

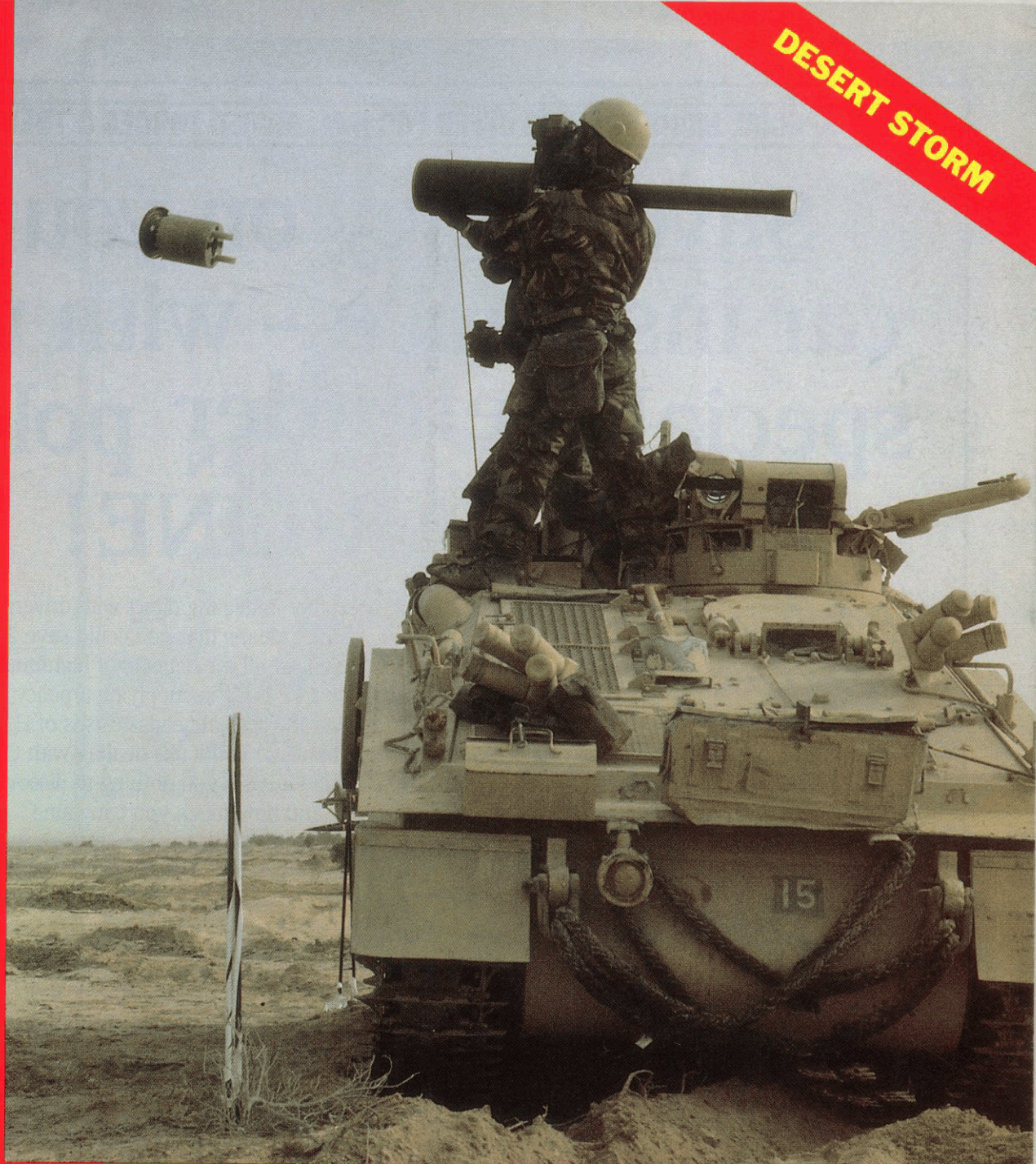
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FRONT COVER – (Main picture) Gunners of 12 Air Defence Regiment operate from the top of their Spartan vehicle to fire a Javelin missile from the shoulder. See Page 21. The lower picture shows an MLRS missile launched by 39 Hy Regt streaking down a desert firing range. See Page 18.

Pictures: Terry Champion

● A special British Forces Post Office number – BFPO 3000 – remains open for people who wish to send unsolicited letters, cards and small gifts to Servicemen and women in the Gulf. Mail should carry appropriate postage. Normal BFPO numbers should be used for mail addressed to named Service personnel.



A soldier of the 4th Armoured Brigade throws a grenade from his trench during a training exercise before his unit moved into its battle position close to the Kuwaiti border

MIDNIGHT MOVE

from Bill Moore with
1 Armoured Division

CLIMAX to another week of ceaseless activity on Saudi Arabian roads was the movement in a single day (January 31) of 1,600 British vehicles into forward areas.

Nothing has been seen like it since the Second World War. Columns of lorries, guns and armoured vehicles covered around 350km under clear skies without interference – a striking testimony to Allied air superiority.

The preparations were completed on January 30. When darkness fell tents, cam nets, and supplies had been loaded, camps evacuated and convoys formed up. Over a wide area occupied during the working-up period of the 1st Armoured Division, troops simply vanished.

At midnight convoys took to

the road in "packets" of 20 vehicles, tactically spaced and using, in the rear zone, headlights.

Marshalled into the assembly area by patient Royal Military Police, the mass of vehicles began its journey in phases according to the route cards issued.

Viewed from the back of a Land Rover which was last in its particular packet, the stream of headlights advancing behind and stretching over the horizon resembled a remorseless advance of so many multi-eyed caterpillars. Speeds did not exceed 50kmh.

Later, as vehicles drew north, sidelights only were used. Later still this was

reduced to convoy lighting – with a flick of a switch only dim lighting beneath vehicles was visible. Drivers of the many hired 4x4 cars had to remove the brake and reversing light fuses.

Every sort of transport was encountered as the great "loop" was formed by the RMP. Ammunition carriers of 39 Heavy Regiment RA appeared out of the desert like phantoms rattling their chains.

As daylight arrived and the sun rose Main Supply Route Dodge presented a remarkable sight. Heading north were "The Brits" – here elements of 26 Field Regt RA, newly arrived and heading straight up

● **Turn to Page 5**

SOLDIER

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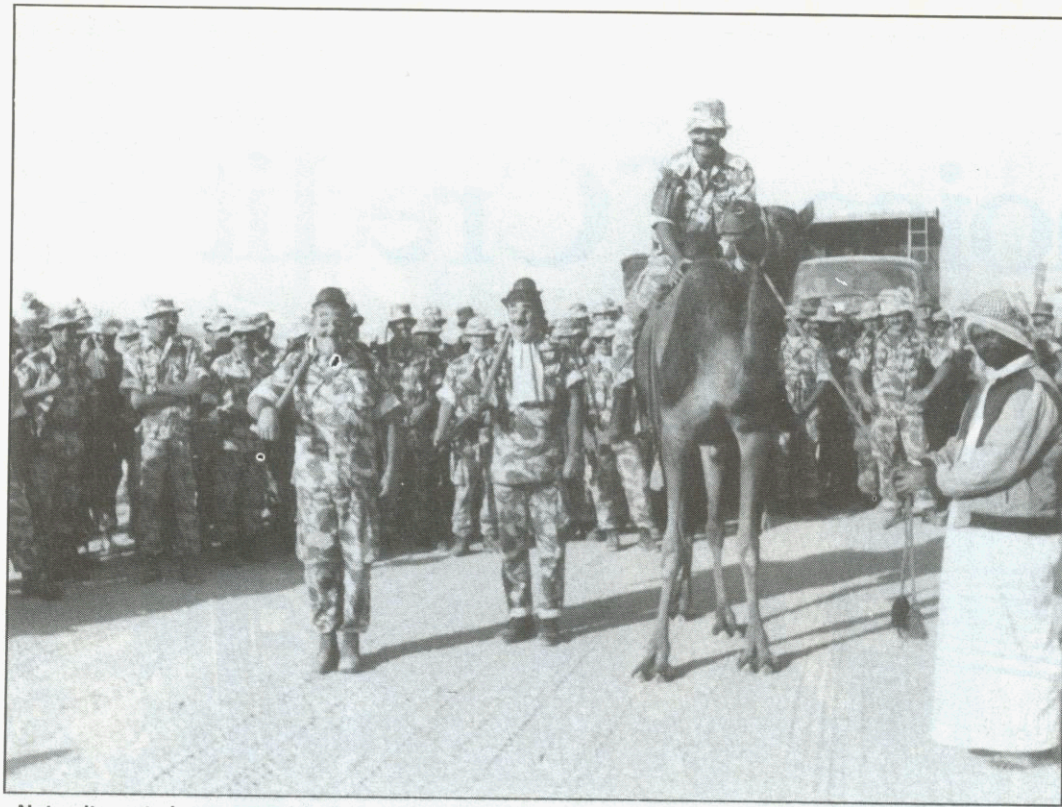
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S/JUL/18/2





Not quite up to Lawrence of Arabia standards, but nearly there! Maj Steve Henly RE takes a fitting form of desert transport while bidding farewell to men of 45 Field Support Squadron RE in a quarry location north of Al Jubail. He was handing over command of the squadron to Maj James Wood RE

Midnight move

● From Page 3

country; there were ambulances with Cross and Crescent markings, CVR(T) being carried on DROPS vehicles (yet another use for this ingenious lorry).

At scheduled halts to refuel and check the convoys the trucks stood nose to tail in columns two, three, and four deep alongside each other. Troops brewed up and shaved using wing mirrors.

Glimpsed among them could be seen television reporter Kate Adie tending to her own 4x4 after a long stint at the wheel and chatting naturally to soldiers who have come to respect her.

In the other direction the empty lorries of other nations rumbled back for fresh loads. They included many French Renault low loaders in the distinctive French military camouflage which includes a brown smear on the sandy background.

In the early afternoon the mass of British transport reached a dispersal point and went its various ways across a flat, seemingly endless plain of dull brown sand and stones dotted with evidence of preparations of what is to come



A group of forward observation officers and battery commanders of 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery pictured on a firing range in Saudi Arabia. They are (back row, left to right) Capt Julian Free, Capt Jeremy Drage, Maj Bob Jammes, Maj Julian Lyne-Pirkis and Maj Simon Lloyd, (front) Capt Eric Tyson and Capt Richard Bryson.

... lines of orange tents were said to belong to Egyptian troops; a huddle of helicopters to the Americans; no one knew what a forest of aerials poking out of the biggest cam net in the world signified.

Logistic units turned off to prepared positions – bull-dozed earth ramparts which shelter men and vehicles. The gunners and their kind rolled on north.

Two heavy detonations caused heads to rise in one location. Exercises and ranges were a thing of the past. That ... whatever it was ... was the real thing.

● Reports from Saudi Arabia appearing in this issue were filed by **Bill Moore**, who is now with the UKLF Mobile News Team in a forward position with 1st Armoured Division, and **Laurie Manton**. The photographs were taken by **Terry Champion** and **Mike Weston**.

Manton and Weston are now attached to the Command Information Team. The SOLDIER teams have been tasked with recording for the archives the British Army's part in the liberation of Kuwait.

Diary of war

DAY 6 (January 22)

Three Israelis die in Iraqi Scud missile attack on Tel Aviv.

DAY 7

US Marine Corps gunners fire first artillery barrage by Allied ground troops. First Iraqi PoWs captured by US 3rd Armored Cavalry following a border skirmish.

DAY 8

MoD names two further regiments to be deployed to the Gulf – The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Their initial role will be to guard Iraqi prisoners of war. Kuwaiti island of Qarawah liberated by Allied naval forces.

DAY 9

MoD announces a new Boot Desert Combat has been procured and will be issued to British Forces serving in the Gulf.

Day 10

Jumbo jet chartered by MoD carries more than 100 British expatriates to London from Dhahran.

DAY 11

Allied aircraft bomb Kuwaiti oil installations to stem flow of oil threatening environmental disaster in the Persian Gulf.

DAY 12

Allied command reports that more than 100 Iraqi aircraft have landed in Iran during the past few days.

DAY 13

Royal Navy Lynx helicopters fire Skua missiles, sinking a number of Iraqi gunboats.

DAY 14

Iraqi forces occupy Saudi Arabian town of Khafji. Germany agrees to pay Britain £270m to help the war effort.

DAY 15

Defence Secretary Tom King announces that American B52 bombers have been granted permission to mount raids from a British base against Iraqi targets.

DAY 16

More than 400 Iraqi soldiers said to have been captured by Saudi forces as Khafji is retaken. Iraqi tanks and APCs destroyed.

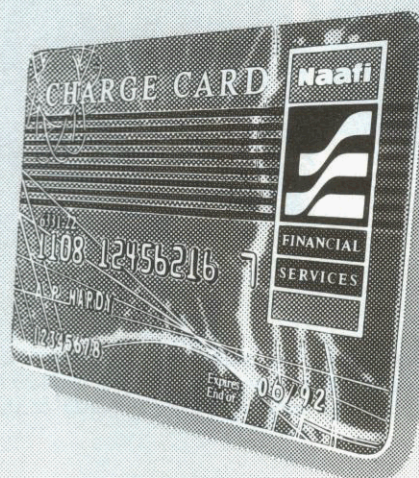
DAY 17

RAF Buccaneers provide laser bomb-aiming facility for Tornados in strikes over Iraq. American B52 bombers attack Republican Guard positions around Basra.

DAY 18

British aircraft destroy crude oil pumping station in western Iraq. US military says seven US Marines who died in battle for Khafji were hit in APC by a missile fired by their own side.

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Dame Vera Lynn sings with soldiers of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards in a London recording studio where she made new versions of wartime favourites "We'll Meet Again" and "White Cliffs of Dover" in aid of the Gulf Trust

Pay to rise from April

SERVICE personnel are to receive pay rises ranging from 11.2 per cent to 18 per cent from April 1. The average increase for men and women up to the rank of brigadier will be 12.2 per cent.

The pay of a private will rise from £6,665 to £7,466 and for a brigadier from £42,358 to £50,003.

The Cabinet accepted the Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendations in full and exempted the military from the staged awards imposed on other sectors. In 1990 the Army's pay rise was granted in two instalments.

Features of the new deal include:

- An increase in the X Factor by one per cent for men and two per cent for women;
- Separation allowances to be paid on a continuous basis, with a higher rate for those separated for more than six months in any 12, and the current distance criteria to be reduced for difficult journeys;
- Introduction of an enlistment bounty for recruits to

shortfall corps for a trial period;

● An increase in London pay in line with retail price index;

● Northern Ireland additional pay to be uprated to £3.60;

● Falklands pay to be uprated in line with the military salary to £3.60 but phased out in the near future. Personnel on South Georgia will continue to receive additional pay;

● Most other items of additional pay will be uprated in line with the average increase in the military salary;

● Married quarter charges will increase in the range 3.9 per cent to 12 per cent and single accommodation in the range 5.6 per cent to 12.9 per cent – the larger increases applying to better quality quarters;

● Overseas facility charge will rise by £6 a person a year at the bottom of the scale to £30 at the top;

● Food charges will be £19.25 a week for singles and £11.20 for married unaccompanied personnel;

● Reserve Forces Bounty for training year completed on March 31, 1991 will increase to £250 for the first year, £525 for the second and £775 for the third;

● X Factor for women in the reserves will increase by .5 per cent to bring them into line with their male counterparts.

The AFPRB report said: "Whatever the decisions which may flow from the Options for Change exercise, it will remain essential for the Services to be able to recruit enough men and women of the right calibre and to retain adequate numbers of the most able, as well as skilled and experienced personnel."

The report said AFPRB members had been struck by the "growing uncertainty" among Servicemen and women about what the future holds.

Increased hours of work, a "general increase in turbulence" and an increase in the relative disadvantages of Service life were also apparent.

"There was evidence of increase working hours, often resulting from increased guard duties, and exacerbated by undermanning, particularly in the Army and some parts of the RN," said the report.

● It is hoped to include detailed lists of the new pay scales in the next issue.

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Gulf Trust donations flood in

THE GULF Trust set up for the public to make donations to the families of Servicemen and women killed or injured in the war raised £270,000 in its first week.

The scheme was announced by Defence Secretary Tom King. He said that although soldiers and their families were provided for by the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and War Widows' Pensions, he knew "many people, businesses and organisations may wish to show their appreciation for the men and women who are risking their lives in this vital task.

"My overriding aim is to provide the most helpful support on a long-term basis for those wounded and the families of those killed. I know there will be many people who may wish to contribute through the Trust," said Mr King.

The Gulf Trust will be operated by the United Service Trustee and will channel donations to the three Service Benevolent Funds, which will distribute the cash to those in need. All three organizations have welcomed the establishments of the trust.

The Federation of Army Wives will process all credit card donations. The massive task is being undertaken by volunteer wives from all three Services.

FOCUS, the office skills

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

● Aldershot Gulf Support
Centre 0252 331715.

● Chichester Gulf Support Group 0860 300024.

● West Midlands helpline
office 021 311 3261, 0543
433112 and 0543 433107 (fax).

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

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

● Gift helpline 071 430 6240 or 6243.

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



Maj Robin Desmond (centre) and his team of medical Battle Casualty Replacements pictured before they left for the Gulf after re-training in Aldershot. They are all reservists representing a wide range of field ambulance and hospital skills, the majority working in the health service in

civilian life. They designed a new badge for themselves, incorporating a piece of string because of the many imponderables in their situation. They will replace medical staff in theatre as needed. Front left is WO1 Wilf Banford, and on the right Lt Col Brian Dennison

training centre for Service wives, will be the hub of the operation. Equipment and software has been donated by the computer industry.

Credit card donations can be made by phoning 0898 900026. Calls will be charged at 33p per minute cheap rate, 44p at other times.

The line is sponsored by British Telecom, which will make a donation to the Trust.

Direct payments can be made through any bank. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to The Gulf Trust, and can be sent to Ministry of Defence, Room 721, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, Holborn, London WC1X 8RU.

Meanwhile, new technology has enabled the Army to set up for the first time two Casualty Information Cells which are manned day and night.

