

JANUARY 21
1991
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40 PENCE

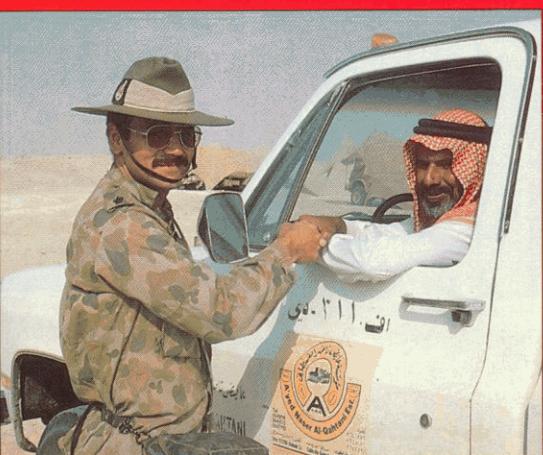
ARMED SOLDIER

MAGAZINE
OF THE
BRITISH
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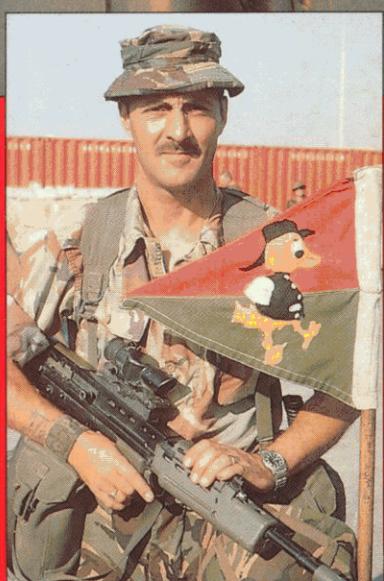
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A new
friend
for
REME
– Page 28

Desert
Duck
Pioneers

– Page 20





The British Army at work and play in the Saudi Arabian desert. Above: A mid-afternoon game of volleyball provides some after-work exercise for men of 7 Armoured Workshop REME Forward Repair Group. Below: Challenger tanks of the Scots DG on exercise in the desert.

Pictures: Mike Weston



A time for waiting...

A message from Gen Sir John Chapple, Chief of the General Staff

"I would like to thank you all for the magnificent way in which you have all responded to the challenge of Operation Granby. This is a time of watching and waiting, planning and preparing and training.

It is also a time to tax the nerve and weaken the resolution of Saddam Hussein; and in this you play an important part by your quiet determination, professional competence and unshakeable resolve. On these matters and by your confidence and conduct he can be in no doubt.

You have also made a deep impression on your fellow Servicemen and women serving elsewhere in the Armed Forces; and on all those in the United Kingdom who rightly give you their support and admiration.

In thanking you for all you have achieved so far, I would ask you to pass on my thanks to your families at home or in Germany who have so loyally and unstintingly given you their full support. We all owe to them a special debt of gratitude.

Good luck and good wishes to you all."

**JANUARY 21, 1991
VOL. 47/2**

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SOLDIER

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Armoured Div ready

The 4th Armoured Brigade had deployed and was training in the desert as SOLDIER went to press.

This meant the whole of the 1st Armoured Division was battle-ready by the beginning of January while last minute attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis were being made.

The arrival of the brigade brought the total of British Service personnel in the area to around 34,000.

• • •

A member of a tank transporter unit died in an accident during loading operations in Eastern Arabia on New Year's eve. He was Cpl Alan Bolam, married with three children.

• • •

Nearly 500 Army reservists were called out to fill 250 vacancies under Section 10 of the Reserve Forces Act. The call-up, of medical personnel, followed a shortfall in the number of volunteers who came forward for service related to the Gulf crisis.

• • •

Visitors to the Middle East theatre over the Christmas holiday period included the Prince of Wales, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir John Chapple, and entertainer Sir Harry Secombe.

The Princess of Wales visited families in Germany.

• • •

The 2nd Field Regiment RA which has moved to the Gulf consists of 46 (Talavera) Air Defence Battery, O Battery (The Rocket Troop), 23

Fifty men of 42 Survey Engineer Group, based at Hermitage, Berks, have reinforced 14 Topographic Squadron in the Gulf.

