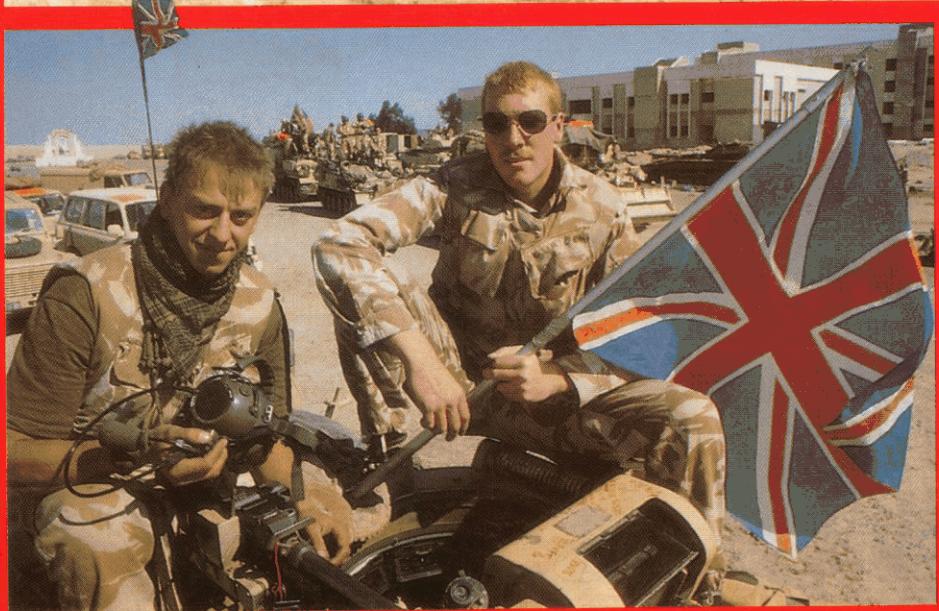
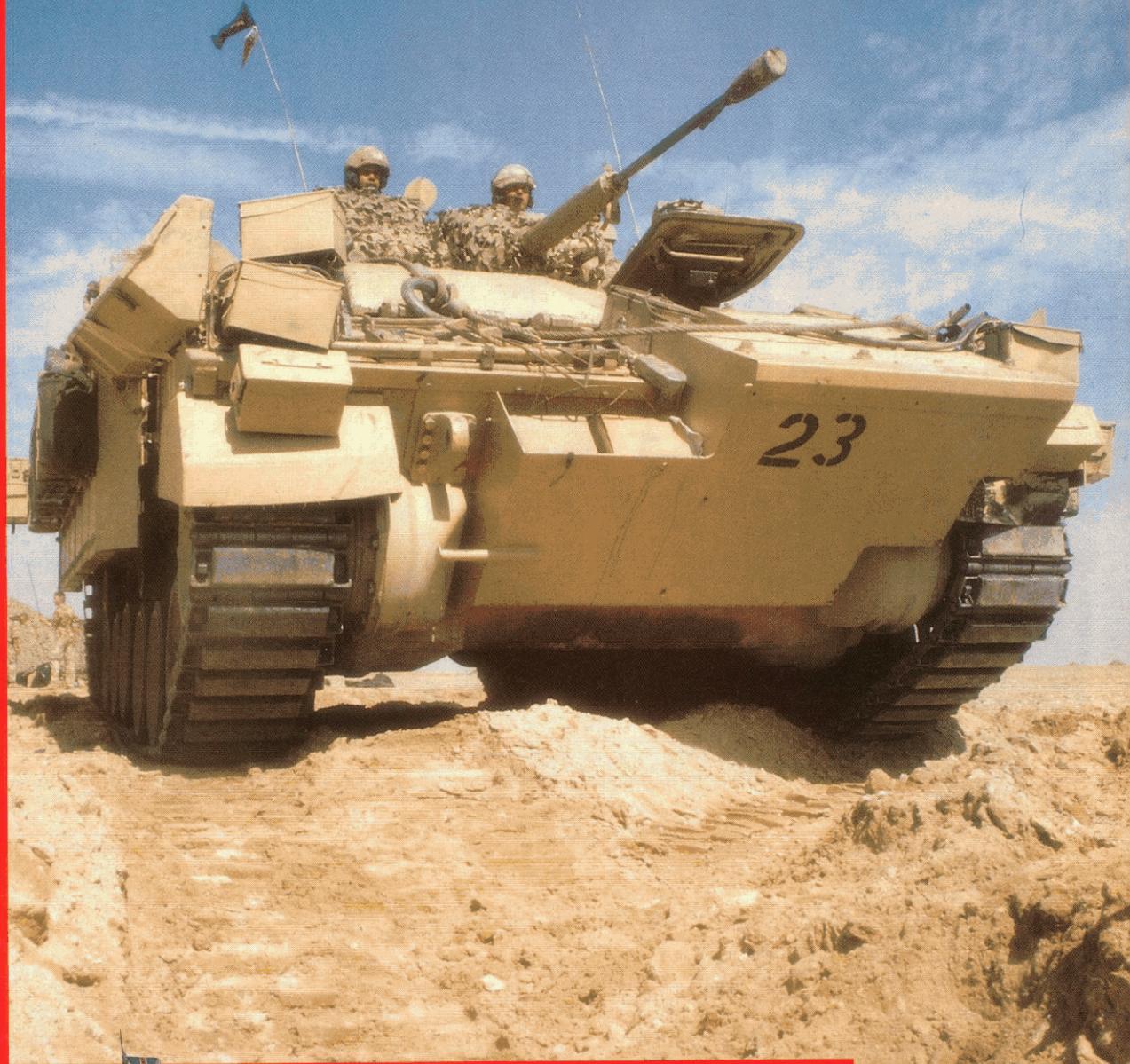


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● Reports from Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in this issue were filed by **Laurie Manton** and **Bill Moore**. Photographs were taken by **Mike Weston** and others, including **Sgt Dave Miles** of the UKLF Mobile News Team, **Sgt Steve Dock**, RAOC, **Cpl Simon Scott**, RAOC, and **Sgt Anthony von Roretz**, RAOC.

FRONT COVER – (Main picture) A Warrior of 1 Staffords pictured in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border. The crew is commander LCpl Bonkie Bank (left), gunner Gdsm Peter Thresher, and driver Pte Tilly Till of 3 Coy. The pennant depicts the Stafford knot. (Inset picture): LCpl Keith Palmer (left) and Spr Lee Burton in a recce Spartan of 31 Sqn, 32 Armd Engr Regt before they and other sappers began the enormous task of clearing an Iraqi convoy destroyed on the Basra road.

Pictures: Mike Weston

THE ECSTASY



The fears, the waiting and the separation are over... Kisses, hugs and not a few tears as the first wave of Desert Rats from 7 Armoured Brigade are reunited with their loved ones at RAF Gutersloh, BAOR

THE AGONY

THE bodies of 17 British soldiers killed on active service during the Gulf war arrived home in a Royal Air Force C-130 Hercules.

Waiting relatives were joined at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, by the Duke of Kent, Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton, the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, and other senior military officers.

The Duke wore the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, six of whose soldiers were among the dead.

A guard of honour was mounted by representative detachments from the three Armed Services. Also present was the St George's Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Pall bearers were from the regiments and corps of the deceased.



Return of the heroes. Cpl David Denbury's coffin, adorned with his two berets as a member of the SAS and the Royal Engineers, is borne past Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton; the Adjutant General, Gen Sir David Ramsbotham; and the Duke of Kent

Gen Ramsbotham said: "We have come to pay our respects not only to those who have given the sacrifice, but also to their relatives, acknowledging what they must be going through at this moment."

The first coffin borne from the aircraft had two berets placed on it. The sand-coloured hat in front of Cpl David Denbury's Royal Engineers' regimental beret indicated he was a member of the SAS.

SOLDIER

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Larkhill laugh-in

ROYAL Artillery soldiers fresh back from the Gulf missed by just a few hours a visit to Larkhill by the Duchess of York.

But their were smiles all round for their wives and children from the royal visitor, who spent two hours in the Garrison.

She was particularly interested in the success of its Gulf Support Group, formed by wives.

BAOR visit

ARMED Forces Minister Archie Hamilton visited units of the 3rd Armoured Division during a trip to Germany. He called on 3RTR and 3RRF in Deilinghofen, and 3 Regt AAC at Enkesen.



A smiling Duchess of York is the centre of attention for Gulf soldiers' children at Larkhill

Coming home!

HUNDREDS of soldiers have been reunited with their families as the first wave of Desert Rats arrived home from the Gulf.

Aim is to have everyone from

7 Armoured Brigade home by Easter on a first-out-first-back basis, with 4 Armoured Brigade back within three months.

Medical reservists were the first to return to the UK with

the arrival of 205 General Hospital. Medical Support Troop Alpha, mainly drawn from the Aldershot-based 22 Field Hospital, who went out on August 20 to support RAF

Dahran, are also home, followed by 33 Field Hospital.

The first Tri-Stars to arrive at RAF Gutersloh in Germany brought soldiers from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Corps of Royal Engineers, the Royal Corps of Signals, The Staffordshire Regiment, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the Corps of Royal Military Police, plus elements of Brigade administration including cooks and clerks.

Waiting to meet them with relatives was Lord Arran, Armed Forces Under Secretary; Gen Sir Peter Inge, Commander in Chief BAOR; and Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Commander 1st British Corps.

A musical welcome was provided by The Royal Hussars, the Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band, the Light Infantry Corunna Band and the Pipes and Drums of 4 Royal Tank Regiment.



The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, speaks to Pte Simon Dawes, who was in the guard of honour to greet him on his arrival at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland, where the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment is on a two-year tour



The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of 13/18 H, chats to Tpr Dinga Bell at Tidworth

Princess calls on Hussars

LATER this year the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) based in Tidworth are to be posted to Wolfenbuttel, BAOR, in a direct exchange with the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

But soldiers of its D Squadron have not seen much of their home base because each year they have spent between four and five months outside Britain as part of the UK contingent to Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) – deploying to the flanks of Nato in Norway, Denmark, Turkey and Italy.

C Squadron has just returned from a six-month United Nations tour in Cyprus.

Both squadrons put on a special display to illustrate their different roles when the Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, visited the regiment in Tidworth.

The Princess also met families, including Gulf wives. As she was about to leave by helicopter she received a permanent reminder of her visit – Tpr Darren Senior presented her with registration number plates 1318 RH, which belonged to the regiment.

Pat the Desert Rat flies in



THE first Desert Rats to return home to BAOR from the Gulf brought with them an appropriate mascot.

Since the North African campaign of the 1940s, men of 7 Armoured Brigade have kept alive the tradition of their predecessors in the desert by proudly wearing the desert rat symbol.

Now they have gone one better by bringing home a pet rat, presented to them by the Saudi royal family.

The rat, called Patrick after the Brigade Commander, Brig Patrick Cordingley, flew from the Gulf to Germany as an accompanied minor, in a cage.

So who will be the Keeper of the Royal Rat? Pat The Rat is single and it is proposed he will be cared for by other single personnel of the Headquarters clerical staff at their base station.

Duke at Marchwood

The Duke of Kent called in at Marchwood Military Port, Southampton, to thank 3 Transport Group, Royal Corps of Transport, for the part they played in the Gulf war.

The first RCT soldiers arrived in Saudi Arabia in late October and worked round the clock to deploy the 7th Armoured Brigade. A selection of movement and loading equipment was on display for the Duke, who also travelled on a variety of corps vessels.

● A roundup of Marchwood's contribution to Operation Granby appears on Page 33.

He went on to meet families

New goat

The 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) had a fresh face on parade during St David's Day celebrations – Dewi V, the new goat, was making his public debut with the battalion.

RH welcome

THE Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), posted to Munster at the end of last year, have been formally welcomed to the city by the Burgermeisterin.

During the ceremony, commanding officer Lt Col Johnny Kaye presented the city with a picture illustrating RH uniforms through the ages.

The regiment's move from Tidworth and Warminster was a straight swap with the 17th/21st Lancers.

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S/TAN/01/04

Gren Gds make horse sense



Chief of Staff for the new Western District, Col Peter Cook, turns the first sod at Wolvesacre Mill, with Mr Doug Howie of the Defence Land Agency surveying the plot which was purchased at a reported £1,041,991. Lt Col Ian Sawers, the Project Officer (right), looks on

It's a first for the Districts . . .

How the West was one

THE first Districts to combine under the UKLF District Structure Review are North West, Western and Wales, forming the new Western District this year.

After intensive planning and discussions, the new establishment has been confirmed and the last stumbling block has been resolved – the location of the new headquarters.

Various alternatives were considered. Wales suggested the present HQ at Brecon, the main city of the Principality at Cardiff, or the ancient strategic town of Llangollen.

Western District favoured

their present location, the recently refurbished Copthorne Barracks in the medieval town of Shrewsbury, or the ancient seat of King Offa, who ruled the Kingdom of Mercia in the 6th century from Llanyrnach, on the borders of Wales and Shropshire and whose crown is incorporated in the crest of Western District.

North West District had a strong contender in Chester, home of the old Western

Command and now with good road and sea communications, or their present location at Preston, with good access to the M6 and the M55 to Blackpool.

Finally, a compromise was found at Wolvesacre Mill, three miles north west of Whitchurch, where all three borders of North West, Western and Wales Districts meet, beside the conjunction of the old Roman road, now the A41(T) and the Wych Brook.

PAR policy correction

AN article in SOLDIER (March 18) contained incorrect information about PAR, the personal accident insurance policy devised by Bain Clarkson for the Volunteer Reserve Forces.

It was stated that PAR provides financial compensation for death or injuries arising from war (declared or undeclared) between any of the Five Powers or in the Gulf Region. PAR does not in fact cover for these areas.

Gulf Poll Tax to be paid back

POLL TAX levied against Service personnel and civilians during postings to the Gulf will be paid back.

A new compensation scheme announced in Parliament by Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine will date back to the first deployment, in August 1990.

Mr Heseltine said the scheme, operated by the MoD, would apply to:

- All uniformed Service personnel, including reservists;
- Civilians employed by the

MoD, including merchant seamen of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary;

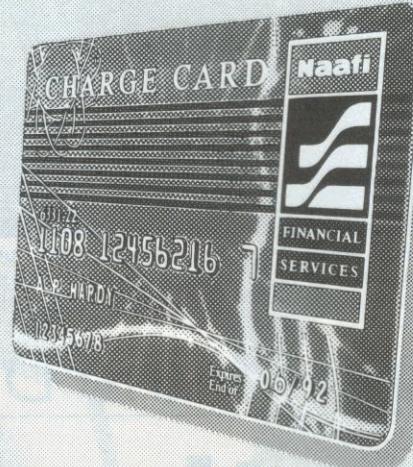
- Merchant seamen in MoD-chartered ships;
- Certain employees of defence contractors supporting the British forces in the Gulf.

"Compensation will cease when an individual returns to Great Britain," said Mr Heseltine, "except for personnel who were wounded, where it will continue until they leave hospital or convalescent home."

About 12,000 people will be eligible for the scheme, which has been set up in the light of a High Court judgment in which a merchant seaman who had been abroad for more than six months in a year was found to have still been liable for the community charge because his home, and therefore his sole or main residence, remained in the UK.

The judgment could affect the position of Service personnel who, though posted abroad, still have homes in England.

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'A thoroughly professional job'

ALLIED troops fought and moved with a ferocity and speed with which the Iraqi army was unable to cope during the 100-hour land battle, said Gen Rupert Smith, Commander 1st (British) Armoured Division.

"What we did was not fight the battle the enemy wanted to fight," he told SOLDIER.

He said the success of the land offensive owed much to the preparation of 1 Armd Div.

"It was so successful because we were all prepared and received quite excellent support from the British Army of the Rhine and UK Land Forces.

"Fortune had it that we were able to take advantage of the

time spent waiting before we were ordered to go in, and put in a great deal of useful training."

At the end of the land battle, Gen Smith told the members of his Division that they had dispatched the enemy with "finality, speed and economy".

"I thought they had done a thoroughly professional job," he said. "I am particularly pleased by the economy in our own lives, and that must be a measure of the efficiency and competence of the units and individual crews and soldiers who were fighting."

Gen Smith revealed that he and the men under his command felt compassion for



Gen Rupert Smith

the defeated soldiers of the Iraqi army.

"You cannot help but feel sympathy for the clearly defeated, exhausted and very

frightened prisoners that were surrendering to us.

"That is bound to be an emotion, and I know it has affected many of us in the Division."

Gen Smith praised the troops who had worked in support of his Division.

"It has been noted how well and professionally competent everyone was. Not only the battle groups, the gun regiments and the engineer regiments, but also the logistic units, the medical and the communications units.

"The feeling of being part of a team that fitted in and worked very well together was very powerful," he said.

THRUST INTO THE UNKNOWN

EVIDENCE of the barbarity of Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guard units continues to be uncovered in Kuwait. Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, told SOLDIER that, in a vain attempt to keep Iraqi conscripts in the front line, members of the Guard hacked off the toes of fellow Iraqis so they couldn't run away.

"Others had been 'knee-capped' to prevent them deserting. It was horrid," said Brig Cordingley.

When 7 Armoured Brigade crossed the start line on Operation Desert Sabre and entered Iraq, the brigadier had no idea how fast the advance across enemy territory would be.

"I was suddenly throwing people into the total unknown where there was a threat of chemical attack, minefields and artillery fire. We had to get out of the bridgehead quickly for the rest of the division was forming up behind.

