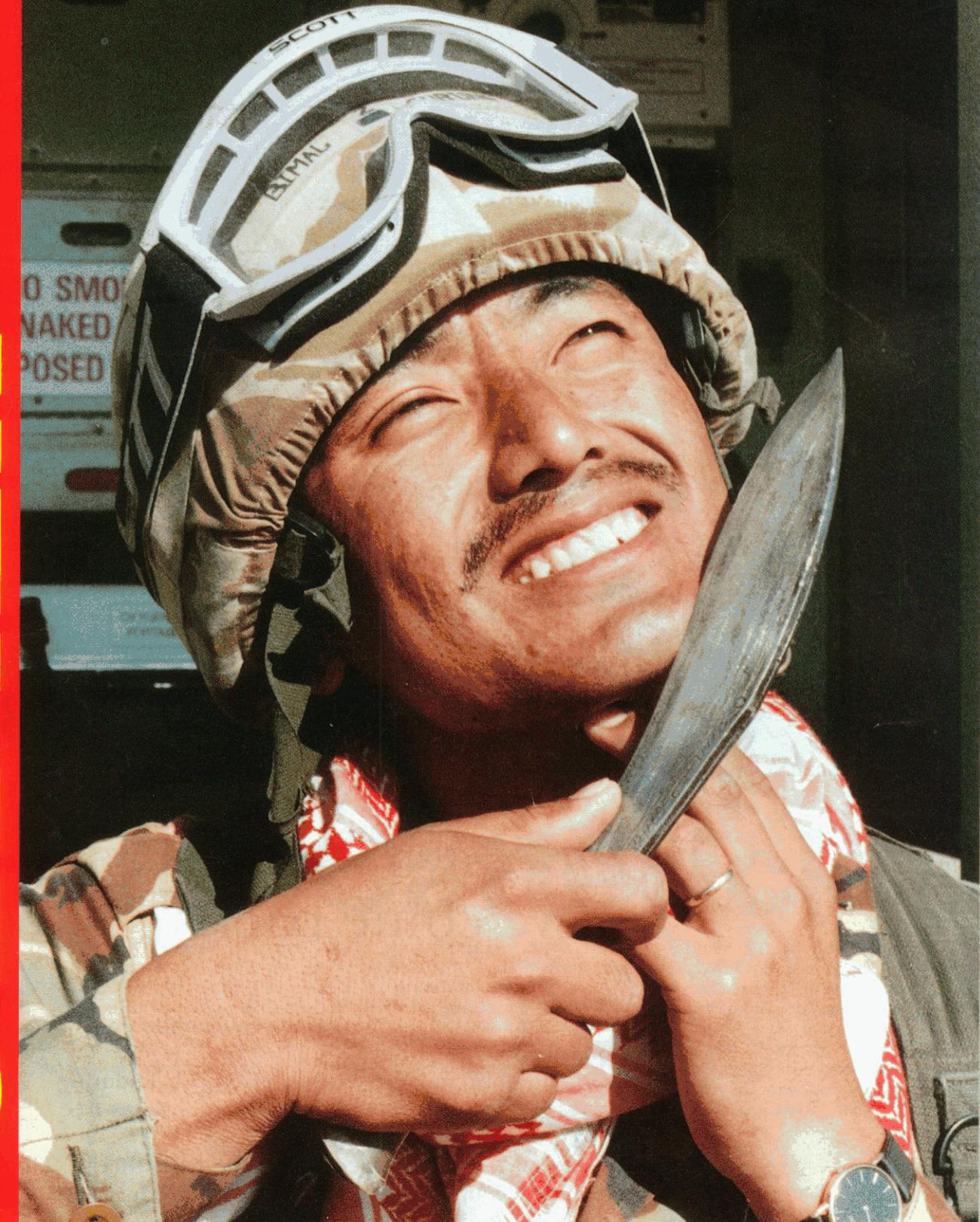


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FRONT COVER – (Main picture) Dvr Bimal Gurung of 28 Gurkha Ambulance Squadron, attached to 32 Field Hospital, symbolically scrapes away the desert sand with his kukri to mark the ceasefire. His unit was drawn from 28 and 31 Squadrons of the Hong Kong-based Gurkha Transport Regiment.

Inset picture : Great to be back. Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, is greeted on his return to Germany by Maj Gen Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander 4th Armoured Division, and Maj Gen Hartmut Behrendt, Commander 1 Panzer Division.

Pictures: Mike Weston

SOLDIER

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Mothers and children were charmed by the Duchess of Kent when she visited Catterick Garrison. She adopted this thumb-in-mouth posture to comfort one baby she met in the crèche at the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, which she was seeing for the first time since opening it 15 years ago

Thumbs up for Catterick

ON a visit to Army and Royal Air Force bases in North Yorkshire, the Duchess of Kent met many of the men and women who have been involved directly or indirectly with service in the Gulf.

At Catterick Garrison she met some of the families of the 500 men and women from the location serving in the Gulf. They gathered at the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, which the Duchess was seeing for the first time since opening it 15 years ago.

She also met people who had manned the Army's North East District Helpline which in eight weeks received more than 3,500 calls about Gulf matters.

The Duchess was met at Catterick by Brig Christopher Drewry, Commander of 24 Airmobile Brigade, who presented the hospital's Comman-

ding Officer, Col David Bradford, and Matron, Col Maura Mulhern.

During her tour she was told of the Garrison's contribution to the Gulf effort, which included the deployment of 80 hospital staff and the refresher training of 100 Territorials and Reservists from throughout Britain before they went to the Middle East.

The Garrison also provided 120 medical orderlies from 25 Airmobile Field Ambulance, RAMC, who would have rapidly transported casualties from the front line to the various field hospitals.

More than 100 men were sent from 15 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport. They moved combat supplies including ammunition, fuel, rations and water to forward units involved in the fighting.

From the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment were sent 65 men of the Armoured Delivery Squadron, who unloaded tanks from ships and onto tank transporters, and 25 members of the regimental band who served as medics, adopting their war role of stretcher-bearers and first-aid attendants.

More than 120 individuals with specialist skills were also sent from the Garrison.

The Duchess earlier visited Claro Barracks, Ripon, home of 38 Engineer Regiment, from where 130 members of 15 Field Support Squadron, Royal Engineers left for the Gulf in December.

At Catterick Garrison she also called at Cambrai Barracks, home of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. Another visit in her itinerary was to RAF Catterick.

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Green Jackets move breaks Gibraltar link

THE departure of the rear party of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets on March 19 marked the end of the presence of a permanently-based British battalion on the Rock after a period spanning 287 years.

Trabant is a winner

BERLIN Garrison's acquisition of a "potentially lethal" motor vehicle has put one of its units in line for top prize in a road safety competition.

Since the opening of borders between east and west, traffic has doubled in Berlin, making the roads much more hazardous – particularly with the influx of low-technology vehicles such as the Trabant, with drivers who lack experience of western traffic regulations.

With this in mind, the garrison now has its own Trabant to help military drivers and their spouses become more aware of the limitations of many eastern European cars.

Bought by the Berlin-based 62 Transport and Movement Squadron RCT, the black-painted Trabant has been doing the rounds of garrison units on road safety days, open days and at coffee mornings.

Those who put it through its paces are surprised at its lack of space, fuel smells, low power and poor braking ability.

The car's acquisition by the garrison caught the eye of the organisers of the P and O European Ferries road safety trophy, who have shortlisted it for this summer's British Forces Germany final. The trophy goes to the unit with the most innovative road safety idea.

Meanwhile, a first-round prize of a return ticket for car and four passengers awarded to the unit will be up for grabs in the garrison's own road safety competition in July.

The ticket was presented to the Berlin Brigade Commander, Brig David Bromhead, on March 7 by P and O Area Sales Manager Mr Tom Graham.

Operational duties have been taken over by the Gibraltar Regiment.

The regiment now consists of HQ Company, known as Thomson's Battery after its first commanding officer in the Second World War; a company

of Regulars recruited locally, including some former soldiers from other regiments; and two companies of Territorial Army personnel.

Before the main party of 3 RGJ departed, responsibility for guarding The Convent,

residence of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, was formally handed over to the Gibraltar Regiment.

The RGJ has moved from one historic fortress to another. Their new home is Connaught Barracks, Dover.



The Queen Mother joins Lt Col Christopher Langton, CO 1 IG, and members of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess for a photo-call after presenting members of the battalion with a sprig of shamrock

BIG DAY FOR LITTLE KATIE

ALL in all it was an exciting few days for Katie Lea, 7, whose father is a Gazelle pilot with 7 Flight Army Air Corps based at RAF Gatow, Berlin.

On March 16 she met the Queen Mother, who was spending the weekend with the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards... and three days later her father arrived back from operational flying duties in the Gulf.

It had been hoped that Sgt

Christopher Lea would be back in time to meet the royal visitor with bouquet presenter Katie and mother Aileen, but there was a last minute change in flight schedule.

The Queen Mother, visiting Berlin to celebrate St Patrick's Day with 1 IG, was met at Gatow by the British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Christopher Mallaby, and Lady Mallaby. Among those greeting

her was Brig David Webb-Carter, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel of the Irish Guards.

St Patrick's Day itself was celebrated as a private regimental occasion with a parade at Wavell Barracks, Berlin, home of the Irish Guards. The Queen Mother has built up a close friendship with the regiment over many years and during the parade presented each soldier with a sprig of shamrock.

Connor, 1 IG's Irish wolfhound mascot, also received a sprig.

This traditional gift from the Queen Mother to the regiment has been distributed in person on many occasions.

After the parade, at which the regimental band of the Irish Guards played, the royal visitor met wives of men from other Berlin-based regiments serving in the Gulf.

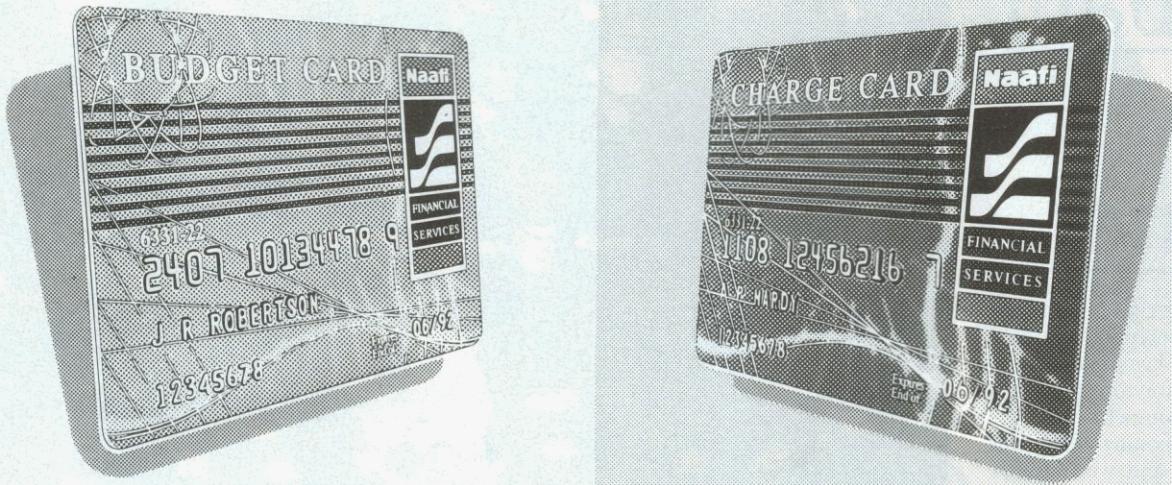
Cheshires in Fermanagh

THE 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment deployed to Co Fermanagh in mid-March following the decision of the Northern Ireland Secretary Mr Peter Brooke to close the Derryard and Boa Island permanent vehicle checkpoints

on the border.

The battalion's first task, together with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, was to provide cover for the teams of engineers employed in dismantling the posts.

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KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

THE bodies of eight military personnel killed on active service during the Gulf war were flown home on March 19.

Soldiers' and airmen's families were joined at RAF Brize Norton by the Duke of Kent, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, and senior Army and RAF officers.

A guard of honour was mounted by representative detachments from the Armed Services, and the RAF Band Germany was present.

Among the deceased were the following members of the Special Air Service, listed under their parent regiment or corps:

ROYAL ENGINEERS

Cpl Steven John **Lane** (27), Herefordshire.

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

Sgt Vincent David **Phillips** (36), Herefordshire.

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

Pte Robert Gaspare **Consiglio** (24), Sussex.



Picture: WO2 Arthur Thomson

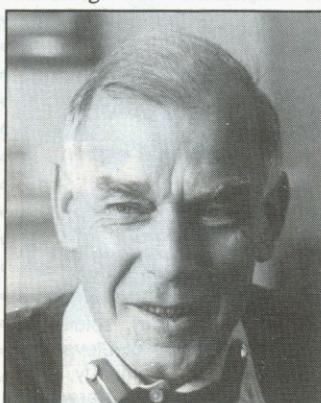
Watched by Maj Jim Scott and WO2 (CSM) Robin Ross, the Princess of Wales signs the visitors' book during a visit to Redford Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh, where she met families of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, whose members were serving in the Gulf. Six days earlier the Princess spent an hour with the families of 29 Transport and Movements Regiment RCT at South Cerney, Gloucestershire. The regiment processes all Army passengers and freight for travel by air and detachments have been based in the Gulf since August

Gen Sir Peter to be adviser

SIR PETER de la Billière has been appointed Middle East Adviser to the Ministry of Defence with particular reference to studying the lessons of the Gulf campaign. He has also been promoted full general.

He was a lieutenant-general and commanding South East District when the Gulf crisis developed and was appointed Commander British Forces Middle East.

As well as providing advice on defence issues in the region following the liberation of



Gen Sir Peter de la Billière

Kuwait, Sir Peter will assist all three Services in their analyses of the whole deployment of the campaign.