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks (Ext 2355) • Editor John Elliott (2356) • Assistant Editors Bill Moore (2361), Laurie Manton (2362), Jennifer Griffiths (2360) • Picture Editor: Terry Champion (2357) • Photographers: Mike Weston, Mike Perring (2357) • Families: Anne Armstrong (2169) • Librarian: Bill Stroud (2351) • Advertising/Promotions: Dawn Homewood (2352 or 0252 347352) • Accounts/Distribution: Seela McIntosh (2353)



A Royal Military Policeman from 203 Provost Company directs another new 4 Armd Bde arrival ashore in Saudi Arabia

FRONT COVER (main picture): A Scimitar of the Queen's Dragoon Guards on a recce patrol in a forward area in the desert. The NBC-clothed crew are Tpr Jason Matthews (front, driver), Tpr John Dunne (top left, gunner), and Cpl Des Burgess (commander). A feature on the QDG appears on Pages 14-15.

Picture: Mike Weston

Troops posted to the Gulf would serve about six months in theatre, a MoD spokesman said following a statement by Armed Forces Minister Mr Archie Hamilton during a visit to British units in Saudi Arabia.

The precise duration of each tour would depend on operational considerations, said the spokesman.

Servicemen in the Gulf could soon be tucking into Scottish smoked salmon – thanks to Girobank's GulfGift facility. Relatives can send the vacuum-packed salmon to Servicemen in Saudi Arabia – or anywhere else in the world – and troops can send flowers to their loved ones.

UK residents wishing to send the vacuum-packed salmon (£14.95) can do so from any post office by asking for

• Turn to Page 5

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S/JUL/21/1

● This issue includes 14 pages of reports and pictures dispatched by the SOLDIER team in Saudi Arabia with the Desert Rats. Several other pages carry Gulf-related topics, in addition to colour pictures on the front, inside front and back pages. Reports in this issue were filed by writers **Bill Moore**, **Laurie Manton** and **Jennifer Griffiths**, and the photographs were taken by **Terry Champion** and **Mike Weston**.

● **From Page 3**

FREEPAY 6661. And troops in the Gulf can send flowers to their loved ones by asking for **FREEPAY** 6661 at any British Forces Post Office. The cost for a bouquet is also £14.95.

● ● ●

Wimbledon MP Charles Goodson-Wickes was set to become the first Member of Parliament to serve in uniform since the Second World War after volunteering to join a medical support team in the Gulf.

Dr Goodson-Wickes, an occupational physician, resigned his commission in The Life Guards in 1977 to stand for Parliament. He will rejoin as a surgeon captain.

● ● ●

All British Servicemen held hostage in Kuwait after Iraq's invasion returned home safely just before Christmas. The Servicemen, all members of the British Liaison Team in Kuwait, were freed following the Iraqi announcement on December 6 that all foreigners would be allowed to leave.

Fifty-three Servicemen were held hostage and eight were in hiding in Kuwait. There were also nine dependants. All returned home by December 11.

● ● ●

An insurance hotline has been set up for Servicemen and women destined for the Gulf. Run by the Armed Forces Financial Advisory Services (AFFAS), it will assist with all enquiries on life cover or financial problems associated with service in the Gulf.

The Gulf Helpline has been designed for personnel under orders to proceed to the Middle East and the number is available from unit pay offices.



Soldiers from a variety of units await the arrival of more 4 Armoured Brigade equipment aboard the Euro Nor at Saudi Arabia. As soon as the ship docked they filed on board to drive away her cargo of armoured vehicles

New Year honours

ORDER OF THE BATH

KCB

Lt Gen RH Swinburn, late 17/21 L; Lt Gen MJ Wilkes, Col Commandant RA; Lt Gen JFW Wilsey, Col D and D, Col Commandant ACC.

CB

Maj Gen CEG Carrington, Col Commandant RCT; Maj Gen RJS Corbett, late IG; Maj Gen JPW Friedberger, Col RH; Maj Gen RL Peck, late RE; Maj Gen D Shaw, late REME.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

CBE

Brig MW Betts, ADC, late RCT; Brig JB Bloxham, ACC; Brig GR Durrant, late RAVC; Col JV Fielding, late R Signals; Col TJ Granville-Chapman, late RA; Brig AIG Kennedy, late Gordons; Col EJ Pepper, late RTR; Col AH Protheroe, late RRW, TA, Hon Col TAPI Pool.

OBE

Lt Col JWR Blott, 5 Innis DG; act Col ET Boddye, ACF, TA; Lt Col MHH Brooke, RE; Lt Col JW Chuter, REME; Lt Col RNR Cross, RHF; Lt Col PAD Evans, RCT; Lt Col RJ Evans, R Signals; Lt Col AP Grant Peterkin, QO Hldrs; Lt Col RM Greenhouse, RRF; Lt Col (now Col) JS Houchin, R Anglian; Lt Col NH Kelsey, R Anglian, TA; Lt Col PJ Knox, RWF; Lt Col LNA MacEwan, RAOC; Lt Col AC McC Mather, Gren Gds; Lt Col JCB Morgan, REME; Lt Col TE O'Donnell, RAPC; act Col LJ Rose, ACF, TA; Lt Col RJ Tilston, RMP.