"Unbelievably, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars covered the first 25 kilometres in less than



Brig Patrick Cordingley, Commander 7th Armoured Brigade, with his tank crew. From left to right are driver LCpl Kevin Stevely, Scots DG; operator LCpl Colin Shaw, 5 Innis DG; Brig Cordingley; Cpl Alan Smith, Scots DG (tank commander in the brigadier's absence); and gunner LCpl Phil McCarthy, 5 Innis DG

an hour. I was amazed and it set the tone for the whole of the rest of the advance."

Resistance was negligible – small pockets of infantry and the occasional tank – but this situation was to change in the vicinity of Objective Copper. Here the Scots Dragoon Guards

Battle Group launched an attack on a communications site and a waterhole.

"The battle group closed on the comms complex just after dark and put in a dismounted attack. Conditions were absolutely appalling. It was pitch black and raining. It was

difficult to see through thermal-imaging devices and near impossible to see with the human eye.

"The bravery of these troops must not be underestimated in putting in the attack. They destroyed a number of tanks

● Turn to next page

No pause to count dead

From Page 9

and a couple of companies' worth of infantry in their bunkers.

"They didn't stop to count the enemy dead but pressed on to the next objective - the waterhole. Here was reported a considerable amount of enemy activity - tanks and dug-in infantry.

"More importantly, behind a berm was clearly a large tented area which might be a hospital, so the battle group asked permission to withhold their attack until first light when the target could be identified.

"This was brave because it meant the attacks would not be supported by artillery fire," he said.

Before the battle group went in, it was informed that there might be a large enemy headquarters and a marshal of the Iraqi Army at the waterhole.

With the Iraqis surrounded, a psychological warfare vehicle was brought up to the area and its operators broadcast messages through loudspeakers in Arabic calling on the enemy to surrender.

After a few warning shots, the Iraqis surrendered. More than 300 prisoners were taken and many logistic vehicles destroyed. The marshal of the Iraqi Army turned out to be a major in the Iraqi Ordnance, which was a disappointment.

Objective Zinc offered little resistance to the two battle groups tasked to take it. After a devastating 23-minute artillery barrage fired by MLRS and three regiments of artillery, which cut a swathe across the objective, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and 1 Staffords battle groups mopped up the surviving enemy positions without difficulty.

"The barrage was awesome," said the brigadier. "I asked Gen Smith's permission to wait until first light before moving on. I was concerned from intelligence reports that there may still be a lot of enemy about and I didn't want to blunder on and miss them in the dark, and then find the enemy behind me at dawn.

"I'm always mindful of that great cry, 'Beware the dawn', and did not want to be caught out in an embarrassing position with my back facing an enemy position!"

"Having stopped the brigade, I lay down on the ground to try to get a moment or two's sleep. It was drizzling and thoroughly unpleasant and I soon realised one of the lessons quickly learnt in war. You might feel jolly tired but no sleep is possible because your brain is racing so fast."

Less than an hour later, the brigadier's chief of staff called him and advised that the battlegroups were pressing

forward again towards some "hot spots" they had seen through their thermal-imaging sights.

It did not take long for the brigade to get themselves into a position from where they could launch a concerted attack on Objective Platinum. American A10 tank-buster aircraft were called in to strike at Iraqi armour.

Moving forward to the start line, the Staffords battle group got a message through from an electronic warfare monitoring

"In our 302km advance, which took around 68 hours, we were involved in at least six major battles or battle group actions which left us with two dead and 15 wounded." - Brig Patrick Cordingley

unit that radio intercepts indicated the presence of enemy troops in large numbers ahead of them.

The Staffords put in another dismounted attack and a vicious battle took place. Mobile Milan accounted for many enemy tanks and the foot soldiers captured large numbers of enemy prisoners.

At the same time, the QRIH were mopping up other enemy positions.

"Moving towards Phase line

Smash, the Staffords came across an Iraqi infantry battalion. Here, the fiercest fighting of the whole of our battle took place. By morning more than a thousand prisoners had been taken, but sadly a Staffords soldier had been killed by an RPG7 round," said Brig Cordingley.

The brigade was then ordered to move into Kuwait across the Wadi-al-Satin. Rolling swiftly over any opposition it met, 7 Armoured Brigade ended up astride the Kuwait City-Basra road. Just ten minutes after their arrival, the ceasefire was announced.

"When we arrived, it was a depressing sight. The sky was heavily overcast with thick black smoke. It looked like Armageddon.

"The Basra road was littered with blown-up vehicles and dead bodies, so I ordered the brigade to start clearing up and burying the enemy dead.

"In our 302-kilometre advance, which took around 68 hours, we were involved in at least six major battles or battle group actions which left us with two dead and 15 wounded.

"We destroyed 90 enemy tanks, many other armoured and soft-skinned vehicles and captured almost 3,000 prisoners," he said.

The brigadier was quick to praise the compassion of the British soldier.

"We saw sights that none of us had experienced before, including a 13-year-old Iraqi soldier whose leg had been blown off.

"It was inevitable, during the attacks we put in, there would be Iraqi casualties of an unpleasant nature, but the British soldier, as you would expect, was immensely sympathetic and his care of the casualties was heartwarming to see.

"My overall impression is of surprise that an army of occupation could make such a shambles of the desert and Kuwait City. I was horrified by the looting that had taken place, and although I have a lot of sympathy for the Iraqi soldier who clearly didn't want to be there, I have absolutely none at all for the regime, which is evil.

"I still hope it will be thrown



Prime Minister John Major, the first Western leader to visit the Gulf after the war, meets men of 7 Armoured Brigade



Lt Col Arthur Dinaro briefs the QRIH on battle plans for the ground offensive which was about to begin

Model battle plan went to perfection

BRIEFINGS took place at every British Army unit bordering Iraq in the days before the 1st (British) Armoured Division went to war.

At one location within a berm, the whole of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars sat and listened to their Commanding Officer, Lt Col Arthur Denaro, and intelligence experts explaining the Operation Desert Sabre battle plan.

"I have always said Challenger is a tank built for war and not competitions. There is evidence that it fired more accurately than the US M1 Abrams main battle tank. It certainly goes further on its fuel tanks, is better protected, and its gun is quite extraordinarily accurate.

"We have one example of a gunner with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards deciding to test the accuracy of his gun over long distances during an engagement with Iraqi tanks. He destroyed one with his first round, fired 5,100 metres from the target. Remarkable."

As his men prepared to quit

organised an inter-company knock-out football tournament to while away the last few hours.

Instructors took a last opportunity to provide refresher training in NBC precautions, first aid and weapon training. Every man's face was a picture of grim determination.

The Divisional Admin Area became a centre of puzzlement when WO1 (RSM) Jack Cook of 3 Ordnance Battalion Group RAOC began to build sandcastles in the desert. The miniature construction site was criss-crossed by white mine tape.

Then came the quaintly Victorian custom of parading by squadron for a photographic record to be made of all elements of the regiment.

Not far away, 1 Staffords

plan was to take a well-earned holiday.

Already a published author, he has plans to write about the

briefing by the DAA Commander, Lt Col Alan Taylor, RAOC, and his staff.

So accurate was the model that helpers were even able to ignite miniature oil-filled ditches to add to the realism of the brief.

As those being briefed came to terms with the fact that "this was it", many were captivated by the sight of a Red Admiral butterfly fluttering from helmet to helmet before circling round the model defences. Most took it as an omen of good luck, as it turned out to be.

Col Taylor concluded: "Good luck to you all. Do your best and . . . keep safe."

No one said much as the troops dispersed.

Everyone now knew that their next advance would be for real . . .

Gulf War? "Yes - absolutely. Let there be no doubt about that, there is a tremendous story to tell."

FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

IN the aftermath of the land offensive which played such a crucial part in ending the Gulf war, stories of heroism, horror, poignancy and sheer good fortune are beginning to emerge as

soldiers recount their personal recollections . . . The luckiest man alive . . . Wacky Races in the desert . . . a guardsman's bravery . . . the Iraqi who came back from the dead . . .

the 13-year-old boy soldier found crying his heart out. Laurie Manton talked to men of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment as they prepared to leave for home.

Courage and luck amid all the carnage

● Lt Col Charles Rogers, CO 1 Staffs:

"MY A Company with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was ordered to destroy a communications site and enemy positions around the waterhole.

"With Challenger tanks providing intimate support, they took out the comms centre. They were fired on from an Iraqi bunker and a firefight ensued. A Company cleared the position in the old-fashioned infantry way – with small arms and phosphorous grenades.

"We had three men wounded in this action, but Pte Mark Eason had a miraculous escape when he was hit by an Iraqi bullet and lived to tell the tale. We didn't bother with a body count, but 60 Iraqis were taken prisoner . . .

"At Platinum, when the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars went through, a lot of enemy vehicles came out and tried to interfere with us, partly to counter-attack us and partly to get out of the way of QRIH – like bloody pheasants bolting!

"Then Milan engaged and there was quite a lot of carnage because when it hits armoured personnel carriers everyone inside is killed.

"Some interesting things were happening at this time. The engineer squadron attached to us was following-up, blowing tracks and cutting barrels of Iraqi tanks to prevent them from being used. A sand storm blew up and it became quite exciting as actions took



Lt Col Charles Rogers

place when people bumped into each other in the darkness.

"Two T55s came out of the murk and surprised the sappers. It was like Wacky Races as they rushed off with the T55s in pursuit.

"Mobile Milan took out lots of things – tanks, APCs, bunkers – and even took an Iraqi brigadier prisoner.

"C Company's final major action came after Iraqis had fired on them from some buildings. They could see a lot of enemy and instead of mowing them down, they fired over their heads to try and get them to surrender.

"As the enemy gave up, the boys started to dismount to receive them, but more enemy opened fire from another direction. One of my blokes was killed instantly by an RPG7 round which hit the Warrior behind. It set the vehicle on fire and trapped the driver and set fire to others.

"An attached Guardsman

from the Grenadier Guards acted bravely in dragging people away and putting out the flames.

"By the time the action was over, we had taken more than 600 prisoners. It became more and more apparent that the Iraqis did not want to fight, so there was less and less carnage. That would have been slaughter for slaughter's sake, but we are not in that business.

"All the way through the

Grenadier to rescue

● Lt Andrew Nye, C Company:

"INITIALLY we were merely advancing to intercept prisoners-of-war who were to our forward left.

"Once I'd debussed my forward two callsigns and platoon HQ, we came under effective enemy fire. Fire is effective when you start taking casualties.

"To our left were large numbers of surrendering Iraqis and from the opposite direction, an RPG7 was fired at us.

"Pte Carl Moult was struck and killed by the round which carried on and hit one of my Warriors, setting it and the commander alight.

"On the other hand, we captured two colonels and a major.

"They were the opposite – fat, well-fed and had creases in their trousers."



Lt Andrew Nye

Gren Gds, reacted quickly. He dragged out the commander and put out the flames.

"He then assisted the driver out of his hatch, which was ringed with fire, before extinguishing the flames. It was a difficult time . . .

"We took more than 50 prisoners. Some hadn't shaved for days while others couldn't walk because their muscles had seized. Others were too old for the job and were on crutches.

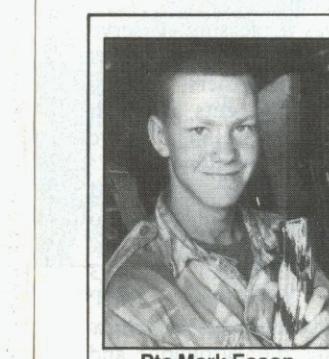
"A little 13-year-old boy soldier was crying his heart out. They were completely and utterly demoralised.

"On the other hand, we captured two colonels and a major.

"They were the opposite – fat, well-fed and had creases in their trousers."



A Warrior of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment races across the desert



Pte Mark Eason

(described as luckiest man alive):

"WE debussed close to an enemy trench. Up popped an Iraqi who fired a single shot which hit me in the chest. It was like being punched and took my breath away.

"I was screaming for a medic even

MARK'S MIRACLE

before I hit the ground.

"I pulled off my first field dressing and felt for the wound. I couldn't find one so I stood up again and carried on with the attack. The bullet was stopped by my rifle magazine which had been badly holed, and the CO says I can keep it as a souvenir."



Men of 1 Staffords organised an inter-company football competition to ease the tension before going into battle

Back from the dead

● CSgt Mark Banks, Recce Platoon:

"WHEN we went into battle we were protecting the flanks of the battle group, and a lot of people thought we wouldn't see much action. As it happened, we did.

"Callsign 21 Alpha (Cpl Shaun McGarry) fired an armour-piercing discarding sabot round at a T55, which made the crew close down. Then mobile Milan fired a K115 missile at the rear of the tank.

"The force of the explosion literally lifted the back end of the T55 off the ground, and the commander shot 40ft into the air still holding on to his hatch.

"Now our presence was known, our four mobile Milan systems engaged all the other



CSgt Mark Banks

enemy targets and destroyed them.

"Suddenly, dozens of Iraqis appeared, begging us to take them prisoner. We chuckd bits and bobs of food at them – they were so hungry, they even fought over a boiled sweet.

"The effect of the air campaign had taken its toll. You could see that. They were very frightened and had been told we would probably shoot them.

"The thing that brought the war home to a lot of my soldiers came when we went down the coast road. The devastation there was worse than on the Basra road.

"We came across an Iraqi Land Rover and a stolen Kuwaiti ambulance that had been hit by Allied airstrikes.

"Three Iraqis lay dead around the Land Rover. One had his face taken off completely. Another had lost a leg and the other was riddled with shrapnel wounds. We got a burial party together and started to bury them.

"Near the ambulance lay a body covered with blankets. As we walked by, his hand moved. He was still alive. A bullet had entered his forehead and gone through his brain leaving a large exit wound behind.

"For 30 minutes we tried to put an intravenous drip into him but he was in traumatic shock and all his veins had collapsed.

"It took three hours to get him back to a dressing station on a stretcher strapped to the front of our vehicle. Amazingly, by the time we got him there, he had recovered enough to smoke a cigarette and inform us that he had lain there for two days!"

IMPRESSIONS OF VICTORY

Writer Laurie Manton and photographer Mike Weston accompanied support units on the road to Kuwait City

A DISTANT flare grew as the convoy crawled into the gathering dusk. It was the burning wreck of a Soviet-made BRDM-2 Scout vehicle that just a short time before had been a small fighting element of the Iraqi Army.

Now it lay shattered. Beneath its armoured belly, a jet of flame flared with magnesium intensity.

It was G Day plus 3 (February 27) and the Div Admin Area was on the move in Iraq, men and vehicles travelling along a desert track prepared by sappers.

Location reached, cam was draped, vehicles checked, and comms established. The DAA was in operation again. Close by was an attached unit of unusual make-up – the Forward Transmission Unit.

The FTU formed part of the 1st (British) Armoured Division External Affairs Department commanded by Col John King (late PWO) who, along with his deputy, Lt Col Chris Sexton, RE, took turns to act as "duty pencil" – vetting journalists' copy and advising the media on what could and could not be reported.

Each time the Division halted in its advance across

Iraq, Press teams set up portable satellite communications dishes to rush their copy back to the United Kingdom.

White tendrils of cloud snaked overhead, "like a ghostly hand grasping out over Iraq", said one British observer.

Next morning troops gathered around shortwave radios to hear hourly news bulletins broadcast by the BBC World Service. This radio link with the outside world was essential listening for soldiers.

This morning the BBC had special news. A ceasefire had been announced by President Bush.

Jubilation spread throughout the British Army locations. Many could scarcely comprehend how rapidly the end of the ground war had come.

A number of Union flags had been flown from the rear of vehicles throughout the advance. Now flags blossomed in the strong desert breeze. Union flags, Scottish and Welsh national flags, here and there a smattering of corps and regimental flags – the Staffords, REME and the Royal Army Educational Corps.

The RAEC flag was flown from the vehicle belonging to



Lt Col Alan Taylor, Commander DAA, tells his men of the ceasefire

the Command Information Team. Its representatives, Maj Chris Bristow and Maj Alan Barnes, had provided a regular column in the pages of the BAOR-based forces newspaper, *Sixth Sense*, and broadcast regular reports on BFBS for the benefit of wives and families in Germany.

The Commander of the Div Admin Area, Lt Col Alan Taylor, ordered his troops to parade for a ceasefire photo-session. Bubbling troops needed no bidding to smile for the cameras, or to wave their helmets in the air as RAOC

photographers, Sgt Anthony "VR" von Roretz and Cpl Simon Scott, snapped away. Then it was the turn of diminutive *Daily Mirror* photographer Ken Lennox to capture the moment of rejoicing.

As the troops dispersed Col Taylor was hugged by the senior Kuwaiti volunteer interpreter, Sadiq Al-Mutawa. "Dearly we thank you – every soldier – for what you have done," he exclaimed.

Mr Al-Mutawa, deputy engineering director of Kuwait Airways, was one of a number of volunteers who joined British troops to act as translators.

"I cannot explain the feeling inside me at what has happened so far," said Mr Al-Mutawa.

"I am hoping my family are still alive. I don't care if they have looted my house and destroyed everything, just so long as nothing has happened to my family."

"It was a pleasure to serve with the British Army. It was as if we were brothers working together. What guts and high morale they have. They gave me the strength to carry on."

Late that afternoon 1 Armd Div was ordered to move into newly-liberated Kuwait.

The pathfinders of 203 Provost Company, RMP marked the route, sappers prepared the ground, and thousands of vehicles packed with men snaked for miles across the desert.