He will also be available, with a small presentation team, to speak to specialised institutes and to wide interest audiences. He will fill his new post for a year.

Sir Peter, who was commissioned into the Durham Light Infantry in 1952 and subsequently spent much of his career with the Special Air Service Regiment, had been about to retire last November.

RGJ winner

WINNER of the Hewitt Trophy for shooting, contested annually by JNCOs of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, based in Osnabrück, was Cpl J C Nichol, of HQ Company. The trophy is named after a lance corporal murdered in Northern Ireland in 1987.



Picture: Bob Bishop

Cyprus's vital support role in the Gulf war has been acknowledged by a series of VIP visits to British forces. Here, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, AOC in C Strike Command, meets Cpl Nigel Major, REME attached Royal Hussars, with LCpl Philip Searle, REME, and Tpr Andrew Gardner, RH, to his right. In the space of a few days Cyprus also hosted visits from Defence Secretary Tom King; Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, Chief of the Defence Staff; and Mr Joel Clark, Canadian Minister of External Affairs

Fusilier Colonel



The **Duchess of Northumberland** has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Northumberland's county Territorial Army regiment. The Duchess (pictured above) succeeds the late Duke.



Saying it with flowers

Gurkha sappers smother Gen Sir **George Cooper** in garlands during his visit to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong. Gen Cooper, who was Adjutant General in 1981-84, has been Colonel of the regiment for the past ten years, the longest-serving Colonel in QGE history. At the end of last month he was succeeded by Maj Gen **Richard Peck**, the Engineer in Chief.



The men in this montage reckon they may be a bit special. They are all former National Servicemen and their combined service totals 331 years.

All members of Manchester-based 207 General Hospital RAMC (V), they are (back row, from left) Maj

James Partington, Maj **Jim Billings**, WO2 **Colin Harrison** and Maj **John Bonsor**; (front) WO2 **Derek Hurst**, Maj **Maurice Cass**, WO2 **John Porter**, WO2 **Brian Davies**, Maj **Geoff Purdy** and Lt Col **Nick Howarth**.

Can any other unit do better?

They don't look that old!



A young TA officer serving with 201 (Northern) General Hospital RAMC at Newcastle has to be a bit careful when he addresses his commanding officer. "Reporting for duty, Dad!" hasn't got quite the right ring about it, so 2nd Lt **Bibek Banerjee** has to remind himself to call the boss "Sir". The CO is Col **Ram Banerjee**, Bibek's father.

Col Banerjee's three years in command were due to end this month, but he has held on in post because the new CO, Lt Col **Jeremy Feggetter**, has been serving in the Gulf.

Back to Kuwait?



Territorial Army soldier Lt **Paul Phillips** of Cleveland-based D Company, 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment could be making his way to Kuwait just as the 1st Armoured Division is leaving the Gulf. But Paul is not expecting to parachute into the desert kingdom. Four years ago he installed many of the pipelines blasted by Saddam Hussein's retreating army, and now his company may be involved in repairing them.

In control

Andrea Hall is general manager of the Museum of Army Transport at Beverley, North Humberside. Her enthusiasm for the museum's collection stems from being born into a military family in Aldershot. Andrea is pictured in front of the Rolls Royce Wraith 21st Army Group staff car used by Field Marshal Montgomery in North East Europe in 1944-45.



The ladies take charge

There is to be a take-over at Marlborough College. Dr **Alison Sharp** (right) will be the first woman to command the Wiltshire public school's 200-strong cadet force. Dr Sharp, a biology teacher, succeeds Maj **Andrew Brown** and will be promoted to major. Also promoted, to lieutenant, is **Janet Limrick** (centre), who will be the first woman to run the college's naval section. On the left is 18-year-old pupil **Sarah Oaken**, one of two girl corporals and 2iC of a recruit-training platoon.



Maj **Sebastian Roberts**, the only Irish Guards officer serving with British Forces Falkland Islands, was devastated to learn that Guinness only comes in cans in the South Atlantic. But the chefs of the resident infantry company, Inkerman Coy, 2 Gren Gds, came to his rescue with a cake in the shape of his favourite tipple.

PEOPLE

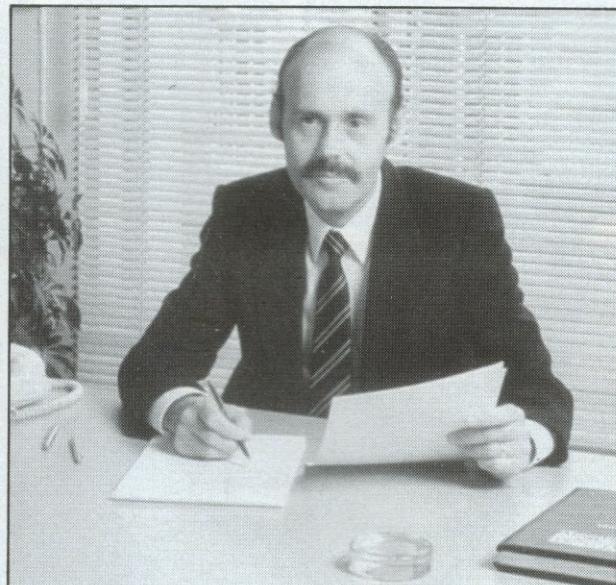
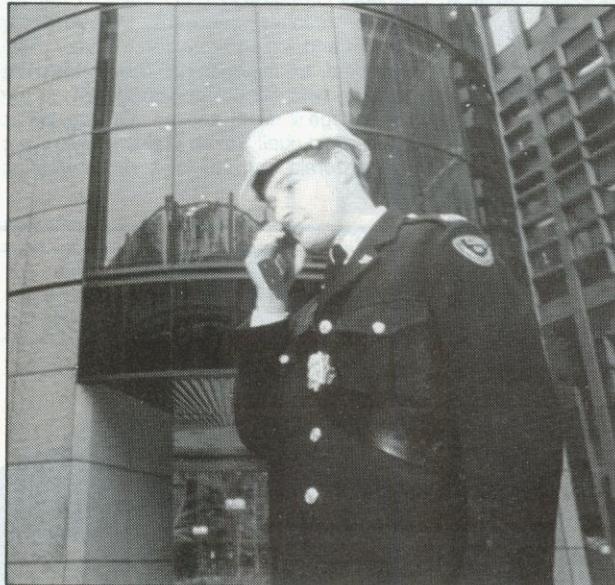


Duke meets Grens

The **Duke of Edinburgh**, Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, talks to men of Inkerman Company, 2 Bn Gren Gds during his visit to the Falkland Islands. The Grenadiers are the resident infantry company. He also called on the Falkland Islands Field Squadron and presented SSgt **Rod Butler** with the BEM.

The Duke first visited the distant South Atlantic islands in 1957 when he was best remembered for winning a horse race by 12 lengths.

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They're our men in Kuwait City

A TEAM of British soldiers has set up camp in the grounds of our recently-liberated embassy in Kuwait City to get the residence back on its feet.

The embassy guard force, commanded by Maj Andrzej Frank, RA, is mainly from gunners and sappers originally tasked as in-theatre replacements for the 1st Armoured Division.

They are supported by elements from REME, RCT, ACC and the RAMC.

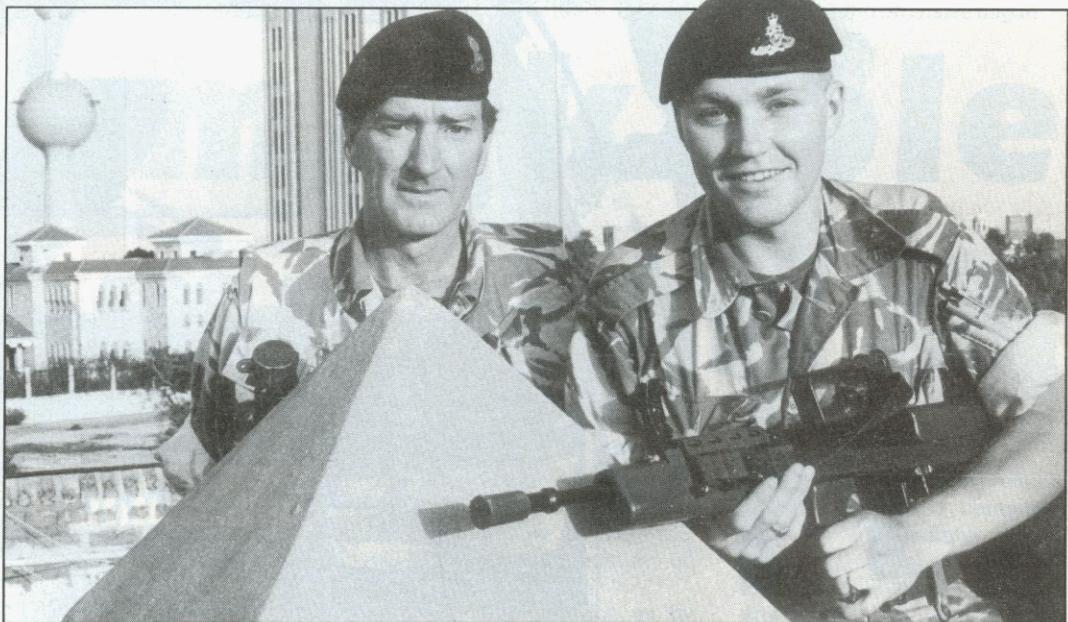
Battery Sgt Maj Robert Newsam explained: "We have been helping to tidy up and we provide protection support for the Ambassador, Mr Michael Weston.

"We have also been giving aid to a number of British expatriates. More than 50 remained in hiding during the Iraqi occupation. We have been able to supply them with essentials such as food, nappies, gas for cooking and water."

SSgt Bob Lecuilot, ACC baked a birthday cake for a one-year-old British child, while another soldier drew a birthday card.

Expats survived in Kuwait City on pasta and rice, so bars of compo ration chocolate have gone down well with the children.

Maj Frank and BSM Newsam formed the advance party of the guard force and arrived at the embassy just as



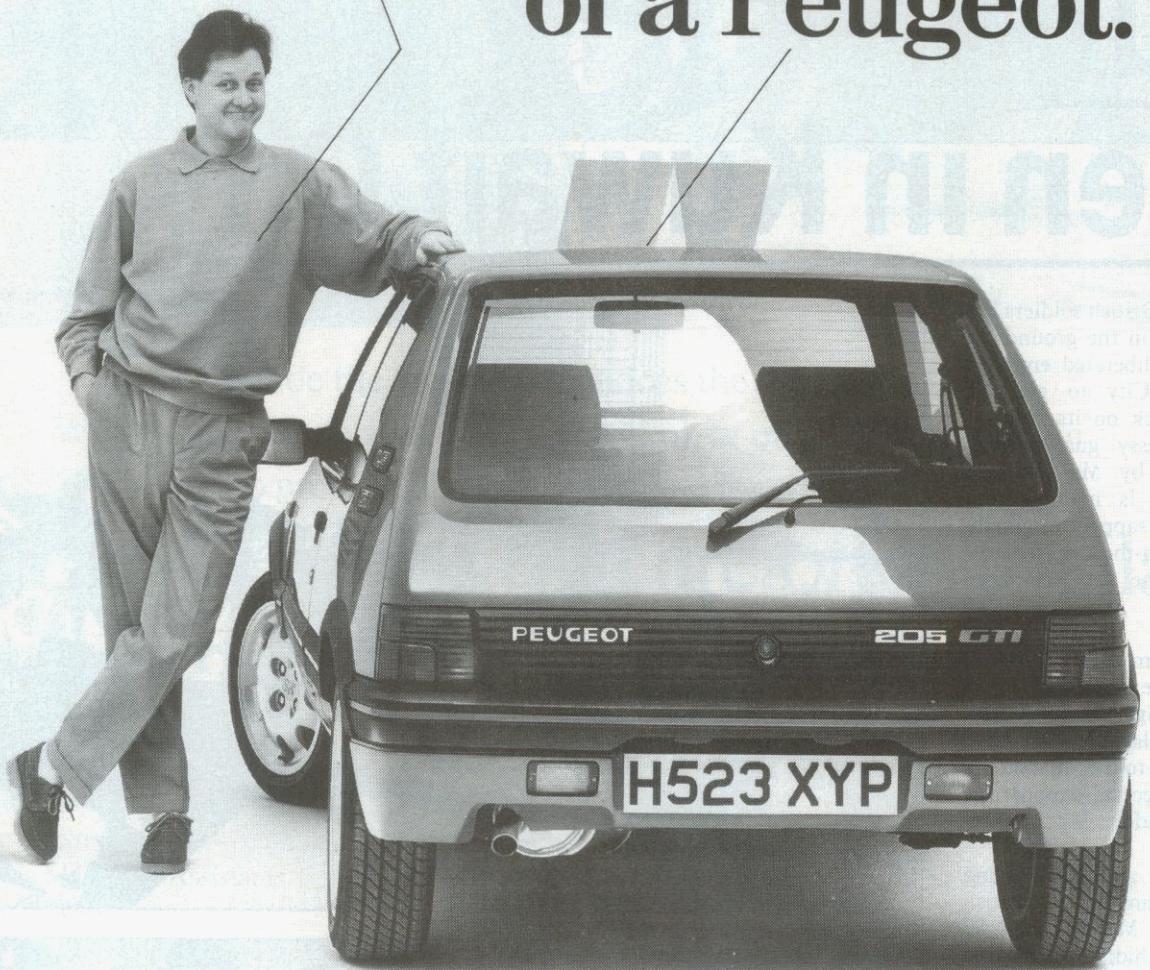
Above: Father and son on the embassy roof are Capt Jim Saunderson of 49 EOD Sqn RE and LBdr Danny Saunderson, serving with 3 Bty, 47 Fd Regt RA. Right: Chefs LCpl Jason Sparrow of 1 RS (left) and SSGt Bob Lecuilot of 8 Signal Regt at work in the embassy kitchen

members of the Special Forces were abseiling onto the roof to check for booby traps.