The team includes soldiers from the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, the Welsh Guards, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, The Cheshire Regiment and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

Seventeen phone lines have been set up, and through a direct link with the Army in Saudi Arabia the team will be able to inform families of casualties, where the wounded are in the hospital chain and provide repatriation details. The office is not responsible for informing next of kin.

The number is 0345 717200.

Recruiting offices so busy

RECRUITERS all over the United Kingdom are reporting an increase in approaches from would-be soldiers.

Inspector of Recruiting Col (retd) Michael Jennings said there had been a tremendous upsurge of interest in joining up since the Gulf war started. "People are very supportive."

Volunteers had included a 70-year-old man prepared to do any menial task to help the war effort, a terminally ill 74-year-old who said he and his fellow patients were prepared to make tea for soldiers in the front line because they "had nothing to lose", and a 64-year-old doctor who suggested he could release a younger doctor in Germany for service in the Gulf.

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Ministry of Defence, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU.

How to send parcels

IF you are sending parcels to the Gulf there's good news on two fronts, writes Anne Armstrong.

On February 1 a new economy rate was introduced by the Post Office, with a maximum charge of £5 for 10kg (£2 for 1kg).

Better still, United Carriers Ltd will deliver your parcel free if you take it to one of their depots between 0930 and 1600.

If you cannot get to the depot, United Carriers will collect up to 15 parcels for a nominal £2.

Full details of the new service can be obtained by ringing a national helpline on 0933 440100 or 0933 440200 between 0800 and 2000.

If you have any queries about the mail service in general, write to me and I will pass them on for a satisfactory answer.

The Postal and Courier Service teams are doing their best to get the mail through. There is no delay once it reaches them; the problem lies at the other end. If a unit is on the move it can take up to five days for a letter to get through, and ten for a parcel.

Getting hold of the free "blues" has been a problem for many at home.

A PCS spokesman told me: "We would be interested in knowing which post offices do not have them and which ones cause problems on mail services to the Gulf. We can then act to find a solution." Let me know.

● PS: Mail does tend to be delivered in batches – so why not take a tip from the two world wars, when soldiers and their relatives numbered letters. Then they can be read in sequence – and you'll know if there are any missing.

PoW camp

THE Devonshire and Dorset Regiment is providing armed guards while Rolleston Camp on Salisbury Plain is used as a prisoner-of-war camp for detained Iraqis. The first intake of 33 are military personnel on courses in Britain.



Men of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards (Lt Col Iain McNeil) prepare to leave Wellington Barracks, London to deploy to the Gulf where they were taking responsibility for handling Iraqi prisoners of war captured by British forces. The

battalion had been preparing to move to Germany to change roles with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, but many Grenadiers were involved in the initial 7 Armoured Brigade deployment to Saudi Arabia

Desert boots on their way

ONE hundred thousand pairs of new desert boots are on the way to British Forces in the Gulf after the Ministry of Defence broke all records for designing, approving and ordering them.

There was no time for the usual trialling. They were designed by Stores and Clothing Research and Development in Catterick, 60 sample pairs were sent to the Gulf for appraisal, and approval was signalled back.

Two British firms have been working flat out to meet the order.

As a stop-gap measure, troops had been issued with ankle-high suede boots, but a major problem was that they let sand in over the top.

The new Desert Combat Boot is 9½in high to overcome this and almost 1lb lighter than its predecessor.

It is made to the highest specification in a combination



The new desert boot pictured beside the standard combat boot

of sand-coloured suede and canvas.

The designers ordered a thermoplastic heel counter to give added strength, a double-stitched tongue to prevent sand getting in, and a toe strengthener.

"On average, over 3,000 tonnes of freight is arriving in the Gulf every day in support of British forces. The way in which these vast amounts of supplies and equipment have been brought to the area and then channelled to our forces can already be credited as one of the remarkable successes of this campaign." – The Prime Minister, January 21.

Reserve numbers

ABOUT 500 members of the Territorial Army have volunteered and been called out for service in the Gulf or to replace Regular soldiers deployed to the Gulf, Armed Forces Minister Mr Archie Hamilton told the House of Commons.

About 470 of the TA personnel were medical specialists.

In reply to an earlier question he announced that 800 Servicewomen were serving in the Gulf. None were employed with combat units in ground forces.



Army drivers relax in the Admin Harbour Area in eastern Saudi Arabia. From left are LCpl **Gordon Campbell** RCT (8 Fd Wksp), LCpl **Tom Jewitt** (40 Sqn RCT), LCpl **Diana Proud** (20 Sqn RCT) in the cab, and Cpl **Douglas Yates** (26 Cadet Tg Team)



Mud, glorious mud...

All hands to the pumps. SSgt Cas Sisi carries a pump in the admin harbour area after torrential rains had turned the desert sands into a sea of liquid mud

Troops fall in for royal beanfeast

More than 80 British soldiers, sailors and airmen took part in a multi-national parade before King Fahd of Saudi Arabia at a desert location in northern Saudi Arabia.

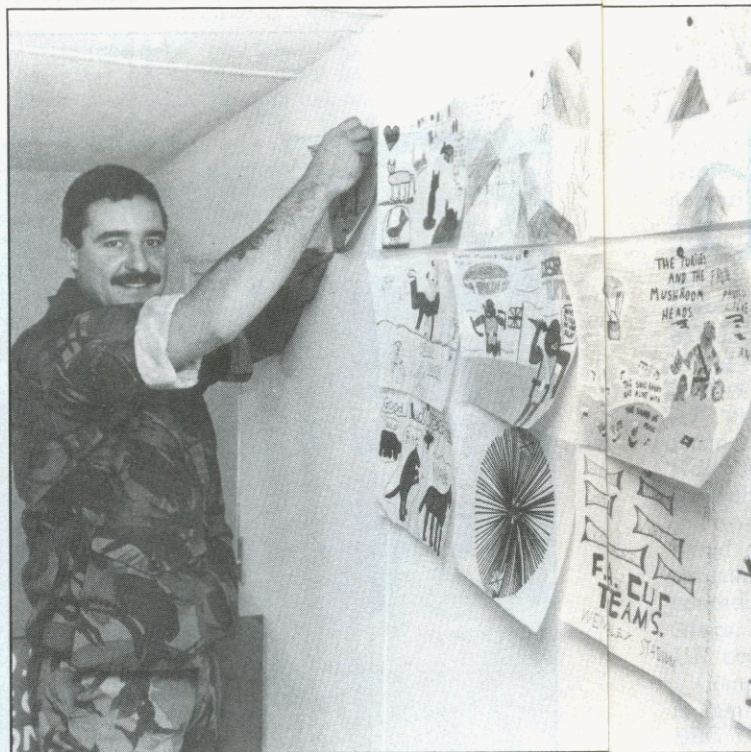
It was his first visit to troops in the field since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August, and an acknowledgement of the leading contributors of land forces to the international coalition facing Saddam Hussein.

Czechoslovakian chemical decontamination teams rubbed shoulders with Syrian, French, Nigerian, Senegalese, Egyptian and Saudi forces, to name but a few of those on parade. There was also a small group of white-coated doctors from Japan who volunteered to provide medical back-up to troops.

Popular figures on the parade ground were many soldiers from

the Kuwaiti Army who were preparing to help liberate their country.

The regimental band of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, supplemented by musicians from the 17/21st Lancers, provided musical accompaniment to the British contingent, which was commanded by Maj Robbie Burns RE, currently Deputy Chief of Staff at 7 Armoured Brigade.



LCpl **George Shaw** brightens up the walls of the TQM's Department at 10 Regt RCT's headquarters with pictures drawn by pupils at Engayne Junior School, Upminster, Essex.



Kuwaiti soldiers (above) on parade and (right) Lt Nigel Hartley, 2iC Dressing Station 1A, 1 Armd Fd Amb, at the royal feast



The medics from Hanover

Medical personnel from 32 Field Hospital, normally based in Hanover, pose for a team picture soon after their arrival in the Gulf from Germany. One of their first experiences on arriving in the desert was having to shelter from violent storms after their bus had broken down

Jez does the spud-bashing

Well, someone has to do it! Cpl Jez Newton of 10 Regt RCT takes his turn at the age-old military task of peeling spuds... by the bucketful. He was on duty in the harbour area when this photograph was taken



Hartley, 2iC Dressing Station 1A,

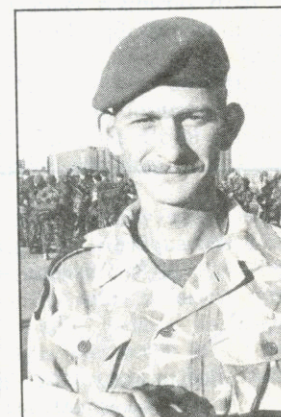
Following the event, which was held closer to the Iraqi border than most present expected, there was a royal treat in store for the British troops.

They were invited by King Fahd to join his royal feast in a giant desert tent - 100 metres long - pitched on the sand.

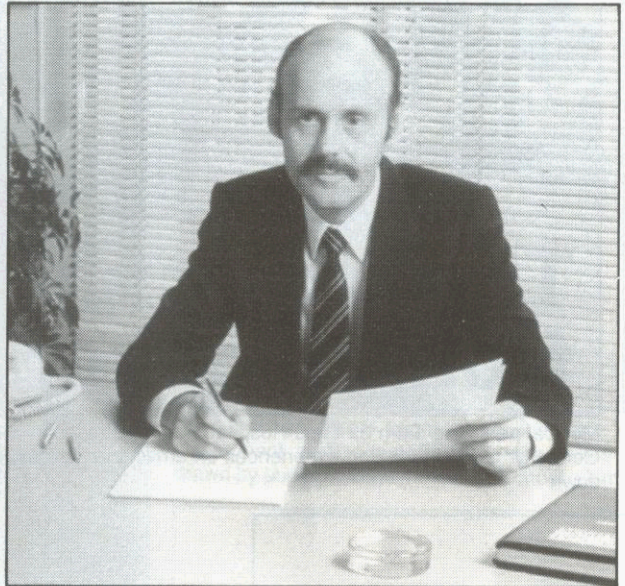
The men were able to sample a great selection of tasty Arab dishes.

Medal man

Fifteen years of unblemished service led to the award of a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to SSgt **Brian Fielding** of 518 Company Royal Pioneer Corps. Currently serving in the Gulf, he was presented with his medal by the Commander of the Headquarters Force Maintenance Area, Brig Martin White, at a ceremony held in eastern Saudi Arabia.



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Nose in on this caper

Rowan Atkinson – whose television character *Blackadder* strikes a comic chord with many of the British Army in the Gulf – has put on another hat (or in this case, nose) to make a special plea to **SOLDIER** readers.

Dig out those bright red hooters from last year, he says, and prepare for a touch of madness on March 15 – Comic Relief Red Nose Day 3, “The Stonker”.

Two-thirds of all the cash raised this year will go on agriculture, health, water, education and famine relief in Africa. The remainder will help UK needy.

Contact point for the big day is Pam Milman, Comic Relief, BBC TV, Room AG09, Centre House, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ. A SAE will bring an information pack in return.

Says Atkinson: “Put on your red noses, your big smiles, amusing voices, false moustaches and silly hats and get down for Comic Relief.

“If you do, I’ll love you forever ... If you don’t, Baldrick will.”

Paris prize for an ode

If you can pen a poem, a free holiday in Paris could be yours.

The offer, restricted to Service personnel, their families and friends involved in Op Granby, comes from a Bulford-based organisation called *Headliners* which produces stationery for the Forces.

The intention is to publish a book of the poems with proceeds to war charities.

Headliners say they will consider giving a cash prize equivalent to the cost of the Paris holiday should the efforts of a group be the winner.

Send your entries, with your name and address to: Headliners, Project Laureate, PO Box 1236, Bulford, Salisbury, Wilts; or to: Medical Branch, HQ SWDIST, Bulford Camp, Salisbury.

The poem must be about Op Granby – so if you have been involved, get cracking. After all, there must be something that rhymes with Granby.

SOLDIER to Soldier



This is 14-year-old Anna White who, as we revealed in the last issue, caused British Army camps in Saudi Arabia to be called after characters in the television series *Blackadder*.

Anna, an Isle of Wight schoolgirl, is the daughter of Brig Martin White, Commander of the Force Maintenance Area. Her letter to her father asking him if he “had a cunning plan” resulted in Tent City being renamed *Baldrick Lines*. *Blackadder Lines* and *Camp Bob* soon followed.

Tune in

Ask Jim Merrick to sing you a song and he will oblige – with your very own lyrics and tune.

Now Jim, who usually charges £75 to write and record an amusing or loving tribute for a special occasion, is offering to record songs on cassette tape for wives and girlfriends of soldiers in the Gulf – at a huge discount.

While the war is on he will provide his song-writing service for £25. He can be contacted at Mumbo Jumbo Music on 081-941 5384.

Haggis alert sounded

A Burns Supper organised by 205 General Hospital RAMC (Volunteers) – about half of its personnel are Scottish – was rudely interrupted just before midnight at their location near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The haggis had been piped in and its health drunk when a red alert air raid warning was sounded.

“We all had to put on our NBC suits and take cover for 20

Colourful camouflage

Bulford-based 414 Tank Transporter Unit RCT arrived in the Gulf with a colour problem.

A cost-cutting exercise led the unit to put its vehicle-painting contract out to tender.

Trouble was, the eventual colour scheme was a much brighter yellow than expected, and soon after disembarking in Saudi Arabia the hapless unit found itself dubbed “Banana Custard Troop”.

Another unit in difficulty with its camouflage scheme was 12 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery, which evidently misread the part number when ordering paint from stores.

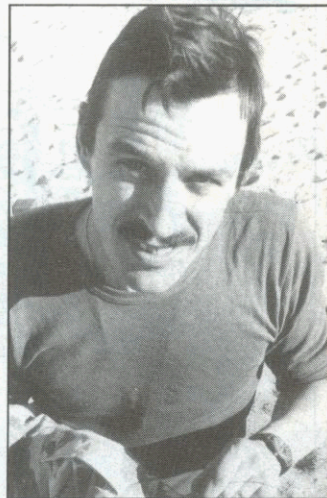
It was only when the gunners were able to compare their paint job with those of other units that it dawned on them.

All their vehicles had been sprayed with the special infra-red retarding pink paint used by the Royal Air Force.

Said one unit wag: “We don’t know whether our vehicles will go faster, but they will certainly be harder to spot.”

There will be no shortage of reading material among men of Northampton-based 187 (Tankard) Company Royal Pioneer Company in Saudi Arabia.

They took with them a number of tea chests full of books collected on their behalf by pensioners living in Hardington, a village near their barracks.



Cpl Neil Marshall of RHQ Troop 14th/20th Royal Hussars sews on his Black Rat formation badge. He was one of the first 4 Armcd Bde soldiers to be issued with desert uniform

Badges blossom

The Gulf crisis has led to a resurgence of interest in the old formation badges that used to adorn the uniforms of soldiers.

In recent years the wearing of arm badges had all but died out. Now a surge of corps and regimental pride has seen the practice re-emerge – to the delight of individual formations.

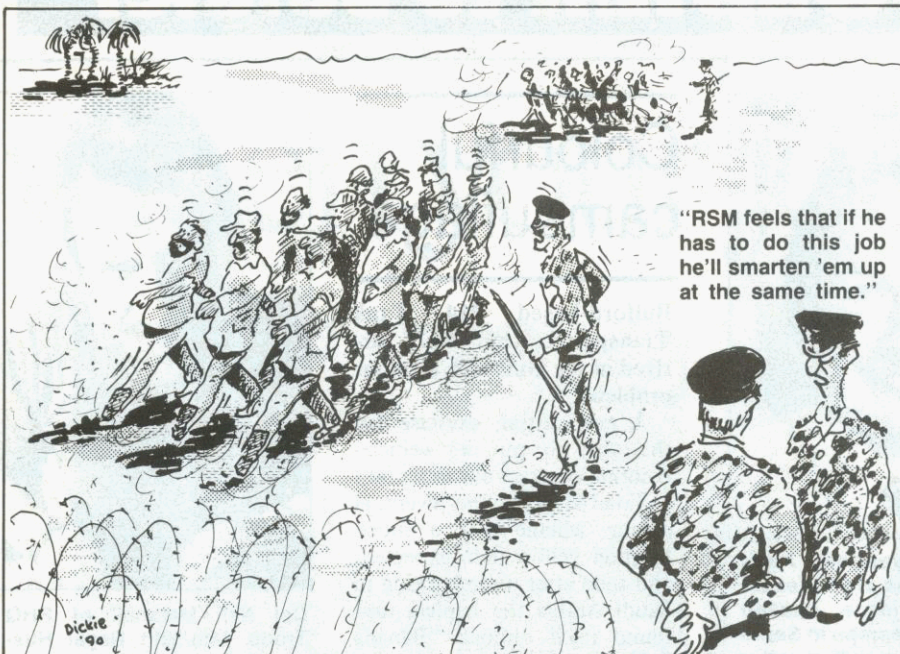
Since the 7th and 4th Armoured Brigades adopted the red and black jerboas, the sappers of 32 Armoured Engineer wear on a brassard a colourful bull’s head badge that represents the old 79th Armoured Division (Hobo’s Funnies), to which one of its squadrons was attached during the Second World War.

Gunner regiments from the 1st Artillery Brigade in the Gulf – 32 and 39 Heavy and 12 Air Defence – wear the brigade’s ram’s head formation badge and the old Royal Artillery service marking of red over blue.

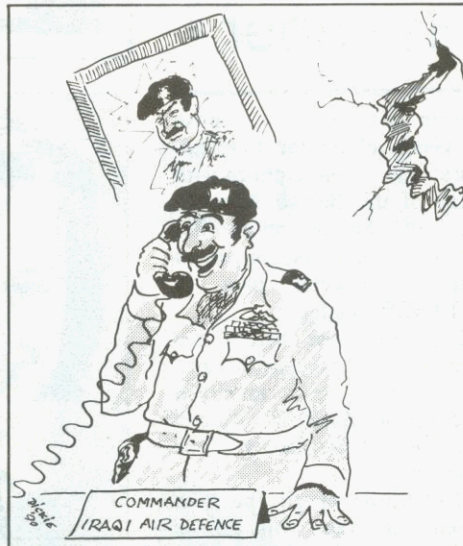
Most recently, those serving with the Headquarters Force Maintenance Area have been issued with a black adder formation badge – an insignia which owes much to the BBC television series from which their camps are named.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Topical observations by Col John Bird, Regimental Secretary of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment



"RSM feels that if he has to do this job he'll smarten 'em up at the same time."