MBE

Maj NA Afford, RA; WO2 CL Aston, RE; Maj (QGO) Balkrishna Rana, GTR; WO1 N Beavis, RAOC; Maj JA Blackmore, RA, TA; WO1 AD Bradshaw, RMP; Maj JM Bray, RHF; Capt DG Bridges, Staffords, TA; Maj AT Bruce, RA; Capt TC Byrne, RCT; WO1 (now Lt) MJR Cotton, RAPC; Maj (QGO) Dalman Golay, 7 GR; Maj JS Douglas, R Irish; Maj DW Eustace, LI; WO1 PJ Everitt, RA; Capt JA Farr, Para; Maj DG Fisher, RCT; Maj GA Fryatt, RA; WO1 W Gibson, RCT, TA; Maj RB Hobson, RCT; Maj RA Ingleby-Mackenzie, SG; act Maj BD Jefferies, ACF, TA; Maj EC Kimberley, R Hamps.

Capt RW Lockwood, R Signals; Rev TJ Makings, Chaplin to Forces 3rd Class, RACD; Maj R McCall, RAPC; WO1 MA Peaple, AAC; WO2 EG Pittaway, RAOC; Capt AW Richards, Para; Maj JH Richardson, R Signals; WO1 H Scott, King's Own Border; Capt RI Shipton, REME; Maj NA Shryane, 13/18 H; WO1 DA Simpson, RA; Maj (now Lt Col) K Simpson, General List, TA; Capt PGW Smith, RA, TA; Maj DAC Smyth, RAPC, TA; WO2 (now Lt) R Thornton, Queens, TA; Maj GHR Tilney, 14/20 H; Maj IA Vere Nicoll, RA; WO1 RG Whitford, RAOC; Maj CW Wilks, RRW; Capt RJ Williams, RRW, TA; Maj AG Wise, RAOC, TA.

Bar to BEM

Sgt R Garnell, RMP.

BEM

Sgt JD Andrews, RAOC; Sgt WB Andrews, IG; SSgt C Aslett, R Signals; Sgt DG Astley, RAMC; SSgt NWJ

Barnard, R Signals; SSgt SJ Barratt, RAMC; BJ Bendix, R Anglian; Cpl AR Berzins, RMP; SSgt KB Brown, RTR; SSgt JJ Burgess, RMP; SSgt (now WO2) NJ Burke, RE; LCpl GCD Burrows, R Anglian; Sgt RK Butler, REME; SSgt (now WO2) RB Cleaves, WFR, TA; SSgt NA Coleman, Int Corps.

SSgt AW Dickens, DLOY, TA; SSgt RAA Dicks, ACC, TA; SSgt A Donnelly, Kings Own Border; Cpl RA Duff, ACC; SSgt M Eaton, R Signals; SSgt A Ferguson, RS; Sgt GJ Finlayson, RRW, TA; Bdr KAJ Ford, RA; SSgt G Harding, Yorks, TA; SSgt G Harmer, Queens, TA; SSgt Hitparas Thakall, 6th GR; Cpl RD Inglesant, R Signals; SSgt WD Ivison, QLR; Pte DA James, RAMC; SSgt RM Jones, RMP; Sgt CGE Kersey, Para; SSgt Krishna-Gurung, QG Signals; SSgt Leung Mak Shun, GTR; SSgt TA Lingard, RA, TA; SSgt (now WO2) R Lowes, Para, TA.

Cpl MA Lynn, R Anglian; Sgt NA Mandella, Int Corps; Sgt FD Mann, RA; SSgt MJ Maughan, QOH; Gnr AP McKenzie, RA; Sgt M Molyneux, 51 Highland, TA; Cpl WC Moore, RCT; Cpl PA O'Callaghan, ACC; Sgt R Parry, Para; Sgt KJ Parsons, RE; Sgt BM Resoun, R Signals, TA; SSgt MW Roberts, RE; SSgt IE Robertson, Kings Own Border; SSgt AP Salter, R Signals; SSgt R Sargeant, Gren Gds; SSgt SR Sharma, R Signals; SSgt M Small, LI; Cpl A Smith, 17/21 L; SSgt GW Smith, R Signals; SSgt JJ Smith, RAOC; SSgt PG Spencer, RA; Sgt J Thom, RA; Cpl AJ Tipping, RCT; SSgt (now WO2) CE Tomkins, RCT; Cpl CR Tomlinson, RE; SSgt LA Wooley, R Signals; Bdr B Warden, RA; LCpl RJ Wright, Staffords; SSgt WT Wright, RAOC.

