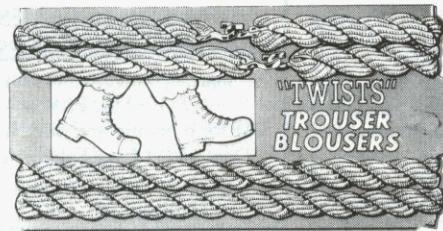
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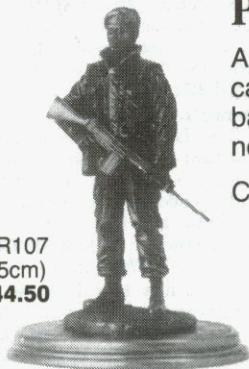


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Met taken, by Mickey

**Met Police 1
Army 2**

THE impressive Grenadier Guards Cup is back in Aldershot after gracing the trophy cabinet at Imber Court for the past two years. It was a very close thing, however, with the Army beating the Metropolitan Police by two goals to one in a physically hard and fiercely contested match, writes Pat Massey.

Both sides opened up at 100 miles an hour, and although the Army had the better of the early exchanges, it was the home side that went closest to scoring through Russo and Pendry.

SI Mickey Johnson (APTC) fired just wide after being set up by Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR), and Sig Paul Brown unleashed a fierce, long-range drive that only just cleared the bar.

Johnson put the Army ahead on the half hour when he controlled a long clearance, spun past his marker and shot under the diving Steve Donnelly. Soon after SI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) had to beat out a fierce Police shot which was scrambled clear by Sgt

Kevin Parkins (RCT).

Fifteen minutes into the second half Johnson put the Army further ahead after LBdr Mark Mahoney (RHA) had found him in space on the half-way line. Johnson raced through, rounded the 'keeper, and planted the ball in the net.

An error in the Army defence allowed the Police in with their first goal, and Wiscombe had to be alert with two long-range efforts soon afterwards. The hard-working Brown set up another chance for Maynard and himself rapped the upright with a delightful curling shot in the closing minutes.

**Hellenic League XI 1
Army 0**

Although the Army's match against the Hellenic League was reduced to "friendly" status in the absence of a sponsor, it had its moments and ended with the first Hellenic League victory over the Servicemen for several years.

Last season the Army wallop the league side 6-0.

Injury robbed the Army of recent successes Sig Paul Brown and Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR), so SI Steve Davies

Old boys put DERR on ropes

THE 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, unbeaten on the football field during their 2½-year tour of duty in Hong Kong, nearly met their match when they took on their old boys at Catterick.

A late equaliser by Pte Dalton allowed 1 DERR to escape with a 2-2 draw after they had trailed to goals by Steve McIntyre and Glen Noonan. CSgt Martyn Truman pulled one back.

The DERR Old Boys XI boasted an average age of 37 and was put together by Steve McIntyre from the Reading branch of the regimental association.

(APTC) and Cpl Shaun Gilman (RAOC) were drafted in as the main strike force.

Davies made way for Sgt Tommy O'Brien (R Irish) early in the second half but neither combination was able to come up with the goods. The result could have gone either way until the League scored 15 minutes from the end.

Bill is Scotland champion

SIX Army golfers had the day of a lifetime on the superb Gleneagles championship course to decide the Scotland "champion of champions".

The event, arranged by Scotland CCG Catering as part of their sponsorship of Army golf in Scotland, included rounds on both the Kings course and the Queens course, a magnificent lunch and coaching by professional matchplay champion John Chillas.

The winner of the 36 hole stapleford was Sgt Bill Ferrier (RAOC), closely followed by Sgt John McAffrey (1 KOSB). The others who qualified were Maj Tony Flood (APTC), Maj Hugh Young (QO Hldrs), Maj Len Yates (242 Sig Sqn) and Capt Chris Hillis (RHF).



Class of 90-91. From left (back) are LCpl Lee Innes, LSgt Dave Abbott, WO2 Mick Gannon (coach), LCpl Steve Burford and Pte John Culwick; (front) LCpl Tom Eckersley, Pte Laurence Roche, LCpl Joe Rajcoomer, Pte Rod Stoneman, Pte John Ineson and Cpl John Dunn

Picture: Mike Perting

They're looking so good!

A NEW-LOOK Army boxing squad is taking shape at Aldershot following the virtual break-up of the team which last winter won the Inter-Services title for the seventh consecutive year, writes John Elliott.

Army coach WO2 Mick Gannon (APTC) and his assistant, Cpl Danny Coyle (1 RWF), are buzzing with enthusiasm at the potential of the newcomers.

"We have some very exciting young talent," explained Gannon. "The strength of Army boxing next year and the year after could be phenomenal."

And he says that despite losing several potential CSBA champions to Operation Granby duties, including LCpl Sean Gallagher of 1 Staffords, NABC champion Dvr Chris Bessie (1 ADTR), Spr Gary Bennett (28 Engr Regt) and three members of 10 Regiment RCT.