"Congratulations, Saddam! You said Holy War and we've got one. Holes in the runways, holes in the missile bunkers and a big hole in my office."

DESERT ENCOUNTER

The last time these three Royal Artillery officers served together was in Oman. So imagine their surprise when they bumped into each other by chance on a desert range in Saudi Arabia. From left to right are Maj Simon "Jumbo" Lloyd, Maj Matt Minshall and Capt Len Webb. All three are serving with the 1st Armoured Division in the Gulf.



Bombarded — by blueys

CHILDREN at a Buckinghamshire school, concerned for the safety of British Forces in the Gulf, have taken 659 Squadron Army Air Corps to their hearts.

They have been bombarding the squadron – and Cpl Richard Morcombe in particular – with blueys.

The decision to "adopt" the squadron was taken when the eight-year-olds of Class Y3 at St Paul's Combined School, Wooburn Green, asked their teacher, Mrs Margaret Stokes, how best to support "our

troops". They wanted someone in the combat zone to know they wished them well and a swift homecoming.

A surprised Cpl Morcombe received 16 blueys in one batch. Their morale-boosting letters contained their views on the war as well as numerous "knock-knock" jokes and reports of incidents in their lives under the discipline of his mother-in-law, Mrs Eileen Mather, when she taught them. The children were relieved to report her retirement!

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**14/20 H
grouping
confirmed**



Hussars team up with Grenadiers

Challenger tanks of 14th/20th King's Hussars have completed a period of intensive preparation for battle. Those pictured above are carrying extra fuel in external drums attached to the rear. Soon afterwards storms turned the desert to mud, providing the crews with an environment not unfamiliar on their German training areas

Prepared to do whatever is asked of them and quietly confident – that was how Maj Godfrey Tilney, 2iC of the

14th/20th King's Hussars, described the mood of the regiment after completing a period of intensive preparation

for battle. The grouping of the Hussars has now been confirmed – A, B and D Squadrons 14th/20th plus Queen's

Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

SOLDIER caught up with regimental HQ the day before it was due to go through a battle indoctrination run on the ranges. Some Challengers were carrying extra fuel in external drums.

Not far away kit was spread all round a group of Scimitars and a Spartan which bore names beginning with R . . . *Raison d'être, Rogue, Rupert, Reaper, Renegade and Romany Gipsy.*

The Recce Troop under Capt Jeremy Darling was maintaining its vehicles after days on exercise.

In another location the regimental aid post's 432s were being similarly "groomed".

The post consists mainly of Hussars plus 14 RAMC personnel and the padre . . . and, as a soldier in a black beret pointed out forcefully, six men of the Royal Tank Regiment.



Recce Troop carries out maintenance after days on exercise in the desert

Para trio. From left to right are Col John Reith, Chief of Staff; Maj Gen Rupert Smith, GOC 1 Armd Div; and Capt Ben Baldwin, ADC

At HQ Main they mean business



EVERYONE moving among the vehicles dispersed on the desolate hillside was bent on a purpose. Signallers, cooks and clerks were filling jerrycans, packing lorries, rolling up cam nets and collecting the washing which flapped wildly in the strong breeze.

HQ Main 1st Armoured Division was preparing to move to a new location in Saudi Arabia.

Maj Geoff Cary, R Signals, OC Admin Sqn, who seemed to be in most places at once, paused to arrange staggered meal times with the Master Chef, SSgt Steve Smith, ACC.

Some would be eating earlier than others. Drivers faced a long road journey but most personnel were flying to their destination and could expect to arrive fresh for work.

Tucked away in a fold in the ground lay the "Staff Sleep" – a space enclosed by an earth berm and covered by cam nets. It was a maze of camp beds, bergens and equipment and for many days had been home to 40 officers.

At the foot of another dun-colour slope the nerve centre of the division was almost invisible.

Fourteen AFV432s, fitted out according to their function, were arranged to open onto a hollow square. Some had been nosed into positions dug into the hillside; others into a high berm.

An awning formed a roof and cam netting covered the lot.

The central space was occupied by a large table covered in maps and manned by watchkeepers at secure telephones.

There was none of the

rarified atmosphere associated with some big headquarters. Business was being done in a sensible, economical way. The faces were friendly.

There were few touches of colour... a red and white hackle in the beret of a Fusilier; a silk scarf worn by a silver-haired officer who had originally been a Leicestershire Yeoman; a touch of Int Corps green.

A strip of blue carpet marked the general's 432... and around the door was a cluster of maroon berets. The GOC, Maj

Gen Rupert Smith, the Chief of Staff, Col John Reith, and the ADC, Capt Ben Baldwin, are all Paras.

Dhobi-ing being an uncertain business in the desert, dress was somewhat mixed. Even the general wore desert combat trousers with his temperate zone windproof.

What was uniform was the air of purpose common to everyone.

Visitors to HQ Main left in no doubt that come what may, it didn't only know its business... it meant business.



Above: On guard at Main HQ 1 Armd Div are Pte Scott Arthur, Pte Andrew Fletcher, Cpl Tony Berry and Pte Ian Ewen of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Inset: Cpl Brian Steele, the GOC's driver, sports a R Irish cap badge on his Para beret

General praises Army's 'unsung heroes'

MAJ GEN Rupert Smith, General Officer Commanding 1 Armoured Division, interviewed when his units had almost finished their deployment and had completed their initial training, told SOLDIER:

"Everyone has worked very hard and acclimatised quickly. The brigades have carried out some convincingly realistic training and I know we have impressed our allies as being a professionally competent formation.

"Nobody should be in any doubt as to our ability to take the field in offensive operations or of the punch we can pack.

"The equipment and weapons are holding up very



Maj Gen Rupert Smith, GOC 1 Armd Div, in his desert headquarters

well and in my judgement the morale of the division and the will to win is of very high order.

"The unsung heroes of our deployment have been the storemen of the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps, who have handled an enormous amount of supplies, and the drivers of the Royal Corps of Transport, particularly those of the tank transporter regiment who have

been absolutely essential to the deployment.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Army as a whole for all the support they have given to this division

in its deployment and training.

"We are very conscious of how many men, equipment and spares that we have out here have been taken from them. We are deeply grateful."

Armoured chefs in support

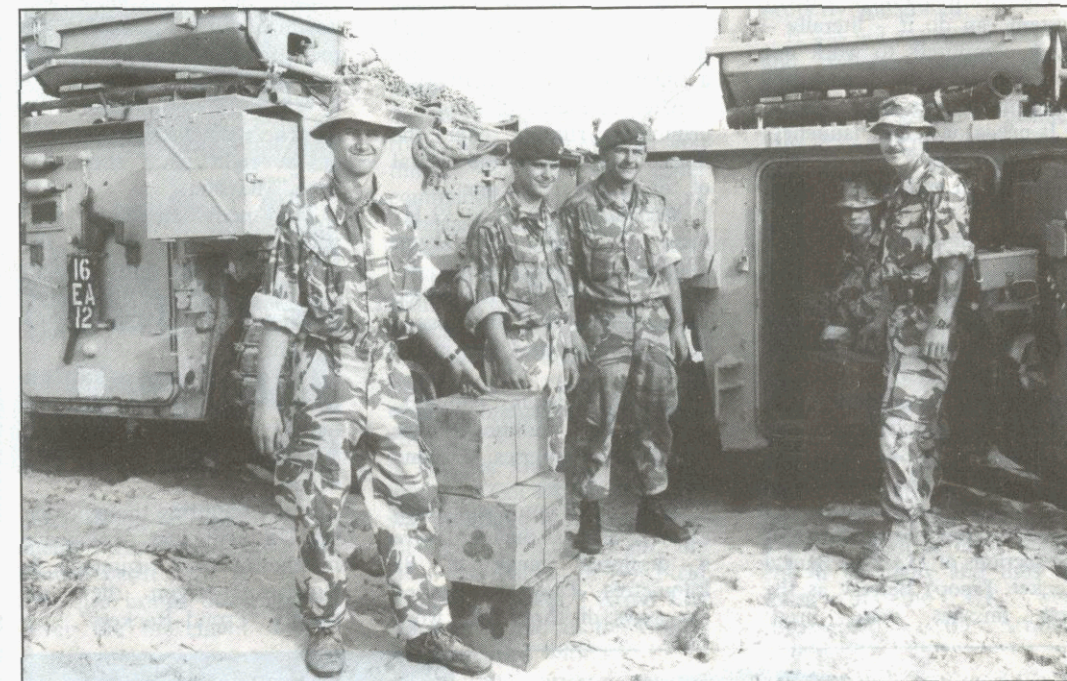
THE initials ACC have taken on a second meaning at Main HQ 1 Armoured Division – Armoured Catering Corps.

Master Chef SSgt Steve Smith's team travel in two APC 432s – SSgt Smith in one and his chefs, Cpl Brian Williams and LCpl Nick Harrison, in the other.

They are driven by Drummers Michael Barnett and John Fox of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

A water bowser has been fitted to the roofs of the 432s, each of which carries 15 boxes of ten-man ration packs, enough to keep the HQ going for two days if need be – though each tank and vehicle carries its own ration supply.

Where possible the 432s are



Chefs' battle wagons. From left to right are LCpl Mick Howson, Drummer John Fox, Cpl Brian Williams, Drummer Michael Barnett and LCpl Mark Bellamey at Main HQ 1 Armd Div

backed towards each other and a 9x9 tent erected between them.

Cooking is done on the No 1 Burner – "the best thing the Corps has ever had" according

to Cpl Williams. The system was tried out recently when three moves were made in pouring rain. More than 300 people can be fed when central messing is practical.

The "panzers" are equipped to dish out more than "all-in-stew".

Each mounts an L37 machine gun and they carry 66mm anti-tank weapons.



Above: Lt Col Peter Williams, CO of 39 Hy Regt, in front of MLRS. Below: Loading the missile tubes for a desert launching

READY FOR 'REMOVALS'

THE regimental T-shirt declares that the men of 39 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery provide a Grid Square Removal Service.

It is no idle boast.

The Multi-Launch Rocket System can do it – literally – using computers to work out the necessary data for each sub target in the area under attack.

It needs only four launchers to "take out" a square kilometre in remarkably short time.

To see the squat desert-pink vehicles speeding across the sand and scrub and halt for "crash action" – an old gunner term which conjures up visions of galloping horses – is an unforgettable experience.

Fired by launchers over the horizon, the missiles look like tracer bullets. At close range they resemble meteorites.

A rose glow blossomed from the sections of 132 (The Bengal Rocket Troop) Battery as the first missiles were fired.

Brilliant tails of flame lit the dull skies over Devil Dog Dragoon Range as dark shapes hurtled on their way.

They left thick trails of smoke while the launchers, firing at two-second intervals, were enveloped in fumes and dust. Inside, the crews felt only a slight jar at each delivery.

After moments of silence a crunching rumble over the horizon announced the arrival of the rockets on target.

MLRS was issued to 39 Hy Regt (CO Lt Col Peter Williams) in September, replacing the M110 then destined for retirement but since issued to 32 Hy Regt and now in the Gulf.

The Birmingham Gunners, as 39 Hy Regt are known, have two MLRS batteries, 132 and 176 (Abu Klea).

Each has six launchers which carry 12 rockets each and have a disclosed range of 32 kilometres. They are manned by crews of three (the word

detachments seems to be going out of favour).

Missiles are loaded in pods of six . . . two to a launcher.

At the Regimental Ammunition Control Point, RQMS (Tech) Bob Monkhouse was organising the re-supply of rockets brought up on DROPS vehicles.

"Our job is to see the launchers get the right number at the right place and right time," he said.

The pods are split into packets for delivery to the battery ammunition control points where the pods are divided again and taken to the launchers.

RQMS Monkhouse said his control point could expect to handle hundreds of missiles. Which adds up to a lot of map squares.

It is a daunting thought that the US Army has deployed a number of MLR regiments. In American jargon they are simply "Proud Rockets".

Common assets give Allied gunners an edge

THE endless convoys on the main supply routes tell the story of what lies at the end of the road. Guns . . . and more guns. All waiting to be fed.

Both sides have an abundance of them – but there is a difference. Brig Ian Durie, Commander Royal Artillery, 1st Armoured Division, told SOLDIER:

"Though I spent a lot of time exercising myself about ammunition re-supply, I enjoy studying the artillery dispositions on the other side of the line.

"The Iraqis have something like 46 different types of artillery and 20 different natures of ammunition with very little commonality between them.

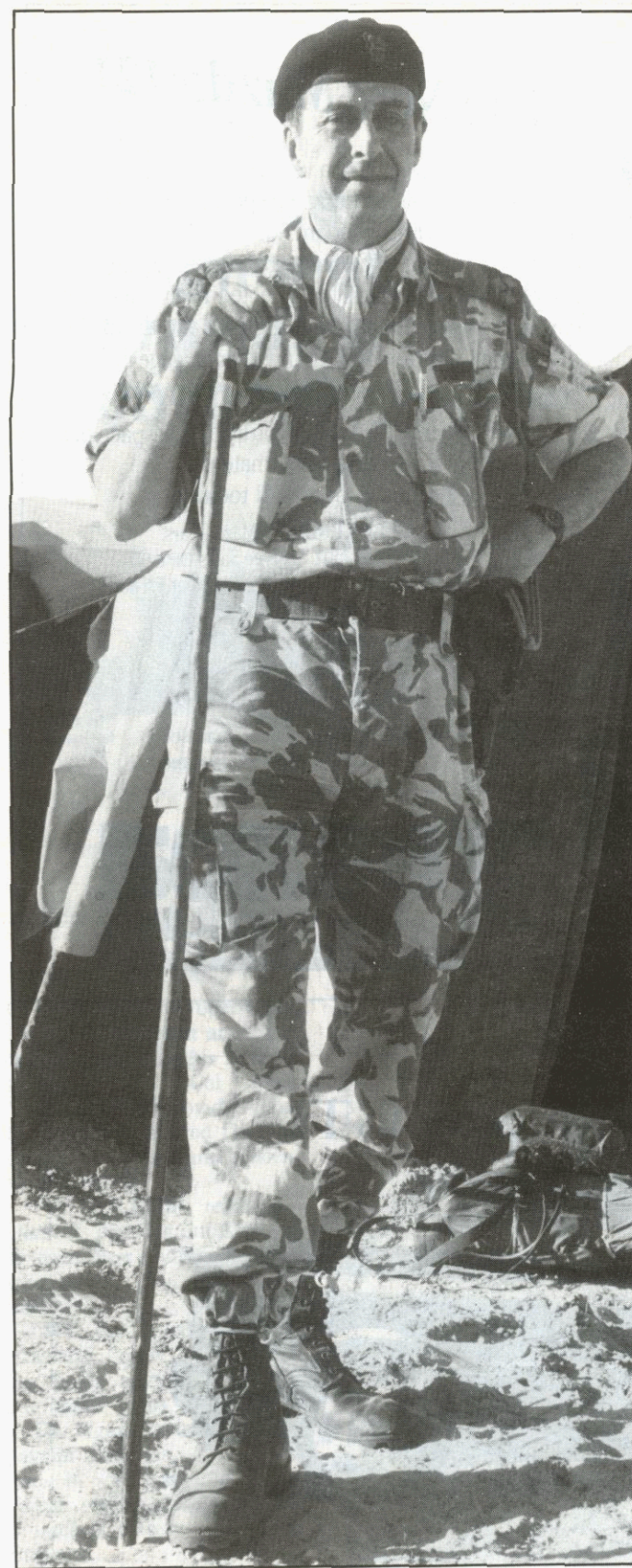
"So on one side we have a single nation with 46 types of artillery, while on the other we have what seems like 46 nations with only three or four types of artillery and we can re-supply each other's guns."

The brigadier, a Scot who is rarely seen without a shepherd's crook (it used to be a Highland cromak but it was broken while on exercise in Scotland with 29 Commando Regiment), revealed that new types of ammunition were available.

The "very effective" 155mm bomblet round, which because of stringent range safety regulations had never been tested in Europe, had come into theatre in large quantities.

In addition, a new high explosive shell with a multi-role fuse – HEL 15 – was probably ten times more effective than the HE round it was replacing.

An American artillery commander who visited the ranges



Brig Ian Durie, Commander Royal Artillery, 1st Armoured Division

traditional role of finding the enemy – it is part of the system of finding the enemy in order to attack him and initiating that attack."

The Recce Regiment contains artillery observers, tactical air control parties and additional observation equipment.

It could call on powerful air support when well beyond our forward tanks and out of range of friendly guns "though we would bring them within range as soon as possible".

The recce task was to identify the position of enemy reserves and key targets and to start engaging them, "probably with air at first".

Brig Durie said the particular role of the General Support Group – 26 Field Regiment equipped with M109s, 32 Heavy Regiment (8 in howitzers) and 39 Heavy Regiment (Multi-Launch Rocket System) – would be to engage enemy artillery.

"We are determined to win the counter-battery battle," he said.

Vital to the General Support Group was 57 Locating Battery, capable of pinpointing enemy positions well behind their lines.

To the surprise of some people its Drone Troop had produced very good results in desert training.

A sound-ranging troop, which detected enemy guns from the noise of their discharge, and a meteorological troop were also deployed and though 57 Bty was under command of 32 Hy Regt its information was available to the entire artillery group.

The command and control elements were concentrated in tactical groups composed of the commanding officer, battery commanders and forward observation officers of regiments.

The Tac Gp of 2 Fd Regt, under Lt Col David Radcliffe, was dedicated to 4 Armd Bde. Lt Col Rory Clayton and the BCs and FOOs of 40 Field Regiment – with 7 Armd Bde since it arrived in the Gulf – had remained with it.