The landscape changed from flat sands to an area of small hills and dips. Each time a rise was crested, a line of red tail lights glowed ahead as far as the eye could see. A victorious army was on the move.

Moonlight bathed the scene. Occasionally a vehicle bogged down in soft sand. Down jumped its occupants to dig it out with shovels. They were quickly joined by other crews happy to share the load.

It was a remarkable night.

Here the dark silhouette of an shattered Iraqi tank, there an RCT heavy-lift truck festooned with balloons.

The border crossing into Kuwait was an anti-climax. Three low berms were all that signified its passing, but long before the border was reached there was another, far sadder



Joy on the faces of soldiers serving with Headquarters Divisional Admin Area as the ceasefire is announced

sight. Eerie golden lights tinged the horizon. Before giving up, Saddam Hussein had ordered his army to put Kuwait to the torch.

Each pulsating glow signified a blazing oil well.

As dawn broke on March 1 troops could see huge curtains of smoke billowing distantly by.

At last a halt and the whole area was secured. Time for a brew and a wash.

Only a few hundred metres away sat a handful of Iraqi PoWs guarded by The King's Own Scottish Borderers. By the end of day, they had multiplied in defeat and the KOSB were marking out a compound to hold them in.

Four-ton trucks brought more prisoners each minute. From a gap in the canvas of one vehicle poked the head of an Iraqi soldier. His expression was forlorn, his will to fight obviously broken.

"Poor devil," said one

easily. All present had watched the cowering of an Army. Treatment of the Iraqi troops by their own regime had been appalling. Many had no boots. Others wore only pyjamas.

Sgt Dave Miles of the UKLF Mobile News Team spoke of one Iraqi who rushed forward to surrender clutching a key.

"It is my front door key," explained the unfortunate soldier. Evidently, he was just closing the door of his home in Baghdad when he was rounded up, put on a lorry and driven to the front line. He had no experience of soldiering.

More horror was to be revealed next day on the road to Basra north of Kuwait City. There, on a rising slope, lay a jumble of wrecked cars, trucks and tanks.

Scattered across both lanes of the motorway, the vehicles had carried fleeing Iraqis on their retreat from Kuwait. Allied air attacks had stopped the exodus in its tracks.

There was no escape, for the road was bordered on one side by a steep-sided escarpment, on the other by an Iraqi minefield.

The SOLDIER team picked its way slowly through the scene of devastation, past an Iraqi army truck whose contents had spilled on to the tarmac . . . boxes of Kalashnikov rifles . . . RPG 7 rounds . . . grenades . . . boxes of Jordanian Armed Forces ammunition.

Helmets and webbing lay everywhere. Little foodstuff was to be seen save for bags of Cuban rice.

One truck contained electronic warfare jamming equipment. Another still contained its instruction manuals – written in Russian.

The human cost was high. A lone human hand jutted out from the wreckage of one vehicle; a starving Arab picked his way through the carnage looking for food.

Turn to next page



Pte Gary Hunter KOSB guards Iraqi prisoners at a holding area in Kuwait



LCpl Smudge Smith and Sgt Bob Davies of 49 EOD Sqn RE

British soldier. "Saddam Hussein has a lot to answer for," said another.

There was no crowing, rather an air of sadness. Tom forgives

IMPRESSIONS OF VICTORY

● From Page 15

Everywhere lay evidence that the Iraqis had looted everything they could move from Kuwait. Video recorders, televisions, plastic flowers and dress material, even two plastic camels imported from Taiwan.

Members of a United States Army graves registration unit was engaged in recovering the enemy dead. They lifted each corpse into a black rubber body bag and carried it away for eventual return to the vanquished nation.

Once the area was pronounced clear of human remains, the British Army stepped in to clear the roadway so traffic could use the route once more. Centurion AVREs and combat engineer tractors of 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment, RE used their heavy push capability to sweep tanks aside.

One T55 tank "brewed up". As the fire took hold round after round exploded inside it with a jet of flame, and smoke billowed up through the turret hatches.

At the crest of the hill stood a giant mosaic memorial to Saddam Hussein. A controlled explosion crumbled the edifice. The ruins provided a more fitting symbol of tyranny.

Now the victorious Kuwaiti Army advanced. Long lines of tanks and APCs, all topped with soldiers in a frenzy of joy. As each passed, its occupants shouted, waved and cheered.

A slow drive into the outer suburbs of Kuwait City itself revealed a capital stirring itself from a deep slumber. Empty streets, crumbling homes and smoke haze in the sky. Kuwaitis emerged from hiding places to greet each other in joy and stare in disbelief at the destruction around them.

Normality was returning fast. A military parade was staged by troops of the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces. They were attending the re-opening of their embassy. Their engineers searched the surrounding area for mines while EOD experts checked the building.

All eyes turned skyward as activity was spotted on the roof of the embassy. A flag pole was raised and the Omani flag broke out.

SOLDIER's team was caught up in the euphoria.

"Thank you for coming." "Tell your soldiers they are wonderful." "Kuwait thanks



Divisional Admin Area posties pause for a post-victory picture



Smoke billows from an exploding T55 tank amid the devastated Iraqi convoy on the Kuwait City-Basra road



Before it moved into Iraq and Kuwait, the DAA was offering a comprehensive range of services to passing soldiers. Just like a British motorway — except they reckoned the humour, and the tea, were better!



Dvr Matthew Underwood and Dvr Jason Lingham of 19 Sqn RCT, part of 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt



Kuwaiti soldiers led the Allied armies into Kuwait City. A tank crew celebrates the moment of victory



Maj Brian Draper, Quartermaster of 14/20 H. His chair travelled with him from Al Jubayl to liberated Kuwait



An Allied helicopter passes over the remains of an Iraqi tank, part of the ill-fated convoy destroyed on the road from Kuwait City to Basra



Above: A 32 Armd Engr Regt AVRE reaches the outskirts of Kuwait City. Right: Sign of victory. This make-shift poster greeted troops entering Kuwait City





Desert Lions

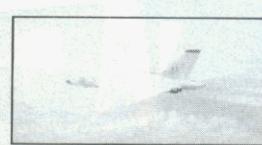
The unusual badges on the arms of these tankies signify they are the crew of Lt Col John Sharples, CO of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. From left to right are LCpl Mick Smith, LCpl Eddie Mearns and LCpl Colin McKerrell. Only three other people are entitled to fly the Lion Rampant - the Queen, the Colonel of the Regiment, and the commanding officer. LCpl Mearns is wearing the desert pattern heavy wool jersey issued to tank crews in the Gulf



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Sign of the time

RAOC photographers Sgt Anthony "VR" von Roretz (left) and Cpl Simon Scott appear in front of the lens for a change. The sign marks the breach in Iraqi defences on the Kuwait border through which the 1st (British) Armoured Division poured. The two men covered the war as part of the Army's P Info team and were attached to the Div Admin Area as the land offensive began

Redcaps light up the road to Kuwait

A COMBINATION of luminous sticks, black bitumen signs and a satellite navigation system kept the British Army on the right track during Operation Desert Sabre - the British push to liberate Kuwait.

They were used by men of 203 Provost Company RMP tasked to mark 1 Armd Div's routes into Iraq and Kuwait.

Said the OC, Maj Nick Ridout: "We formed part of the Route Development Battle Group (RDBG), consisting of elements of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment RE, 45 Engineer Squadron RE and ourselves.

"After the initial American assault, we got the division to its staging areas just behind the front line and handed them over to the American military police who guided them through the breach in the Iraqi defences.

"Once through, the division formed up again and took off on its main assault. Behind them, the sappers made a series of main supply routes (MSR) which we signed and maintained so that supplies could get forward."

The RMPs overcame a number of problems through an old fashioned combination of common sense and initiative.

In the desert, unless there is a bright moon, there is little ambient light at night, so the normal black bitumen tac signs used by the RMPs to mark the way were difficult to see. They were frequently driven over in error and buried in the sand.

Following drivers were in danger of losing the track. In mine-ridden areas, this could have had tragic consequences.

Different routes were marked by 2ft-high signs colour coded and shaped. In the front line, black bitumen signs were augmented by small chemical light sticks.

"They have proved very



Above: Marking the route are Sgt Bill Lomas (foreground) with Trimble, Cpl "JJ" Jones (with hammer) and Cpl Paul Campbell, all of 203 Pro Coy

Left: Pictured at a 203 Provost Company RMP information post are (from left) Cpl Carl Fairest (in trench), Sgt Pete McMahon, Cpl Paddy Moore, Cpl Joe Owen and Cpl Oz Merrygold



The road to the front for 1 Armoured Division - marked by 203 Pro Coy RMP

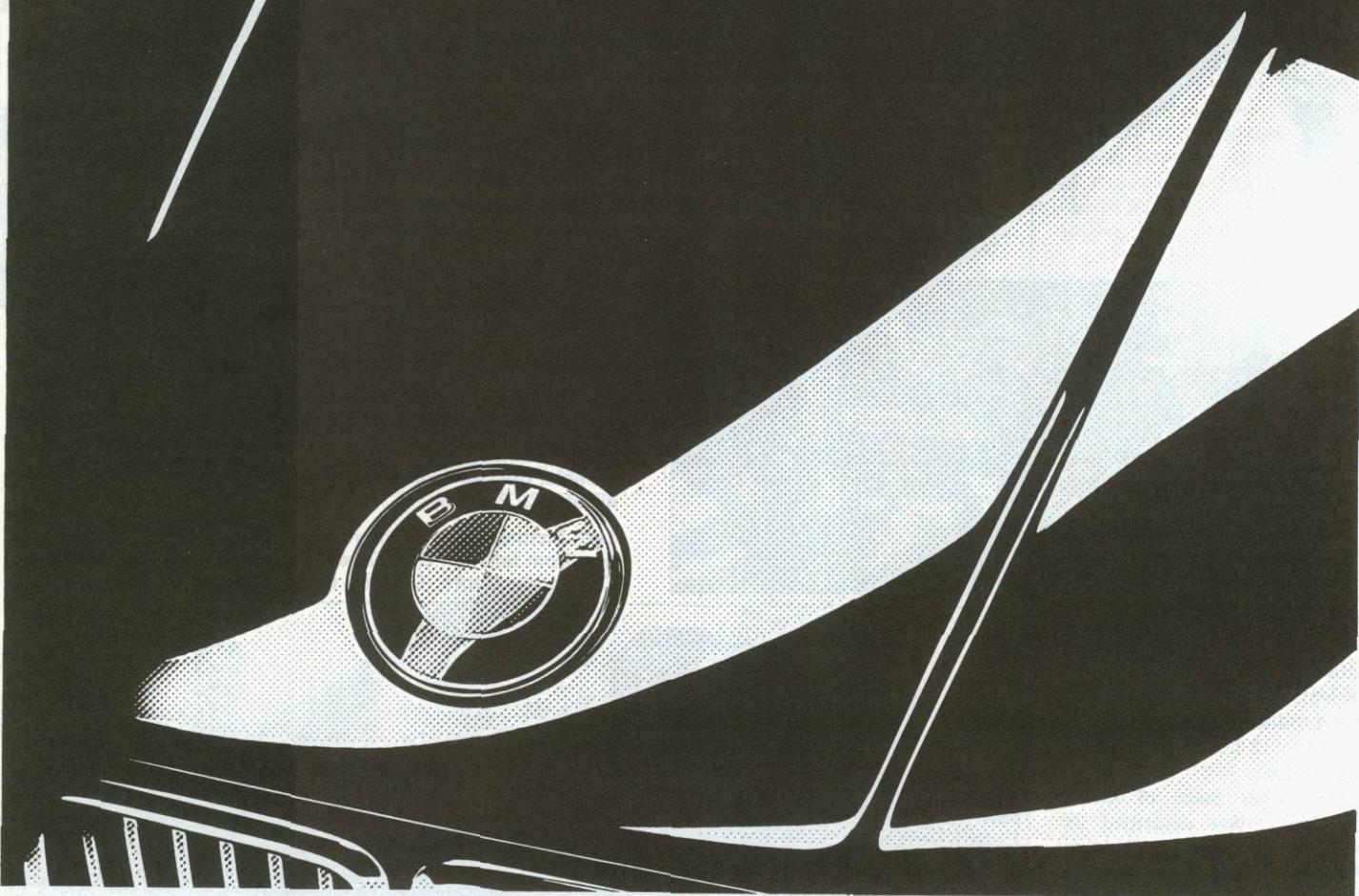
moving the deadly devices aside on shovels as they went forward.

RMPs established control points within the 1st Armoured

Division sector, and carried out anti-looting and discipline patrols. They are guaranteed as busy time beyond the actual war, because 203 Provost

Company was involved in planning the move of the Division back to Saudi Arabia and its eventual return to BAOR.

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LCpl Paul Dixon and Queensmen Gary Loftus, Robert Olifont and Lee Hayes of 3 Queens assist a motorist near Episkopi

Business as usual in Cyprus

Well, nearly . . .

IT WOULD be unfair to call British Forces Cyprus "The Forgotten Army" as Cyprus is truly tri-Service! However, it is correct that Aphrodite's Isle has kept a low profile since Iraq invaded Kuwait last August.

Although providing an essential link in the supply chain, Cyprus did not want to draw unnecessary attention to itself because of its proximity to the Gulf.

While those in Cyprus maintained the spirit of "business as usual", that business has been exceptional since the start of Op Granby.

RAF Akrotiri took the brunt of the work and the in past six months most types of aircraft passed through on their way to, or back from, the Gulf. In February the airfield chalked up its 10,000th movement since the start of Granby - a figure which in normal circumstances would take nine years to attain.

For many of these movements there was a need to on- and off-load stores, and on some returning flight movements staff had to cater for evacuees as well. Extra storage areas were prepared to hold materials in reserve, which called for extra work and manpower - currently an increase of 60 per cent of normal establishment.

Some of this extra manpower was needed to expand the medical facilities.

But it was not just the airmen and soldiers at RAF Akrotiri who had their workload increased dramatically. Three Attacker class patrol craft which arrive in October ensured the security of the seaward approaches to the Sovereign bases as well as carrying out a number of other operations in support of the resident battalions and Customs.



A Royal Hussars troop of six Ferret scout cars and a Saladin on patrol near Bloodhound Camp

More recently, regiments involved with the security of the bases - the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment supported by a squadron of The Royal Hussars at Episkopi, and The Queen's Own Hussars at Dhekelia - have carried out an operational programme rather more reminiscent of Northern

Ireland. They have been supported both by the Wessex of 84 Sqn RAF and the Gazelle of 16 Flight AAC.

This was in addition to their normal tasking, and under fairly severe weather conditions - Troodos had 4-ft snow drifts at one time, blocking the main road.

Micro-chip made life easier for British wounded

AS FAR as Lt Col Roger Thayne is concerned, the micro-chip is one of the unsung heroes of the Gulf war, writes Peter Rhodes.

Col Thayne headed the Medical Evacuation Cell (MEC) at HQ UKLF which masterminded the handling of casualties from the Gulf to British hospitals.

For the first time in war, satellite links coupled to the Army's Mapper computer system gave MEC staff at Wilton instant details of casualties, almost as soon as they occurred.

In some cases, consultants in the Gulf were able to file complete case histories into the system. This not only enabled individual casualties to be directed to the right UK hospital for the best possible treatment but ensured the right reception facilities were awaiting the Servicemen at the arrival airport.

"It has been quite fantastic," said Col Thayne. "All students of history will have something to learn from this war but, for us, the biggest factor was this information system."

In the event, the MEC was distinctly under-worked, handling fewer than 400 casualties during the entire six-month campaign.

As Col Thayne pointed out, this was considerably fewer than on some normal training exercises. He recalled a TA exercise in 1987 when 189 casualties had to be flown home in a single week.

Major factors, he says, were the sterile conditions in the desert and the "ideal" fighting climate of a Kuwaiti winter, compared with the chilly, damp conditions in north-west Europe which create so many chest infections on Nato exercises.

Everyone accepts that Desert Storm was an extraordinary war. Was it therefore of any value in planning for future operations?

"Absolutely," said Col Thayne. "It has advanced our planning by about three years, and not merely for war. The



Picture: Kevin Harvey

Lt Col Roger Thayne, RAMC, head of the Medical Evacuation Cell at UKLF

military-civilian interface we have established will be useful in dealing with any kind of disaster. We are far more capable than we were.

"The computer records are extraordinary. We have logged every single movement order, every single operation and this will be very useful for the future. After the Falklands War, the medical reports filled just one file. This time we must have 15 megabytes of information on disc and that is invaluable."

It is already clear, he says,

that battlefield evacuation in the Gulf was far superior to that in the Falklands. Wounded received immediate treatment from their own company medics and then moved smoothly back, via regimental aid posts and field ambulances to British field hospitals in the rear area which were supported by medical teams from Canada, Norway, Sweden, Romania, Denmark and New Zealand.

From there, those fit to travel were evacuated either by Hercules to Cyprus or directly to the UK by RAF VC 10s.

Why the CSM was left holding the baby

WO2 CSM Dave Hulme (36) and SSgt Nick Cantrell (34) of the Royal Army Medical Corps have found themselves in something of a role reversal - they stayed at home while their wives went to war, writes Jennifer Griffiths.

But now both women are back home and the two couples are planning a foursome night out to celebrate.

Dave's wife Niqui (27), who was serving as a volunteer with 308 Evacuation Hospital, Aldershot, volunteered for the Gulf - and Regular service - and worked

"You've missed a bit," says 21-month-old Rachael as dad, WO2 CSM Dave Hulme (left) does the washing up with a little help from fellow grass widower SSgt Nick Cantrell

as a laboratory technician with 205 General Hospital, Riyadh.