Soon afterwards SSGt Chris Gregg, RE and his team of sappers were busy repairing the damage – including a temporary front door to replace the one blown in by the SBS during their operation to secure the compound.



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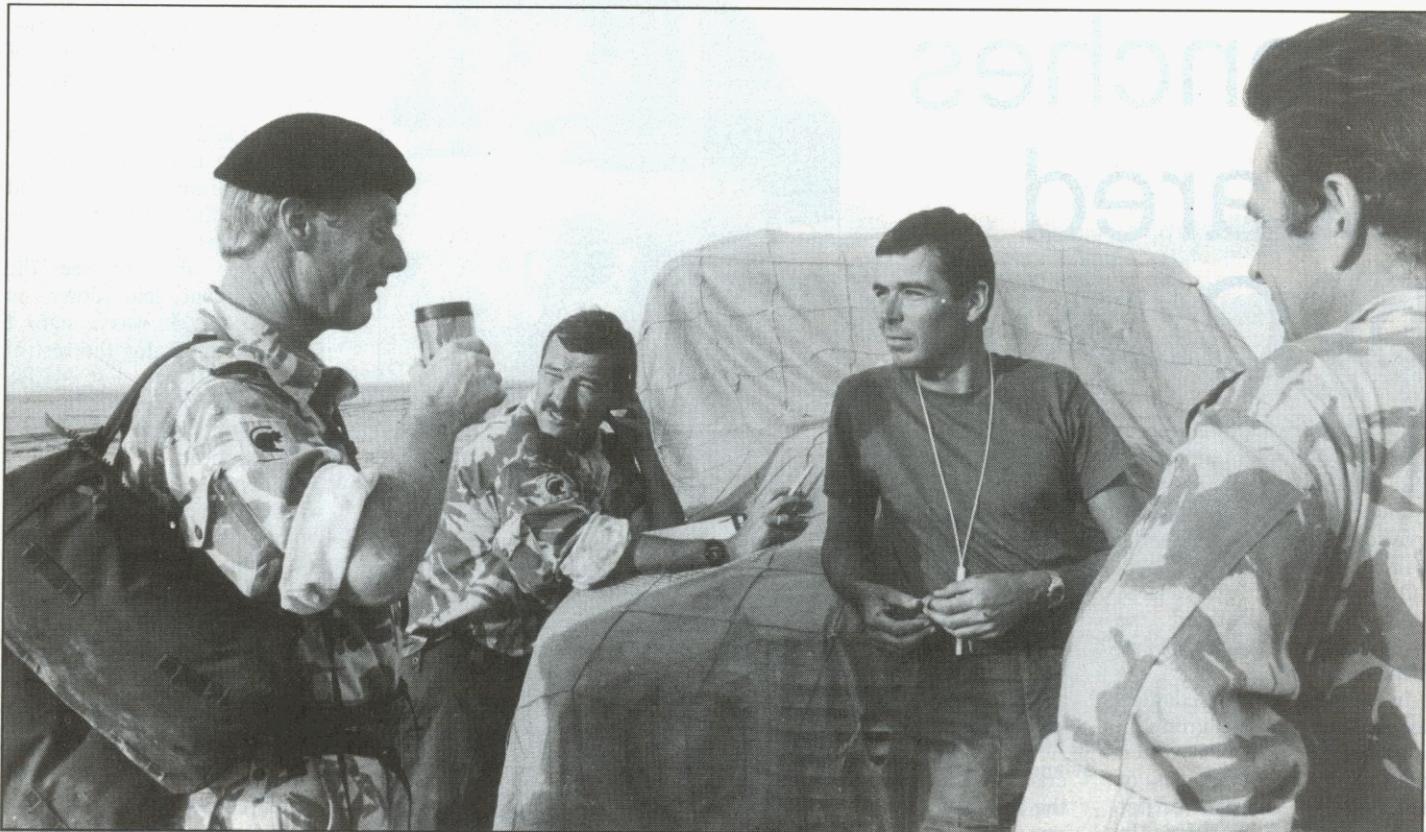
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Brig Christopher Hammerbeck pauses for a drink – alcohol-free beer – with men of his brigade just a few days before the ground offensive began

A remarkable campaign



Commander 4 Brigade describes the attack

Their immediate objective was the destruction of an enemy armoured reserve brigade 45 kilometres east of where 4 Brigade had swept through the Iraqi main defences.

Brig Hammerbeck admitted: "To begin with, things did not go as I would have wished. It

was pitch black, pouring with rain and, shortly after crossing the start line, we ran into the tail of a massive convoy of lorries.

"It was difficult for us to make our way through and on to our objectives. We were delayed for about one hour.

"Moving east, we then attacked, off the line of march, a number of objectives which we hadn't entirely anticipated being there. The 14th/20th destroyed a signals and artillery unit north of Objective Bronze and the Royal Scots took out an artillery battery at the eastern end.

"Having cleared this to make room for divisional logistic units to move into, I forced the 14th/20th on and they attacked the southern end of Objective Copper. The northern end was cleared and attacked by 7 Armoured Brigade.

"The southern end, which we had been told contained probably a maximum of a company, actually held an armour-heavy battle group of around 25 tanks, together with APCs, guns and logistic vehicles.

"Around midnight, the 14th/20th battle group came into contact with these. Nothing could be detected with the naked eye and the only way of seeing anything was through thermal imaging systems."

Challenger main battle tanks went into action, and immediately a number of enemy tanks were hit, burst into flames and blew up. A running fight developed as British troops fought their way through the position.

To the south, the Royal Scots were clearing their objective, but both battle groups were

● Turn to next page

BRIG Christopher Hammerbeck, Commander of 4 Armoured Brigade, has spoken

of his pre-battle worries about

the possibility of sustaining

heavy casualties.

In an interview with SOLDIER, he said: "I would be stupid if I said that in the days preceding the invasion of Iraq I hadn't wrestled with my innermost feelings over casualties. Of course I had, but I was totally confident in what I was about to do.

"I had rehearsed my brigade three times and knew the quality of my officers and soldiers," he said.

The 4th Armoured Brigade crossed the line of departure around 1930 at two points – the main brigade at axis Hawk in the north led by the 14th/20th King's Hussars, and in the south at axis Tartan led by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots.

Trenches cleared by CLAW

● From Page 13

delayed by large numbers of prisoners-of-war.

The two battle groups arrived on the start line for the main attack of the first 24 hours – Objective Brass. It was a large position and contained the major portion of the Iraqi 52nd Armoured Brigade.

In the west, it consisted of an infantry-heavy battle group, a company of about a dozen tanks and two companies of APCs – the Russian carrier known as MTLB – in berms. In front of these, Iraqi companies were hidden in revetments and dug-outs. They were very deeply entrenched.

In the centre was a heavy armoured battle group of up to 30 tanks, 40 MTLBs, as well as artillery pieces and other elements. There was more artillery to the east of the position.

"I had ordered 1 Royal Scots to attack Objective Brass 1. They actually drove on to enemy positions under a continuous air burst laid down by 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery," said Brig Hammerbeck.

The bombardment was stopped and the commanding officer of 1 RS dismounted A Company who cleared the trenches using grenades and CLAW – the close assault weapon. Very quickly the enemy started to surrender and by 1200 the attack had proved a total success.

"Meanwhile, the 14th/20th battle groups had attacked Brass 2. This involved a very long approach march of some 10km. I know, because I was with them, that it was really scary. Nobody likes to approach over that sort of distance in tanks and we were expecting to be attacked at any time."

Within an hour the British formation had totally subdued this enormous position spread over 30 square kilometres, and

destroyed large numbers of enemy vehicles.

"The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers took Brass 3 by 1500.

"Around that time we had that awful attack from the air by American A10 tank-buster aircraft which led to the death of nine of my soldiers, the wounding of a further seven, and the destruction of two Warriors.

"It was very sad and, paradoxically, it was caused by the very people who had made the whole campaign so trouble-free by the effectiveness of their air attacks.

"We quickly got over this. That did not mean we weren't saddened by it and upset, but we had to get on and maintain the momentum of the battle."

While fresh orders were issued to battle groups to ready themselves for an attack on Objective Tungsten that night (February 26), Brig Hammerbeck was briefed by his staff on the achievements of his brigade.

Brig Hammerbeck said: "We saw it being a very formal operation with us achieving crossings over the tapline, and then subsequently breaking out into the objective which we believed held a brigade plus, before the ground campaign started.

"To support this I arranged with CO 2 Field Regiment RA for us to have a large and impressive artillery bombardment. I was given effectively two brigades of Arty. From the US Army, we got the National Guard 142nd Artillery Brigade with two batteries each of MLRS and M110. By golly, they were good."

The brigade also had the use of divisional artillery resources – 39 Heavy Regiment RA, 26 Field Regiment RA and 2 Field Regiment RA. Altogether, the



Brig Christopher Hammerbeck

British contribution was two batteries of MLRS, two of M110 and five batteries of M109.

"That adds up to a lot of gun tubes. I motored forward, perhaps a little too quickly, and arrived at the same time as my recce troops.

"I was able to see the bombardment laid down in front of me. It was a sight I shall remember for the rest of my days. To my left MLRS from 39 Heavy were firing and those of the 142nd were firing over my head.

"For 45 minutes, there was what I can only describe as a running roar as MLRS submunitions exploded in a carpet right the way across the full depth of the enemy position.

"It would go away and then flow back to catch people as they came out, and I could see the enemy's ammunition on the gun positions exploding as battery after battery was destroyed."

As soon as the bombardment ceased, the Royal Scots and 3rd Fusiliers battle groups, which had found a crossing point over the pipeline, launched themselves at the artillery positions. In a short time all surviving guns had been knocked out.

"Talking to an Iraqi artillery commander after the war, he told me that 90 per cent of his crews on that position had been killed or wounded when this initial bombardment had gone in.

"He lost more than 70 guns in the space of an hour, which was a pretty major achievement," said Brig Hammerbeck.

"It's simply nonsense to say there were no officers, certainly in the area we were advancing through."

What condition were the

prisoners in?

"They looked fine, well-fed

and well-equipped. It was the middle of the night and it was raining, but they all had pullovers, reasonable uniforms and all had shoes on.

"There was an awful lot of

rubbish talked about the state of these guys. They were not starved. They hadn't had a lot to eat in the previous three days, but that was because of the air campaign sealing off their logistics.

He got 2 Field Regiment to fire three rounds of 155mm on to the target. Then he used interpreters and loudspeaker broadcasts from one of the Psyops (Psychological Warfare Operations) vehicles to call upon the enemy to surrender.

The Iraqis refused to be cowed and the procedure was repeated again and again. Three rounds fired followed by calls for them to surrender.

Eventually the enemy did surrender, but only after, as a



Challenger tanks of the 14th/20th King's Hussars pictured during an exercise in Saudi Arabia before the offensive

captured, they would probably have had the same look upon their faces.

"This conflicts with what people may have heard or read about in the national press, that Iraqi officers deserted their men. It was simply not true.

"I captured a large number of officers of all ranks and station, and I am quite clear in my own mind that these regiments were properly officered," said Brig Hammerbeck.

"On all the objectives we attacked, the resistance was initially quite stiff. We were just better than they were, in our equipment and in our ability to fight, which is why we were able to do what I instructed my commanding officers to do. Stand off at distance and destroy the enemy vehicles before moving on to an objective.

"When I went back over the battlefields with the CO of the 14th/20th I was surprised at the size of the enemy positions and the numbers of vehicles we had destroyed. I gather we faced some of the largest objectives of anybody," said Brig Hammerbeck.

At Tungsten, 4 Armoured Brigade had run into the remnants of the Iraqi 12th Armoured Division and reserves from the Iraqi 25th Infantry Division, and taken up to 3,000 prisoners, including a divisional commander.

"You only had to go into their dug-outs to see they were comfortable and warm, and I formed the opinion that on the whole they were well motivated.

"They were a bit hacked off about being put in the bag and you always get that woebegone down-at-heel look. I guess that if some of my soldiers had been

short of its objective when the cessation of hostilities was announced.

"It had been a remarkable campaign. We had advanced around 350km in 97 hours. A tempo and speed of 3km per hour in battle is not inconsiderable. We had been responsible for the destruction or immobilisation of three divisions, one of which had been armoured, captured three Div commanders, four brigade commanders and between 5,000 and 8,000 prisoners. The brigade had destroyed up to 60 tanks, and a mass of APCs, guns and other vehicles.

"On our own part, we never had less than 94 per cent of our tanks on the road and, indeed, ended the battle with 53 tanks running out of the total of 59. Over that distance, it is a remarkable figure.

"The second, and more likely, was, with significant enhancements from divisional engineer resources, to attack south and open the supply routes up the Wadi.

"I have to confess I was less than enthusiastic about this last option because it seemed to me that it would take us out of the war, and involve us in a game that could end with us taking fairly significant casualties," he explained.

In the event, 4 Brigade was rapidly advanced the next morning to secure an objective as part of a divisional operation to close the Kuwait-to-Basra road more than 100km away. It was halted just a few kilometres

"It was nothing short of miraculous and I breathed a deep sigh of relief."

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FD SD2.91

IN the last issue we published accounts of the fighting in Iraq as told to **Laurie Manton** by officers and men of 7 Armoured Brigade. Now it is the turn of

soldiers of 4 Armoured Brigade.

What follows are eye-witness recollections by the commanding officer and men of the

Warrior-equipped 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), and the Challenger-tank equipped 14th/20th King's Hussars.

They remember their feelings as they came under fire . . . the confusion of fighting at night . . . the devastating effect of their weapons.

Not a good start as convoy cut Jocks in two

● Lt Col Iain Johnstone, CO 1 RS:

“OPERATION Desert Sabre went very well, but it didn’t get off to a particularly good start.