The gun groups of the regiments would be able to reinforce either brigade when it was in action.

It was essential to concentrate fire as much as possible for the greatest effect.

Commanders given a task at whatever level had three functions to complete to enable

him to make a plan and carry it out.

First he had to do a mission analysis and then an appreciation.

Having made his plan he had to allocate the resources ensuring he had the where-withal.

Finally he had to commit his reserve.

Though a division or a brigade in action might retain a brigade or battle group in reserve "in artillery terms my reserve is my ammunition."

Brig Durie: "I spend a considerable amount of time planning my ammunition for the battle. I think through every phase: how much we're going to need; making sure the divisional transport services and my part of divisional headquarters are doing the detailed planning."

He referred to the transporter as the "Divisional Train" at times, because about two-thirds of it was carrying artillery ammunition.

"We will be running RCT transport right up to the gun lines a lot of the time. We rely on it absolutely."

Drivers from transport squadrons had been working with guns and gunners in the ranges "as part of the education process to ensure they were properly integrated."

It was not a question of guns and transport but a whole system.

The brigadier praised DROPS – Demountable Rack Off-Loading and Pick-Up System (roughly speaking a military skip).

"We were worried at first that it wasn't going to be mobile enough, but it's proved itself in the desert. We've got a lot, but we can always do with more."

Of the gunners themselves, he said that because of the large amounts of ammunition that required handling, regiments had nearly doubled in size.

Every single artillery regiment in Germany and most of those in the UK were represented in the Artillery Group.

"Obviously there is a degree of apprehension about going into battle and people would be foolish to be blasé about it. On the other hand the gunners have a high degree of confidence in themselves, in each other and their equipment. The gunners are in good fettle."

watched it explode and described it as "awesome".

The gunners of the 1st Armoured Division are concentrated in the Artillery Group, virtually a third brigade supporting the 4th and 7th Armoured Brigades.

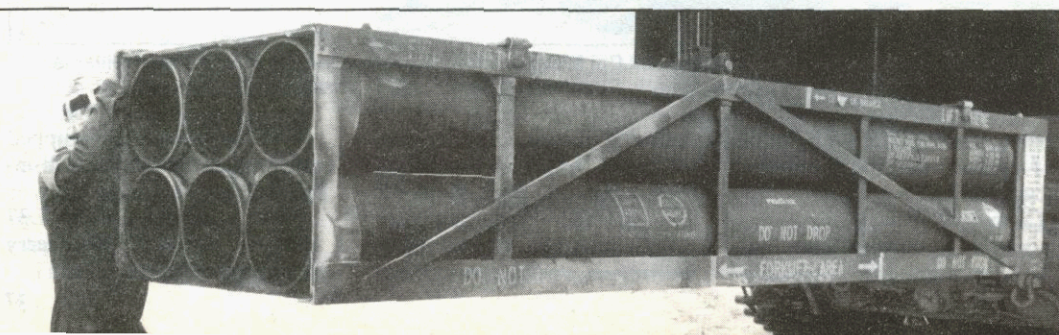
The Group is split into a Direct Support and a General Support Group.

If, say, an armoured brigade is engaged in the depth battle, the Direct Support guns – plus planes and attack helicopters – will concentrate on destroying

units trying to reinforce the enemy committed to the contact battle.

It also brings down fire to cover the movement of the British tank forces. The divisional medium reconnaissance regiment, destined to play, literally, a leading role in the depth attack is the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers, plus A Squadron, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and 73 (Sphinx) Observation Post Battery RA.

Brig Durie: "It's not just the



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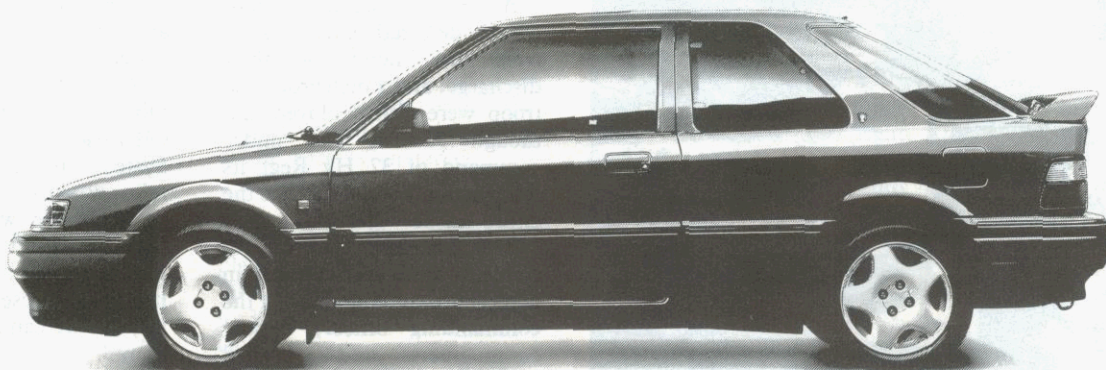
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A Rapier missile blazes down a range in Saudi Arabia as 12 AD Regt carry out live firings in the desert

12 Air Defence Regiment, providing cover at...

LEVEL FOUR

ONE British unit operational from the moment it arrived in Saudi Arabia is 12 Air Defence Regiment (Lt Col Peter Villalard) which provided cover for the 1st Armoured Division during its training and concentration period.

The SOLDIER team saw elements carrying out final test firing of their equipment before moving to an undisclosed destination.

"We are," said Lt Col Villalard, "quite confident we can handle anything the Iraqis can throw at us."

The regiment consists of two Javelin Batteries, 10 (Assays) and 46 (Talavara), a towed Rapier battery, 58 (Ayres), and a tracked battery - T (Shah Sujah's).

T Battery brought down 13 enemy aircraft during the Falklands conflict in which Lt Col Villalard served.

The regiment is part of the integral air defence system of Saudi Arabia.

Combat air patrols, mainly United States naval and air force fighters, provide the first level; long-range high-altitude Patriot batteries which can engage missiles (and have done very successfully) and aircraft form the next.

At the third level are the Hawk missile batteries (see



Sgt Andy Dean on board tracked Rapier on its way to the range

SOLDIER Jan 7) and at the fourth the short range and tactical air defence plan in which 12 AD Regiment plays its part.

(The final level is the hail of cannon and machine gun fire which can be unleashed by tanks and APCs.)

The detachments engaged in the test firing made good practice on a remotely controlled Skeet model aircraft operated by a team of civilians

from Larkhill.

The little plane was flown out over the peaceful waters of the Gulf then came racing in towards the dunes.

It survived. Real aircraft would have crashed in flames. What appeared to be an erratic flaming orange streak was direct onto the target so that it just missed. One shot came within two metres, it was calculated.

Rapier, in its third genera-

tion since the Falklands, is a formidable weapon.

Close air defence for the armoured brigades on the battlefield is provided by Javelin carried in Spartan CVRTs and Lt Col Villalard has the highest regard for their crews.

To engage, they get out and operate the Javelin from mobile launchers or from the shoulder. SOLDIER saw them operated from the top of the Spartans. It takes nerve.

Backing up the AD gunners are REME forward repair teams comprising instrument and radar technicians, vehicle mechanics and a recovery "mech".

Sgt Jeff Jones, REME, serving with 58 Battery, said that though they had the same problems as everyone else with sand, the team had coped quite well with the terrain when answering calls from Javelin sub-units in the area.

It was operating with a 1-tonne vehicle towing a trailer which is regarded by some troops as almost impossible in the desert.

"We've only been bogged down once," said Sgt Jones, "and we dug ourselves out within half an hour."

Which goes to show what can be done with a little thought.



Above: Old faithfuls return to action. M110 8in howitzers are worked on by men of 32 Hy Regt. The M110s were "retired" when MLRS was brought into service in BAOR.

Left: This picture takes some explaining! Tallest man in 74 (The Battleaxe Company) traditionally carries the battleaxe. The only requirement is that the bearer has to grow a moustache. Which is why Sgt Declan Tomkinson (standing), the second tallest man in the company, was given the honour. Gnr Howard Savage (seated) is taller, but couldn't meet the other requirement.

Below: Men of 32 Hy Regt pause during work on the M110s. The 8in howitzers were phased out of service with 39 Hy Regt in Germany a year ago and had been held in reserve in a British Army depot near Antwerp.



Bunker busters back in service

SELDOM can pensioners have had such a warm welcome as that given by 32 Heavy Regiment RA to the Old and Bold who landed at a port in Eastern Saudi Arabia on a sunny January afternoon.

After weeks of Blackadder Camp's limited charms their ship came in.

Onto the quayside rumbled a file of big guns which were officially retired more than a year ago.

Formal photographs of their farewell salvo appeared in a number of publications including SOLDIER (Jan 22, 1990) before the M110s (better known as 8in howitzers) gracefully retired to a British depot near Antwerp.

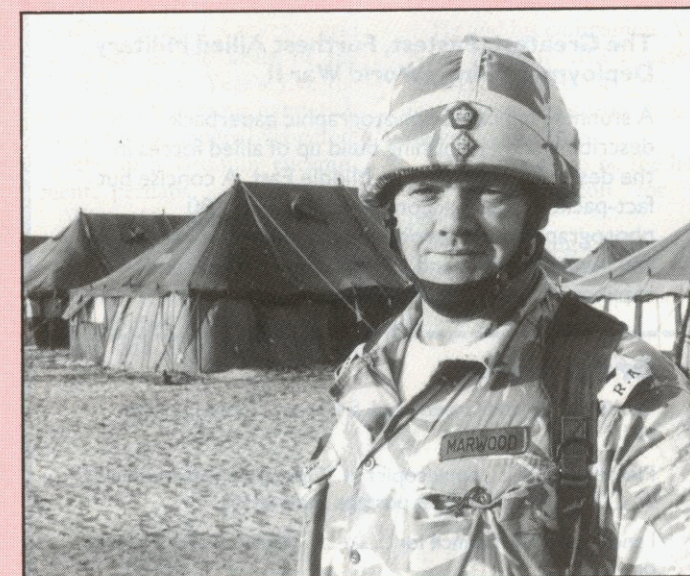
For a number of years they had been the pride of 39 Heavy Regiment RA which was being re-equipped with the American Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS). This arrived in September in time for 39's move to the Gulf.

But the Army did not forget the veteran cannon . . . nor the fact that the US had deployed them in Saudi Arabia together with large quantities of ammunition.

So 32 Heavy Regiment, based at Dortmund, was told to



Victims of the *sabkha*. Pictured on their "beached" Centurion AVRE are Cpl John Mudd, Sgt Zoltan Ritter, Spr Paul Smith, Cpl David Thomas and LCpl Neil O'Donnell



Lt Col Peter Marwood, CO of 32 Hy Regt. He has much faith in the M110's accuracy

exchange its long-barrelled 175mm M107 guns which fire a 147lb round for the "resting" M110s and their 208lb shells.

Lt Col Peter Marwood, CO of 32 Heavy Regiment, told SOLDIER:

"The M110 is much more accurate than the M107 and has a particular application in some phases of the battle that might develop here . . . supporting our troops fighting their way through obstacles, for example.

"It has not been called the

Bunker Buster for nothing."

A towed version of the 8in howitzer was in service in the 1950s. When a self-propelled version was produced in the US, Britain bought it.

With a strength of nearly 800 men, 32 Heavy Regiment consists of two six-gun batteries, 18 (Quebec 1759) which celebrated its 232nd birthday at Blackadder, and 74 (The Battleaxe Company), plus 57 (Bhurtapore) Locating Battery and HQ Battery.

Good grief! We're in the mire again

THE SOLDIER team met an old friend recently - Cpl John Mudd, of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. Readers may remember the magazine carrying his picture last spring after his Centurion AVRE came to grief in a concealed tank trap on Hohne ranges.

Once again he was on the ranges and once again his AVRE, a Centurion mounting a 165mm demolition gun, was in trouble.

It was stranded in a stretch of *sabkha*, "salt marsh with a crust on top".

"Not you again," said Cpl Mudd when SOLDIER appeared beside the stranded "El Fixit".

Heavy rain had made the *sabkha* even more dangerous than usual.

Not far from El Fixit was Sgt Bob Hill's REME Foden

recovery vehicle (part of 39 Hy Regt RA) deeply bogged in while trying to pull out an armoured personnel carrier.

The crew were digging vigorously to free the wheels and prepare a way out.

Cpl Fergie Ferguson and LCpl Ollie Crawford were standing by with another REME Foden ready to pull out their comrades.

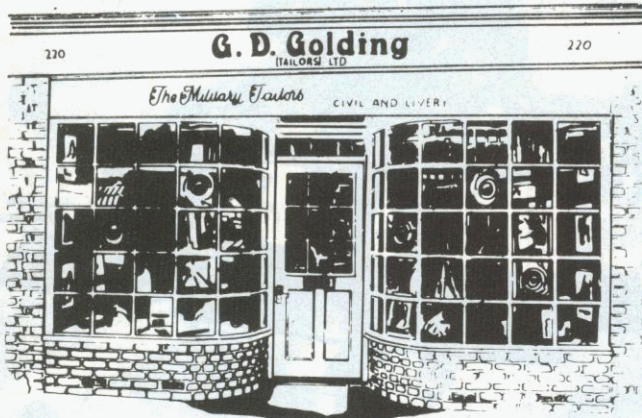
To avoid a similar fate they were the length of their winch wire from the stranded vehicle - 85ft.

Sabkha, which is hard to detect, particularly at night, has claimed many victims, but the REME refused to be beaten.

When SOLDIER drove past the spot some hours later both El Fixit and the Foden had gone. Only churned-up earth the colour of cement revealed where they had been.

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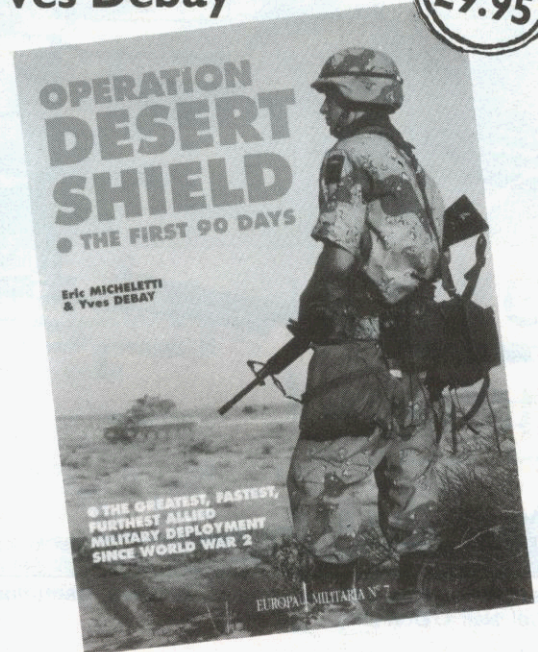
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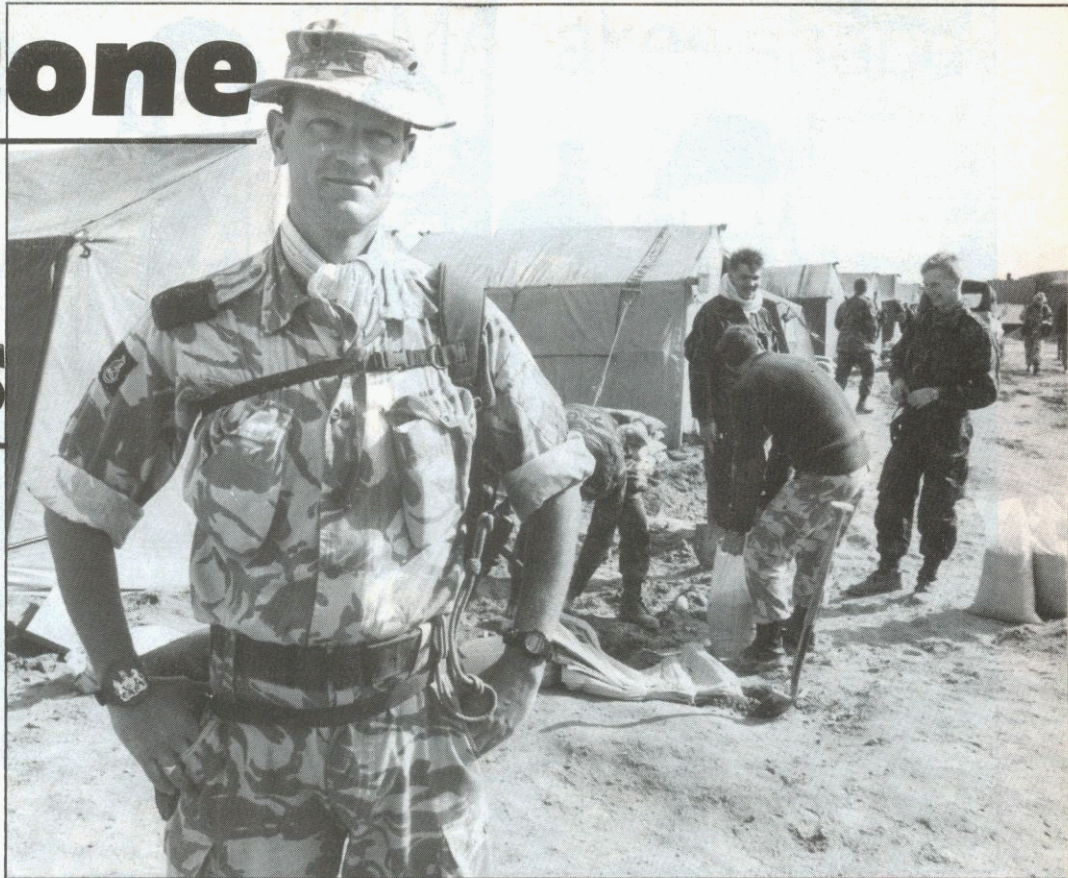
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Flintstone mob settles in at Camp Bob



RSM Chris Dunning RAOC, i/c admin at the Forward Force Maintenance Area in the Saudi desert

CAMP BOB is a British logistic headquarters established in the forward area before the outbreak of war. SOLDIER visited it under construction.