She left behind their 21-month-old daughter, Rachael, who went to a day nursery and was looked after by her grandmother during the week, spending weekends with her father in the family home in Aldershot.

Dave, who is in charge of the RAMC recruiting wing at Keogh Barracks, was in regular contact with Niqui while she was away.

He said: "I always knew that if this situation arose she would volunteer. I am very

proud and supportive of her.

"Some people have said they could not understand how she could leave her child, but she is a professional soldier wanting to do her job like any other soldier.

"I regretted not being out there because I have always worked with units where the action is. If I had had the opportunity to volunteer I would have done so without hesitation.

"Niqui knows that and would have fully supported me in the same way. If that had happened, we would have had to consider whether it was

sensible for both of us to be out there.

"Rachael adapted well. We talk a lot about Mummy and the job she was doing. It was actually Mummy who was missing Rachael."

SSgt Cantrell, who makes training films for the RAMC, had planned an August wedding. But he and his fiancée, Babs, brought it forward to January because of the war, and within a month she was in the Gulf.

Babs (26), a clerical assistant in civilian life, is a member of 207 General Hospital, Manchester. The

Niqui at work in 205 Gen Hosp in Riyadh



Sgt Nick Cantrell and wife Babs on their wedding day

couple met when Nick was posted in as a permanent staff instructor.

As a battle casualty replacement she found herself working as burns ward master in the same hospital as Niqui.

Because of the uncertainty of their joint postings, Nick opted to live in the mess, but he added: "I am very domesticated and living alone in a married quarter would not have been a problem."

He, too, would like to have been in the Gulf, but as a military administration officer to a civilian hospital his work precluded it.

Brize posties so busy

A SMALL team of posties, whose work is very much behind-the-scenes, have been working flat out to ensure a steady flow of mail between the United Kingdom and the Gulf.

The soldiers in Op Granby Postal and Courier Detachment, Royal Engineers moved to RAF Brize Norton after their SNCO in charge, Sgt Roger Williams, had devised a system to handle incoming mail there



The unsung heroes of the Brize detachment. From left to right are Sgt Eddie Rea, Sgt Roger Williams, Pte Mandie Lynch and Spr Mark "Jock" Taylor

and at its sister station, RAF Lyneham.

The mail is sorted at Mill

Hill, London, where the team normally works, and bagged in 40ft containers. Each box

carries 750 mailbags en route to the air stations.

On arrival, the containers are

opened and the bags are sorted onto destination pallets, then carefully stacked to maximise available space.

Sgt Eddie Rea, 2iC, explained: "It is a bit like building a brick wall - there is an art to it. If we are really rushed then as well as putting the covering nets over the stacked bags, we also load it on the 'plane.'

Sgt Rea is a staff instructor in the Training Wing at Mill Hill.

Between September 1 and March 10, the team handled 104,866 bags of surface mail weighing 1,189,083 kilograms.

The rest of the RE team are Spr Jock Taylor and Pte Mandie Lynch, along with driver, LCpl John Nash, who is on attachment from The Blues and Royals.

The team also handles all airmail (blueys) to the Gulf.

Before 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment went into action Bill Moore spent the night with the backroom boys waging the Paper War which is an essential and important feature of operations. This is his report.

Front line in the paper war

THE squadrons were spread across the stony plain, vehicles camouflaged and in many cases dug in. A setting sun was still warming sleeping bags standing upright on poles beside the machines which had been their only homes for weeks.

Inside two ISO containers surrounded by a sandy berm over which a cam net had been stretched, military bureaucracy was flourishing. As darkness fell SSgt John Palmer, regimental chief clerk, was staring intently at a computer, SSgt Martin Hay of "Pay" was studying a file and Cpl David Owen, assistant chief clerk, was feeding paper to a ravenous copying machine.

"We've put through 10,000 sheets in three days," he said.

The paper war is demanding. One job required the collation of scores of a 280-page aide memoire dealing with a particular aspect of the Iraqi army.

It was done in three hours and distributed by despatch riders.

Butting on to the regimental office at a lower level was a second container where Cpl Mark Cresswell, the RQMS's clerk, was searching a microfiche screen for a part number. Cpl Cresswell, who deals with all demands for spares and replacements, was sending them off by mail or signal. One message sent the day before had brought in two 60-ton tanks by giant US Galaxy transport planes.

"Every item in the British Army is listed on this fiche," said the corporal, tugging at his thick dark moustache. "It's got to be here somewhere."

It was.

A few feet away LCpl Phil Beck, the regimental draughtsman, drew phase lines on a classified map trace.

The Regimental Office cum field records cum stores cell

"I feel sorry for my mother,"

he said, "because she's got two of us to worry about out here. My brother is in the artillery."

A succession of visitors pushed through the blacked-out entrance to the containers . . . RSM Bob Lisle with a query for the chief clerk; Sgt Dave Deegan, the Int sergeant, looking for maps for a squadron; Maj Phil Scourlock, QM (Tech), to check a trace.

In came the RQMS (Tech), WO2 Nick Hull, to say a load of heavy equipment had arrived some 11 kilometres away. It looked as though Cpl Cresswell faced a moonlight journey to collect it.

"It'll get you out of the office and into the fresh air," he joked. WO2 Hull disappeared for a while then came back to say he would do the collecting himself at first light.

All demands have to be processed through logical tried and tested channels in the Ordnance system simply for control purposes.

"Open house would be chaos," said WO2 Hull.

His opposite number, WO2 David Starling, RQMS (Maint), entered in a hunt for Centurion tank sprockets.

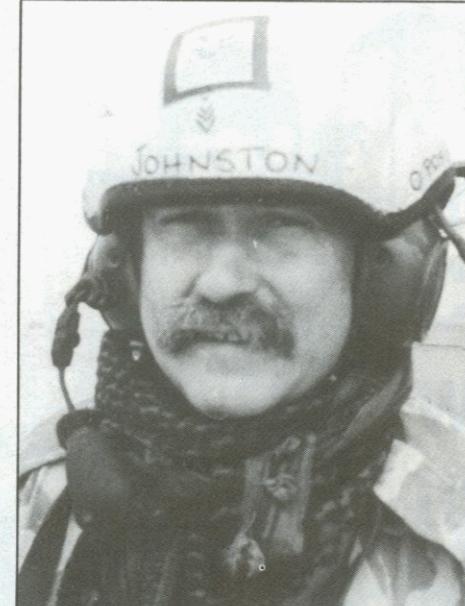
"I've been given a part number and told to get six of them. I'm looking."

He was also searching for an NCO who was said to know the secret of tyres required for the "Choggi wagons" - low loaders hired from local contractors.

(The "Choggi wagons" were a feature of the Gulf war. At the last minute a number turned up to carry the Flail Troop to the front and had to be repainted in sand colours. The young sappers tackled the job immediately. It wasn't exactly a work of art but the vehicles no longer stood out.)

There was no peace . . . stand-to was at 5.45am when the whole regiment, well wrapped up against the cold, manned shell scrapes for half an hour.

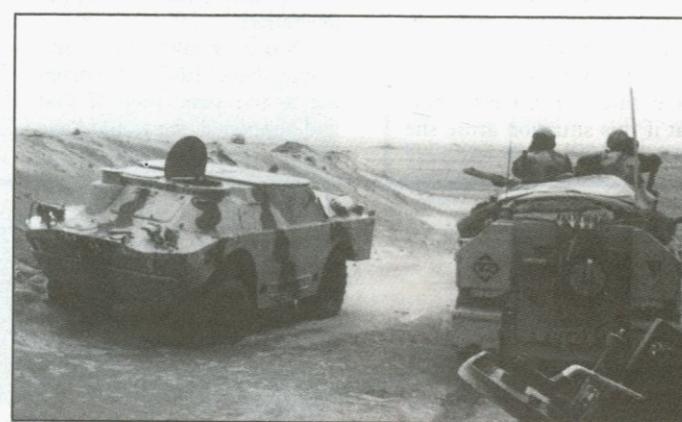
The night had been lively.



Sgt George Johnston, typical of the recce sergeants. His moustache was bleached by the sand



All mod cons. The RSM's 432 had an improvised loo chair lashed to its hull. It saw active service in southern Iraq but was lost overboard while the 432 was manoeuvring at speed through a minefield



A 432 passes an abandoned Iraqi armoured vehicle of Soviet origin

cum drawing office was busy late into the night. Its staff put down their camp beds on the floor between the work tops and shelves they had built themselves under the guidance of "a real chippy", Sgt Tommy Tucker. In the past weeks they had done more than sing for their supper.

(The "Choggi wagons" were a feature of the Gulf war. At the last minute a number turned up to carry the Flail Troop to the front and had to be repainted in sand colours. The young sappers tackled the job immediately. It wasn't exactly a work of art but the vehicles no longer stood out.)

There was no peace . . . stand-to was at 5.45am when the whole regiment, well wrapped up against the cold, manned shell scrapes for half an hour.

The night had been lively.

These photographs are unique because they were taken during the 100 hours that the ground battle lasted. They show the men of the reconnaissance element of 32 Armd Engineer Regiment



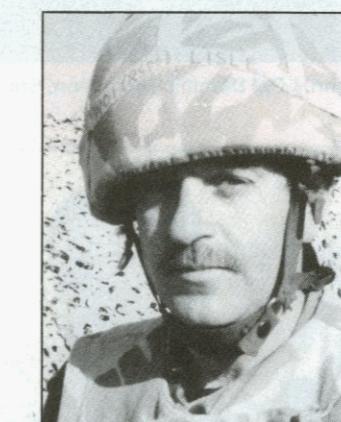
Recce sappers pass an abandoned Iraqi officer's dugout which contained all mod-cons. It had a double bed, a wall-to-wall mirror, a kitchen and an unplumbed lavatory pan



Despatch riders ("Don Rs") delivered orders day and night



The echelon of 32 Armd Engr Regt the day after the ceasefire. They had covered 200 miles in four days. In front is "Old Bill" - SOLDIER writer Bill Moore, old enough to be grandfather to some of them



WO1 Bob Lisle, RSM of 32 Armd Engr Regt



These young soldiers of the Flail Troop, 32 Armd Engr Regt had just been introduced to civilian low loaders they had never seen before. The vehicles had split gear boxes and a mass of levers. Without hesitation the sappers set about learning to drive them so they could transport their flails to the front line the next day. And they did.

tinued their work throughout the day while the various orders groups were held, starting with the commanding officer, Lt Col Alwyn Hutchinson.

Nothing up to that point had been much different from an exercise. Only the terrain. The next time they boarded their vehicles there would be a live enemy at the end of the road. In a fine address to his NCOs, RSM Lisle, a Falklands veteran, told them they would emerge different men.

What he said was true. Had the Iraqi defences and the

defenders lived up to some of the forecasts there is little doubt that the armoured engineers would have been in the thick of it.

As it turned out they were spared the nightmare of cutting their way through fixed defences. But changed they were. Along with the rest of the 1st Armoured Division, every man went forward into the unknown carrying his personal fears with him.

No one is quite the same after that, whatever the outcome.



Fosgene's crew. From left to right are Cpl Mark Foster, Spr "Sprog" Maughn, LCpl Dominic Nicholson, Spr Grant Middleton and LCpl Eddie Freeburn

The lads from Fosgene

PHOTOGRAPHER Sgt Anthony von Roretz, RAOC and SOLDIER writer Bill Moore watched 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment make its final preparations for battle. They found the crews of a variety of vehicles, including tanks and bridgelayers, replacing and renewing parts needing attention.

In 31 Squadron they came across a veteran Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers (AVRE) called *Fosgene*. There is a story behind the name.

Phosgene was a gas used in the First World War . . . and the word contains elements of the names of every member of the crew.

The "Fos" comes from the commander of the AVRE, Cpl Mark Foster, an NBC instructor from Hereford, and the longest serving tank commander in the regiment.

"G" stands for Spr Grant Middleton, 21, from Nottingham, the loader/operator; "E" for the driver, LCpl Eddie

Freeburn, who was 23 on February 24 and hails from Port Glasgow; and "N" for LCpl Dominic Nicholson, 23, the 2iC from Redcar.

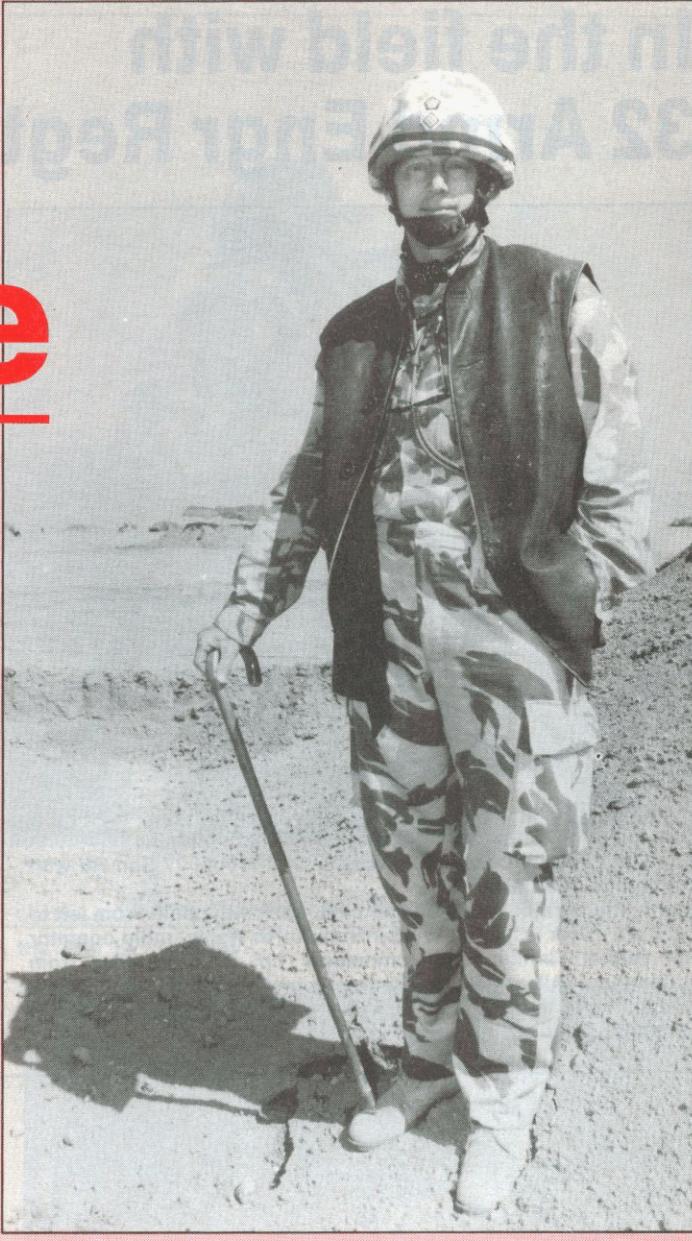
That leaves Spr David Maughn.

"Ah, he's really the 'S,'" explained Cpl Foster. "He's known as Sprog."

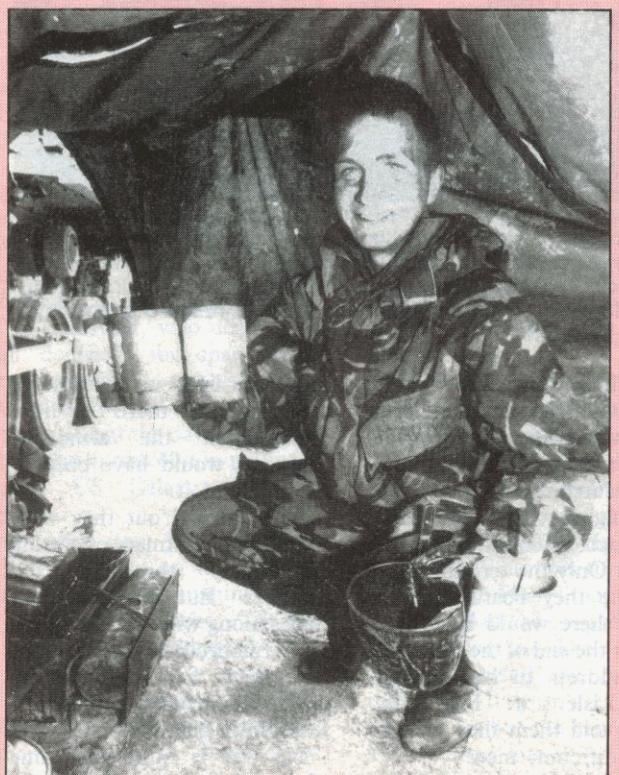
Lt Col Alwyn Hutchinson, commanding officer of 32 Armd Engr Regt, wears a distinctive leather jerkin, a present from his father, Mr Christopher Hutchinson, now retired in Italy, who wore the garment as a tank commander in the desert in 1942.

He sent it out to Saudi Arabia with the comment "Fear Naught", the motto of the Royal Tank Regiment.

Father and son have another link. Hutchinson senior's tank, a Churchill, was called *Tangerine*. Lt Col Hutchinson's command vehicle is known as *Marmalade* . . . apparently the boss almost lives on Robertson's Thick Cut!