“It was very dark and it was raining, and just as we crossed the start line an enormous convoy of artillery trucks came right through the middle and split us in two.

“At our first objective (Bronze), I brought up B Company who engaged with 30mm and chain gun, and it then appeared somebody was going to surrender. There had been a degree of enemy fire, but it’s very difficult to know exactly what’s coming at you when you are closed down inside a Warrior.

“We debussed B Company but found that it is almost impossible to take prisoners at night because you can’t see anything. We put up white light.

“Some of the enemy were surrendering, some weren’t, so



Lt Col Iain Johnstone “at home” in the desert. He and his men lived and slept beside their Warrior fighting vehicles

we started clearing some of the bunkers to encourage them to surrender.

“Slowly but surely, it became apparent that if we could find a way of getting them out, we could continue on without further bloodshed, but we were in a bit of a hurry. The illuminations were beginning to run out so we started using the headlights on some of the vehicles, and that seemed to work quite well.

“On our way to Brass, we hit another enemy position. Behind them was a convoy of vehicles we took to be enemy, but couldn’t quite make it out. There were certainly no friendly forces supposed to be there, but we were concerned they might be blue so we didn’t engage them.

“We took on a close-quarter position instead. The enemy suffered some horrific casualties and we had to patch them up.

“The dilemma we faced was

that we were in a hurry to get on, but we also had a responsibility to treat the wounded, some of whom had limbs blown off.

“The doctor worked very quickly, the padre had to bury some, and we just stuffed the rest in the back of our ambulances and took them with us until we could put them in the ordinary Allied casevac chain.

“I understand all but one survived. They were jolly lucky, I think.

“It transpired that the convoy of vehicles we had seen was a British dressing station. It is just as well we didn’t engage them, although we had every right to do so because they were not in the area they should have been.

“A Company then swung round and landed on the enemy position just as the last artillery rounds were landing, which was the ultimate in armoured infantry shock action.

“As soon as the enemy had recovered from the artillery barrage, they were actually at rifle point and were not in a position to offer any resistance at all.

“Without satellite navigation, I don’t think it would have been possible to carry out our very quick switches in direction as a formation.

“The prisoners were astonished to find we were British. I don’t know what scenario had been painted to them, but they expected the Saudi Arabians. They were also astonished to find that we could move by formation at night, and therefore weren’t prepared for us.

“My most lasting memories will be the quiet tapping of enemy small arms fire striking the side of my Warrior, the sight of enemy T55 tanks blowing up on the skyline, and the image of hundreds of Iraqis rising up to surrender as we passed by.”

'We went hell-for-leather through the enemy position, firing on the move'

● Maj John Potter, Commanding B Coy, 1 RS:

"WE started engaging the enemy MTLBs (Soviet-made armoured personnel carriers) from the rear and we were shooting through their back doors. As we started, I heard our tank squadron report contact with T55s on the objectives. That meant I was between the enemy T55s and the MTLBs and our tanks were behind.

"It had the recipe for a real bugger's-muddle so I pulled the company firing line back until the tanks reported they had knocked out the T55s.

"I managed to get an intimate support troop of tanks chopped over to me and got



Maj John Potter



Pte Tam Gow

Grenade blasted armour

● Sgt Thomas Gorrian, 5 Platoon sergeant:

"We debussed and got into an assault formation to storm a trench and noticed a dug-in MTLB which had to be taken out. Myself and Pte Tam Gow pushed forward with CLAW.

The grenade went through the turret and out the back door and obliterated the whole inside of the vehicle.

"It will penetrate armour plate so it made mincemeat of



The Royal Scots cut their Land Rovers down to give them a lower profile

CLAW took priority

● Lt Alistair Stobie, 5 Platoon Commander:

"AS part of the Company SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) we lead from the front the whole way. We were given the nod from the boss to engage some dismounted infantry and so we upped sticks in our wagons and drove ahead of the tanks.

"I never saw it explode, I had my head down."

of us and adding to the obscuration, so I rolled them back so I could see what the hell was going on. It was a very eerie sensation looking through the sights. Just feeling rather than hearing the sound of the tanks firing, picking up the sound of small arms fire pinging off the side of the vehicle.

"Basically, the whole company would stop in a line and fire on the one bunker, which was a bit like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, but we weren't messing about.

"One poor chap decided even after we'd brassed up his bunker with chain gun, it was worth firing another couple of rounds. All 14 Warriors fired 30mm HE at him. He didn't do it again."

"What does brassing up a bunker mean? We'd pick a



Pte Tam Gow

Grenade blasted armour

● Sgt Thomas Gorrian, 5 Platoon sergeant:

"We debussed and got into an assault formation to storm a trench and noticed a dug-in MTLB which had to be taken out. Myself and Pte Tam Gow pushed forward with CLAW.

The grenade went through the turret and out the back door and obliterated the whole inside of the vehicle.

"It will penetrate armour plate so it made mincemeat of

the MTLB. Afterwards we followed up with white phosphorous – that's a kind of smoke grenade that basically fries everything inside. It's pretty effective."

"I CRAWLED up to the edge of the bunker containing the MTLB. I sat up and fired in a CLAW from 15 metres.

"I never saw it explode, I had my head down."

"Being the first contact we'd had, the old ticker was going quite fast.

"I dismounted Callsign 21 and all sorts of firefights went on. You kept coming across stuff you couldn't see from the wagon and it got slightly hairy. There was not much cover once you had dismounted. Except for the odd berm, you were



Cpl Grant McCulloch

● Cpl Grant McCulloch, Section Commander Callsign 21:

"OUR main objective at Brass was the Iraqi 12th Brigade. We took some effective enemy fire on the vehicle. People say fire is effective when you take casualties. As far as I am concerned it is effective when it comes my way.

"By the time we debussed it was cold and wet – ideal conditions for the Jocks. We carried out a quick systematic trench clearance.

"We are normally quite wary about rushing into trenches that could be full of anti-personnel mines or booby traps, so what we did was

"The effect is devastating."

completely exposed. We cleared the enemy positions using a mix of HE and phosphorous. You can't use it in confined spaces so we put our weapons on automatic and just got in there.

"CLAW was excellent. It gave us a 'further-than-you-could-throw' grenade which meant we could put down some fairly unpleasant fire about the enemy from a range of around 100 metres.

"To aim it we used the Susat sight with an element of SWAG (scientific wild-arsed guess)!"

"No bayonets were used because the CLAW fitment took priority, but I'm sure they would have loved a bit of Jock cold steel about them."

14th/20th KING'S HUSSARS

My gunner brewed up a T55

● Lt Col Michael Vickery, CO 14th/20th King's Hussars:

"B SQUADRON went off and had a look at the contact, and then I moved up with them to see what it was. It looked as if it was just infantry who were firing at us with the odd machine gun.

"If anybody fired a machine gun at us, they got a HESH round back, which tended to shut them up.

"There were some T55s and we threw up artillery fire and some of our own tank fire. I know my own gunner got a direct hit on a T55 – straight through and right beside the gun – and it brewed up quite well.

"Going back to Objective Bronze after the battle, we

found that the tank we had knocked out had actually fired five rounds. I didn't know that at the time, so we did collect some incoming although they were not very good shots. They were firing at us outside their best range.

"Operating closed down is a very interesting experience. It's quiet and you don't hear the incoming fire or weaponry.

"Indeed, when you are looking through the thermal imager, you don't see the incoming fire either, so the whole thing is really passionless.

"When looking at the tank we knocked out, I am afraid I wasn't worried about it. It was them or us, so there weren't any personal feelings."

It's a bit like space invaders

● Lt Stephen Bryant, 1st Troop D Squadron:

"IN total we fired off about 30 rounds in my tank.

"It seems unreal operating closed down. Through TOGS (Thermal Observation Gunnery Sight) you just see people running around on the TV screen.

"It's a bit like space invaders really. You are not shooting at tanks or people, you are just shooting at blips on the screen.

"It's quite disorientating.

DEVASTATING

● Cpl Dave Slade, 1st Troop D Squadron:

"THE effect on the tanks was devastating. There was nothing left – absolutely horrendous. I don't think anyone could have

Inside (the tank) you are looking sideways, but in fact the sight is looking forwards. Then there is the turret swinging around you and, of course, the hull drives off in another direction.

"We favoured fin rounds. Looking at the T55s afterwards, quite often you could see through the hole where it had gone in one side and out the other. The heat would have destroyed what was inside anyway, and set fire to it."

"It's quite disorientating.

lived through that. You think you are safe encased by steel, but you're not.

"It turns the interiors white hot. That's not a very nice situation to be in."

OP GRANBY IMAGES

On these and the following seven pages we print a random selection of some of the hundreds of pictures taken by members of SOLDIER's staff and RAOC photographers who recorded the British Army preparing for war in the Gulf and then accompanied the 1st (British) Armoured Division on Operation Desert Sabre, the ground offensive to liberate Kuwait.



Left: A squadron of Challenger tanks in the desert. The crews, awaiting orders to move off, dig slit trenches and rig makeshift shelters beside their vehicles

Right: Squadrons of Challenger main battle tanks and columns of Warrior armoured vehicles stretch to the horizon as British armour masses in the northern Saudi desert for a major rehearsal before the ground assault to liberate Kuwait



Left: These strange shapes are made by the sleeping bags of the crew of a 32 Armd Engr Regt AVRE. The sappers rigged up their sleeping bags on poles to air them in the stiff desert breeze



Two Iraqi soldiers surrender to men of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment during the ground assault in Iraq



Left: The domestic chores have to be done, even in the middle of a war. Hanging out the washing is Cpl Larry Larrard of 3 Squadron, 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT



Right: A United States Army Abrams M1A1 tank leads a line of American 7th Corps vehicles towards the Iraqi border after the ground offensive had started



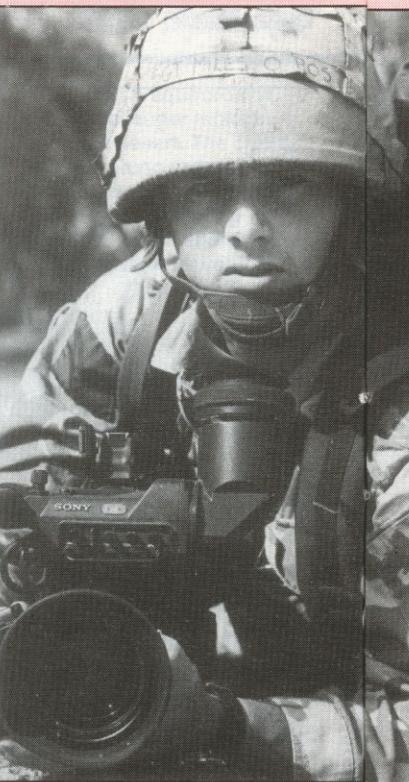
An Iraqi lieutenant (hood up against the cold) is questioned beside the armoured ambulance which accompanied 32 Armd Engr "recon" throughout the ground offensive. All the prisoner's personal effects, including a large sum of Iraqi dinars, his beret and badge, were placed in a container and returned to him when he was sent to the rear



OP GRANBY IMAGES



Relatives at war. These likely lads have something in common. All are serving with The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, and all were in the Gulf together. Left to right (back) are WO2 Jim Haveron, half-brother LCpl Ross McKeown and cousin LCpl Robert Clarke, and (front) LCpl Charlie Moore, who was about to marry into the family



Sgt Dave Miles of the UKLF Mobile News Team was one of several RAOC photographers who covered Op Granby and the final land assault. His video footage was returned to the UK for use on television and some of his stills appeared in SOLDIER



It's amazing what you can do with a sleeping bag and a pair of goggles. Looking for all the world like Teenage Mutant Hero Desert Rats, these five drivers from 7 Tank Transporter Regiment RCT posed for our photographer who happened to be passing. It was the idea of Cpl Steve Lake (second from left)

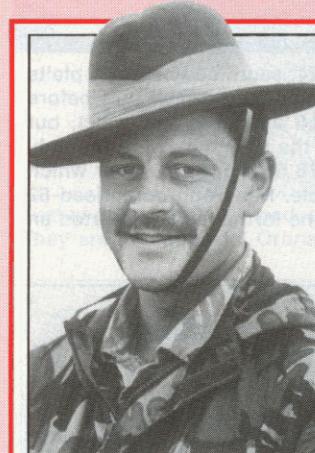


LITTLE CLEO?

Was she the smallest soldier in the Gulf? LCpl Cleo Cameron, 20, of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, stands just 5ft high. She served with 5 Armoured Field Ambulance – and she carried her full ration of kit. Cleo comes from Brechin, Angus



Combat posties pause for a breath near Kuwait City. From 1 Armoured Division Postal and Courier Squadron RE, they are (from left) Spr Andy Frigl, Cpl George Holwill, LCpl Paul Allocks, Sgt Mel Bellamy, Cpl Paul Dodwell, WO2 (SSM) Dick Mackenzie and LCpl Ivor Roberts. Their 432 was modified to carry two dispatch motor cycles on its roof



IN addition to 28 Gurkha Ambulance Squadron, the Brigade of Gurkhas had a number of officers serving in a variety of positions in the Gulf.

Pictured here in Iraq is Capt Jeremy Braude of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, wearing his felt hat.

He was attached to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, who provided part of the prisoner-of-war guard force.

Two fellow 6 GR officers, Capt Ian Thomas and Capt James Cheshire, were serving with 6 GR's affiliated regiment – 14th/20th King's Hussars. The last time members of both regiments were in action together was at Medicina in Italy in 1945.

Also serving in the region were Capt Simon Archer and Capt Tim Holt. Both are members of 10 GR.