When WO1 Chris Dunning RAOC arrived at a grid reference in the heart of the desert on New Year's Eve the only sign of previous habitation was a modest square of concrete – relic of a Bedouin encampment, perhaps.

WO1 Dunning, who was RSM at 1 Ordnance Battalion,

Verden, before being posted to the Gulf, was about to begin setting up the headquarters complex of the Forward Force Maintenance Area, where he is i/c administration.

He and his companion, WO1 Neal Martin, ACC, catering adviser, looked at the flat featureless landscape and got down to business.

The site had to be the home and work station for 250 people.

Hygiene being a high priority

in the desert, it took three days to burn animal carcasses found in the area.

Men and machines moved in and soon the flat face of the desert had undergone major surgery.

Julius Caesar would have been flattered by the base's resemblance to a Roman camp surrounded by high earth ramparts called "berms".

Once inside, however, he would have been out of his depth.

All vital installations and vehicles are dug in to give them blast protection. Air raid shelters roofed with steel plate, covered with CARM (chemical agent resistant material) and earth offer refuge to personnel.

In one spot, a row of them had been named after Flintstone cartoon characters. Sgt "Dino" Clark is said to resemble his namesake (Sgt Clark and Cpl Will Hicks have been among WO1 Dunning's right-hand men in improvising essentials) but who are Barney, Fred and . . . Bam-Bam?

Though there is evidence of humour everywhere in the base there is no mistaking the serious nature of its purpose.

The chemical agent detectors beside the sentries testify to that . . . as do the .50 machine gun and the well-sited weapons slits in bunkers built into the berms.

In the platoon HQ post was a mix of troops typical of Gulf force units . . . Sgt Scouse Collard of 187 Coy RPC, Sgt Mark Staples of Defence Coy RPC HQ 1 BR Corps, Bielefeld; Cpl Jerry Mountjoy of 1 LI and Cpl Taff Williams of 1 RWF, both from Berlin.

And despite the different cap badges and the leg-pulling there was a tremendous feeling of comradeship.

The base that began as a grid reference now has a name.

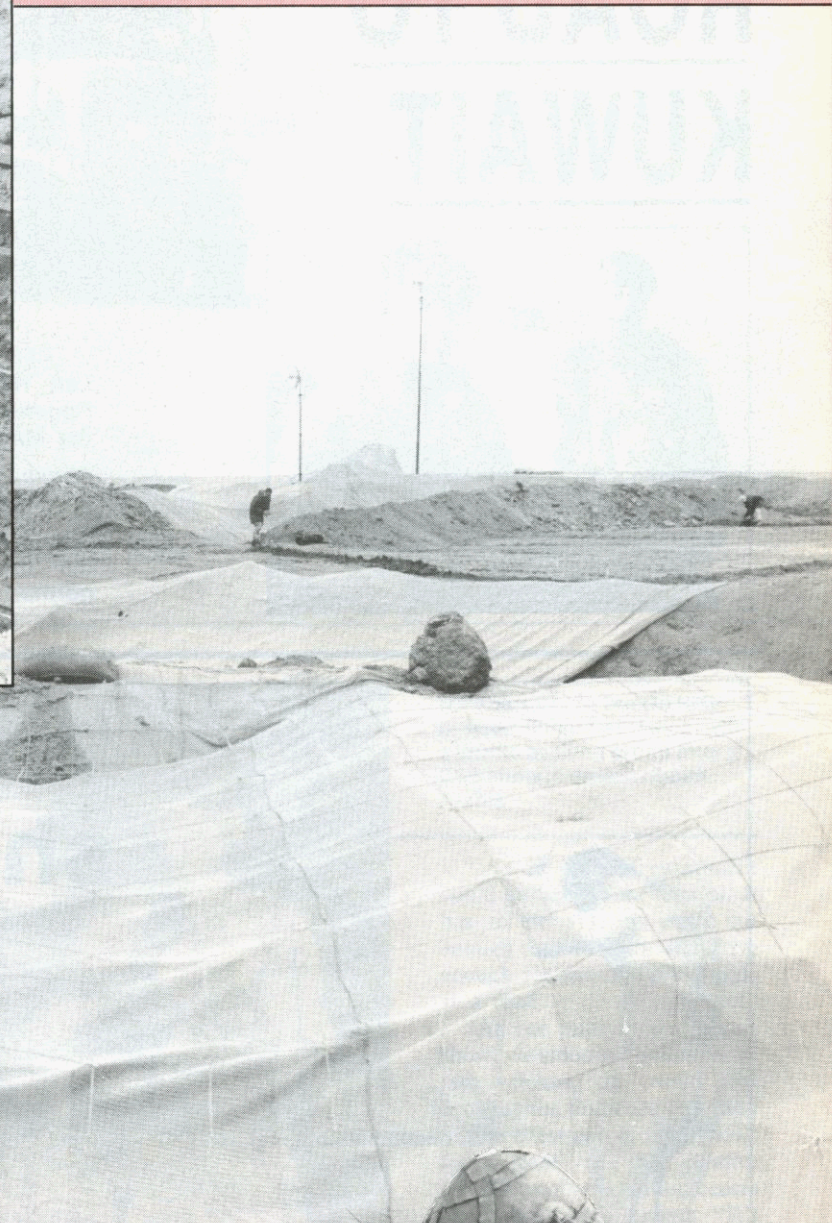
WO1 Dunning wanted to call it Bedrock because it is not very

● Turn to next page

Stand-to at the FFMA for (from left) LCpl Louise McGilligan, LCpl Jean Brown and LCpl Marie Burton



FFMA takes shape in Saudi desert



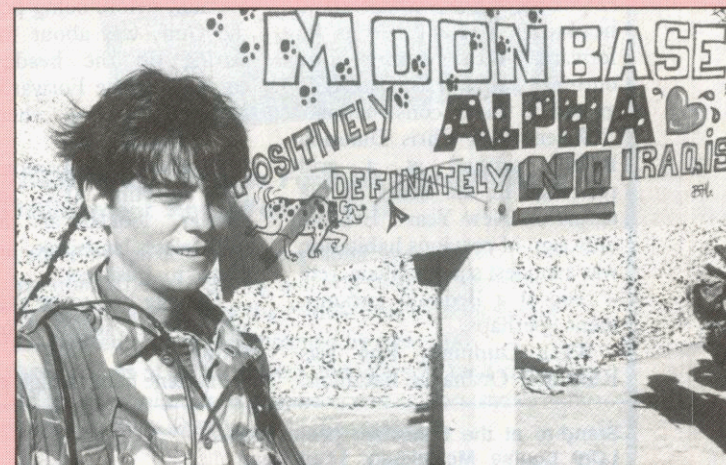
Sgt Jerry Mountjoy (1 LI), Cpl Taff Williams (1 RWF), Sgt Scouse Collard (RPC) and Sgt Mark Staples (RPC) try a bunker at FFMA for size



Sappers of 3 Fd Sqn RE from Tidworth construct MEXE shelters



Brig Martin White (left), commander FMA, and Lt Col Chris Bradley, the deputy commander



Lt Margaret Campbell in front of an ammo dump sign at FFMA

Everything at FFMA is dug into the bedrock below the sand and covered with chemical agent resistant material (CARM) and earth

● From Page 25

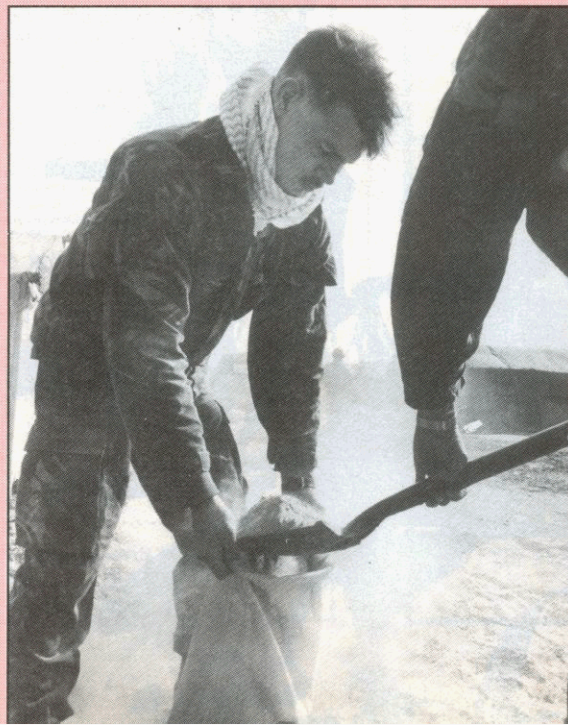
far below the surface.

Privately he calls it Hotel Fort Fun because he has so many "one-nighters" – visitors – to cope with.

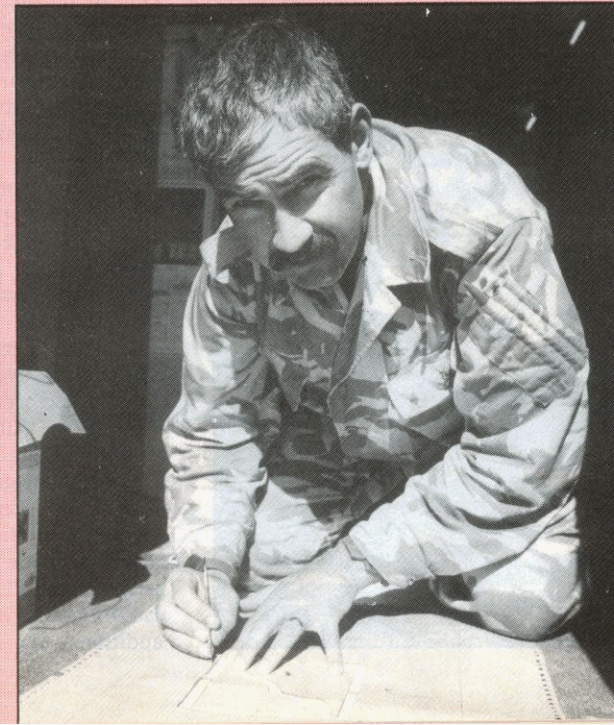
He generously let the SOLDIER team sleep in his office tent.

But officially the place is Camp Bob . . . following the trend to call locations after characters in the *Blackadder* TV series. It is a place that will stick in a lot of memories.

Hygiene note: Hot water to which antiseptic has been added is the first "dish" encountered in the cookhouse which all ranks share. And no one is allowed to eat before they have rinsed their hands and dried them on a paper towel.



The RAT (Radio Automatic Teletype) detachment of 7 Signal Regiment at the FFMA. From left to right are Sig Gaz Topps, Cpl Gary Mountain and Sig Jason Wingy. They use a HF radio via a secure teleprinter. A self-contained unit, they move into a location to provide communications until Ptarmigan arrives to take over



Above: Pte David Davies and Sgt Mark Staples position a .50 Browning, part of the FFMA defences. Left: WO1 Nick Collins cuts a template for a "Blackadder" vehicle stencil

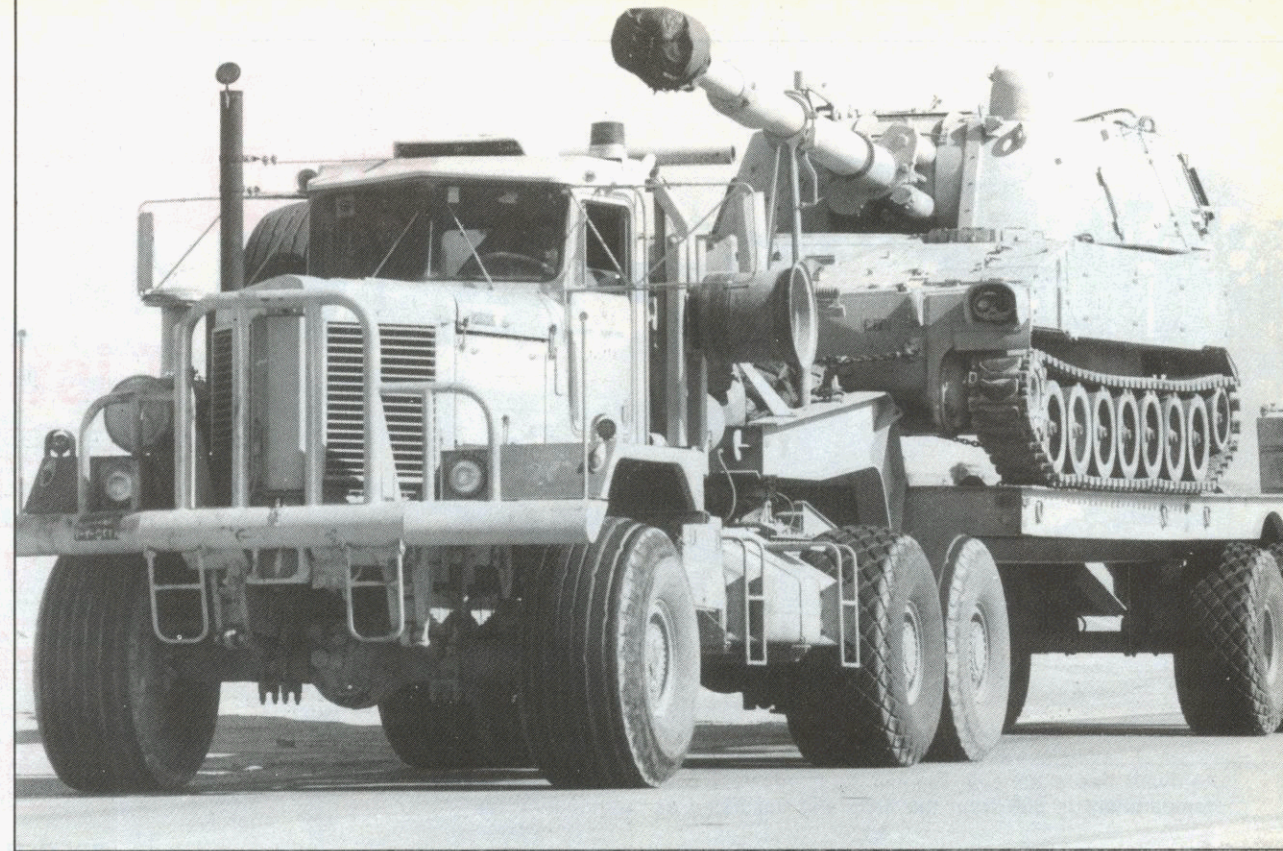
ON THE ROAD TO KUWAIT



Left: Royal Military Policemen Cpls Keith O'Brien and Roger Brown on duty as military convoys head north on the Main Supply Route

Above: A never-ending line of armour heads north towards the Kuwaiti border on the Main Supply Route

Right: An M109 self-propelled howitzer on an American tank transporter makes its way to a battle position in northern Saudi Arabia



What a shower!



Above: Personal cleanliness is a priority with British troops serving in the desert, and a number of units took with them one-man, foot-pump operated shower units that have proved more than equal to the task. The user just plugs the device into a standard Army water can and "marks time" on the foot pump to produce a spray of water



Right: RCT personnel fill sandbags between the puddles after heavy rain in a port area

It's Dee and her rockin' Redcaps

SINGER Dee Jacobi is one of the stars engaged by Combined Services Entertainment who have been doing their bit in the Gulf by putting on two shows a night for appreciative soldiers.

CSE's standard variety show will be familiar to troops who have served in places such as Northern Ireland, Belize, the Falklands or on Ascension Island. The format includes a well-known top of the bill, a comic compere, singer and a speciality act.

Said the Assistant Manager of CSE, Mr Chris Wright: "Combined Services Entertainment is the live entertainment division of SSVC and has been since 1983. All the acts have worked for us before."

CSE manager Mr Leslie Austin and Chris each book half of the 35 shows staged each year, keeping a rota of suitable people.

"We go out and see acts, do auditions, or hear on the



Members of 174 Pro Gp RMP provide singer Dee Jacobi with a terrific backing group after a CSE show in eastern Saudi Arabia

"It's the type of equipment you'd get at a minor festival. It has to be able to push out enough sound and be attractive enough for up to 3,000 people at a time.

"At the end of the largest show, we stood for half an hour just watching the trucks that brought the audience roll by!"

The latest run of CSE shows took place in the relative splendour of a recreation centre in eastern Saudi Arabia. "It's luxury for us compared to the desert, but so long as we have power, lighting and sound, and a stage, we are ready to go," said Mr Wright.

"CSE is and always has been designed to be incredibly flexible, and that applies to the artists we employ. We can't afford prima donnas. Once people turn out that way, they don't work for us again. We work as a team and it's my job to keep them happy. A happy team means a happy show.

"Another role for Combined Services Entertainment is being sociable.

"We book people who know what is required of them, who can go out and start talking to ordinary soldiers.

"Down-to-earth people who can just have a chat, pass the time of day, crack a few gags and get on with it are what we are after."

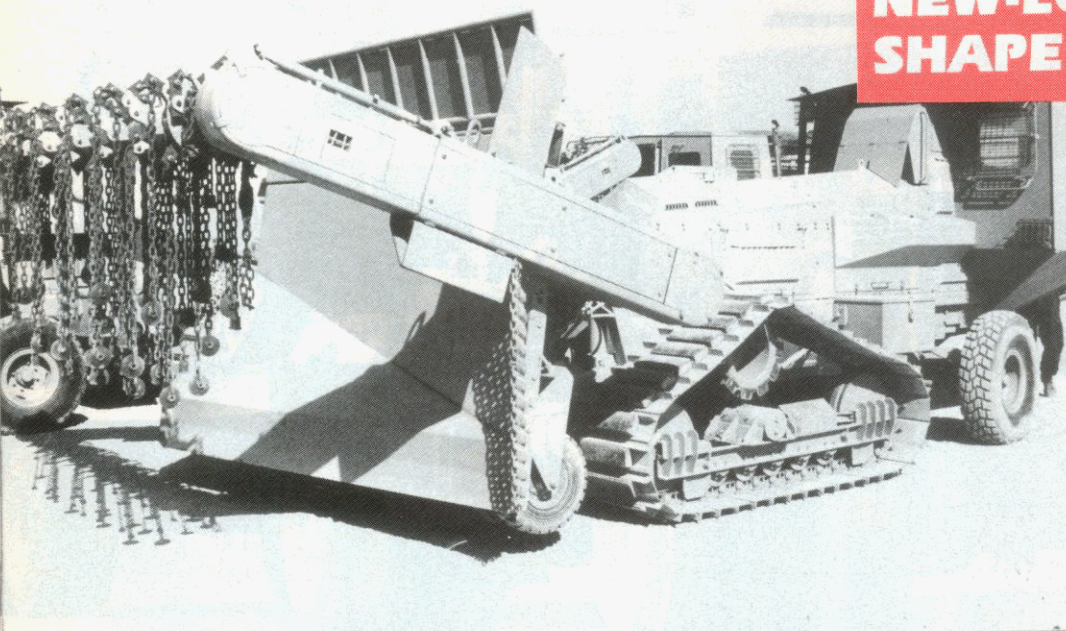
grapevine that someone might be good and go to see them. We keep a central pool from which we have people who have done the round for us. It's a bit like the old ENSA thing, but they are only contracted for each tour," he said.