Lt Col Alwyn Hutchinson, CO 32 Armd Engr Regt, wearing his father's leather jerkin, a veteran of the 1942 desert campaign



Spr Dave "Sprog" Maughn brews up



Cpl Mark Foster, commander of the AVRE *Fosgene*



Maj Stuart Lomas, oc 31 Armd Engr Sqn, discusses the state of the main drive with Cpl Mark Foster

In the field with 32 Armd Engr Regt



Above: Lt Patrick Coxen, commander of 9 Troop, 77 Sqn RE with driver Spr Jez Leech (left)

Right: The crew of AVLB *Badger* clean their weapons. From left to right are driver LCpl Taff Winder from North Wales, radio operator Spr Gilbert Tinnion, and commander Cpl John Mayfield from Nottingham. All are Royal Engineers of 9 Troop, 77 Sqn RE

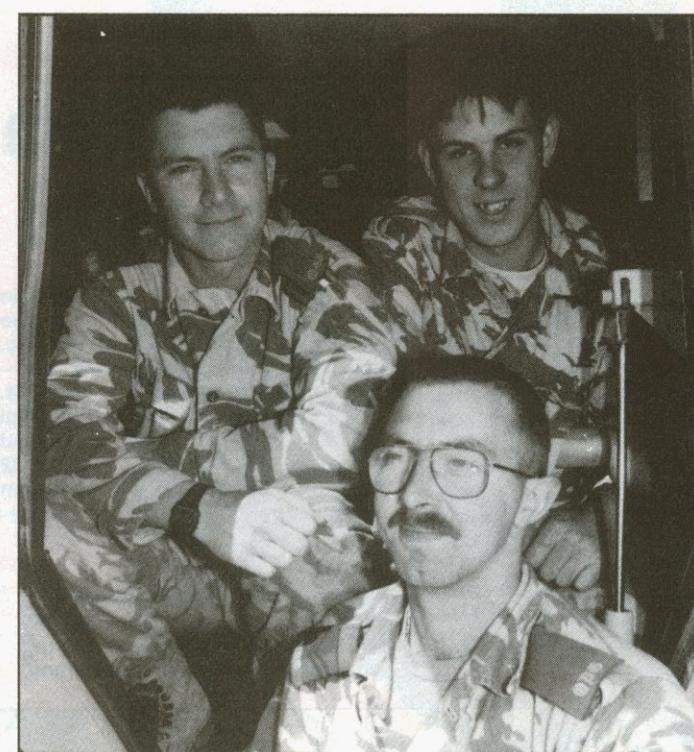
Below: A pause for REME experts from 7 Armoured Workshops Forward Group to iron out the wrinkles



One of eight Fuchs NBC detection vehicles sent to Allied Forces in the Gulf by Germany



Cpl Alan Alford from Reading explains how it works. He commanded another Fuchs vehicle



Fuchs vehicle crewmen. LCpl Jonathan Palmer (back left) and Tpr Adam Harding, and (front) LCpl Robert James



WELSH WIZARDS

THEY'RE all Welshmen, and proud of it. They're the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards crew of a Fuchs vehicle used for detecting chemical agents.

It was one of eight Atomic Biological Chemical specialist

vehicles sent to the Gulf by Germany.

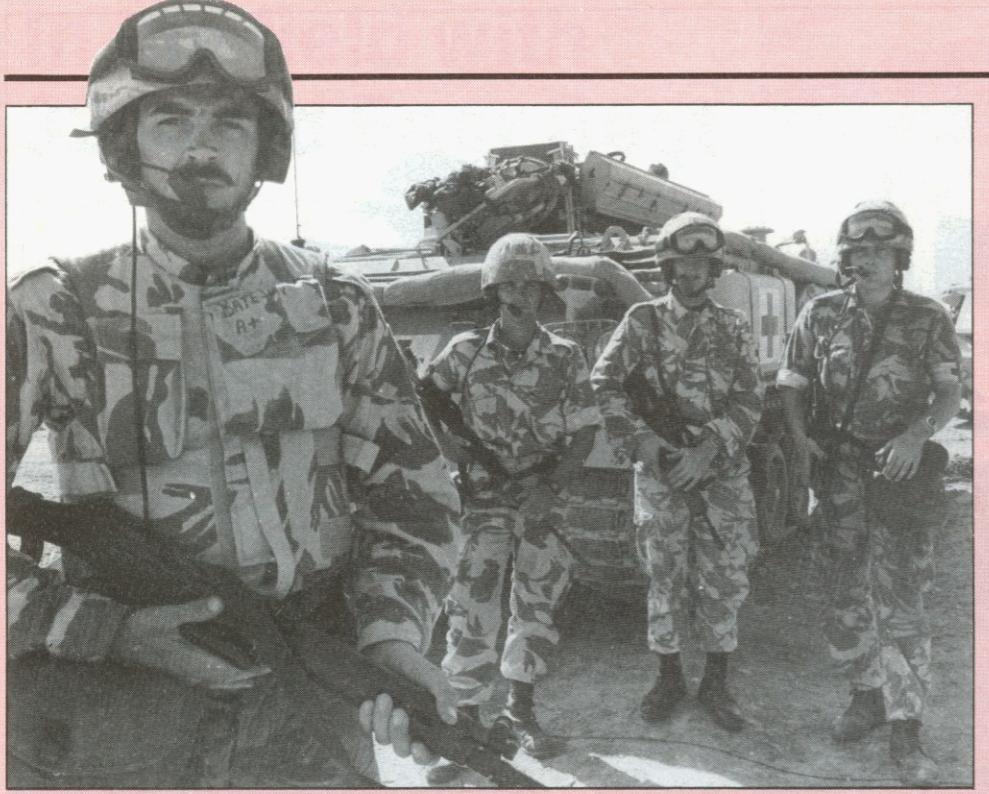
The Fuchs can keep up with anything on the battlefield, analysing samples from the ground and the air.

Sgt Howard Barnes from

Newport was laid low by 'flu when we caught up with his crew, which was attached to 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment.

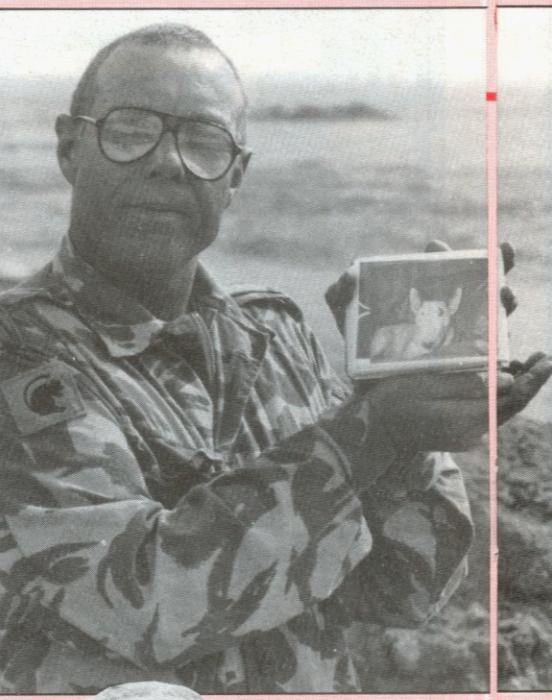
"Back door man" is LCpl Jonathan Palmer, 21, from Ebbw Vale. He used probes to

take samples of earth, and operated the radio. Tpr Adam Harding, 20, from Wrexham, operated the on-board computer, and the fourth member of the crew is LCpl Robert James, 22 of Ammanford.



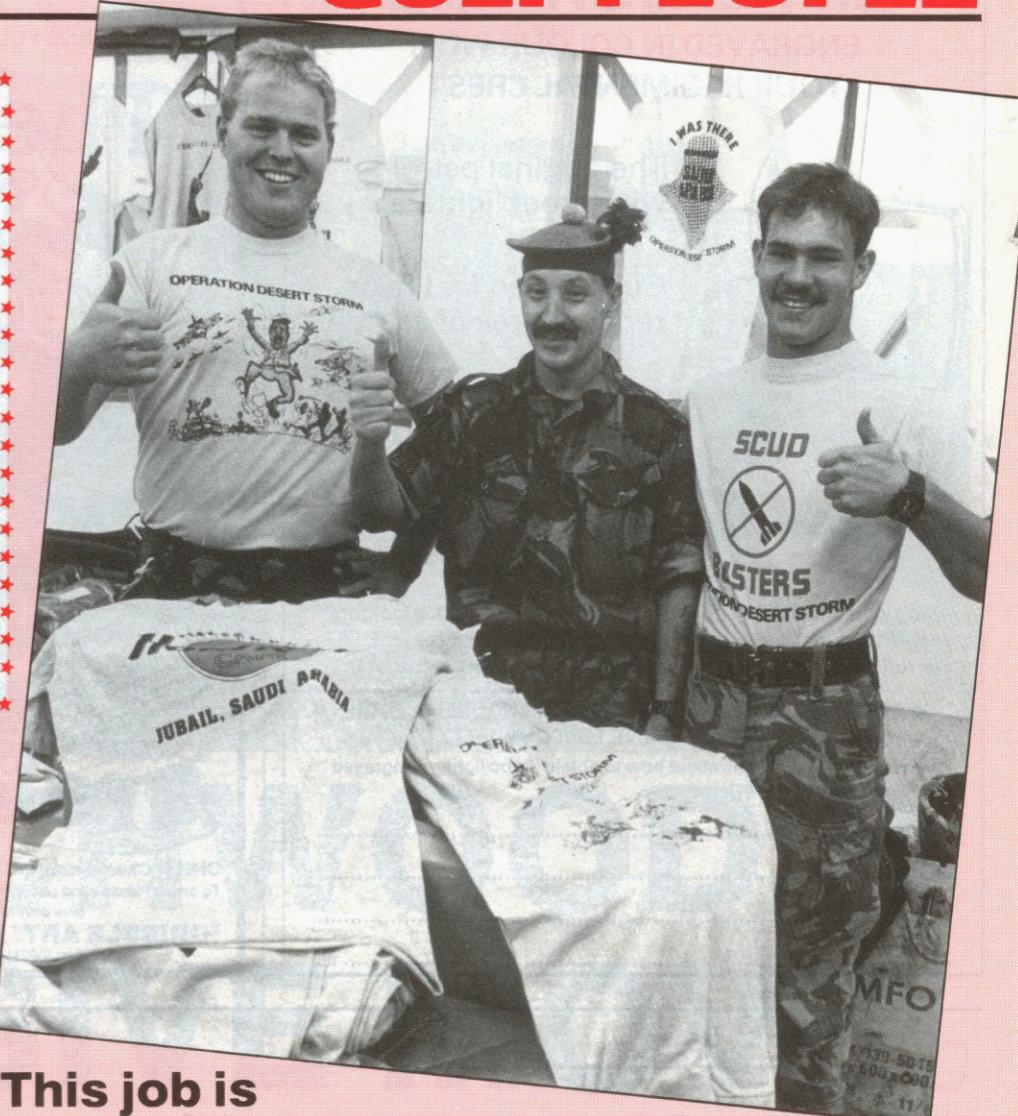
Ready for the call forward

Callsigns 41 Charlie and 44 Delta of 5 Armoured Field ambulance, the men who stood by to drive their APC 432s forward to recover casualties from regimental aid posts. From left to right are Cpl **Pete Bateson** and LCpl **John Senior** of the RCT, and Bds **Richard Martin** and LCpl **John Cotton** of 2 R Anglian.



Hello, Dolly

WO2 **Ronnie Waters** with his "pin-up", **Dolly** the champion bull terrier. Ronnie's main interest is breeding bull terriers, and back at base in Germany Dolly is a national champion.



This job is done to a T

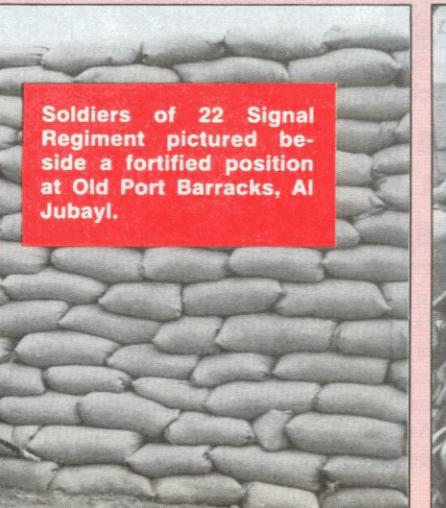
Op Granby T-shirts were a popular item on sale in the FMA. Left to right are Dvr **Giles Begley**, Cpl **Roy Clark** and Dvr **Andy Shields**, all members of the QM's staff.



Pass the sponge!

Here's how to enjoy a bath in the desert. Dig a hole in the sand and line it with plastic. Then comes the hard bit - finding some water to put in it. LCpl Spock Pemble and LCpl Martin West of 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, part of 32 Armd Engr Regt, succeeded on all counts.

Left: Lt **Sharon O'Connell** serving with The Royal Scots at HQ A2 Echelon. Her husband is serving with the Royal Signals in Germany.



Soldiers of 22 Signal Regiment pictured beside a fortified position at Old Port Barracks, Al Jubayl.

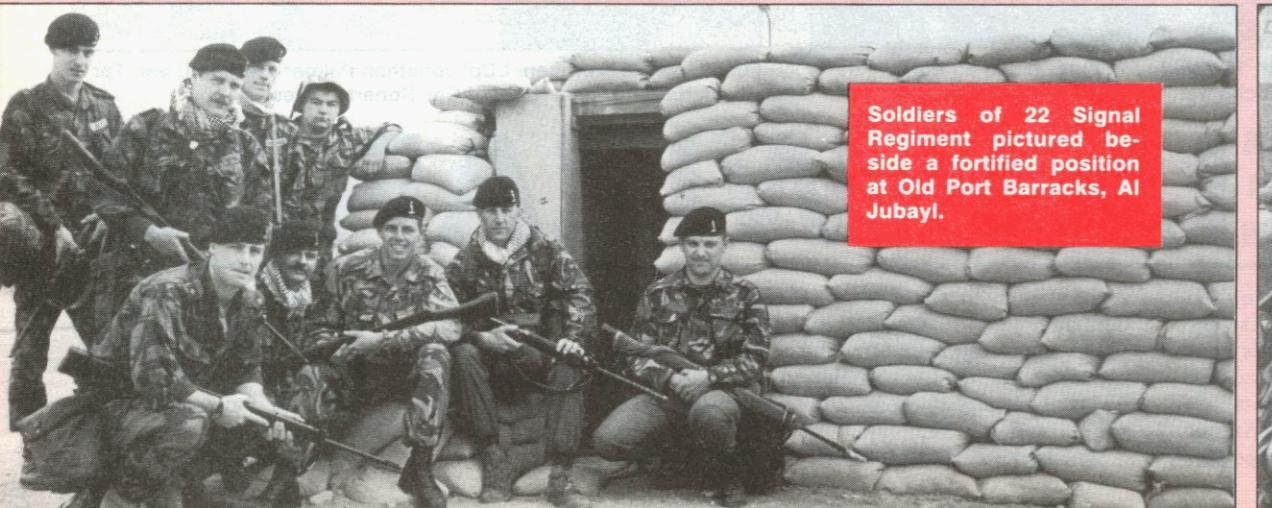


Flailers?

No, they're not members of a chain gang. From left to right are Cpl **Paul Goodall**, Cpl **Dinger Bell**, Spr **Andy Potter** and Spr **Phil Marsh** of 2 Flail Troop, 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment with the mine-clearance vehicle Aardvark.

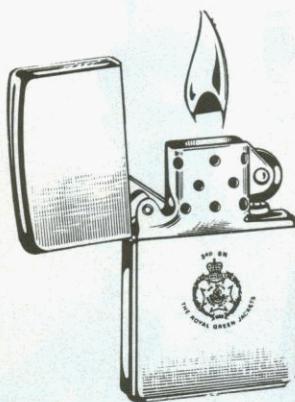


The mail must get through. Sig **Carson Briggs** of the Public Information Unit with a bluey that had been re-directed six times.



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Maj Roddy Kilpatrick surveys the Marchwood scene



Picture: Kevin Harvey

MARCHWOOD'S MASSIVE MOVE

BY THE time the Gulf War ended, Marchwood, the British Army's military port near Southampton, had loaded more than 55,000 tonnes of supplies in a well-oiled logistical effort, writes Peter Rhodes.

Forty-one vessels ranging from roll-on, roll-off (Ro-Ro) ferries to container carriers and traditional cargo ships were loaded with more than 52,000 tonnes of freight and 3,000 tonnes of ammunition.

During the five-month effort by the Royal Corps of Transport's 17 Port and Maritime Regiment every type of ammunition from rifle bullets to 1,000lb bombs passed through Marchwood. Vehicles handled ranged from Challenger tanks and Warrior armoured personnel carriers to a Salvation Army wagon.

When Operation Granby began, 17 Regt dispatched a 50-strong unit to Al Jubayl and ran 12-hour shifts among the remaining soldiers for more than three months.

Despite the mammoth effort and the vast array of unfamiliar equipment and ships, no soldier suffered more than

minor bumps or sprains.

"That's the benefit of using the right guys to do the right job," said Maj Roddy Kilpatrick, the 2iC.

Although four Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships were handled, most of the ships loaded for Op Granby at the port were Government-chartered civilian vessels. The vagaries of vessel type and availability caused special problems.

"Getting precisely the right ship to the right load never actually happened," said Maj Kilpatrick. "The Ministry of Defence would go to the industry and ask what ships were available on what day.

"But we might have a port full of wheeled vehicles, ideally suited for Ro-Ro, and a container ship would turn up. Or we might have a load of containers which would have to be broken up for other vessels."

The worst moment, he recalled, was when, having packed 300 containers into a giant cargo hold, the regiment received a message from HQ UKLF asking for three individual containers of tank

spares to be unloaded and sent by air instead.