Men of 28 Gurkha Ambulance Squadron, drawn from 28 and 31 Squadrons, Gurkha Transport Regiment, pose for a team picture at Dhahran airport. They and M Troop of 27 Tpt Regt RCT were involved in a major operation to bus men of 1 Armd Div to the airport for their journey back to the United Kingdom and Germany. In the middle is Capt Justin Stanhope-White, squadron 2iC, and behind him is coach troop commander Capt Padambahadur Thapa

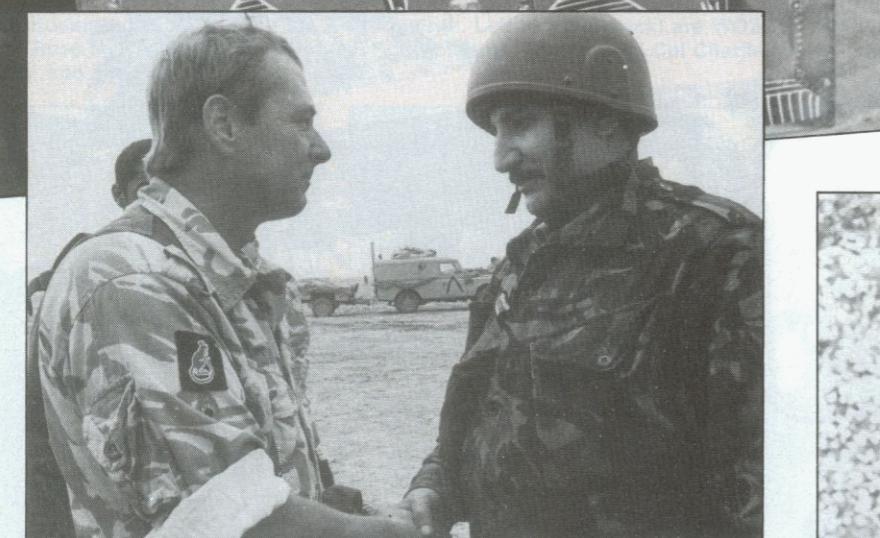
OP GRANBY IMAGES



Left: Hundreds of thousands of US dollars and Saudi riyals were held by the field cash office based with the Div Admin Area. Here (from left) SSgt Ian Thompson, Maj Simon Leadsom and Sgt Tim Edwards of the Royal Army Pay Corps display just a fraction of their hoard. It all had to be accounted for!



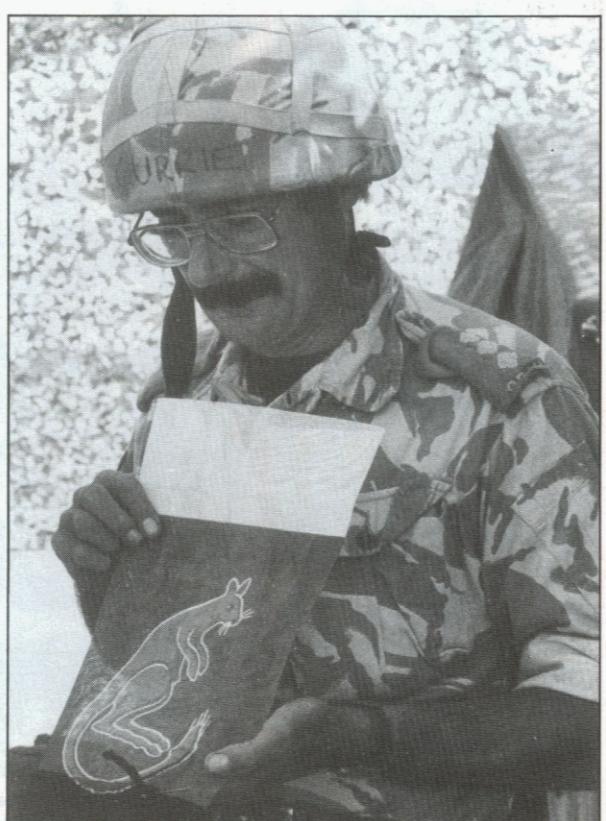
Lt Karen Perkins, 24, sacrificed her long plaits when she was posted to the Gulf just before Christmas. They fell almost to her waist, but they had to go. At the time they were the only plaits in A Troop, 76 Squadron RCT, for which Karen is responsible. Her troop comprised 62 men and 25 14-tonne lorries and supported an artillery regiment



Above: Col Alan Taylor, CO HQ Div Admin Area, is thanked after the liberation by Sadiq Al Mutawa, chief of the Kuwait interpreters attached to the DAA



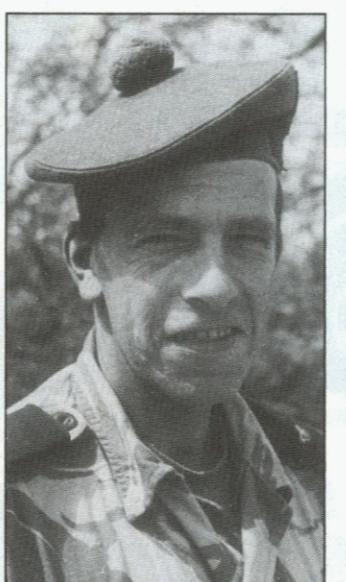
Right: Maj Chris Bristow RAEC, of the Command Information Team, types out a dispatch for *Sixth Sense*. He kept BAOR-based families in touch with what their menfolk were doing in the Gulf



Capt Arthur Currie QRIH and his "knitting". The officer commanding the regiment's A1 Echelon, he embroidered a Desert Rat badge in his spare time



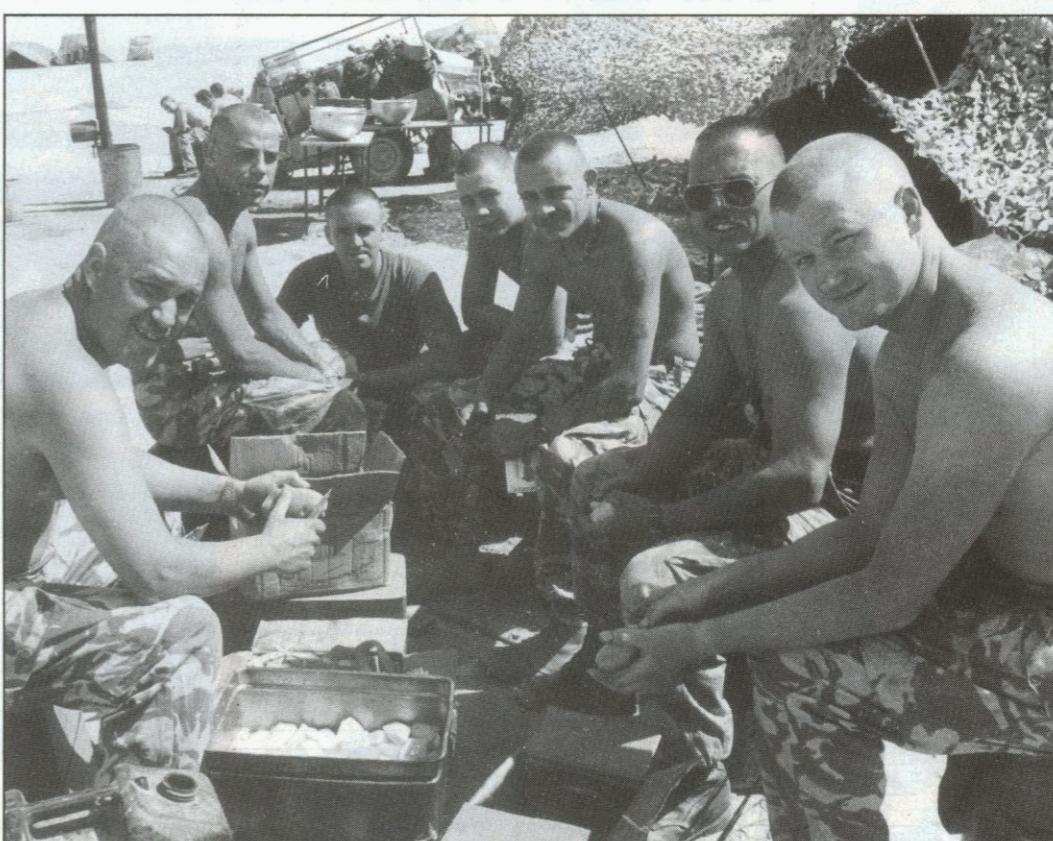
Just about everything needed to keep the 1st (British) Armoured Division on the go in the Gulf passed through the hands of these soldiers. They are the men of 6 Ordnance Battalion Group RAOC, which was put together for Op Granby from a number of ordnance companies



Maj Douglas Young QO Hldrs (above) was one of a number of Territorial Army officers in the Gulf. He served as a G3 (Ops) watchkeeper with 1 Armd Div.

He left the 2n Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers two years ago as a company commander and is now a member of the all arms pool of watchkeepers and liaison officers.

In civvy street he is a lawyer in the Highlands.



Spud-bashing duties at Dressing Station 5 Bravo which encompassed not only medical and dental facilities, but also a full chemical decontamination section

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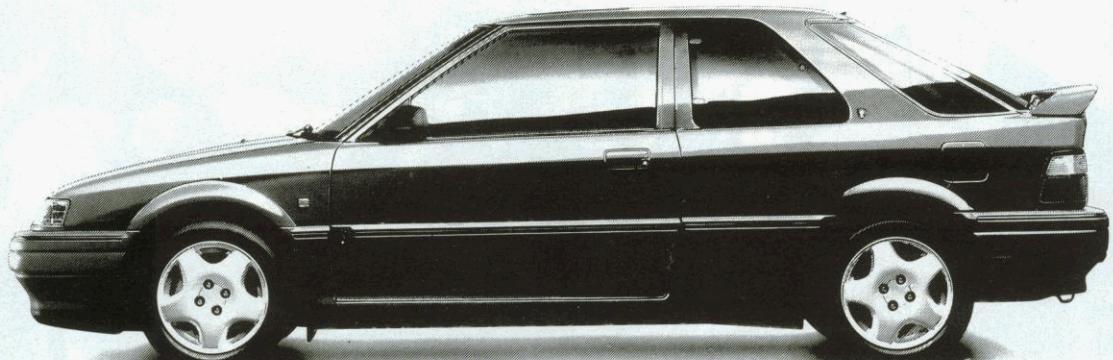
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Above: An M109 self-propelled howitzer in-theatre reserve on exercise.

Below: Sappers of 31 Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment on the way back to Al Jubayl from Kuwait after the ceasefire.

Centre right: The BBC World Service keeps (front) Capt Daniel Moate RAMC and LCpl Pete Coleman RCT, and (back) Capt Geoff Wright REME and Pte Keith Beckwith in touch with the latest peace moves.

Below right: A job well done. Challenger tanks of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards return on transporters from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia.





Left: SSgt Joe Greenan RMP musters his men of 6 Platoon, 203 Provost Company for a briefing on the battle plan at the Divisional Admin Area just before the ground offensive.

Right: A variety of flags stream out in the desert wind as soldiers at the Divisional Admin Area hear official confirmation of the ceasefire.



Above: Many British soldiers lived in the Saudi desert like this for months. Enjoying all the comforts of home offered by their Challenger tank are (from left) Tpr Mark Clarke, Lcpl Mac McNicholl and Tpr Axel Foley of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Below: Prime Minister John Major congratulates soldiers of 7 Armoured Brigade on their success. He visited them in Kuwait soon after the ceasefire – and was presented with a captured assault rifle.



Above: Men of 19 Squadron from 4 Armoured Division Transport Regiment RCT stand by to provide fuel for vehicles of all shapes and sizes which followed in support of 7 and 4 Armoured Brigades. This photograph was taken in southern Iraq on the morning of the ceasefire.

Right: Captured T55 and T62 Soviet-made Iraqi main battle tanks are lined up in a compound near Kuwait City to be stripped of ordnance. Many have been earmarked for regimental and corps museums and for British Army training facilities. In the foreground, Pte Mark Russell lifts a 100mm shell, while Pte Mick Ling clears a 7.62mm ammunition belt. Both men are serving with 2 Platoon, 518 company RPC.



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Wing Commander Mike Yule (extreme left), CO of the Services Booking Centre, and his military team. They are (from the left) standing: Squadron Leader John Beadman and Lt Col John Hain. Front: Pte Cathy Littlewood, Sgt John Hadley and Cpl Ian Wilson (both Royal Air Force), Sgt Rick Gourley, Master At Arms John Stanbrook RN, Drv Paul Clark and WO1 Roy Sheriff

SBC - That's big business

FAR-reaching innovations introduced by the Services Booking Centre - the Ministry of Defence travel agency now in its 21st year - could more than double its spending clout to about £55m a year, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

From its offices on the Embankment overlooking the Thames, SBC last year spent £25m on travel for 200,000 Servicemen and women and MoD civil servants.

Because of its expertise at hard bargaining with 20 airlines, it is being urged to take over travel arrangements for all Government departments. This would significantly enhance its corporate buying power.

At present its other main tasks include preparing the documentation for movement of about 10,000 families. It also provides passports and visas.

Operation Granby has kept the department especially busy. Many passengers with last-minute, priority requests enjoyed the benefit of the booking centre's excellent relationship with foreign embassy staffs, enabling visas to be granted

at very short notice.

SBC also arranges schoolchildren's visits for Defence personnel serving abroad and is the focal point for all indulgence travel from the United Kingdom.

A major departure from routine has been the opening of a Leisure Travel Unit in

'In a survey of 70 bucket shops offering low-price European deals, we were not undercut once.'

conjunction with a major airline, offering personal and leisure travel discounts worldwide. Despite the Gulf war, the unit has completed business worth £100,000 since October.

The facility offers a second option to someone who has been refused an indulgence flight, though 40 per cent of the annual 30,000 applicants do get a seat.

The indulgence facility is to be extended to a 24-hour call-forward service, starting in late summer.