There are obvious difficulties operating so far from CSE's home base, but it is something the two men are used to. They carried out a recce of the Gulf region last November to see what was required.

Before Christmas, crew boss

Alan Davies and his team took out a huge mobile stage, public address system and lighting that enabled a cast including Bob Carrolgees with Spit the dog and comedian Aidan J Harvey to perform in a desert location.

NEW-LOOK VEHICLES SHAPE UP TO BATTLE



Aardvark has a sting in the tail as it operates over minefields in reverse. The operator's compartment is 30ft from the flails and described as "ultra-survivable"

Here goes Thomas

"WHAT on earth is it?" was the immediate reaction of observers watching the entry of Aardvark into the Gulf theatre of operations. It turned out to be the British Army's armoured mine clearance vehicle, now in service with the Royal Engineers.

Officially designated as the Aardvark Joint Services flail unit (JSFU) Mk 3, the vehicle is designed to counter the threat of all types of land mines, including scatterable munitions.

It has been in service since 1986.

Auxiliary equipment – including rubber track pads – is available to change the role of the machine from cross-country to hard surface clearance.

Crew safety is obviously an important factor and their compartment is described as "ultra-survivable". Unusually, the vehicle, which normally travels cab first, is operated in reverse. The extended flails remove the damage or threat to a distance of 30ft from the sapper operators.

The cab, which looks like an old steam engine, quickly earned Aardvark the nickname "Thomas the Tank Engine".



Front view of the ultra-wide American Hummvee 4x4



Hummvee armament carrier version fitted with Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher

Distinctive Hummvee provides a variety of options

BRITISH soldiers brought up with the familiar shape of the universal Land Rover have expressed surprise when confronted for the first time by the distinctive lines of the Hummvee 4x4 vehicle driven by American Servicemen.

The vehicle takes its name from its US military specification – High-Mobility, Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) – and is instantly recognisable by its ultra-wide bodied appearance.

The US Army and Marine Corps had been operating with a large variety of light vehicles and the Hummvee, which entered service in 1983, introduced an element of standardisation.

The vehicle requires a

minimum of modifications to suit it for a variety of military purposes. Five body styles – utility, cargo, ambulance, truck and cargo shelter carrier – can be adapted to 15 different configurations.

The cargo/troop carrier variant is capable of transporting a payload (including crew) of 2,500 lb, or a two-man crew and eight passengers.

TOW carriers are used to mount and operate the tank-busting missile launcher system with armour protection for crew, system components and ammunition.

An armoured armament carrier provides mounting and firing of the Mk 19 automatic grenade launcher; M2 .50 calibre machine gun; and M60 7.62mm machine gun, ring-mounted with 360 degree arc of fire.

The 1¼ ton four-wheel drive vehicle has good terrain capabilities. It can negotiate a gradient as steep as 60 per cent, a side slope of up to 40 per cent, and ford hard-bottom water crossings up to 30in deep. With a deep-water fording kit, the Hummvee can "swim" through 60in of water.

M60A1 ready to play a part

THE relative merits of Allied main battle tanks – in particular the British Army's Challenger Mk3 and the American M1A1 Abrams – have been a topic of keen debate among troops in the Gulf.

Often overlooked has been the presence, in large numbers, of another tank, the American M60A1, which makes up the bulk of the tank force employed by the United States Marine Corps.

The M60 entered service in 1960, with the M60A1 variant succeeding it two years later. Improvements included a redesigned "needle nose" turret that offered greater protection.

In Israeli hands, it performed



US Marine Corps M60A1 main battle tanks and crews await the arrival of tank transporters to move them to the front line. Note the mine clearance plough fitted to the front of the vehicle and the explosive-reactive armour fitted around the turret



Explosive reactive armour (ERA) is clearly visible on this M60A1

creditably during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and remained in production until May 1980 when the M60A3 variant was unveiled.

One of a number of reserve units mobilised is the 8th Tank Battalion, US Marine Corps, equipped with M60A1s modified for battle in the desert.

At the battalion holding point, marines were bolting on slabs of Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) designed to neutralise enemy fire. When

shells strike ERA, they explode outwards away from the tank, weakening the force of impact.

The tanks were then given a sand-coloured paint livery before being transported to a forward battle range.

Some tanks were fitted with bulldozer blades to assist digging in.

Others were fitted with an Israeli-designed mine-clearance plough to enable the battalion to fight its way across enemy minefields.

SSAFA lends helping hand

FOUR days before called-up medical reservists streamed into Keogh Barracks near Aldershot, the Ministry of Defence asked the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) to help the Keogh welfare teams cope with the flood.

More than 500 reservists were processed, and in every case their final call was at the next-of-kin information desk manned by SSAFA volunteers.

Some of the part-time soldiers were being sent to the Gulf, others to military hospitals in the United

Kingdom and Germany.

Each reservist was given a pack of information to be passed on to their next of kin. It contained the name and telephone number of their nearest SSAFA/FHS volunteer, giving them immediate and personal access to assistance and advice from the Army's welfare services.

Volunteers from the Federation of Army Wives have started contacting wives of reservists to offer the support and assistance they are entitled to as members of the Army community.



SSAFA volunteers Mrs Valerie Marsh (Camberley) and Mrs Anne Butcher (Aldershot) process medical reservists at Keogh Barracks. Behind them are (from left) SSAFA volunteers Les Keating (Aldershot), Lt Col Ian Ronald (Odiham), Anne Armstrong and Brig Peter Marsh



Local MP Mr Tony Baldry talks to wives of 518 Company RPC personnel during his visit to Bicester Garrison. Wives and dependants of 169 Pioneers from the unit who left for the Gulf in October meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening at the garrison families' centre for an update on Op Granby.

In December Maj Colin Code, who commands 518 Coy, returned to Bicester for three days and briefed wives fully on how their husbands are getting on in the Gulf.

IN BRIEF

A Gulf Information Desk has been established at Army HQ, Lisburn to handle next-of-kin enquiries on personnel serving in the Gulf.

Staff on the desk will address a wide range of concerns, including such matters as casualty notification and welfare.

The Lisburn helpline number is 0846 609980.

★ SERVICE families returning to the United Kingdom who need dental treatment should make it clear to the dentist that they are to be treated on the NHS.

Patients who do not fall into one of the exempted groups will have to pay 75

per cent of the fee. The maximum is currently £150.

● Servicewomen who are pregnant or fall pregnant during 1991 may be entitled to claim Statutory Maternity Pay. The new rules came into effect at the end of last year.

For all ranks – officers and other ranks – payment will be made by the Regimental Paymaster, Chester.

● TWO free telephone numbers have been created for children at risk in day and boarding schools.

Boarding School Line
0800-010 390
Childline 0800 1111

TAX FREE CARS

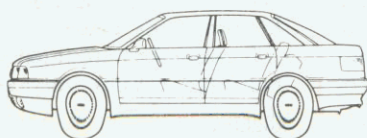
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It's all hands to the pump in a community centre in Aldershot where SSAFA volunteers from the military town and nearby Odiham are manning a Gulf Support Centre covering a radius of 30 miles. They offer support, help and advice, transport and accommodation in support of the welfare measures set up by the Ministry of Defence for relatives of men and women serving in the Gulf.

The Gulf Support Centre can be contacted from 8am to 8pm (then via an answerphone) on 0252 331715. Our picture shows (from left to right) Mrs Sandra Perry, Brig Peter Marsh, Mrs Mary O'Dwyer, Mr Les Keating, Miss Michelle Lovett and Mrs Penny Collinge.

Gift line never stops ringing

AN avalanche of gifts for British Service men and women in Saudi Arabia has reflected the huge public support they enjoy.

But how do those piles of goodies actually get to the soldiers in the desert?

The answer is – in most cases – courtesy of the tri-Service Gulf Amenities Centre located in Lacon House, London.

A complicated logistic organisation has gone into overdrive to make sure that the tens of thousands of items have reached their intended destination.

Gifts from individuals, groups, companies – some co-ordinated by the Royal British Legion and the *Daily Telegraph* – have amounted to millions of teabags, thousands of tins of biscuits, tons of Turkish Delight, cases of Coca Cola, mountains of crisps, and truck-loads of board-games.

Max Factor went to the rescue of make-upless Servicewomen, and IPC provided women's magazines.

The Gift Helpline telephone number is 071-430 6240 or 6243.

Multi-gyms, television sets, shorts and T-shirts and daily newspapers by the ton were dispatched to bases in the Gulf in time for Christmas.

And the gifts continue to pour in.

Haggis for Burns Night, tens of thousands of Valentine's Day gifts...

In charge of the Gulf Amenities Centre ops room in Lacon House is WO1 John Manning, who has taken time off from his Russian studies.

Two members of the WRAC, Veronica Renwick and Caroline Connelly, provide support.

The telephone never stops ringing. And always the answer is the same.

"Yes, of course we can help. We'll arrange to get your gift to the Gulf."

One gift was particularly generous – 100 transistor radios donated by an



WO2 Mike Archer, RAPC, and WO2 John Manning, RE, at the Gulf Amenities Centre

individual well-wisher.

The operation goes on round the clock, so WO2 Mike Archer, RAPC, from

the Mobile Display Team joined the Lacon House group to keep a tab of cash donations.

Helplines

THE Ministry of Defence has issued the following Helpline numbers for families of Servicemen in the Gulf:

Army 0345 717200.
Royal Navy 0345 414544. Royal Air Force 0345 800900.
Royal Fleet Auxiliary 0345 555500. Civilians 071-839 5656 and 071-839 5492.

Tribunal tribulation

TWENTY eight Service wives asked for their claims for Unemployment Benefit to be heard by independent tribunals at Aldershot and Guildford.

Helping me present their cases were Mr Eric Dawkins, Town Clerk of Falmouth – whose daughter lost her case – and Maj David Howell of Army Legal Services.

On the first day ten were won, but only four on the second – a 50 per cent failure rate.

It seems to me that the odds are stacked against Army wives, but that must not prevent you appealing. If you don't appeal you throw away your last chance of success.

Make sure, though, that you get good advice to ensure your case is sound.

Take an interest!

FROM April 6 the system for taxing interest paid by banks and building societies is changing for 15m people – those whose income is less than £90 a week.

Guidelines are set out in the Inland Revenue leaflet IR 110, due to be delivered to every household in the United Kingdom.

No provision was made for the leaflets to be delivered to Service families overseas so I have arranged for 3,000 to be dispatched to the MoD for distribution abroad.

If you cannot get one, let me know.

TA gunner 'was first' to Gulf

MAY I take issue with the article "TAPIOs take the lead" (February 4), as I believe that another TA officer was the first to arrive in the Gulf.

He is Lt G J Moore from 209th (The Manchester Artil-

lery) Air Defence Battery, part of 103rd (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Air Defence Regiment. Gary Moore, from Bacup in Lancashire, has been attached to 10 (Assaye) Air Defence Battery of 40th Field

Regiment RA since July 1990. He deployed with them on Op Granby in early October. - Lt Col T J Wilton, RA, CO 103rd Air Defence Regiment RA, Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool L12 4YH.

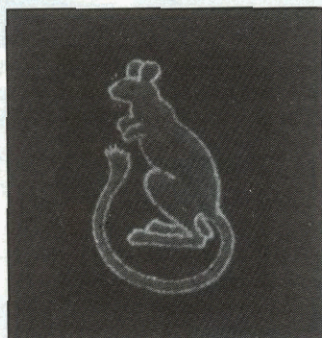
Old Rat does an about turn

MY photograph of one of my original Divisional signs, which I removed from my battle dress as a souvenir on demob, shows the rat facing left (see "Getting the Rat right", SOLDIER, January 7).

But this is only because it was taken from the left shoulder. The right shoulder flash faced right, so that when worn on the tunic the Rat faced forward. Old photographs I have confirm this.

My compliments on a splendid magazine, which some of us old 'uns love to read. Your coverage of all areas is first-class.

To all our lads and lassies in the Gulf: Good luck and God speed your safe return home to



Blighty. - Norman Ricketts, West Bromwich.

PS: I am now left with a puzzle. As I finished this letter, my wife produced a sweetheart badge which I sent to her after the Second World War. My brigade stamp is on the reverse - with the Rat facing left.

Gren Gds left out

WE would like to bring to your attention the fact that the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards have had very few mentions in any publication including the Forces' own.

Maybe someone could tell us if it is due to the fact that, against their wishes, they have been separated to be attached to other regiments - separated not

only from their wives and children but also from fellow soldiers of 1 Gren Gds.

Good luck, lads. - Grenadier Wives and Attached, BFPO 17.

● As far back as our October 29 issue (Page 14), SOLDIER published a photograph of members of 1 Gren Gds attached to 1 Staffs. - Editor

Buffaloes can help

MEMBERS of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes can be found all over the world and especially in HM Forces.

We are a social and benevolent organisation who help not only our own members but others, too.

I am here, ready, willing and able, to assist any member of the RAOB who has problems at home while he is in the Gulf. - W E Barker, Hon Gen Secretary, Overseas Buffaloes' Association, 52 Eaton Green Road, Luton, Beds LU2 9JE (tel: 0582 411643).

Don't forget Ulster units

MY son is serving with REME in Co Fermanagh and he and many others there feel that with the Gulf crisis commanding attention, people may have forgotten them.

I feel for the relatives and friends of the soldiers, sailors and airmen in the Gulf - but please remember those in Northern Ireland and around the world.

As you say in SOLDIER (January 21), REME does "keep 'em rolling". To me they are the backbone of the Army, but the boys in N Ireland are feeling very left out and their job is just as dangerous. - Soldier's Mother.

Hargeisha memorial

FORMER CSM Howes stated (December 10) that the triumph over the Italians in East Africa merited recognition.

If my memory serves me correctly from 1946, a small monument with a plaque was erected between Hargeisha and Berbera recording the fact that the Italian Army was finally halted there by a battalion of the King's African Rifles. - K A Smith, Birmingham (ex-Base Pay Office, Hargeisha, British Somaliland).

Reunions

● **St Boniface Rheindahlen** reunion will take place on Sunday, June 23, 1991 at St Clement Danes RAF Church, London, starting with Choral Evensong at 6pm. Details from Lt Col A P M Hole, 39 Vogan Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT (tel 0737 244001).

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

● **Grapple Reunion 1991:** The annual Christmas Island reunion lunch for officers who served on Christmas Island with Task Force "Grapple" will be held on Saturday, March 16 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, at 1200. Details from Mr D M Brockett, Hon Sec, Phyllis Court Club, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2HT.

● **The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association** London Branch St David's Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 2 at the Victory Services Club, London, followed on March 3 by a parade. Details from Hon Sec Mr P E Byfield (tel 0737 762426).

Searchline

● **WO1 (RSM) Ron Schmidlin**, ex-67 (Suffolk) Med Regt RA, NW Europe 1943-46. Last heard of in the 1970s at Woodham Ferrers, Essex. Information sought by Knocker Knight, 18 Icough Court, 40 Hassendean Road, Blackheath SE3 8UD (tel 081-858 3747).

● **11th Royal Tank Regiment:** 50 years after the regiment's formation and 45 after its disbandment, the 11th RTR Association is planning a nostalgic final reunion at the Bay View Hotel, East Cliff, Bournemouth, on Saturday April 27. Former members and others who served with them are asked to contact the organiser, Ken Fraser, 19 Gervis Road, Bournemouth BH1 3EE, or Colin Weeks, 4 Coronation Road, Banwell, Avon (tel Banwell 820307).

● **Dvr Stephen Clegg**, B Platoon, 65 Company RASC 1950-53, Trieste, Italy. Would former comrades please contact Miss Deanna Clegg, 12 Glenmore Drive, Crumpsall, Manchester 8 7QG.

Queen Victoria's Indian Army

IF the British Empire existed today, the majority of the British contribution to the forces in the Gulf would almost certainly have been found from the Indian Army, just as in 1867, when a force was sent to Abyssinia to rescue hostages seized by another tyrant, Emperor Theodore III.

This expedition was concluded with the release of the hostages and the suicide of the Emperor, who shot himself with a revolver previously presented to him by Queen Victoria.

In *The Indian Army of the Empress 1861-1903*, Alan Harfield tells the story of the campaigns in which Queen Victoria's Indian Army was involved from 1861 – until 1903, two years after her death, when Lord Kitchener introduced sweeping changes in the Indian Army.

Alan Harfield has written delightful vignette accounts of a number of campaigns with his usual exactness to detail, including biographical notes on some of the participants and details of the units involved and medals awarded.

Sadly some of the detail cannot be fully appreciated due to the lack of, or inadequacy of, the maps.

There are, however, some 140 excellent photographs, mainly of unit groups – 20 being from the archives of The Army Museums Ogilby Trust and probably not published before.

The author described this to me as a "coffee table" book, but it is far more than that and should be a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in the colonial history of the second half of the 19th Century or the dress of the Indian Army – PSN.

The Indian Army of the Empress 1861-1903 by Alan Harfield. Published by Spellmount, Tunbridge Wells. Price £25.