"Two of the containers were quite accessible. The third was not," he recalled ruefully.

"But without a shadow of a doubt this operation has vindicated utterly the idea of having a dedicated military port."

Marchwood, threatened with closure under earlier proposed economies, has recently been enlarged and given extra jetty facilities, enabling it to cope with major deployments.

Maj Kilpatrick said the quantity of equipment moved and the quality of loading by military personnel rather than civilians had made their mark on Op Granby.

Some civilian-loaded vessels, he said, arrived at Al Jubayl to present major unloading problems.

In one case, a custom-made vehicle-lifting beam had been retained at the port of departure.

In another, the loading strop beneath the uppermost pallet of ammunition had been removed, presenting the unloaders with a task not unlike

removing a cork from a bottle.

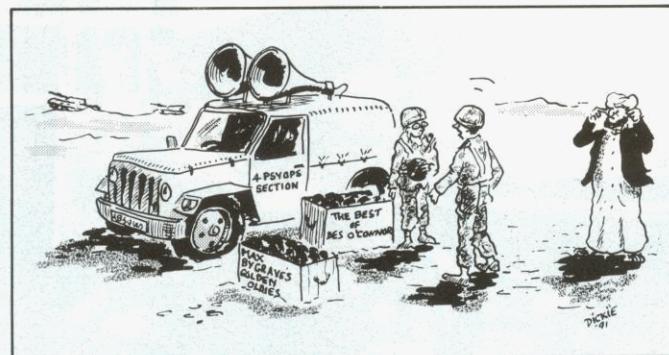
"We made sure that everything that went on would come off easily. All the time, you are thinking of your mates at the other end who will have to unload it."

Throughout the Gulf operation, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment not only supplied men and equipment to the Middle East but fulfilled its normal peacetime role of supporting the British Army in Belize, Hong Kong and the Falklands.

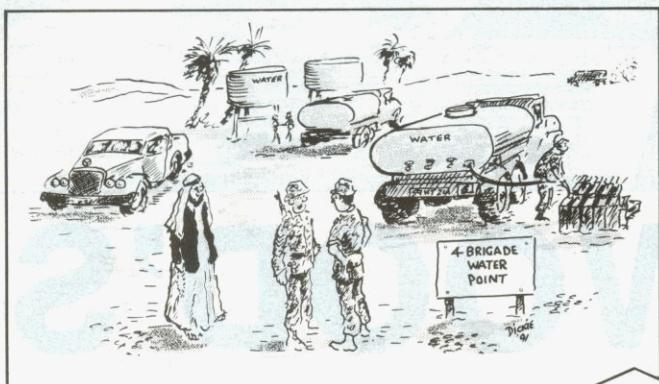
On the strangely quiet quayside at Marchwood these days, a Germany-bound gaggle of cargo lorries and Ferret armoured cars are a reminder that the British Army of the Rhine is still very much in business.

But with all eyes on the Gulf, 17 Regt is looking back with quiet satisfaction on a job well done and a logistics chain which has run smoothly all the way from Marchwood to the Iraqi border and beyond.

Maj Kilpatrick recalled the old military adage: "Amateurs talk of tactics. Professionals talk of logistics."



"A cunning plan, Baldrick, but will it work?"



"He says do we want to buy his well?"



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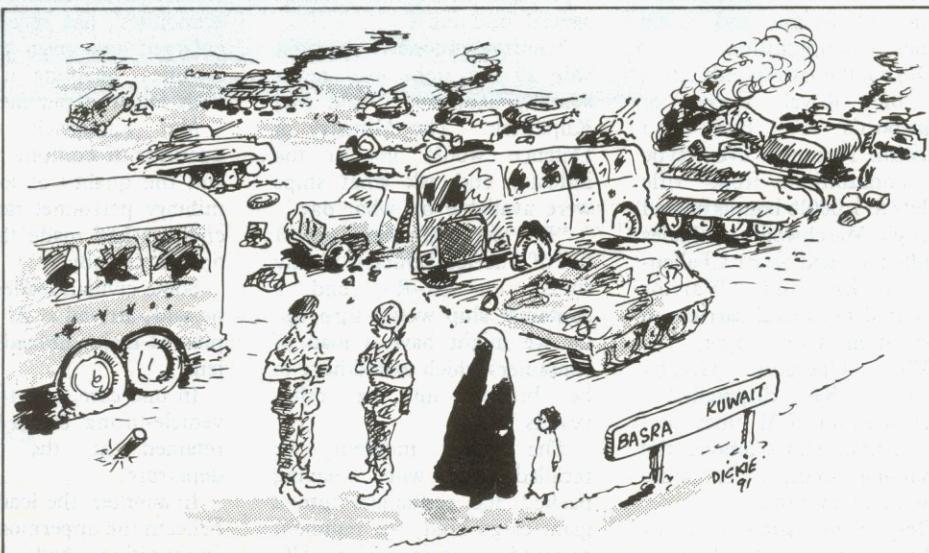
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"I think Private Bloggs's sudden attack of conscientious objection to this unjust war may well have something to do with it being his turn for sanitary fatigues, Sir!"

"They say he thinks like one of us too."



"She says it was a red Mini Cooper and her handbag was on the back seat."

PoWs! Oh crumbs . . .

Four Iraqi soldiers may still be trying to work out the strange reception they received when they tried to surrender on the Basra road many miles from Kuwait City.

They hurried up an embankment, clustered round a senior-looking Briton in desert combat uniform, and indicated that they wished to give themselves up. They spat out the words "Saddam", drew their fingers across their throat in a universal gesture, and insisted on shaking hands.

Which was all very well, but **SOLDIER** writer Bill Moore, who had been photographing a



Bill Moore

blown-up ammunition lorry, didn't have room for them in the 4x4 Toyota in which he was travelling in search of a particular unit.

Only other member of friendly forces at hand was Pte Mark Rose of the Army Catering Corps, who was acting as driver. Apart from wrecked vehicles, the road was deserted.

Bill's knowledge of the Iraqi tongue (like his prisoners' command of English conversation) was limited but a decision was needed. Silver moustache bristling, he ordered the Iraqis to fall in.

"I just spoke sharply to them and they knew what I meant immediately," he said. He then told Pte Rose to issue them each with a packet of Army biscuits as they had water but seemed out of food, took their picture, pointed up the road, and said: "That way - CLEAR OFF."

They got the message. "Their leader saluted again and they went off in step," said Bill.

"Further on we drove past some more who wanted to give up but I shouted I wasn't taking prisoners that day."

SOLDIER to Soldier



Pte Mark Rose ACC distributes biscuits to the "prisoners"

Green machine

At the risk of drawing wry smiles from the sand-encircled battalions in the Gulf it is heartening to be able to pass on news of a triumph concerning the Army's efforts to maintain the "greeness" of environments closer to home.

The training video, "Limit that Damage", made for BAOR last year by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation, has won the Silver Award at this year's New York International Film and Television Festival.

Museum expands

Call it coincidence or simply chance, but there is a certain irony in the timing as work gets under way on building the Imperial War Museum's new land warfare exhibition hall at Duxford in Cambridgeshire.

The 5,000 square metre building will display more than 50 tanks and other military vehicles as well as 40 artillery pieces dating from the First World War to the Falklands.

Although the display has



Maj Mike Edwards and new bride Kerry

Island romantics

Most members of the armed forces serve four or six-month tours of duty in the Falklands unaccompanied - and weddings wait until they return home.

But Maj Mike Edwards RAOC wanted to be different. Rather than face a wintry wedding in the UK, he flew his bride-to-be, Kerry Glover, 8,000 miles to the Falklands for a midsummer ceremony in Port Stanley's cathedral.

In the first military wedding in the Islands since

1982 the bride was given away by the Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Malcolm Hunt, and after a garrison reception the couple left for a honeymoon at one of the Falklands' famous wildlife holiday lodges.

Mike, a staff officer at British Forces HQ at the time of the wedding, met Kerry, a Ministry of Defence administrative officer, at the Central Vehicle Depot at Ashchurch, Gloucestershire.

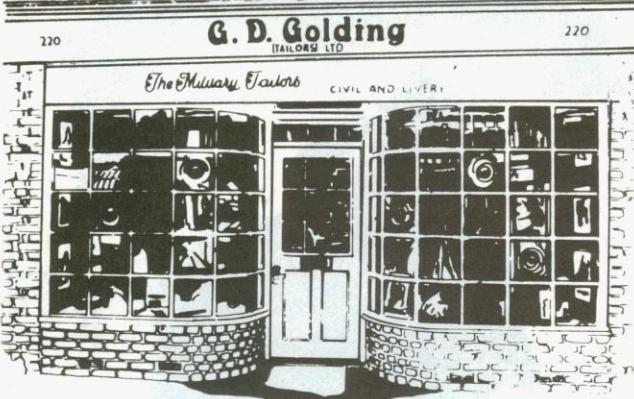
been in the planning for a number of years, the museum is not ruling out finding room for equipment which might come its way in the future.

"If the museum did acquire any Gulf-related exhibits we would put them on display in a special exhibition," said spokesman Francis Crosby.

Among the items which will be on view when the hall opens next year will be the rare Josef Stalin II, a current issue Chieftain 6/4c and the diminutive Hetzer ambush tank. Soldiers' personal effects from the museum's reserve collection will be on show for the first time.

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Battlefield booty is so valuable

MAY I first comment on how proud we all must be of the professionalism of our armed forces in the freeing of Kuwait.

I may be too late with my main point. As an amateur military historian I was alarmed to see in a recent news report from the Gulf a combat engineer tractor clearing a road, overturning a T55 tank apparently intact.

How much, if any, war booty will be brought back? Unlike the Falklands, where the enemy had few mechanised forces and the vast distances were prohibitive anyway, logistical support for heavy equipment is already in place in the Gulf.

I suspect that unlike the Second World War, when a team involved with the School of Tank Technology brought back many enemy pieces for evaluation, it may not be the case this time.

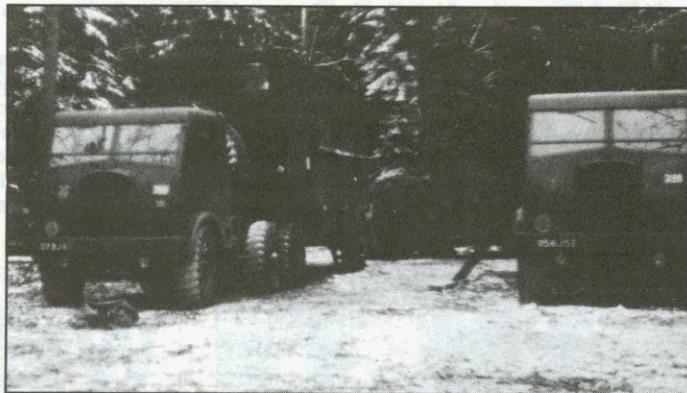
The most modern Russian equipment is there for the taking. Vehicles seen intact on TV news reports include T72, T62, Shilka AA tanks, SO 122 MM SPG, MTLB, APC and even a Frog missile with launcher.

It will be a missed opportunity if, because of financial constraints placed on military museums, numbers of vehicles are not brought back. The Army never seems to have the will, unlike the historical aviation lobbyists - a good example being the rescued TSR2 at Duxford.

It also needs to be said that hard targets for range war work are always in short supply, leading to unfortunate incidents in the past such as the Second World War Panther II turret recently rescued from ranges for the Bovington Museum.

It seems ironic that students of modern Soviet armour have to rely on the private sector in the shape of a collection at Retford. - P J Tudor, Harrogate.

● See "Expanding museum", Page 35.



With reference to "you're never too old" (February 4), my son Brian Meacher (ex-Cpl RE) worked with the Print Train in West Germany during the '60s. This photograph taken at the time shows the original ten-ton AEC tractors "in hiding" somewhere near Soest. - Charles Meacher, Scotstarnit Place, Finglassie, Glenrothes, Fife.

RB was the first PBAI

IN "They're the PBI - and proud of it" (March 4) you state: "For the first time in the history of the British Army, the foot soldier is going into action in an armoured vehicle which has been his home for weeks."

In the Second World War I served in the Rifle Brigade and we lived in our Bren carriers, half tracks, and Dingo scout cars for years, each vehicle being a self-sufficient unit, with section cooking, and our bed rolls tied onto any part of the vehicle available.

Although only lightly armoured, we were still used in an attacking role on many occasions. We had four battalions operating in the Desert Campaign.

So I'm sorry - but it is the RBs who go into the book of records, not the Royal Scots. - Bill Ash, Eighth Army Veterans' Association (Sussex Branch), Brighton.

School needs your help

AT THE time of writing six out of seven Scottish infantry regiments are engaged on active service either in the Gulf or Northern Ireland. Other Scots are serving in the RAF, Royal Navy and the supporting arms.

In fact more than 40 per cent of the troops recruited from Scotland are now serving in the Gulf or on operations in Northern Ireland.

Seeing pink

WHEN I served in Iraq with PAIFORCE (Persia and Iraq Forces) in 1946-47 our shoulder flash was a pink elephant, due I think to the first GOC being Gen "Jumbo" Wilson.

The fact that Johnny Walker Black Label was 45p per bottle may also have had something to do with it! - Harry Shaw, St Albans, Herts.

Hussar thanks

RECENTLY I wrote to you moaning of no coverage of the 14th/20th Hussars. I have just purchased the February 18 issue and you have dedicated a whole page to the regiment.

A big THANK YOU - D Staniford, Telford.

Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, is of enormous benefit to Scottish Service families who, for various reasons or tragedies beyond their control, turn to the School for free boarding education which provides above all the stability their sons need.

This is a very special year for the School. A £600,000 appeal was launched last year to build

Reunions

● **42 Commando Group, Lundy, Borneo, Nov 1965-May 1966:** Reunion will take place at CTCRM, Lympstone, on Saturday May 25 to commemorate the Borneo Tour and in particular Operation Lively Cricket. Details from Maj C J Smith, RM on 0395 266113.

● **The Queen's Own Hussars Regimental Association** reunion lunch will be held on Sunday May 12 at the Victory Services Club, London. Details from Regimental Secretary on 0926 492035.

● **249 (Berks RHA) AA Battery RA:** The 44th annual reunion will take place at The Ship Hotel, Reading, Berks, on Thursday April 11 at noon. Details from Ted Fullbrook, 1 Buxton Avenue, Caversham Heights, Reading RG4 7BT.

● **159 (W) Fld Amb RAMC (TA) - 1939-46:** Reunion will be held at Swansea on April 17. Details from Frank Margetts on 0792 208720 or Bryn Simms on 0752 660810.

● **Armourers and Artificers Weapon:** The reunion of the Armourers Association will be held on May 18 at the Victory Services Club, Carisbrooke Hall, 63-79 Seymour Street, London at 1830. Details from Mr W J Thorne, 2 Midsumers Court, Worcester Road, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QQ.

● **2418 (Sherwood) Sqn ATC:** To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Air Training Corps the squadron will hold a dining-in night on May 24 for all ex-cadets and people associated with the squadron. Details from P Off Michelle Worsnop WRAFVR(T), 101 St Albans Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6GS (tel: 0602 209413).

Searchline

● **Malaya Emergency:** Former Servicemen who were either casevac'd or lifted in or out of the jungle by helicopter are sought to attend the annual reunion of Casevac Flight of 194 Sqn RAF, which worked closely with 22 SAS. Details from Mr C Turner, 51 Place Farm Way, Monks Risborough, Bucks.

a badly-needed sports hall to improve present outdated facilities and £100,000 is still needed.

I would strongly recommend this appeal to your readers. Any donations, large or small, should be sent to QVS Appeal Office, Army HQ Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX. - Lt Gen Sir John MacMillan, GOC Scotland.

A chance to sail

ARMY children with a yen for life on the ocean wave can take advantage of a series of cruises organised by the London Sailing Project.

The first of the summer season is from May 18 to 24, the last from September 7 to 13. Boys aged 15-16½ can sail on the *Helen Mary Rose*, older lads (up to 20) on the larger yachts *Rona* and *Donald Searle*.

Cruises start and end in the Hamble, near Southampton, leaving on Friday and returning the following Saturday. The cost, including coach from London, is a bargain £40.

The programme includes the Tall Ships race, which gives boys from Northern Ireland and Scotland a chance to take part. For details write to Peter Archer, London Sailing Project, The Rona Trust, Crableck Lane, Sarisbury Green, Southampton SO3 6AL.

★ ★ ★

Low income Service families in Northern Ireland or overseas should check whether they are eligible for the new MoD rent, rates and facilities charge rebates, backdated to April 1990, which have replaced State Housing Benefit.

In England, Scotland and Wales low income Service personnel should apply for Community Charge Benefit from the local authority.

All Servicemen are required to pay the equivalent of a water charge, but if their income is sufficiently low they could receive rebates of up to 100 per cent of their rent and 80 per cent of their facilities charge.

Pay offices should have the new claim form AF09559 Dec 4/90.

★ ★ ★

The new Inland Revenue leaflet on letting of property, IR 87, may be helpful to Service personnel who own houses or flats. The leaflet is the first in a series designed to be a simple guide to various aspects of tax treatment of income from property and is available from local tax offices or the Inland Revenue, Public Enquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

German generosity appreciated

IT was very gratifying to learn that many German towns and organisations rallied to the support of British families left behind in BAOR after their husbands had deployed to the Gulf with 1 Armoured Division.

Operation Granby families received invit-

ations to tea parties and social occasions, and offers of assistance from German Army units, clubs, firms and individuals.