It will be provided by the Joint Services Air Trooping Centre, which will operate out-of-hours, calling people forward to fill seats which suddenly become available when an unscheduled flight is laid on in an emergency.

SBC is one of the prime movers behind a scheme in which Gulf personnel can take a holiday for two for the price of one. And the centre hopes to extend further into the competitive holiday market.

Recent investment in the sophisticated £100,000 telephone system and additional computer facilities has brought greater efficiency to SBC. Telephone bookings are replacing the old card and signal system, giving an immediate, wider choice of value-for-money travel options.

A publicity drive aimed at dispelling criticisms of SBC includes visits by staff who use the service.

SBC has a tri-Service staff of ten and 60 civil servants led by Wing Commander Mike Yule, whose enthusiasm for his work is infectious. His foresight and drive has brought about a

metamorphosis at SBC, but he modestly puts it down to "being in the right place at the right time".

He would welcome the opportunity to handle all Government travel because it would give greater corporate buying power - which means better deals on both duty and leisure travel.

"It is an enormous untapped area. There are 500,000 entitled civil servants and Service personnel in MoD alone, and that is without taking into account their spouses and dependants. It is big business," he explained.

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"It must be remembered that though these bucket shop prices seem very competitive, they do not always bear scrutiny."

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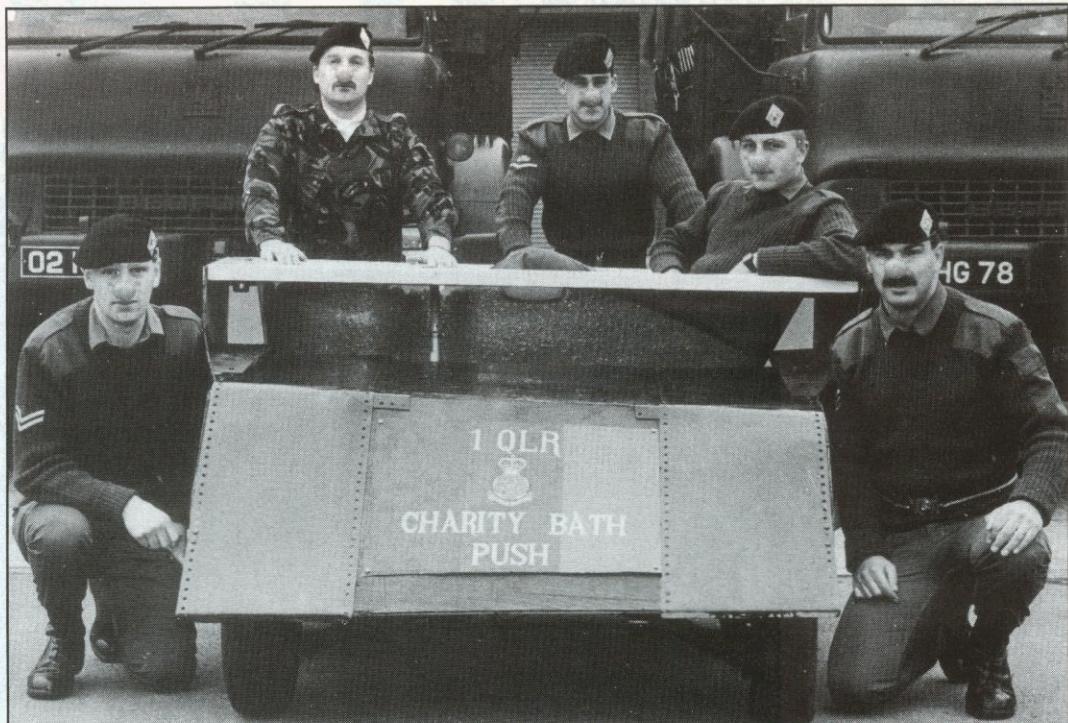
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Sgt Brown nose how to raise cash

Stand by your tub of custard, lads! Surrounded by (from left) Cpl Martin Spendiff, Stewart Rawle and Mark Henders and team leader Sgt Charlie Brown, Pte Richard Holland lies back and resigns himself to a nine-hour tour of Blackpool – in a bath full of cold custard. The quintet, all from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, did their great custard push to raise money for Comic Relief.



Good move at Bulford

NEARLY 40 soldiers – male and female – put their best feet forward at **Bulford Camp** to raise £600 for Children in Need.

They took part in a strenuous two-hour aerobics session.

Cpl Tina Rigby (243 Signal Squadron, Bulford), LCpl Nikki Pearce (WRAC HQ UKLF Support Unit, Wilton) and LCpl Teresa Oliver (AAC Middle Wallop) organised the event, and even charged spectators to boost the coffers.

★ ★ ★

Army Careers Information Officer staff at Surbiton put together a highly attractive package of events for the BBC Children in Need appeal and asked Derek Jameson to auction it on his early morning radio programme.

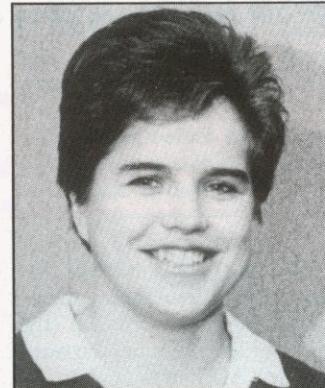
Highest bidder was David Williams, a former soldier and TA officer from Northampton. He and his wife and two children were accommodated at a London hotel, given a guided tour of the Tower and shown over the museum of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

★ ★ ★

The warrant officers and sergeants of the **5th Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers)** and their wives have raised nearly £500 for the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice in Shrewsbury. Their latest donation of £248 – raised by the mess during carol



LCpl Teresa Oliver (left) and LCpl Nikki Pearce who organised a sponsored aerobics session at Bulford



singing sessions in the town – was handed over to the hospice by WO1 (RSM) Doug Hosking.

★ ★ ★

Army cadets at **St Ives** appealed for cash and goodies to support British troops in the Gulf – and hit the jackpot. The 53-strong ACF detachment (Lt Leslie Wooller) was inundated with offers of help from the local community and sent off more than 200 parcels and about £3,000.

★ ★ ★

Look out for Maj (Retd) Paddy Kersting in the London Marathon on April 21. The 56-year-old curator of the **Household Cavalry Museum** at Windsor is running to raise funds for his museum, which is supported entirely from voluntary contributions.

organised by its national headquarters.

For the past 15 years members of the branch have been sending money to support troops stationed in Ulster.

★ ★ ★

A competition for standard bearers of ex-Service organisations is being staged at the "Lest We Forget" annual Service charity presentation of the Seaside Entertainment Appreciation Society in Blackpool on September 27.

The show is in aid of the **Army Benevolent Fund**. Details are available from The Secretary, David Wagstaff, 45 Gateside Drive, Layton, Blackpool FY3 7PN (tel: 0253 394760).

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ARMY CATERING CORPS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Inset: Brig Barry Bloxham. Above: The Army Catering Corps celebrates its 50th birthday with a parade through Aldershot

The work goes on...

BRIG Barry Bloxham, Director Army Catering Corps, told SOLDIER that he was delighted that officers and men had performed exceptionally well in the Gulf, but that he wouldn't have expected anything else . . . "that's our raison d'être".

The fact that high standards had been achieved when such conditions had not been encountered for several years made it doubly gratifying.

He was at pains to stress that however creditable the achievements of the Corps in the Middle East might be, the work of the ACC was going on world-wide every day, and nowhere was it more important than in Ulster, where individuals were sometimes providing a service spanning 24 hours.

"There are certain scenarios in Northern Ireland which epitomise the role of the ACC

soldier chef in supporting our troops.

"Recently I visited a sangar in South Armagh where an infantry platoon was being catered for by a single lance-corporal chef working underground. Using largely composite rations he managed to produce a wonderful variety of food and he really was the hub of the little base.

"Life, as far as the soldiers

on duty were concerned, largely revolved round what he was going to produce for their next meal."

The troops in South Armagh could look forward to something more substantial than might have been provided when Brig Bloxham joined the ACC in 1956.

Then the daily scale for a soldier included 3½ ounces of meat, "bone in".

"By the time that had been prepared and cooked you ended up with about two ounces on your plate," said the brigadier. "If you were to compare it with today's portions you would think you were on starvation rations."

Looking into the future, he said that though the Army was facing a period of change, whatever emerged from Options for Change and the Logistics Support Review, in the final analysis wherever an army had to fight it also had to be fed under operational conditions. The best people to do that were the officers and men of the ACC.

Few soldiers would argue with that.



Fifty years ago. An instructor at the Middle East School of Cookery cuts up a fore quarter of beef

Yanks knew a good thing



"AN army is a multitude of men who demand to be fed every day." So said Frederick the Great, who knew a thing or two about such matters, writes Bill Moore.

Were he around today the belligerent old Prussian would be among the first to send birthday greetings to the Army Catering Corps, which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

For feeding multitudes is the business of the Corps – which was responsible last year for supplying 70m meals in more than 1,000 locations from Belize to Berlin, and Aldershot to Al Jubayl.

The Gulf war, in which more than 800 ACC personnel were employed, emphasised the value of a body of specialists

"Skilly", a thin soup made of

trained in catering supervision and direction, and deploying experienced and skilled chefs.

The most genuine tribute paid to the Corps was the speed with which American soldiers passing through British camps joined any "chow line".

And yet it wasn't always like that.

There was a time when even convicts sneered at redcoats who received, according to one authority, only poor quality brown bread instead of the white loaves given to the gaolbirds.

In Edwardian days the faintly rebellious words put to one bugle call were "Officers wives get puddings and pies, soldiers wives get skilly."

Even so, most men ate meals in their barrack rooms (hence the table-scrubbing ritual which most old soldiers will recall).

regarded as parades, so that to miss one was an offence.

"Did you have breakfast lad?" was the kindly but treacherous question always asked of any youngster who collapsed on a cold morning.

There was also tea, which was not compulsory, and for his evening meal he had to rely on his own devices, probably the Naafi.

Things changed in 1938 when the War Minister, Mr Hore-Belisha, invited Sir Isidore Salmon, head of J Lyons and Co, the most famous popular restaurant chain of the day, to become honorary catering adviser to the Army.

Though given a room at the War Office, he spent more time at Aldershot where he reorganised the school, introduced expert lecturers from the Savoy and Grosvenor House Hotels, and brought in a chief instructor from Westminster Technical College who was quickly commissioned and rose to senior rank.

He also persuaded the authorities to build what became the Army Catering Corps Training Centre, which took its first students in Autumn 1940. The Corps itself was formed on March 22, 1941, coming under the overall control of the Royal Army Service Corps until 1965 when it became independent.

The ACC reached a strength of 50,000 during the Second World War, when its soldiers manned captured Italian guns during the defence of Tobruk and used their weapons to good effect in other theatres (all ACC personnel are trained as soldiers first, tradesmen second).

Today the Corps consists of 170 officers and 4,300 men and women, serving wherever there are British troops. Its reputation has never been higher, as the American attachments to our cookhouse queues showed.

After all, the proof is in the pudding . . .



On a winner. ACC chefs in the Saudi Arabian desert, December 1990

We will never forget you



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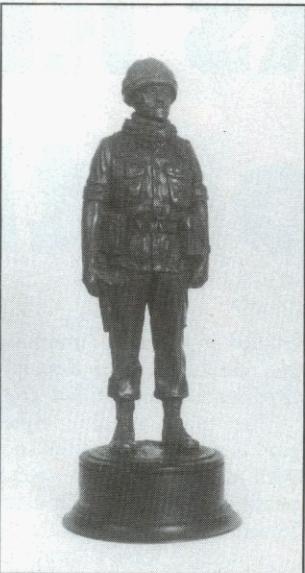
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Time for a rethink on the family front

— Lord Bramall

A VERY pertinent point was made by Field Marshal Lord Bramall during an address to the European-Atlantic Group in Parliament.

After dealing with the savings and cuts which are expected to happen due to the changes in the political scene, he said:

"So savings there must be in Germany within the sensible framework of wider security guarantees and balanced reductions all round, and this would give us a chance to tackle, certainly to streamline if not to disband, our very large family infrastructure in Germany."

He admitted it had taken him quite some time to come to this view. Modern domestic trends were coincidental with families putting down roots, buying houses, with working wives and children remaining at the same schools.

"There must," he said, "be a movement towards home stations, shorter unaccompanied service in Germany and trickle postings for the smaller number of units left there."

If this nettle were grasped considerable savings would be made.

I am sure a lot of wives will agree that permanent homes, work for women and education are key issues.

Lord Bramall is talking a great deal of sense and I would welcome letters on this subject.

AFTER 14 years the last hurdle in a battle to overcome an injustice has been overcome.

Under new legislation the requirement to have lived in the UK for ten out of the last 20 years should no longer apply to members of Service families claiming severe disablement allowance.

After failing to get an amendment to the Disability Working Allowance Bill when it was before the Commons I obtained the support of Lord Swinfen, who raised the matter in the Lords in February.

In March he telephoned to say Lord Henley, Minister for the

VICTORY! Overseas disabled ruling reversed

Disabled, had agreed to an amendment.

In a speech the Minister said the ten-in-20 year residence rule had been re-examined.

Referring to the fact that members of the Armed Forces frequently served overseas and

often in situations of great danger, he declared that it was thought "only right that the structure of the social security benefits system should recognise their special position."

It was therefore proposed to amend the residence condition as it applied to the severe disablement allowance "to allow periods spent abroad by serving members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and their families to be treated as resident in Great Britain for the purposes of qualifying for SDA".

The necessary regulations would, he said, be made at the first suitable opportunity later in the

year.

Lord Swinfen, thanking the Minister for "a piece of good news", suggested he might consider the question of Crown servants in general in respect of SDA allowance and was told the issue was being considered.

I was first involved in this struggle in 1974 when it took a considerable time to win an allowance for a wife.