Another time, another place ... A Scout HC1 helicopter pilot of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, lands to confer with the commander of a Scorpion of the Blues and Royals in a Falklands War scene captured by artist John Hamilton. It is one of more

than 50 of his paintings and sketches reproduced in colour and mono in *The Helicopter Story of the Falklands Campaign*, for which he also wrote the text after visiting all the relevant places. Published by David and Charles. Price £25.



The wars of V-S

THE name Villiers-Stuart may not be one that comes readily to mind to anyone not connected with the Rifle Brigade in the First World War or with the Gurkhas up to the time when the British left India.

Nevertheless, W D Villiers-Stuart was an outstanding soldier, whose diaries are made up of astute observations and comments on army life as seen by an officer who attained the rank of brigadier-general but whose wartime years were spent as a battalion commander.

Villiers-Stuart's diaries have been the subject of two books by Lt Col R M Maxwell, the latest of which, *Villiers-Stuart Goes to War*, begins with V-S (as he was known) home on leave from India in 1914.

On the outbreak of war, the return to his battalion was cancelled and he was required to raise the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade.

V-S complains of the exorbitant prices charged to officers at the beginning of the war, "by Ross for my field glasses, double the price by Wilkinson for my pistol, and double the price for everything else by the Army & Navy Stores ..."

The 9th RB landed in France

in May 1915 and were deployed in the Ypres Salient for a period that culminated for V-S with the Battle of Loos.

In the five months of fierce fighting all the 9th RB men had become casualties and V-S himself was evacuated home as medically unfit. His mental stability may well have been affected at this time but he recovered to return in February 1917 to India, "where the war was not understood at all."

Various demanding tasks followed, including the setting up of the School of Mountain Warfare at Abbottabad, and the raising of the 3rd Guides Infantry.

Promoted brigadier-general in October 1918 and appointed Inspector of Infantry in India, V-S was eventually to return after seven years absence to become commandant of his own pre-war battalion, the 1/5th Gurkha Rifles.

"At last, at the age of 49, I was back with my battalion – I was home!" From December 1922 he was to command both his battalion and his brigade, and took part in the fighting on the North West Frontier, which he describes in detail.

After a career that began when he joined the Militia in 1884, V-S sailed from Bombay

for home on April 10, 1924.

From his diaries it is apparent that V-S was a man of strong likes and dislikes, and seems to have been unfortunate with the under-echelon commanders under whom he served. Even General Plumer, beloved by almost everyone, comes in for strong criticism.

Although he was generous in his appraisal of most of his subordinates and his men, he obviously thought little of his adjutant in France and Flanders, and of another officer he is uncompromisingly scathing: "His name was Thomas and he came from Charterhouse – a poisonous person, conceited and a coward."

Despite a glowing and complimentary chapter by Richard Pease, who knew him, and who was CO of 1/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles before the battalion was handed over to the Indian Army, V-S could not have been the easiest commander to serve with, but he undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the many troops he led over a 40-year career. – BJ

Villiers-Stuart Goes to War by R M Maxwell. Published by The Pentland Press, 3 Real Lane, Soham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5BA. Price, hardback, £15.

Dashing display

These ten members of the Royal Artillery Display Troop ran non-stop from Land's End to Woolwich in two days to raise nearly £2,400 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Mobile Display Teams and the Motor Cycle Display Team also raise funds.

Pictured from left (front) are Gnr Rennie, LCpl Risdale, LBdr Parker, chief clerk Sgt Peter Hutchinson who organised the event, Gnr Chapman, Gnr Smith, Bdr McGoldrick, Gnr Weller, and SSgt Jackson; (rear) Gnr Jefferies, Gnr Beauchamp and Bdr Morson.



Pearls of wisdom

CATHERINE Jones and Annie Musgrove, authors of *Gumboots* and *Pearls*, have donated nearly £800 to SSAFA from the sales of the first edition. This includes £100 from a national newspaper which featured their book.

Said Annie, a mother of three: "A headline of 'Sex drill for Army wives' in a paper which makes *The Sun* look like serious reading isn't bad for two rather staid Army wives."

If you didn't get a copy of *Gumboots* for Christmas it is still available at the Naafi, YMCA, W H Smiths and all good bookshops. Failing that, copies are available at £3.95 inclusive of posting and packing from Owl Press, PO Box 315, Kingston-upon-Thames KT2 5UL.

★ ★ ★

Winner of 3 RTR's moustache-growing contest was Cpl Bob Fielder, who in two months developed a supreme example on his upper lip.

Competing against the rest of the regiment, on tour in Northern Ireland, the contest raised £900 which was pushed to £1,300 with a draw for a paid trip home.

The competitions were held to raise cash for the children's wards of St Thomas's Hospital, London and Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

Trooper Mike Vowles, winner of the trip home draw, made the presentation of two computers to St Thomas's,



while the Cambridge will receive cash for the exclusive entertainment of children using the hospital.

★ ★ ★

Service divers set a new record when they took part in a 48-hour underwater walk at Chelsea Barracks pool.

To help the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and the Weston Spirit, they relayed for 90 minutes covering about 1½ miles each.

Cash from sponsors was expected to total at least £5,000.

★ ★ ★

Links between **The Royal Hampshire Regiment** and

ABF needs your support

EVERYONE needs support at some time and the **Army Benevolent Fund** is no exception. It helps a lot of people and now it is calling for assistance under the Payroll Giving Scheme.

Under this a person can donate from £1 to £50 a month to chosen charities. The

Winchester Cathedral were strengthened when Brig Robert Long, Colonel of the Regiment, presented a regimental cheque for £1,300 towards the cathedral's £7m appeal.

★ ★ ★

Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children received £700 from **The King's Own Scottish Borderers** when they heard that Richard Rennie, four-year-old son of Cpl Norrie and Jackie Rennie, was seriously ill. Learning of the boy's plight, recruits at Glencorse Barracks switched the cash from the proceeds of an open day to help pay for treatment.

★ ★ ★

In response to the Soldier in Need appeal, Sgt Kevin Nunn, REME, and Cpl Andrew Dolan, WFR, of Princess Marina College, Aborfield, ran across the Black Mountains in Wales – a course apprentices usually take two days to cover – in just 5hr 20min to raise £437.

donation can be spread using up to 12 charities providing the donation is not less than £1.

But it's not just the ABF which needs help – scores of other charities do, too. The best way is through the Payroll Giving Scheme. For full details see DCI (JS) 59/90 from your unit pay office.

Four cyclists from **The Queen's Regiment** relied on pedal power to raise cash for research into crippling diseases (SPARKS). The four riders – Sgt Mick Lyden, Cpl Dev Croft, LCpl Andy Powell and Pte Dell Dixon – then set about collecting the cash from the rest of the battalion for the four-day, 430-mile slog from Minden to Canterbury.

★ ★ ★

Joint Forces in the **Falklands** were set a £10,000 target by Maj Gen Malcolm Hunt, CBF, for BBC Children in Need and achieved £13,000 – £6.50 a head.

★ ★ ★

One of the last charitable duties performed by Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière before he took charge in the Gulf was to present £5,500 to BLESMA. The money was raised by Capt Paul Pendlebury and a team of runners from **33 Engineer Regiment**, Chattenden, during a John o' Groats-Land's End-Chatham run.

★ ★ ★

A team of Army and RAF athletes completed a 24-hour keep-fit marathon at RAF Bruggen in aid of a school for handicapped children at Niederkruchten. Two of the four-strong team were LCpls Chris Collett and Keith Morton of **52 Fd Sqn RE**.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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COMPETITION 506

The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 506, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by March 8. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

More than one entry can be submitted but photocopies cannot be accepted.

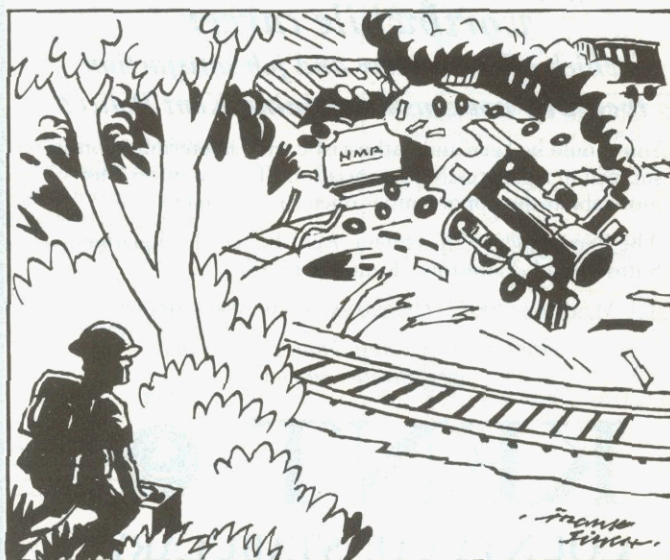
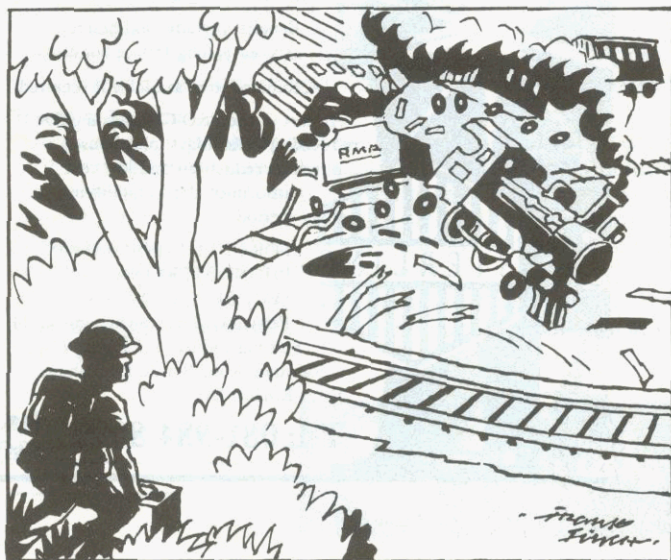
The first correct entries drawn will be the winners. No correspondence can be entered into.

The names of the winner of the £50 first prize and two runners-up will be announced in the April 1 issue.

Name: (Give rank or title)

Address:

Competition No 503: Cpl Howse, of HQ SEDIST, Aldershot, wins the £50 first prize. Book prizes are on their way to runners-up Mr S D Hulme, of Blackpool, and Cpl J Eagle, of HQ Brunei Garrison.



Joy for Joanne

Smiles all round after £1,500 was raised from raffles and donations in the Royal Corps of Transport Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. The cash will be used to send Joanna Rose (7) who is severely brain-injured, accompanied by her mother (with whom she is pictured) to America for specialist assessment and a training programme. Also pictured are (from the left): WO1 Don Dwane, Cpl Hugh Kerr, Cpl Bob Warren, Cpl Bob Hope, RSM WO1 Tony Newton and WO2 Ronnie Hernan.

Soldiers at the Light Division Depot, Winchester, were only too happy to make the dreams come true of Simon Wedgewood (10), and Andrew

Dokelman (9), who are both suffering from leukaemia. The youngsters both want to join the Army and had a foretaste during a day at the Depot when, dressed in uniform, they tested their military skills.

Necessity being the mother of invention, keen climbers Capts Steve Bostock and Nick Wharton of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Reg-

iment, were undeterred by the lack of sport presented to them by the flat coastal plain of Blackpool near their Preston base.

Armed with a domestic drill and a garden ladder, it took them just a few evenings to drill more than 200 holes into the back of the 30m range wall. HQ NW District provided a £370 grant for the holds and the battalion now boasts its own climbing wall. Already more than £70 has been raised for charity from sponsored climbs.

A 24-hour international relay charity marathon organised by the UK delegation at Headquarters AFCENT raised more than 17,000 guilders (£5,500) which will go towards the purchase of new equipment lost in a fire at the Joseph Mason School, Brunssum, attended by British pupils.

Staff at the Army Careers Information Office, Dundee showed a clean pair of heels – running around the city square non-stop for 30 hours – to raise £1,371 for a charity that helps children in Tayside.

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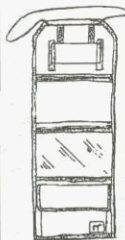
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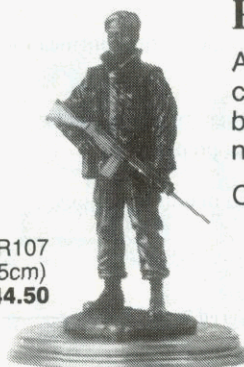
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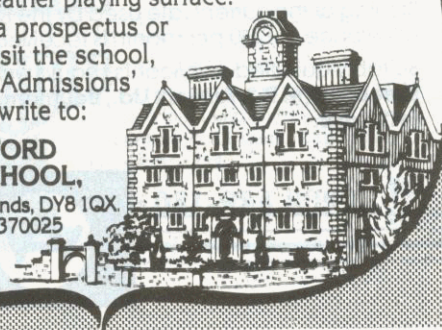
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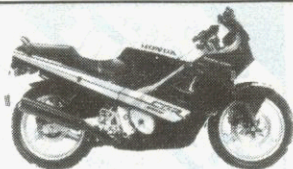
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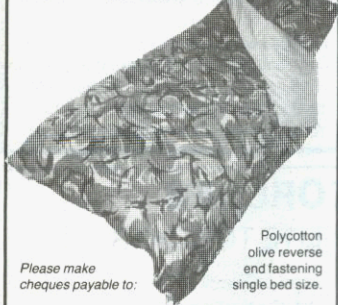
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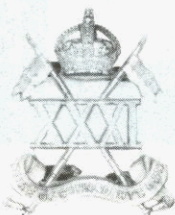
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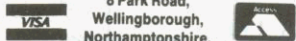


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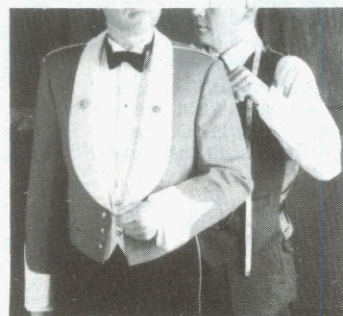
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William Barnes Wollen was born in 1857 and studied at the Slade School of Art. A prolific painter of scenes from British military history, he exhibited regularly at The Royal Academy. Many of his paintings are in National and Regimental Collections. He died in London in 1936.

This painting was exhibited at The Royal Academy in 1898 and purchased by officers of The Essex Regiment, the descendants of the 44th Regiment, and is on loan to The National Army Museum in London. It has been reproduced by The Pompadour Gallery with the kind permission of the Trustees of The Essex Regiment Association and The Royal Anglian Regiment, and is distributed exclusively by Imperial Fine Arts.

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Belgians to open Kentish campaign

THE KENTISH Cup, the oldest of all European football cup competitions, gets under way on February 20 with the visit to Aldershot of the Belgian Armed Forces to play Combined Services, writes Pat Massey.

The Netherlands Armed Forces visit the Belgians on March 13 and the final tie will match the British Combined Services against the Dutch in Holland on April 20.

The Kentish Cup competition dates back to 1921 and involved the French Services until 1986 when they withdrew and were replaced by the Dutch.

The Continental teams frequently include young National Servicemen with professional football experience, a fact which has given British Service players (this year being sponsored by Air Europe) the chance in recent years to take on superstars such as Belgium's Schifo and Claesen, and Plantini, Bossis and Amoros of France.

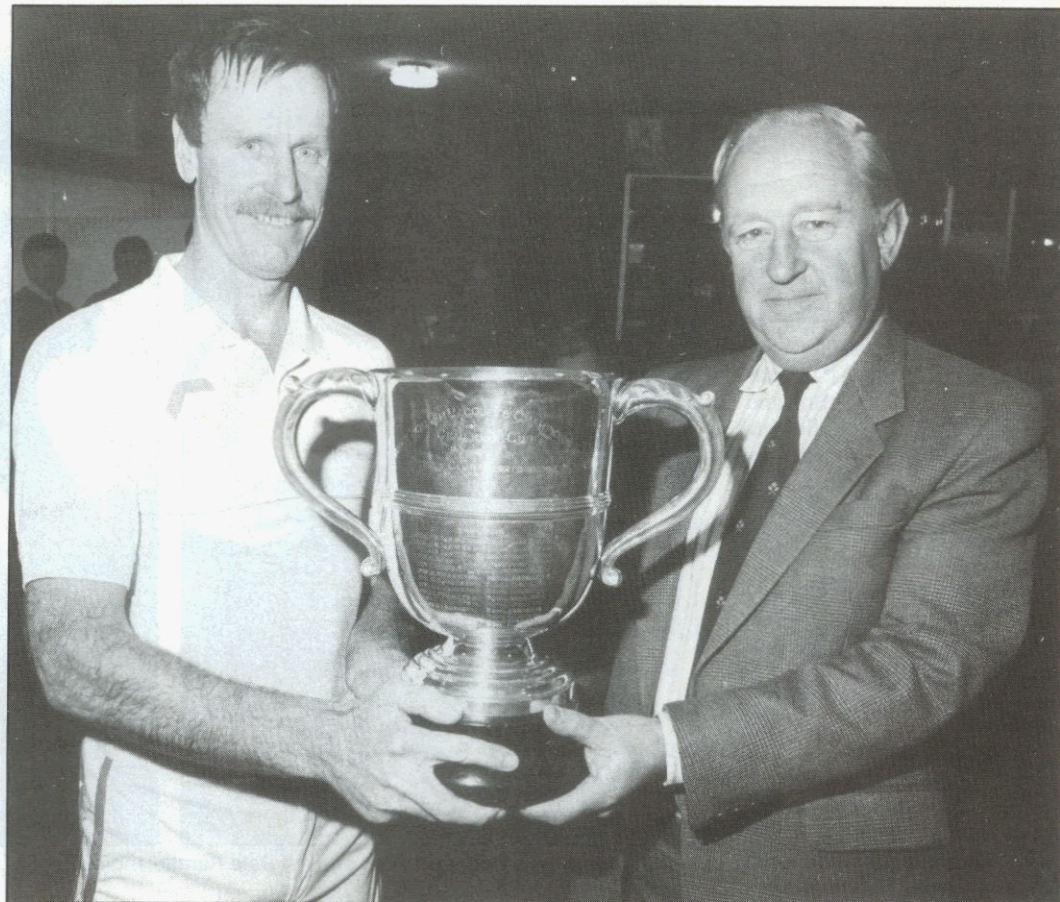
Last season Belgian Armed Forces included two of their World Cup squad.