Following ABA champion Sgt Keith Howlett's decision to concentrate on his military career at the end of last season, a number of others have also hung up their gloves or left the Service. Among the latter are Scottish international John McLean, Chris Whittaker, Pete

Campbell and CSBA finalist Glen Williams, now making a living as a male model.

LCpl Jimmy Brennan (IG) and Cpl Alan Lesbire (LI) have called it a day.

"Obviously we couldn't put this quality of squad together without the co-operation of commanding officers," said WO2 Gannon. "We are very appreciative of their efforts to make boxers available for training."

The Army breaks new ground on November 17 when the team flies to Austria to take on what is virtually the national squad. The invitation reflects the strength of the sport in the Army and officials hope it may lead to more matches against international select teams.

Before Christmas the Army has a variety of representative matches, including London ABA and Western Counties, but the business end of the season begins with the Royal Navy match in Portsmouth in January and the RAF match in Aldershot four weeks' later.

PWO in a class of their own

THERE was a distinct feeling of déjà vu about the presentation ceremony after the Inter-Services marathon championships at RAF Swinderby on October 12.

First past the post for the second successive year was Sgt John Martin of 21 Signal Regiment while the fleet-footed Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire won the team trophy for the fourth year.

Entries, down by nearly a half, were hit by the demands of Operation Granby.

Martin was on course to beat the Swinderby record until strong winds slowed his progress over the second half of the marathon. His eventual time of 2hr 28min 22sec was almost four minutes outside the pace he set last year.

Second overall was Maj Roy Hunter, whose regiment is the PWO but who was running for Staff College RMA. Capt Peter Marsh (RAOC) was third for the Army and fourth overall (and first veteran home), and Cpl Peter Murphy (3 ADTR) was fourth (7th overall).

Maj Keith Arnold (RAEC), winner of the veterans' title on many occasions, lost out to the youthful Peter Marsh but still finished an excellent sixth for the Army despite illness.

First of the Osnabrück-based 1 PWO's three scoring runners was LCpl Jim Clune, fifth for the Army and ninth overall. The other scorers were LCpl Douglas Howarth (9th Army, 26th overall) and Pte Ian Baird (11/31).

Pte Karl Hutchinson (13/33) and Pte Ian Cain (19/59) also packed well to emphasise the 1 PWO challenge.

Not surprisingly, the Army easily won the Inter-Services crown for the fifth consecutive year. The Royal Air Force were a distant second while the Royal Navy, saving themselves for the Washington marathon a fortnight later, entered only two runners.

The Army inter-unit competition threw up just four complete teams, 1 PWO winning the major unit title from 3 ADTR, while V and W Branch REME beat RARH Benbecula to the minor medals.

Pictures: Mike Weston



Net result of a lot of hard work was the opening of the Army's new synthetic hockey pitch at Aldershot. From left, Capt Alan Healey, secretary AHA; Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director ASCB; and Army hockey captain Capt Peter Boxall, with his team warming up in the background

Pitch perfect

All-star opening ceremony

ARMY hockey took a quantum leap forward when its new £300,000-plus synthetic pitch, close to the Military Stadium, was officially opened on October 25.

Years of frustration were swept away as Capt Peter Boxall (32 AEC) led his side out against a star-studded Hockey Association President's XI containing many of Great Britain's best players.

Built by Matchmaker, the sand-filled, engineered base, synthetic pitch is fully up to international standards and provides the Army with its own modern home ground. Since the game at its higher levels in Britain moved off grass and on to artificial surfaces, the Army has been forced to play its representative games away from headquarters.

The new pitch will host Army hockey at junior, senior and women's levels, and



Goalmouth line-up for members of the Army hockey team who "christened" the new synthetic pitch with a match against an HA President's XI captained by Richard Dodds and including a number of England and Great Britain players, among them Sean Curley, Stephen Batchelor and Richard Leman. The players received commemorative plaques after an opening ceremony conducted by Maj Gen Alex Harley, president of the AHA. The President's XI won the match 3-0.

provide an attractive venue for Inter-Service and Combined Service matches. In addition, it gives Aldershot Garrison a superb facility available to units based in the area.

Army Hockey Association secretary Capt Alan Healey paid tribute to the work put in by the Garrison and by HQ South East District, but singled

out Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, Director Army Sport Control Board, for special praise.

"Without his enthusiasm and drive I doubt if we would have had this excellent pitch," he said.

Since the builders moved off, the pitch has been used virtually every day, up to six hours a day.



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Ranger Clive Hynes with the L96, the Army's latest sniper rifle, designed by a team including Olympic gold medallist marksman, Malcolm Cooper, is now on general issue, and described as so accurate that anyone's granny could shoot it! Story inside.

Picture: Terry Champion.