A German Army unit based at Hoxter asked 40 wives and children from Paderborn to go on an excursion to Corvey Schloss near

Hoxter, and later treated them to coffee and cakes in the officers' mess.

Other act of generosity by the citizens of Paderborn included the provision of free swimming at a local pool and a trip to the famous glass factory at Bad Driburg.



Thanks a lot, John

just in time for the war was not lost on some of the men, who joked that "Scud Wolfe" was responsible for the start of the bombing.

The picture shows John (left) with Cpl Nick Mayers (centre) and Padre Chris Broddle of 21 Engr Regt at Al Jubayl.

The irony of their social worker arriving

Flights of your fancy!

BRITISH AIRWAYS is, through the Ministry of Defence, offering a huge package of cut-price holidays tailored exclusively for those who served in the Gulf and their families.

The airline's buy-one-get-one-free holiday deal covers more than 20 destinations worldwide.

"We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all those who played a crucial role in liberating Kuwait," said a British Airways spokesman. "What they all need now is a good holiday – and we're going to make sure they get one."

Service personnel who played key roles in supporting the war effort back home are, with their immediate families, also entitled to special air fares.

If you want to know more about the offer, ring the holiday hotline exclusively for British Service personnel. The number is 081 897 8080.

A number of such gestures were mentioned in the German press, but many went unrecorded.

We can be thankful that our German neighbours helped to ease the anxieties and loneliness of Op Granby families who elected to remain in BAOR.

Welfare of families came first

MANY readers have been wondering why the "In My View" column had not appeared recently – and the answer is simple.

I decided it was not the time to raise controversial issues with those who were fighting a war or supporting the Gulf effort.

It would not have helped; just detracted from the main objective – the welfare of Service men and women and their families in Germany, Northern Ireland and the UK mainland.

The great British public rose to the occasion. Any worries that those in the Gulf would go short of anything or feel forgotten were swept aside.

Everywhere, school children, families, factories, businesses, senior citizens and a host of others collected books, wrote letters, sent parcels, contributed hard-earned cash and adopted units and individuals. Royal visits to Service families were particularly appreciated.

The Postal and Courier Service Royal Engineers took on more help, millions of extra blueys were printed, and United Carriers pitched in with a free parcel delivery service.

The logistical success of the mail service alone is worthy of the Guinness Book of Records.

The support network which burgeoned and flourished was no less amazing. At least 50,000

IN MY VIEW

volunteers. Many have offered ongoing support of SSAFA, WRVS, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and others.

Now the war is over, those who return from the Gulf will be able to see and hear of the marvellous support by everyone at home.

Meanwhile, those who lost their lives will not be forgotten and our sympathy goes to their families; the injured and sick are wished a speedy recovery.

And thanks to the professionalism of our men and women, the sick-minded forecast of death and injury left on my answerphone by a certain abusive foreign gentleman has been proved wildly incorrect.

Mother was no longer the next-of-kin, creating a situation which she found extremely hard to bear. Talking about the problem

Anne Armstrong



Home telephone: Camberley (0276) 29653



The end of hostilities with Iraq has not signalled the end of GIFT – Gulf Island Families Together – formed by families of soldiers from the Isle of Wight, who will continue to send out parcels of little luxuries commonplace at home, but unobtainable in the sandy wastes. GIFT will also maintain its round-the-clock helpline. Chairman Val Taylor said: "In times of trouble local people have always rallied round to help each other and the support has been fantastic." A variety of fund-raising events will continue. Mrs Taylor is pictured with Don Sambrook and Don Mosdell from Sandown Rotary who donated 90 pairs of socks as well as toiletries and sweets.

Services denied Family Credit

CERTAIN Service families are being denied Family Credit despite the launching of a nationwide campaign to alert the public to their entitlement.

Overseas Family Credit is paid from the Defence Budget, not from the Department of Social Services vote.

If a wife makes an application while a husband is on duty in Belize or in the Gulf she is refused Family Credit. The regulations do not take this eventually into account.

The Ministry of Defence put up a case early in February and by the end of the month reported: "... the DSS has had a change of heart.

"They have undertaken to continue this payment on an ex-gratia basis to all Servicemen's families who find themselves in this position."

But to date these ex-gratia payments are not available to families where husbands are serving elsewhere overseas.

Mr Michael Jack, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Security, recently said he was determined that "even more families who may not be claiming this money should be able to receive a real boost to their incomes."

I hope he will ensure proper account is taken of Service families and their special needs.

MUMS' WAR

THERE will be a special place reserved in the history of the Gulf war for the vital part placed by the MSGs – the Mums' Support Groups.

All had the same clear objective, to provide local support for mothers with sons and daughters serving in the Gulf, establishing groups able to share the traumas, and giving them access to a national network of welfare and information agencies.

Now the war is over, those who return from the Gulf will be able to see and hear of the marvellous support by everyone at home. Meanwhile, those who lost their lives will not be forgotten and our sympathy goes to their families; the injured and sick are wished a speedy recovery.

And it wasn't just in the United Kingdom that groups were formed. In Germany Mrs Anne Francis set up a support centre.

Typical of the calls received was one from an anxious mother who feared she would not be told if anything happened to her son. He had married recently and his new bride was living in their quarter in Germany without a telephone.

Latest national figures show that just before Christmas 1,700 people in these categories were on local authorities housing lists. In main garrison

helped this anxious mum. Another told me: "Anne, I have no one to talk to. My eldest son is in the Gulf and I am a widow with three other children."

"I have not had a letter yet and I am not sure of his address. I am very lonely because I am the only mother at my place of work with a son in the Gulf."

As well as the Do-It-Yourself variety of support groups, some mums benefited enormously by being "adopted" by their sons' regiments. They were included in the distribution

of letters to the Gulf, and generally provided a service that had a profound effect on maintaining morale – both theirs and the young men and women they were supporting.

Some mothers "adopted" soldiers who had no immediate family.

All raised a glass of bubbly in celebration – and profound relief – when President Bush ordered a ceasefire.

I know that some support groups feel they still have work to do despite the end of the fighting.

AS the number of Service families and estranged wives awaiting council housing grows throughout the United Kingdom, there is a glimmer of hope in the Aldershot area.

In Aldershot, where the problem has not been improved by the failure of the local authority to secure Chetwode Terrace or Williams Park for Service families, there is more hopeful news.

towns some are having to wait a year in inadequate accommodation because the councils cannot cope with the demand.

In Aldershot, where the problem has not been improved by the failure of the local authority to secure Chetwode Terrace or Williams Park for Service families, there is more hopeful news.

It is now planned to build a mix of 120 affordable houses and flats for married and single Service personnel on an extremely attractive site.

The land is available, a builder is keen to build and, most importantly, the Sanctuary housing association is prepared to give financial backing. Minimum "buy-in" would be half the asking

price, with the remainder being rented from the association.

I believe this is the first such scheme since the Second World War and will help Service and ex-Service people get a foot on the housing ladder. If you want information or to be registered as interested in the Aldershot scheme, write to me for details.

Aldershot house plan offers hope

The new Inland Revenue leaflet on letting of property, IR 87, may be helpful to Service personnel who own houses or flats. The leaflet is the first in a series designed to be a simple guide to various aspects of tax treatment of income from property and is available from local tax offices or the Inland Revenue, Public Enquiry Room, West Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

INSTANT SEX APPEAL

NEW! Scientists have isolated and synthesized a natural female attractant - PHEROMONE. Controlled experiments show it attracts women and have been widely reported in the press:

- 'Minute quantities were sprayed on a chair in a dentists waiting room. Women patients went straight for the chair.' - *The Sunday Times*.
- 'Pheromone secretions not only attract women, but repel other males.' - *World Medicine*. (Journal for GPs)
- 'A male sex pheromone which has a scent that attracts females' - *Time* (Vol. 115, No.2)
- Pheromones are known to influence human behaviour in a subtle way. They are thought to prime women to be more sexually receptive and help to make their menstrual cycle regular. - *Daily Telegraph*, 7.12.90.
- 'And now the Pheromone has been marketed, we've tested it - and good grief, it works' - *Knave*.
- 'The stuff attracts women like you would not believe.' - *Colorado Telegraph*.
- Lowell Ponte, a former consultant on exotic weapons and a Readers Digest science writer, said in an interview that 'use of the recently discovered chemical Pheromone should be banned - congress should pass a law making it a crime to use this chemical to influence voters by making politicians appear more lovable' - *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- 'It's something women don't consciously smell, it works in the olfactory nerves. The woman finds the man attractive but she doesn't know why.' - *Lifestyle*.



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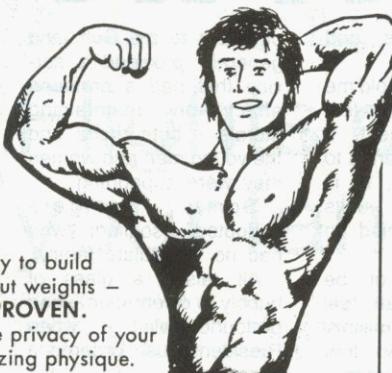
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Note: If ordering by credit card, please ensure that the address given is the same as that of the credit card holder. If you are interested in ordering other TRBL Service branch watches, featuring the Official emblems of The Royal Navy, The Royal Air Force and Royal Marines, please call the Homebuy Order Line on 0952 292100. A portion of the proceeds will go to further the work of The Royal British Legion on behalf of its membership.

The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.
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BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Third Reich by James Lucas. The story of the 1939-45 war as told by German servicemen and women, a vivid reminder of how they coped with the loss of life and defeat. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £14.95.

The Crecy War by Alfred H Burne. The Hundred Years War was, in fact, four wars. Col Burne chronicles the first from 1337 to 1360. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £16.50.

Congo Mercenary by Mike Hoare. A lively tale of life as a soldier of fortune with ideals which cost him a spell in prison. Pictures and maps support the all-action narrative. Published in paperback by Robert Hale. Price £6.95.

Student at Arms by Francis Salvesen. A humorous account of how to become an officer. One man's memories of life at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and how he was moulded into officer material. Available from Warrior Enterprises, Spruce House, 38 Kingswood Road, London SW2 4JH. Price £4.95 (£9.95 signed).

The Girls behind the Guns by Dorothy Brewer Kerr. Life with the ATS in the Second World War – a tale which many people will find interesting and readable. It was the time when women took a major step towards equality and showed that "Anything you can do..." Published by Robert Hale. Price £13.95.

The Paras – 50 Years of Courage by David Reynolds. Not a history of the Airborne Forces but a tribute listing their battles from inception. Written by a journalist, it is a fast-moving story complemented by superb pictures. Published by Express Books. Price £3.50. Cheques for

£4.50 to Express Newspapers plc, PO Box 7, Manchester M19 2HD including postage and packing. Mark your envelope "The Paras".

Dictionary of Military Terms. An updated version of acronyms, abbreviations and definitions used by the US military. Now more necessary than ever. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £19.95.

Record reviews – See Page 42

The Falkland Islands by Paul Morrison. This book – worth the price for the photographs alone – will revive memories of the sights and sounds of the wildlife, not to mention the smells of the shearing sheds, for those who have spent time in this South Atlantic outpost. Published by Aston Publications. Price £14.95.

Amphibious Operations by Col Michael Evans RM. Available in hardback or soft cover, this book tells of the projection of sea power ashore. It gives examples from Gallipoli, Dieppe, the Falklands, and many more. Published by Brassey's. Price £22.50 hardback; £12.95 soft cover.

The Iron Division – The History of the 3rd Division 1809-1989 by Robin McNish with additional material by Charles Messenger. Available from HQRE 3 Armd Div, BFPO 114. Price £7.50 (incl p&p).

Forces Sweethearts by Eric Taylor. Some will cry at the memory of the Second World War years and others smile wistfully at what might have been. Several well-known names crop up in this gossipy chronicle. Published by Robert Hale. Price £15.95.

Two further offerings in Osprey's Campaign Series, each priced £7.95, paperback: **Gallipoli 1915** by Philip J Haythornthwaite. This disastrous campaign to knock Turkey out of the First World War, planned by Churchill, cost 205,000 Allied dead. How it all came about is told in this definitive account of a campaign of enduring interest. **Alexander 334-323 BC** by John Warry. Details the campaigns of Alexander the Great which destroyed the Persian Empire and established him as one of the greatest warrior kings of history.

Modelling Military Vehicles by Bill Evans and David Parker. Top tips on how to achieve that look of realism in model-making. It tells of scales, tools and materials and asks: "Is there anything else?" In short the answer is yes – patience. If you haven't got that don't even try. But the book's a good read. Published by Robert Hale. Price £14.95.

Cap Badges of the British Army 1939-1945 by G L D Alderson. A follow-up to a similar book by the same author 18 months ago which dealt with infantry regiments. This one has illustrations and descriptions of the badges of the armour, artillery and other arms and corps of the war years. Published by the author at £8.50. Available to readers of SOLDIER at £7.50 including postage. Write to: G L D Alderson, Canny Hill, Pool Lane, Brocton, Stafford ST17 0TY.

The Struggle for Crete by I McD G Stewart. One to stir the memories of those with first-hand experience of fighting on this Greek island. The author says it took six years to write, which is not surprising considering the wealth of detail in its 500-odd pages.

Published by Oxford University Press. Price £7.95.

The Boer War in Postcards by Ian McDonald. Even if you haven't a special interest in the subject this story in postcards will make an acceptable coffee-table book. The 200 pictures and the potted biographies give a feel for the emotions of the time. Published by Alan Sutton Publishing. Price £14.95.

Ambush Valley by Eric Hammel. The blurb claims this book about Vietnam "achieves a new standard for oral history". Maybe it does, but the reader will need a thorough knowledge of US Marines' jargon to understand what is going on. Published by Presidio Press. Price £14.95.

World War One 1917 and **World War One 1918** by Philip J Haythornthwaite. Two more in the "Soldiers" paperback series, telling of life in the trenches. Published by Arms and Armour Press. Price £4.95 each.

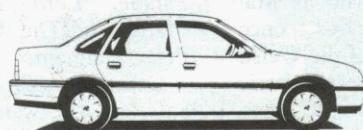
War in Korea 1950-1953 by D M GianGreco. With more than 500 photographs, this book makes more of an interesting look than a read. But either way it's a fairly comprehensive record of US participation. If there is a mention of the part the "Glorious Glosters" played in the war, it is not easily visible. Published by Presidio Press. Price £27.50.

United States Airborne Forces by Barry Gregory. Like the British Army Paras, the US Airborne was formed about 50 years ago. This book details the history of the force and lists battle achievements and the significance of the victories. Good pictures; readable text. Published by Brian Trodd Publishing House Ltd. Price £19.95.

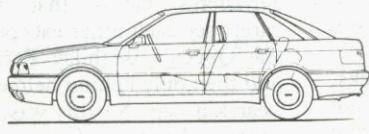
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A very British salute to Berlin

Berlin Bandanza

Massed Bands, Trumpeters, Corps of Drums, Choirs
Producer: Major Michael Parker
CVO MBE

BANDANZA is the new name for the Berlin Tattoo, which now takes place in the Waldbühne, an open-air theatre near the Olympic stadium and seating 20,000 spectators.

Subtitles are Great Britain Salutes Berlin and The Great Berlin Band Show.

And great it is, with more than 600 musicians from the Royal Marines, the Army, and RAF, pipes and drums, corps of drums, the Morriston Orpheus Choir, and children's choirs from East and West Berlin.

Fortunately for the engineers the band was seated throughout, with arena displays of dancing and marching.

The Berliners were bom-

barded, much to their evident delight, with a mass of British music, with only a token item or two from Germany.

I swear *Rule Britannia*, *Britannia Rule the Waves*, sung with jingo-ish fervour, got one of the loudest cheers.

Displays and musical items came under various headings, such as "England", with Elgar to the fore; "The Sea", with the Royal Marines doing their bugling and drumming in fine style; and "Scotland", with piping including that Berlin favourite *Highland Cathedral* on massed pipes and band – very effective, a Light Division display being greeted with its usual enthusiasm.

"Ireland" featured the Irish Guards; "300 Years of the Clarinet" had a hundred of them dashing through *Flight of the Bumble-bee*; "Brandenburg Gate", a medley of Bach, included cannon fire; "Wales"

in which the great Morriston Choir sang their hearts out; "Corps of Drums"; and "Children's Choirs".

The Finale "House of Hanover" included *Zadok the Priest*, some of the Water Music and the Royal Fireworks, a *Lament*, and *Salute to Berlin*.

The march off was, of course, *Berliner Luft und Auld Lang Syne*.

All were marvellously presented, with the three Directors of Music having done much good work in special arrangements of the music.

Not musically perfect, of course, under such trying wet conditions, but a terrific, atmospheric programme taking the listener right to the heart of Berlin, and into the midst of a cheering audience loving every minute of it. So should you.

● From Bandleader, CD price £10.50, or dealers.

Seven for the price of one

The Guards in Concert

Massed Bands of the Household Division, Trumpeters, Corps of Drums, Choir
Conducted by the Directors of Music

THIS is a studio recording of a concert given at the Royal Festival Hall last year, when for the first time in many years all seven bands were represented at one concert. And just in time too, before the Scots Guards band found themselves doing medical duties in hotter climes.

The programme is a popular one, with the drums of the 2nd Grenadier Guards and choir of the Welsh Guards adding to the variety.

The Household Cavalry trumpeters open with *Fanfare Royale*, and the Foot Guards trumpeters with another called *Capital City*.

Three classical items follow, with Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture*, based on students' songs, Gounod's *La Ronde* march, and Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, all given good performances.