Later the right to receive benefit while overseas was won and then the right to apply while overseas.

For this latest advance let me say "Thank you, Minister".

Patriot homes in on target

RBL aims to manage 200 houses

A FIRM of stockbrokers, William de Broc, has launched a scheme to raise millions to buy houses for letting to ex-Servicemen in the South of England.

Called the Patriot Business Expansion Scheme, it has raised £10m from private investors to buy up to 200 houses which the Royal British Legion Housing Association will manage, buying them from Patriot BES after five years.

An investment specialist writing in a national newspaper has described it as a "superb deal" and failed to find any snags in it.

John Atkin, chairman of the RBLHA, has welcomed it warmly:

"If we can achieve our goal of between 94 and 200 houses we will be very happy. It is hoped to buy small groups of ready-built houses which will be managed by us."

Applicants should write to RBLHA PO Box 32,

Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8JF.

Meanwhile, a pilot self-build scheme is currently being planned to operate in the London area, and families are being sought to form a self-build group.

It is hoped that a site being sold by the Ministry

of Defence at Brookhill, Woolwich, will become the location of the first group self-build scheme specifically for serving and ex-Service personnel, single or married. Details can be obtained from Chartserve Self Build Consultants (0323 412161).

Happy birthday

THE BRITISH Commonwealth Ex-Services League has just celebrated its 70th anniversary with a gathering attended by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Grand President. The League works ceaselessly to help ex-Servicemen in need. Branches are to be found in many countries. Anyone interested in joining should write to the Secretary General, BCEL, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG.

Medway puts skids under Services' house hopefuls

SERVICE families should have heard by now from the Medway Housing Society since Rochester upon Medway City Council transferred housing stock to it last summer.

The letter makes no more cheerful reading than that sent just before Christmas informing Servicemen that "in future no applications will be accepted from persons living in Armed Forces Quarters".

One individual was told: "Should you be unable to find accommodation by the time you are discharged it would be advisable for you to contact the Homeless Persons Officer of the Local Council..."

Medway Housing Society is registered as a Friendly Society.

It is independent of local authorities and housing corporations.

One way Servicemen can seek a home under the

new scheme is to cite local connections, if they have any.

Under the Housing Act of 1985 the city council has a responsibility to house the homeless — and can then apply to the Medway Housing Society.

They may also be able to apply for alternative low cost housing or shared ownership.

In other words, the outlook is still extremely bleak.

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Things are very different today. I now own a six bedroom luxury house. I drive a Porsche 911 Cabriolet (I also have a vintage Jaguar) and I usually take three overseas holidays each year – I've just recently returned from a superb 2 weeks in Japan.

So how come my drastic change in fortune? Well, five years ago I was lucky enough to meet and become close friends with a forty two year old self made multi millionaire. He taught me that it's not how hard you work that counts (many people work hard all their lives yet have nothing to show for it). What matters is the goals you set yourself, your courage and determination to achieve them, and that you work to a definite and proven plan. He shared with me his most closely guarded business secrets and taught me a complete and proven step-by-step plan for making big money. By following his advice I became a millionaire within three years. I am now my own boss and no longer worry about money. I work less than half as many hours now than I did when I was an employee yet I earn more in one day than I used to in a month.

Some time ago a friend of mine who had recently lost his job, aware of my success, asked me how he could do as I had. I began to outline the system to show how he could do exactly the same as me. The results were amazing. Despite his having no previous business experience he made £5,160 during his first month after following my advice and nearly double that the following month. It was at this point I decided to write a complete step-by-step blueprint that would enable anyone, regardless of their age, sex or education, to earn an exceptional income providing they are of at least average intelligence and prepared to learn new ideas.

Let's get one thing straight. This programme is perfectly legal and respectable. If it wasn't, believe me, I wouldn't be involved in it.

You don't have to quit your job to start. Obviously you will want to test it first. I will show you how to get started in your spare time at home. Don't think for one minute that you can't do it – I'll prove you can. The information contained in my programme is worth many thousands of pounds and if acted upon will make you financially secure for the rest of your life.

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This is not some phoney "get rich quick" scheme of the type commonly available. The information and secrets I will teach you are exactly those that I myself have used every day over the last few years to make well over a million pounds. I will tell you exactly what to do, how to do it, I'll supply you with actual names and addresses of useful contacts and I will

make it all available to you for just £20. You will be overjoyed with what you receive. In fact I'm so confident you will be pleased that I offer a full money back guarantee.

If you don't think the material I send you is the best investment you've ever made and worth at least one hundred times what you paid for it, simply return everything in good condition within 30 days and I will immediately send you a full refund along with my congratulations for having at least given it a try. There will be no questions asked, no delays, just a cheerful and prompt refund! I don't want one penny of your money if you're not going to benefit from my programme.

When you order my material I will also send you – **FREE OF CHARGE** – 'How to develop a millionaire mentality' in which I reveal how to actually think like a millionaire. I'll show you how to acquire the strength, willpower and energy that will be so important, not only to your future financial success, but also to your enjoying a more fulfilling lifestyle. It will totally alter your attitude to life and will perhaps be the most powerful book you've ever read. Worth more than £20 by itself. It's yours to keep, even if you decide to return my programme.

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C.L., Bromley, Kent

"I've earned £80,000 in my first year of following your advice!"

J.B., London

(Copies of letters shown, and many others, are available for inspection.)

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Dakota dilemma

Aldershot's most famous landmark, the DC3 Dakota aircraft outside Browning Barracks, is in a bad way.

A report by Imperial War Museum experts from Duxford has revealed that age, the weather and birds have so damaged the aircraft that it will have to be scrapped unless urgent repairs are carried out.

The Dakota, which "missed" seeing action in the Second World War by one month, has stood outside the Airborne Forces Museum at Aldershot since 1970.

But its plywood furnishings are rotting away, there is surface corrosion on the fuselage and the internal floor is unsafe.

Museum curator Mr Simon Anglim says three options are available:

- Raising a five-figure sum to have it renovated;
- Finding expert volunteers to do the work for nothing and paying only for materials;
- Scrapping the old Dakota.

The museum has recently spent about £3,500 having the canvas control surfaces repaired, paintwork touched up and a bird-scaring system installed.

Mr Anglim would be pleased to hear from benefactors. They can contact him at the Airborne Forces Museum, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU (tel: 0252 349619).

SOLDIER to Soldier

Fusiliers passed this way



Pebbles in the sand – the 3 RRF badge

Get away – to Cumbria

If you are looking to get away from it all, 11th Signal Regiment might be the people to talk to.

They run an adventure training centre at Whernside, near Dent in Cumbria, the heart of North Yorkshire's national park.

A Grade 2 listed 18th century manor house and its five-acre estate provide a superb setting from which Army families can enjoy some of the best outdoor pursuit training in the country.

Private groups and families can use the manor facilities.

Accommodation, on a self-catering basis, is available in a separate cottage, the Statham Hut, at a cost of £50 a night for parties of 12.

The Howes-Wood memorial unit sleeps six and costs from £20.

The facilities are available to any unit.

More information on Whernside Adventure Training Centre is available from the OC, Lt Ashley Stocker, or the centre manager, WO2 Cook, Whernside Manor, Dent, Cumbria LA10 5RE (tel: 05875 213).

Making its mark on the landscape is something no British regiment has been able to resist through the ages. Badges have been carved on the cliffs of the Khyber Pass, cut into the chalk of the green Fovant valley in Wiltshire, and painted and repainted on the blast walls of Security Forces bases in Northern Ireland.

The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was keen to follow the pattern but the deserts of Saudi Arabia were a challenge – flat, monotonous and stretching, apparently, for ever.

RSM Bob Broadbent solved the problem by using the natural assets of one area where there were plenty of pebbles.

It was from this site that the Fusiliers set out as part of 4 Armoured Brigade for the ground offensive.

Unlike the relics on the Khyber, the badge is unlikely to remain for travellers to admire. Only Bedouin stray over this wilderness (there was evidence of camels but not much else in the area) and the dust is likely to cover up the pebbles in the storm season.

The trails cut by the RRF's Warriors were being silted up by drifting sand almost as soon as they were made. Soldiers and campaigns soon pass into history.

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Cooking pot dates back to Crimea

AN object in a photograph in your focus on 32 Field Hospital (March 18) was described as a 1938-issue cooking pot.

It has a far more ancient lineage. As I recall it is known

as a Soyer stove or cooker after the French chef Alexis Soyer who, at his own expense, went to the Crimea in 1855 to advise on cooking for the army and the military hospitals.

The National Army Museum is far better qualified to confirm this. Its snack bar is named after him. — **K G Whyte**, 27 Victoria Road, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 4HY.

Reunions

● **RASC Jersey Boys:** The next meeting has been arranged for May 18-19. Of the 240 apprentice boys stationed at St Peter's Barracks, Jersey, between Oct 1938 and our evacuation in June 1940, 127 have been accounted for. The search continues for the remainder. Details from Joe Gutteridge, New Horizon, 6 Tudor Way, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 6UE (tel: 0278 422806).

● **National Ex-Prisoner of War Association:** Reunion will take place October 25-28 at Warners Lakeside Holiday Centre, Hayling Island. Details from C Jago, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG.

● **ACC Sgts (Past and Present) Association:** Annual dinner and reunion will be held at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot on Saturday, July 6. Details from WO1 L A Sorby, Staff Asst, Training Battalion and Depot ACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BN.

● **RHA/2 Field Regt RA:** All ranks reunion will be held at Kirkee Barracks, Colchester, on May 4. Contact Mr T Caisley, 12 Farriers End, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5YE (tel: 0206 573659).

● **The Middlesex Regiment:** Annual reunion will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2, on Saturday, May 11, starting at 6.30pm. Details from Maj A E F Waldron, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE (tel: 0227 87445).

● **The Cambridgeshire Regiment:** Annual Service of Remembrance will be held in Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire on Sunday, June 9 at 2pm. Details from Mr Roy Stubbs, 25 The Vineyards, Ely, Cambs CB7 4QG (tel: 0353 663249).

● **Beachley Old Boys Association:** Annual reunion will be held June 22-23. Details from Lt Col (Retd) R J Overd, Army Apprentices College, Beachley Camp, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG (tel: 0291 627212 ext 5208).

● **Trucial Oman Scouts:** Reunion is now fixed for October 26, 1991. Details from Mr T Ward, 44 Weller Avenue, Rochester, Kent ME1 2LG (tel: 0634 404528).

● **Carterton Comprehensive School:** Former pupils of this school, near RAF Brize Norton, between 1971-74 interested in reunion contact Karen Frost, 3 Rectory Court, Old Banwell Road, Locking, Avon BS4 8BS.



Here's one: 28 Sqn GTR's badge

21st century over who wore what. I am therefore writing to you, and to all units involved in

the Gulf which I can trace, with a view to cataloguing the badges.

All that I need is a sketch of a typical brassard, outlining the badge designs and indicating colours, for all the badges worn together in this way for each unit. A colour photo, or an example of the badge, would be nice but is not essential.

Information on uniform details would also be helpful, as press photos seem to show a heterogeneous assortment of desert and European camouflage patterns worn together. — **D C Blevin, MoD, AG Sec 2h, Room 810, Empress State Building, London SW6 1TR.**

We're the King's Hussars

AS an avid reader of **SOLDIER** I was aghast to see my husband's regiment wrongly named in the story Headlined "Awesome" (March 18).

We are not the 14th/20th Royal Hussars, but the 14th/20th King's Hussars.

Thank you so much for your

coverage of Op Granby. I'm looking forward to more in future issues. — **Mrs J Scott, c/o Sgt R W Scott, C Sqn, 14/20 H, BFPO 45.**

● *Apologies to 14/20 H. The story was written and faxed in great haste from Kuwait City and the error slipped through.* — **Editor**

Euphoria . . . or whitewash?

CAN someone please tell an old soldier just what the euphoria following the Gulf "disaster" is all about?

Having served as a staff officer during the Second World War in such theatres as France (1939-40) and with the 1st and 8th Armies from 1942 to 1945, I am perplexed.

I was trained that a war has not been concluded nor won until it reaches its uttermost and final cessation. As with

Adolf Hitler, this final conclusion comes only with the destruction and/or bringing to justice of the perpetrators, in this case Saddam Hussein and his fellow criminals.

We have not done this and, therefore, we have an inconclusive state of affairs in which already Hussein is venting his wrath on his own people by acts of repression.

What's the betting that he will retrieve the arms lodged in

Iran and start again, possibly against Saudi Arabia or Israel?

Listening to the old League of Nations in the late 30s contributed to the Second World War; just watch that listening to the United Nations in 1991 does not finally spark off the Third World War due to the inconclusive result of Desert Storm.

Euphoria or another whitewash? — **Col (Retd) T Laird, Largs, Ayrshire.**

Compass: The first major victory

"FOX killed in Open." Thus General Sir Richard O'Connor, Commander XIII Corps, informed General Sir Archibald Wavell, C-in-C Middle East, from Cyrenaica on February 8, 1941 of the overwhelming defeat of the Italian Army in just two months, resulting in their loss of 200,000 troops killed, wounded and taken prisoner.

The latter category amounted to over 120,000, including 22 generals and one admiral, which caused an Australian soldier who was rounding some of them up at Bardia to comment: "I joined the army because I was tired of my old job, but here I am bloody well driving again."

This proved to be the first major British victory of the war. Operation Compass started on December 12, 1940 at Sidi Barrani only as a raid against the Italian Army which had crossed into Egypt in September shortly after Italy had declared war on June 11, 1940.

Although the operation was primarily a land operation, George Forty is careful to pay due credit in *The First Victory* to the RN and RAF, without whose help in keeping open the supply route through the Mediterranean, providing sea



and air power against the enemy, supplying troops by sea and air and in evacuating prisoners of war, the campaign would not have succeeded.