Following the cancellation of their proposed tour to Oman, Combined Services arranged a match against the British Fire Services, only for the weather to intervene. When Scotland became snowbound the firemen were unable to assemble their side and the fixture was scrapped.

With Kentish Cup action just a month away, the Services were desperate for match-practice. Local clubs Southampton and Farnborough Town were happy to oblige at very short notice, and the result was two valuable encounters for the Servicemen.

Combined Services 1 Farnborough Town 3

Farnborough Town arrived at Aldershot with a fine win over Barnet under their belts



Maj Robbie Robertson receives the trophy from Maj Gen Peter Beale, DGMS, President of Army squash

and quickly showed why they sprung that surprise. It was a case of the Servicemen missing their chances, and the visitors capitalising on theirs. Cpl Steve Thompson of the RAF scored the Services' goal.

Combined Services 1 Southampton FC XI 2

Services entertained a strong and youthful Saints team at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth and were rewarded with a game full of good football.

Cpl Mike Mallinson (RAF) cancelled out a goal by Neil Selby, but ten minutes from time Tony Widderton poked in the winner.

Army XI 6 London University 1

The Army's first representative match of 1991 resulted in a thorough demolition of the students from London University.

Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) opened the scoring in the fifth minute and from then on there was little doubt who would win the match.

Maynard scored a second, Sgt Steve Davis (APTC) completed a hat trick, and skipper Sgt Clinte Webbe (RA) headed home the sixth.

At the other end, Cpl Andy McWilliam (R Signals) made one or two fine saves to discourage the visitors.

ROBBIE'S RECORD

DESPITE Op Granby and a much reduced entry, the Army squash rackets championship went ahead. Maj Robbie Robinson (RAOC) retained his title – a record 12th – when he beat LCpl Garry Clarke (REME) 9/10, 9/3, 9/1, 9/2.

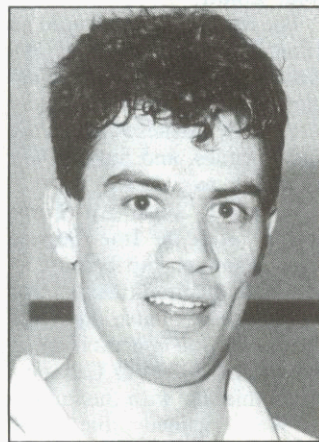
To reach the final was a great achievement for young Clarke. He played a mature game against the champion, but he put his all into winning the first game, writes Lance Brett.

This momentary success left him exhausted for the rest of the match against the experienced Robinson.

Robinson also won the Over 35 event with a 3-0 victory over Capt Derek Collins.

Lt Col John Woodliffe kept his veterans' title when he beat Capt Brian Patchitt (RAOC) 3-1. Patchitt also won the first game, but was unable to sustain any pressure on Woodliffe.

The Under 25 trophy was



LCpl Garry Clarke

taken by LCpl Nick Turton (RE) in a hard and fast match against LCpl Dave Gallagher (R Signals) 9/4, 8/10, 9/4, 9/7.

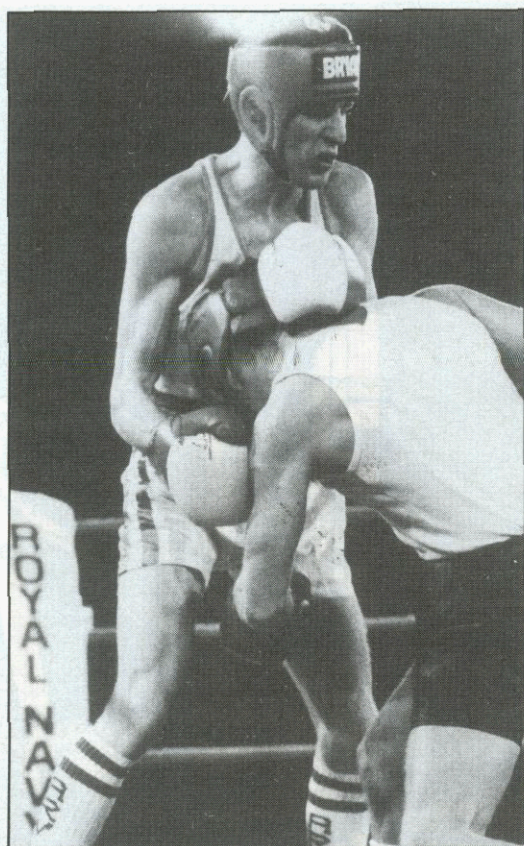
The doubles is the fun event of the championships as it is a rarely played game. Cpl Evans and ex-SSgt Barker beat Maj Mike Gallagher and SSgt Webster 3-0.

England call up Jennings

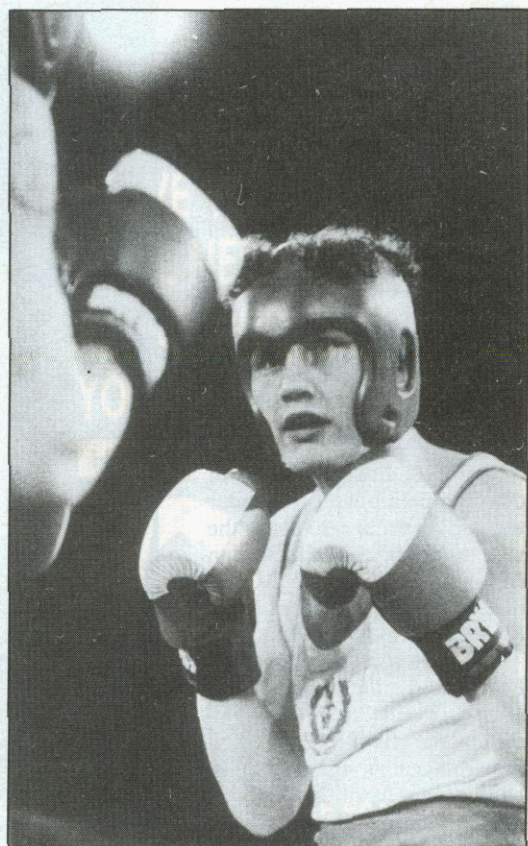
SHORT corner specialist SSgt Ian Jennings of the APTC was set to add to his 17 England indoor hockey caps following his selection to play in the World Masters tournament in Glasgow and the European Cup in Birmingham during February.

Jennings, who is reckoned to have the hardest flick from a short corner in Europe, is currently attached to 17 Training Regiment RA at Woolwich.

He plays indoors for St Albans and has finished top scorer in the national knockout competition for the past four years, during which the club has won the title four times.



Cpl Neil McCallum (left) in charge against Dale Randle and (right) Pte Lox Roche on the way to victory against Andy Calpin



Pictures: Mike Scaddan, The News, Portsmouth

What a turn-up!

IF IT had been a football match it would have been over by half-time, the Army 4-1 ahead and cruising. But boxing, to borrow another sporting cliché, can be a funny old game, writes **John Elliott**.

The Royal Navy produced an astonishing revival in HMS Nelson's hangar-like gymnasium, scene of so many memorable clashes between the Old Enemies, and fought their way back to a 5-5 draw.

With the Royal Air Force opting out of the Inter-Service team championship because of operational commitments, that was sufficient to give the Army their eighth consecutive title. But coach WO2 Mick Gannon's sympathies lay with the sailors.

"We retained the title because, as defending champions, a draw was good enough," he said. "But I think the Navy should have had a share. They deserved it after coming back at us like that."

Navy heavyweight LMEM Colin Leiba, a novice with just a handful of bouts behind him, appeared to have no chance against Sgt Dave Abbott (Gren Gds) of the Army, Combined

Services and England.

But the muscular young submariner brought the crowd to its feet and the proceedings to an astonishing end by knocking Abbott over with his first left hook.

The evening had begun with deceptive ease for Gannon's men. After Pte Jamie McMullen (1 Cheshires) had beaten former NABC champion Seaman Kevin Crumplin in a special contest, Fus Danny Greenslade (1 RWF) was given a walkover at flyweight.

Then England bantamweight Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Regt RCT) dominated LPT Dale Randle, dictating the pace and pattern of the fight with a variety of slick combinations.

LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR) swarmed all over Mne Vince Manley in the featherweight contest, while 18-

year-old Pte Loz Roche (1 LI) also earned a unanimous points decision against Mne Andy Calpin at lightweight.

Roche looked a classy act in outscoring Calpin comprehensively for two rounds, then coped impressively as the frustrated Royal Marine threw caution to the winds in a thrilling third round.

Bloodiest bout of the night was at light welter, all of it from the nose of LCpl Kevin Mason (Depot RCT). He was up against former ABA finalist Mne Rob Wileman and dropped a majority points decision, the Army's first reverse.

Mason's nose injury, sustained early in the first round, could have swayed the judging, because for much of the contest he appeared to be scoring at least as consistently as

the durable Royal Marine.

That was a watershed, because for the Army the second half of the bill – with the exception of LCpl Lee Innes (38 Engr Regt) – was downhill all the way.

Two right hooks from Mne Trevor French accounted for Cpl John Dunn (Depot Queen's Div).

Innes ensured the Army could not lose the championship with a two-minute demolition of LPT Tony Brown at light middleweight. The referee stopped the contest after Innes had smashed through Brown's inadequate defences three times in quick succession.

Veteran middleweight Cpl Norman Phillips (1 Queens) won an Army vest but lost his contest to 1990 Royal Marines boxer of the year Gary Grounds, and Mne Mark Edwards, the former ABA champion, was given a walkover at light heavy.

That made the score 4-5 to the Army with just the big men to come and no one betting on young Leiba.

Then came that left hook.

McCallum wins for England

ARMY bantamweight Cpl Neil McCallum won his second England vest when he boxed against Scotland's Alan Docherty last month.

McCallum, who won on a first round knockout, is serving with 10 Corps Transport Regiment RCT. It was his second win in an England vest.

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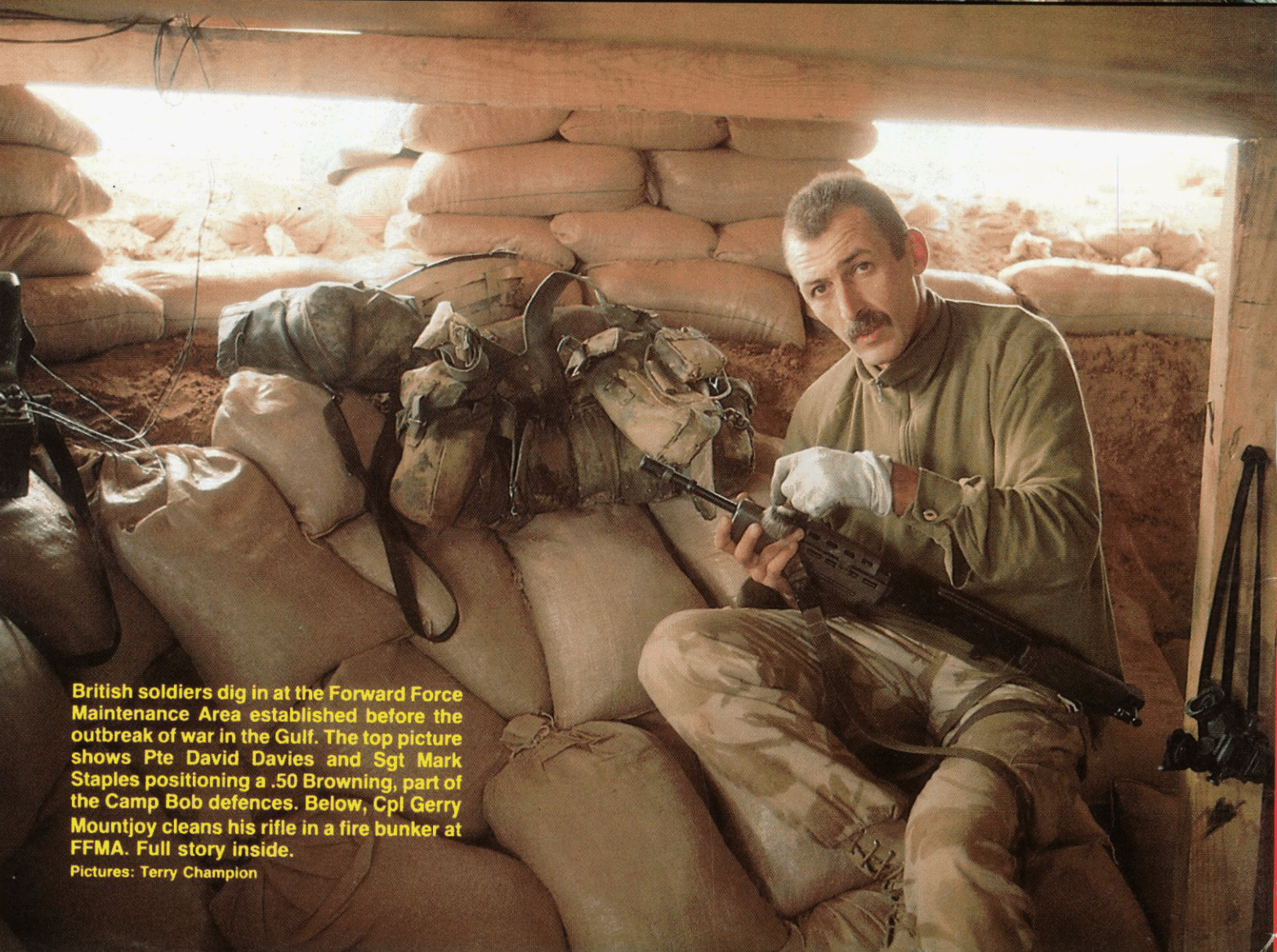
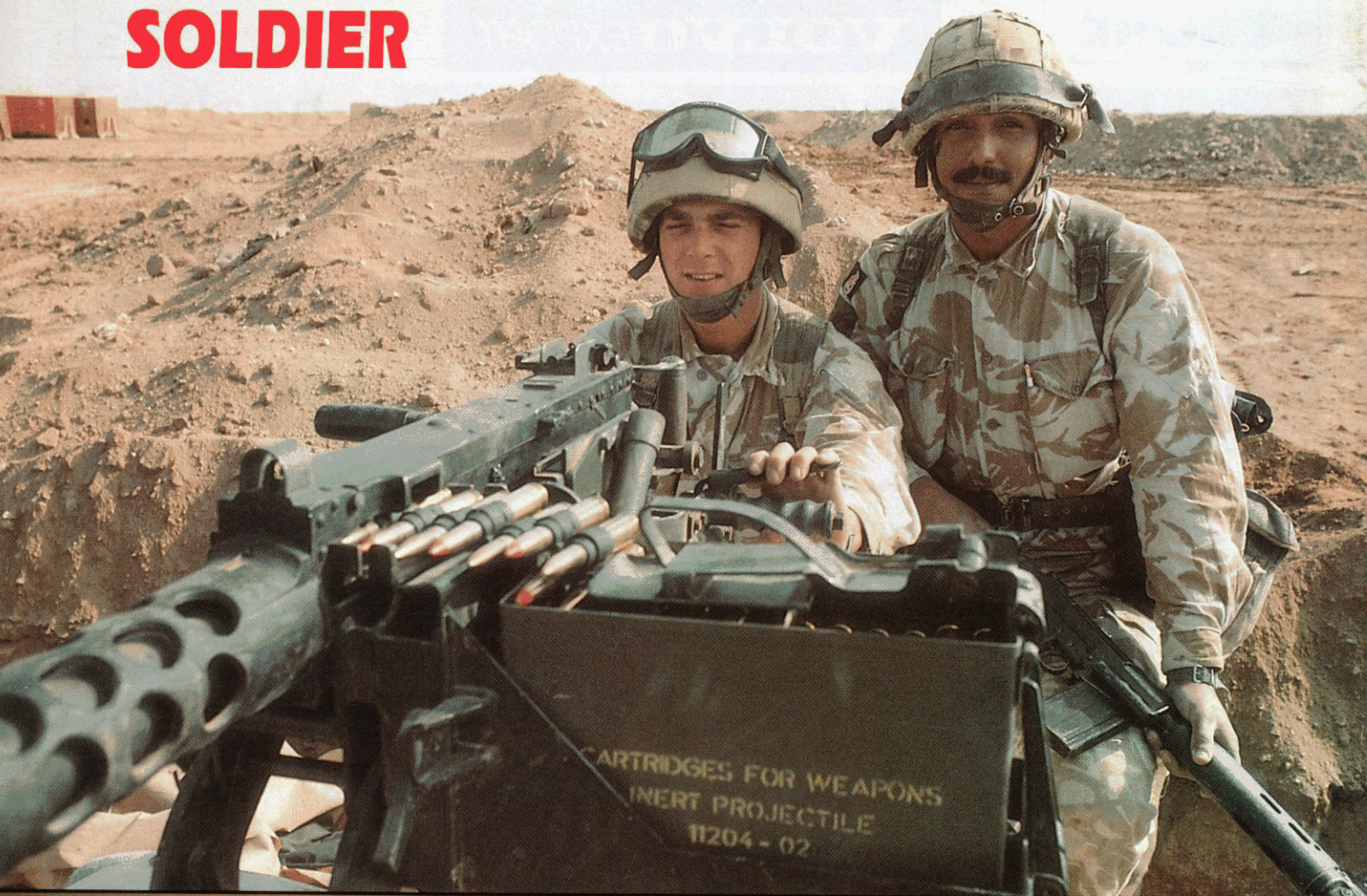
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S18/02/91



SOLDIER



British soldiers dig in at the Forward Force Maintenance Area established before the outbreak of war in the Gulf. The top picture shows Pte David Davies and Sgt Mark Staples positioning a .50 Browning, part of the Camp Bob defences. Below, Cpl Gerry Mountjoy cleans his rifle in a fire bunker at FFMA. Full story inside.

Pictures: Terry Champion