From then on we have a more typical bandstand programme, with two selections from modern shows, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables*, operatic excerpts in the *Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and the *Slaves Chorus* from Verdi's *Nabucco* with the choir, and a medley of Offenbach's *Can-Cans*.

The choir again, with the band, in *Cavalry of the Steppes* and the Welsh favourite *Sospan Fach*.

Two marches in the selection are the wonderful *Entry of the Boyards* and one of Lt Col Mick Lane's, *The Star of St Patrick*, played in his memory.

The finale is literally a showstopper – Mussorgsky's *The Great Gate of Kiev*.

Such is the hectic life of the Division's bands that they rarely see each other except for the Queen's Birthday Parade, and then only behind helmet or bearskin cap. So this was, for them, a happy and rewarding occasion, to be repeated, perhaps, in the 21st Century.

● From Bandleader, CD or 2 cassettes £10.50 inc.

Good excuse for the Welsh Guards

The Changing of the Guard

Band of the Welsh Guards
Conductor: Lt Col P Hannam

IN recent years changes have occurred in some aspects of this ancient ceremony – regiments and Services other than the Guards taking part – though the ceremony itself retains its long-established format. Those unfamiliar with it will find full details on the sleeve notes.

Anyway, it's a good excuse for a band to play some fine and fairly rare marches in a ready-made pattern, and has not been recorded since I did it myself in the 1960s.

No words of command here, just a studio recording of music that might be played to, from, and in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace.

Well, let's face it, this is a programme of music with

suitable titles for a Guards occasion!

W T Hughes's march *To Your Guard* has always been a winner though, strangely, not too often played.

Arnold Steck, who as Maj Leslie Statham was once Director of Music of the Welsh Guards, wrote several classic marches, and four of them appear here – *Birdcage Walk*, *Great and Glorious*, *The Guardsman*, and *Royal Review*.

The Empire, by Richard Tulip, who wrote the very first Evening Hymn and Last Post (and what a fashion he set) has a very welcome airing, as does Polly Willcocks's *Guards Armoured Division*.

Long Live Elizabeth is from Edward German's opera *Merrie England*, *Oxford Street* from Eric Coates's *London Suite*, and Edward German is back

again with his difficult *Welsh Rhapsody*, a fine work not likely to be heard on Guard Mounting, I think.

Less-known or new marches are *Waterloo March*, *Guards Parade*, *Lord Rothermere's March*, and *The Welshman*, by Peter Hannam.

Other music played to entertain the waiting old and new guards is *Music of the Night* from *Phantom of the Opera*, Lehar's *Gold and Silver* waltz, Percy Fletcher's *The Spirit of Pageantry*, a *Children's Patrol* and a medley of *Welsh Airs and Fancies*, both by Peter Hannam.

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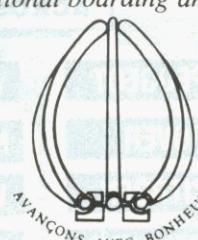
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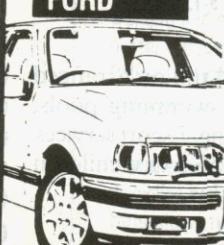
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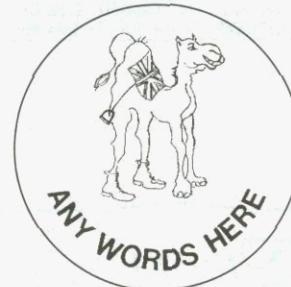
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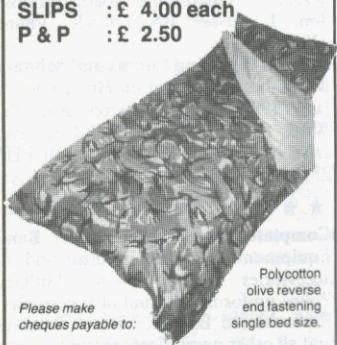
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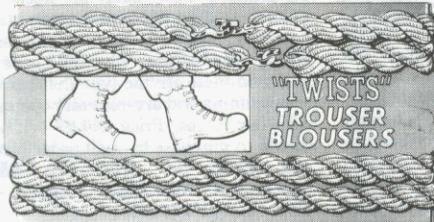
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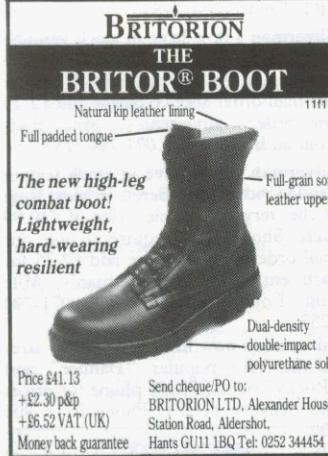
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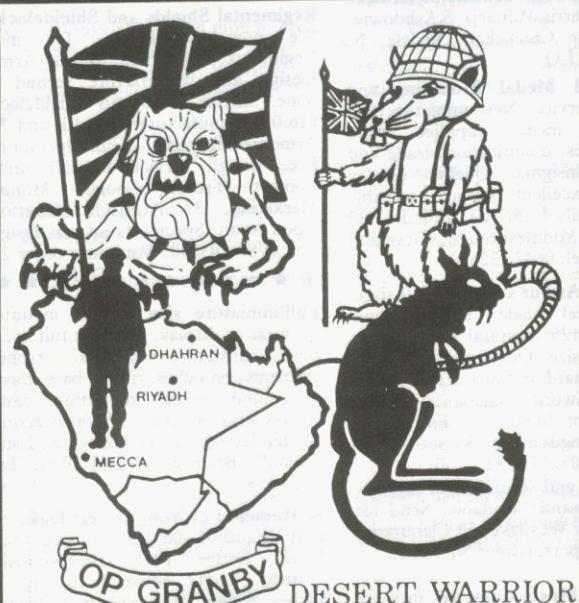


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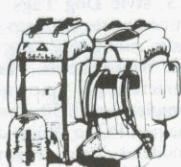
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Sailors retain youth trophy

Army Youth 2,
Royal Navy 3

THE Royal Navy Youth XI made it four in a row when they beat the Army at Aldershot to win the Inter-Services youth championships, writes Pat Massey.

But the home side may consider themselves a little unlucky to have lost to a fluke own goal. They had only themselves to blame, however, having failed to convert several good chances.

Things began badly for the Army youngsters, who have been without a win all season. In the fifth minute they went behind to a Williams (HMS Jupiter) goal.

Gnr Sheeran (19 Fd Regt RA) ignored better placed team mates and fired wide with only the 'keeper to beat, but made amends on the half-hour when he scored the equaliser.

A/Cpl Todd (AAC Harrogate) had a good chance to put the Army in front, but was robbed in the act of shooting, and Sheeran went close soon afterwards.

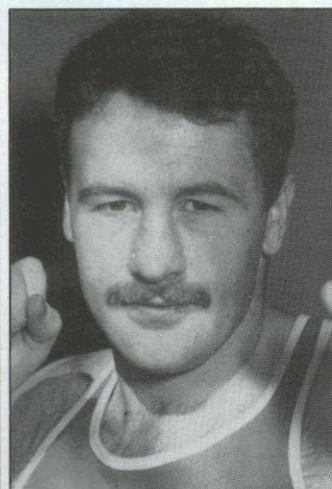
Two more Sheeran efforts gave the Army a bright opening to the second half, but it was the visitors who scored first. Two minutes later the Army were level when Todd tapped home after the Navy goalkeeper had blocked a shot from A/Cpl Dixon (AAC Chepstow).

Then came disaster for the soldiers. A/LCpl Fosbury (Chepstow) looped the ball back to his 'keeper, JTpr Clark (JLR RAC Bovington). Somehow it dropped agonisingly between Clark's outstretched arms and the crossbar for what turned out to be the winning score.

**Combined Services Youth 0,
FA Colts 7**

There was a predictable wallop for Combined Services Youth against an FA Colts XI of which ten players in a

BIG DAVE STEPS UP



Sgt Dave Abbott

SGT Dave Abbott (Gren Gds) was called into the Combined Services team at short notice for the important George Wimpey England ABA quarter-final against Western Counties at Salisbury on March 16 and was given a walk-over into the semi-finals at Gloucester.

Abbott was unexpectedly stopped in the Army-Royal Navy match, and the automatic 28-day suspension which followed ruled him out of the Combined Services individual championships.

He would normally have stepped up to super-heavyweight for the first round

of the ABA competition, but the title was taken on a walk-over by RAF novice SAC Paul Fiske.

Fiske was pulled out five days before the Western Counties match, allowing Abbot to step into the breach.

Cpl Neil McCallum (10 Corps Tpt Regt RCT) also won at Salisbury.

Other Army boxers in the team were Fus Danny Green-slate (1 RWF), LCpl Joe Rajcoomar (1 DERR), LCpl Kevin Mason (Depot and Tg Regt RCT) and LCpl Lee Innes (1/3 Tg Regts RE).

● Full report in next issue.



Bdr Dave Ferguson (above) of 50 Missile Regiment RA has bowed out of Army Nordic skiing after several years of great success. He began in 1984 as a novice langlauer with 19 Field Regiment RA and went on to win championships at all levels with the 3rd Armoured Division. This winter Dave has been chief of the Nordic course at the 1st and 3rd Div ski meeting in France. He is leaving the Army to live in Dortmund-Schwerde with his wife Sabine.

party of 17 were "on the books" of First Division clubs. Yet both sides can claim to have learned something in what is for the young Servicemen their only representative fixture of the season.

The FA goals were scored by John Charlton (Arsenal), Barry Lakin (Leyton Orient), Leighton Allen (Wimbledon), Ian Selley (Arsenal), Paul Price (Brentford), and Andy Arnot (Gillingham).

Representing the Army in the Combined Services team were A/Cpl Fosbury, A/LCpl Goodge, Pte McLaughlin, App Holt, AT Ransley, A/Cpl

Todd, A/LCpl Dixon, AT Caisley, Gnr Sheeran and JTpr Clark. A/LCpl Scarisbrick and Puttock were reserves, and the team was managed by Lt Col Stan Goold and coached by WO2 (SQMS) Rob Bayston.

**Belgium Forces 3,
Dutch Forces 0**

In the second match in this year's Kentish Cup competition, played at KFC Turnhout, the Belgian Armed Forces beat their Dutch counterparts, by three goals to nil, to record their first competition win for four years.

Navy denied

● From Page 54

but, the alarm bell rang more frequently at the other end of the field.

LWtr Paul Benson shot just over when well placed, and, when Roach dallied on the ball, AB Kevin O'Donnell dispossessed him and crossed for PO Chris Long to flick the ball just over the bar.

The Army enjoyed the better of the early second half exchanges. From a cross by LCpl Shane Smith, Cpl Dave Veal sent a header crashing off the cross-bar with Popple well beaten. Minutes later, Johnson glided on to a header to steer the ball under the body of the advancing RN goalkeeper for the equaliser.

The result means that, regardless of what happens at Uxbridge, the outcome of the competition will rest on the final game, when the Army entertain the Royal Air Force at Aldershot. The home side will know exactly what is required of them to retain the trophy for a fourth successive year.

Grade 3 final

FINAL of the Army Grade 3 boxing championships will be between 94 Locating Regiment RA and the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment at Larkhill on April 15.

In the UKLF inter-unit final 94 Loc Regt beat the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment by five bouts to four.



Cfn Mick Taylor, the SEME goalkeeper, gathers safely during the Army (UK) Cup Final at Aldershot Military Stadium. SEME lost 3-4

Sappers overhaul SEME in a thriller

**1/3 Tg Regts RE 4,
SEME Bordon 3**

IN the 62nd minute of a hard and cleanly fought game, with those doughty cup fighters SEME Bordon leading by three goals to nil, 1 and 3 Training Regiments RE were awarded a penalty, writes **Pat Massey**.

Goalkeeper Cfn Mick Taylor saved brilliantly from namesake Cpl Stuart Taylor, and at that moment you could have put your mortgage on SEME retaining the King's Cup by winning the Wilson Hogg Robinson Army (UK) Challenge Cup Final for the umpteenth time.

That they lost, by the odd goal in seven, shows just how unpredictable this game can be.

Apart from a shot by Sgt Gordon Stephen which SSgt Ginge Ingroe in the sapper goal managed to tip over, defences held sway in a cautious opening. SEME went ahead in the 17th minute when SSgt Geordie Sampson's looping header from a Cfn Kenny Kerr cross beat Ingroe.

The Senior Service enjoyed the better of the first half, and hustled and harried the Army throughout. Yet the first real

Sgt Vinny Edwards bravely headed the Bordon team further ahead, and Stephen went close on two further occasions before the interval.

On the hour Sampson set up Mne Roger Bannister for SEME's third, Taylor saved that penalty and SEME looked to be home and dry.

But two goals in five minutes from 1/3's Cpl Stevie Reeves and SSgt Steve Tusz set up a tremendous finish.

Taylor in the SEME goal saved a certain equaliser when

he made a great block with his legs, but an error in defence let in Cpl Podge Lehany to tuck away a half-hit back pass.

With extra-time looming the sappers won a corner kick on the left. The ball was floated into a penalty area almost as crowded as Waterloo Station in the rush hour, and Sgt John Mathis met it firmly with his head.

The ball was scrambled clear, but not before it had been adjudged to have crossed the line.

The amazing sapper Houdini act was complete.

That result means that 1/3 Tg Regts will meet Army Cup defending champions 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment from Hameln, Germany in an all-sapper final at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on April 10.

The BAOR final was a rematch between 28 Amph and 28 Signal Regiment from Krefeld, with the champions retaining their BAOR title by two goals to one.

Johnson denies Navy

AN under-strength Army squad will have taken some satisfaction from their 1-1 draw against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth in the opening encounter of the 1991 Inter-Services championship, writes **Pat Massey**.

The Senior Service enjoyed the better of the first half, and hustled and harried the Army throughout. Yet the first real

chance of the game fell to Sig Paul Brown. He rode a strong tackle by LPT Steve Riley before shooting. Navy 'keeper Cpl Gary Popple blocked the shot but the ball fell to Sgt Mick Johnson and Popple had to make a second save.

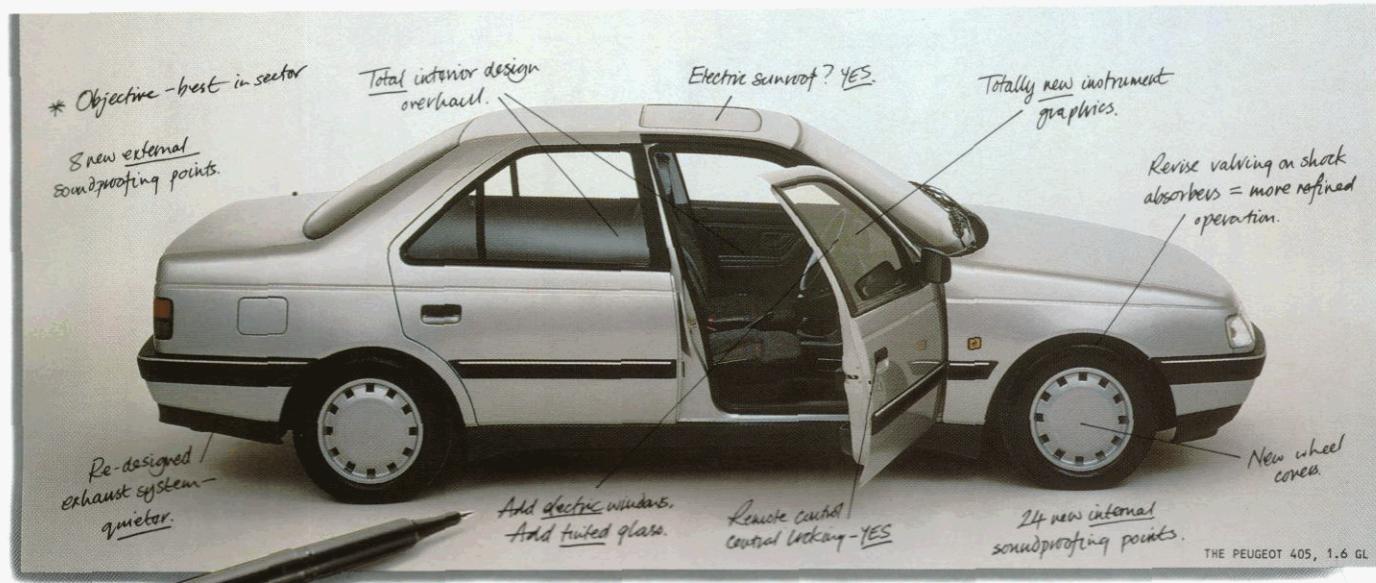
The home side stepped up the pressure and Army 'keeper Sgt Nigel Wiscombe twice saved well before, in the 20th

minute, the Royal Navy won a free kick on their left flank.

Sgt Tiv Lowe floated the ball into a packed penalty area, where PO Steve Johnson, the RN skipper, rose in front of the luckless Wiscombe to head home.

From a free kick by QMSI Joey Roach, Army skipper Sgt Alan Higgins headed just wide,

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The Peugeot in the picture is now one of the best specified cars in its class.

This may come as a pleasant surprise if you're considering buying one, but it comes as no surprise at all when you get to know Peugeot's Design Department.

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SOLDIER



An AVRE (Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers) of 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment grows past a shattered Iraqi armoured personnel carrier as British sappers begin the enormous task of clearing up following the liberation of Kuwait. The Chieftain AVRE is armed with a 165mm gun used to demolish fortifications.

Picture: Mike Weston