The RN destruction of the Italian Fleet at Taranto by Swordfish torpedo aircraft in November was a vital overture to Operation Compass.

Nor would it have succeeded without the relentless drive of O'Connor. He wrote to the

GOC 7 Armoured Division about January 27, 1941: "You say that the Armoured Division will be played out after reaching Mechili. I am afraid I cannot agree. They will only be 'played out' when there are no more tanks that can move. It is no good failing in the object of our campaign with a reserve of tanks in hand."

They went on a further 150 miles to El Agheila, cutting off the retreating Italians, who were so unprepared that the leading vehicle contained civilians, and completing their destruction.

O'Connor requested permission to continue against the demoralised Italians to capture Tripoli but was denied because Wavell had been ordered by Churchill to send troops to Greece against a possible German intervention.

Had O'Connor captured Tripoli before the first German troops, sent to bolster the Italians, arrived there on February 12, would that have been the end of the North

Another time, another war

Half a century separates these two pictures – but little seems to have changed. In the top picture an RAF unit refuels British Army tanks in the front line of the battle for Sidi Barrani. On the left, and 50 years later, a Challenger main battle tank is refuelled in northern Saudi Arabia before the ground offensive to liberate Kuwait.

African campaign and would the battles of Tobruk and Alamein never have happened?

Colonel General Alfred Jodl had the last word: "Germany lost the war because she had been obliged to divert divisions to meet the British landings in Greece. This meant she lost six weeks. She lost time and with time she lost Moscow, Stalingrad and the war." So Churchill was right!

George Forty has told the story of what Sir Basil Liddell Hart called "one of the most daring ventures and breathless races in the annals of the British Army" with loving care, much attention to detail, marvellous photographs – over 300 – and great humour.

If a copy had been available in the Gulf, tank and infantry commanders might have picked up some useful tips. – PSN

The First Victory. General O'Connor's Desert Triumph, Dec 1940-Feb 1941, by George Forty. Published by The Nutshell Publishing Co Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Price £19.95.

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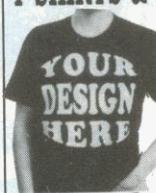
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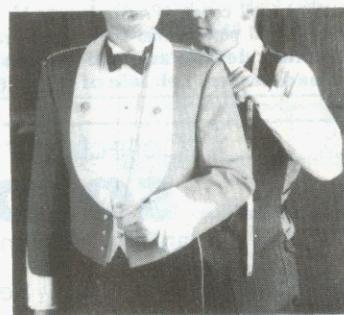
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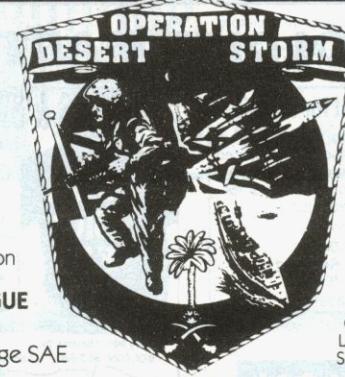
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FOOTBALL BOXING BASKETBALL

Army sting drawn by Somerset

Army 1,
Somerset and Avon 1

A DRAW against Group A leaders Somerset and Avon effectively ended the Army's interest in this year's South West Counties championship, writes Pat Massey.

On reflection it was about as much as the Army, ravaged by injury and non-availability, deserved.

Playing in the teeth of a strong wind sweeping across Aldershot Military Stadium, the Army did well to restrict their visitors to a handful of chances in the first half.

The Army took the lead in the 58th minute when the third in a series of corners was fired hard and low across the county goal. LCpl Alan Robinson (R signals) tapped in from close range.

Minutes later Somerset were back on level terms when 'keeper Sgt Nigel Wiscombe was beaten by a header.

Scottish Div Depot 2,
2 Inf Div Regt RCT 0

Glencorse-based Scottish Div Depot successfully defended their Army (UK) Minor Units title with a 2-0 victory over 2nd Infantry Div Regt RCT and so retain the Yorks and Lancs Cup, this year sponsored by Leyland Daf.

The Jocks failed to exploit their territorial domination in the first half and had to wait for 30 minutes before getting a real shot on target. They went

LIGHTLY LADS!

THE lads of the Light Division Depot are the new Army junior football champions.

They won the Under 17½ Cup by beating Junior Leaders RA from Bramcote 3-0 at Tidworth. The Winchester boys wasted five good chances before JLdr John Davies (RGJ) put the Light Division ahead with a neat chip.

After the break the Light Division were much more commanding and JLdr Les Henderson (LI) scored twice more. Key to victory was the constructive midfield work of skipper JCpl David Coffey (who was voted man of the match), JLdr David Ross and JLdr Trevor Wood, all of the Light Infantry.

BADMINTON ALPINE SKIING

TOUGH GOING

ENGLAND representatives Cpl Neil McCallum and Sgt Dave Abbott were the only Army boxers to get past the tough Combined Services-Western Counties England ABA quarter-final round at Salisbury on March 16, writes John Elliott.

Their next appearance was in the George Wimpey All-England semi-finals at Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham on April 3. Also in action there were Royal Marines Trevor French and Mark Edwards, the former ABA champion.

Grenadier Guardsman Abbott, who got a second chance in the competition when RAF novice SAC Paul Fiske - winner of the Services title on a walkover - withdrew, was himself the recipient of a walkover when Western Counties could not come up with a super heavyweight.

McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT) comfortably beat

Torbay's George Nicette, but had to settle for a majority points decision - a graphic illustration of how hard it is to win away from home in the ABA competition when two of the three judges are from the opposition camp.

In different circumstances LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) and LCpl Kevin Mason (Depot and Tg Regt RCT) might also have won.

Mason was stopped automatically in the third when a fourth compulsory count was given against him. Yet twice he was blatantly pushed through the ropes and Empire's Adrian Stone was repeatedly guilty of holding and hitting.

The Army camp felt Mason won the second round and was well ahead in the third when the bout was brought to a premature end.

And Rajcoomar, after losing the first round, did more than enough to win the second against Devonport

veteran Arthur Jones, and did everything but stop his opponent in a thrilling if one-sided final round. Jones got the judges' verdict - unanimously.

Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF), making his debut at this level, took the first round against John Hitchings but could not stay with the pace when the Poole flyweight turned up the pressure.

LCpl Lee Innes (1/3 Tg Regts RE) lost a unanimous decision to Paignton's Peter Norris. Innes was well below par on the night and his defeat was a big disappointment.

Two young Army boxers are through to the NABC quarter-finals at Milton Keynes on April 6.

Pte Loz Roach (1 LI) and Pte Darren Duggan (R Hamps) both beat highly rated opposition at Harrow in the regional finals to make progress in the competition. Pte Sven Hamer (1 Queens) lost on points.

SPORT

HUGH SETS PACE

THE 1991 British Services international Alpine ski championships at Megeve, France went ahead despite the Gulf war. Although the number of racers was down on previous years, the event - sponsored by Portakabin and Courage - was blessed by ideal conditions and an abundance of snow.

The French Army were quickest on the giant slalom with Spain taking their first ever medal to finish second. In the British Inter-Services competition the Army won both men's and women's team awards despite Lt Hugh Hutchison RE and Lt Tana McQuoid WRAC, the defending champions, being outraced by the RAF's Craig Bonnington and Jenny Davidson.

Davidson and McQuoid were first and second in the women's special slalom, with the RAF taking team honours.

Four French Air Force skiers finished in the top five in the men's downhill, set over a course of Europa Cup standard. The Army's LCpl Geordie Crawford (22 Signal Regiment) lived up to pre-race predictions to win his first Inter-Service title, with Hugh Hutchison (35 Engineer Regiment) second.

The inaugural Super G was set on the L'Etret piste, a real test of nerve, ability and stamina. Tana McQuoid (1 RGJ) finished half a second behind Jenny Davidson and the RAF went on to win the Inter-Services title.

Frenchman Samuel Tissot took the honours in the men's Super G, but Hugh Hutchison improved to win the Services' individual title ahead of Bonnington, so leading the Army to the new Hollands title, with Hutchison (35 Engineer Regiment) second.

Hutchison also won the special slalom and the Ski Challenge Cup, and the British Inter-Services team championship trophy once again went to the Army.

Hutchison was also awarded the Duchess of York Trophy for the best male Commonwealth skier.

Women, U-21s retain titles

ALTHOUGH a weakened Army men's senior team were beaten by both Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, the eventual champions, in the Inter-Service basketball championships at RAF West Drayton, there were notable successes for the Army Under 21 and women's teams.

The U-21s beat the Navy 72-48 and the airmen 69-58 to retain their title, while the Army women, ably guided by coach Maj (Retd) George Kimpton, were always in control against the WRAF to win 59-43.

ASPT Aldershot hosted the Army junior basketball championships, with Junior Leaders Regiment RE from Dover proving too strong for the rest in the under-17½ competition. Junior Leaders RA were runners up.

The men's team went down 76-109 to the Navy, the defending champions, and lost 67-89 to the RAF after a brave fight to level the scores at 34-34. The Navy, unexpectedly, lost their form in the final and were well beaten by the airmen.

In the youth competition (over-17½), Army Apprentice College RE, Chepstow, retained their title when they edged out Princess Marina College.

So close for RCZ, 4 Div

THE BAOR inter-Divisional badminton competition at Bielefeld ended in a photo-finish, with the three teams apparently level. The final result had to be calculated on sets won, which produced a tie between 4 Div and Rear Combat Zone on 30 sets each with 3 Div, the defending champions, third on 27 sets.

Because of Operation Granby only 3 and 4 Divs and RCZ took part.

BAOR badminton champions 35 Engineer Regiment won the inter-unit final for the third consecutive year when they beat 13 Signal Regiment in an exciting final.

Cpl Batty of 13 Signals beat sapper No 1 Cpl Gibb to level the final at 4-4 before Cpl McMillan clinched the trophy for the engineers with a win over Sig Merchant.

In the semi-finals 13 Signals beat 21 Signals and 35 Engr Regt beat 3 Regt AAC.



LCpl Steven Bartliff (left) makes flying use of an overlap to score the Army try. He kicked ahead and beat the Navy defence to the ball

Picture: Mike Perring

BATTLE ROYAL

Thin red line denies spirited Navy challenge

WHEN Saddam Hussein predicted the Mother of all Battles, he probably was not thinking of Twickenham as the venue, writes John Quin.

However, that's what the large crowd at the 1991 Army-Royal Navy game saw. And in the final attack, the Army made sure of a fourth victory in a row in the opener for this year's Inter-Service championship, and in doing so retained the Willis Trophy.

They won by ten points (two penalties and a try) to nil.

When the final whistle blew, the Army boys sank onto the hallowed turf in a mixture of elation, exhaustion and relief.

It had been a battle royal, not by any stretch of the imagination a game of flowing exhibition-type rugby, but nevertheless full of commitment and raw-blooded exchanges, which only twice appeared to spill over into the unacceptable.

The Navy badly wanted to win this one and their pre-match form was impressive.

They looked on paper, and then proved on the park, to be an all-round team, solid up



Skipper Deans claims the Willis Trophy

front with experience in all the right places, a very lively back row and a speedy back division, which countered everything the men in red tried against them.

The Army paraded seven

THE ARMY TEAM

2nd Lt Howard Graham RA, LCpl Steven Bartliff (238 Signal Sqn), Capt Simon Hopkin, Kings Own Border, Lt Michael Walker RAMC (Cambridge Military Hospital), Lt John Fenn RCT (1st Armd Div Tpt Regt); Lt Andy Deans RAEC (Princess Marina College), 2nd Lt Brett Taylor DWR; Cpl George Graham A and SH, Lt Julian Brammer RE (RCMS Shrivenham), Lbdr Tom Fowers (7 Para RHA); 2nd Lt Tim Swan RAMC (Liverpool University), Cpl Duncan Weir REME; Lt Simon Butt RRW (Cardiff University), Cpl Nellie Nelson RE, 2nd Lt Tim Rodber Green Howards (Oxford Polytechnical College).

new caps on the day and the rest of the team leaned towards youth, which augurs well for the future. Even the skipper gained his first cap in this confrontation, not an easy debut by any means.

Lt Andy Deans did everything demanded of him and led the side to a deserved victory.

But there were plenty of anxious moments for the red supporters. By half time five missed penalty attempts were all the Army had to show for soaking up some tremendous Navy pressure, and Lt Mike Walker's kicking form, which up to this game had been so good, had deserted him.

Army heads showed signs of drooping as each chance of an important lead slipped away.

The kickers were changed

and gunner 2nd Lt Howard Graham struck two fine penalties to give the holders a chance. Still the Navy refused to lie down, and stormed the thin red line again and again.

The match had everything on the park – and the weatherman had his fun as well. We had, in the 80 minutes, sunshine and rain, calm and then fluctuating winds, torrential downpours and even thunder and lightning. Everything wanted to get in on the act.

As a good play finishes with a flourish that seals the plot, so did this game. From a Navy breakdown in midfield, the Army back row won the ball, spun it right to speedy "Scaleyback" LCpl Steven Bartliff, who, finding himself blocked in front, chipped beautifully on to the goal line and beat the Navy No 8 to the touchdown.

The kick failed, but the game was won and 31 very tired troopers went off to enjoy the night. The Army side had done the business. Now only the Royal Air Force, Rory Underwood and all, lie between them and the championship.

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Alan Hinkes on Menlungse. Photo: A. Fanshawe.

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Main picture: Challenger main battle tanks crewed by men of C Squadron, The Life Guards, and others make an impressive picture as they manoeuvre across the desert after driving off Scammell vehicles of 3 Squadron, 7 Tank Transporter Regiment. The tanks, held in reserve, were on exercise.

Inset: An Iraqi armoured personnel carrier burns fiercely in the desert close to the Main Supply Route used by British units supporting the 1st Armoured Division in southern Iraq.

Pictures: Mike Weston