Joint team bound for Antarctica

A TEN-MAN Joint-Services expedition, under the leadership of WO John Kimbrey, Royal Marines, is heading for Antarctica.

They aim to explore and climb all the mountains of Smith Island which lies to the west of the Antarctic peninsula about 750 miles south of the Falklands.

In November HMS Endurance left Portsmouth with more than 4,000 kilos of stores for the expedition which was due to fly out.

Hotline change

Tigerwatch, the Army's counter-terrorist hotline in the South East, has changed its phone number to Call Free - 0800 727272. Until now callers have had to contact the operator and ask for a Freefone number.

Old acquaintances scaled new heights when a climbing expedition of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars was supported by Skinner's Horse in the conquest of the summit of White Sail in the Kulu Valley in the Himalayas.

The friendship between the regiments developed after they served in the same brigade in Meerut in 1914.

Skinner's Horse, which had been the 1st Bengal Irregular Cavalry, became the senior Indian Cavalry regiment after the Mutiny.

Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, which is climbed not more than three or four times a year, was conquered by a team consisting of an officer and NCO of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and a trooper of the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, with a Canadian guide.

A Territorial Army officer who joined 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support), based at Brize Norton, for his annual camp ended up on top of Mt Kenya, the country's highest mountain. An unexpected vacancy on a climbing expedition to Kenya and Tanzania was filled by 2nd Lt Ashley Hayden of 37 Signal



Gurkhas on way

The pundit or spiritual leader of the Gurkha Transport Regiment, Raviram Sharma, blessed and sprinkled holy water over men bound from Hong Kong for the Gulf.

About 200 men of the GTR, with a dozen attached troops from the Queen's Gurkha Signals, were selected to form a new unit - 28 Ambulance Squadron, GTR. The Gurkhas, who first travelled to the UK to

train on the 1-tonne Land Rover ambulance and brush up NBC skills before leaving for the Gulf, are commanded by Maj Richard Gilroy, formerly of 31 Sqn GTR. His men have been drawn from 20 different units.



Capt Adrian Phillips (left) and Capt Arthur Ibbotson of 13/18 H on the summit of White Sail (21,148ft)

Regiment (Volunteers).

Because of the conditions the party divided so that one section could tackle Mt Kilimanjaro via the Heim Glacier where an anticipated ten-hour ascent took three days. The net result of Exercise High Peak was that all members of the expedition reached the top of at least one notable mountain. The main party consisted of Capts Jim Wood and Paul Glibbery; Sgt John Howell-Walmsley, Cpl Colin Bentley and Sig Andrew Wiseman.

Black Forest escape

TWENTY-TWO men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets who attended the French Commando course at Vieux Brissac in Southern Germany evaded capture during the main exercise which consisted of a 50-kilometre infiltration through the opposing lines in the Black Forest. A participant said: "The French were surprised that we managed to finish, given that we were carrying loads of 65-75lb against their 20-25lb."

Twenty-four members of the 3rd Battaglione Cernaia of the Italian Army spent a week with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and joined in a 24-hour exercise on the Minden South Training Area, including an attack on the Buckenburg FIBUA complex.

For the second year in succession a dozen members of 44 Field Support Squadron RE from Hameln completed a

Wedding march, at the double!

Wedding plans were changed for four young people when they learned they had been posted to the Gulf.

Instead of marrying in the summer as intended they joined in a double ceremony at Rheindahlen where Maj Mike Cokayne, Glosters, officiated in his capacity as Registrar to the Garrison.

Pictured are (left) Cpl Paul Rowland, RCT and LCpl Nicola Mann, WRAC both serving in 68 Squadron RCT, and Gnr Leo Downes, of 32 Hy Regt RA, and his bride Pte Nicola Wilson, also of 68 Sqn.

Two days after the wedding Cpl Rowland and both brides were driving trucks to Emden for loading on Gulf-bound ships (knowing they were due



to fly out at a later stage). Gnr Downes had rejoined his unit to prepare for imminent departure.

one recruit to tell Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, visiting before leaving for the Middle East: "The Army could at least have chosen a warmer and nicer training area."

A ten-man team from the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Volun-



Tpr Thomson (4 RTR), Lt Greenwood (1 RGJ), LCpl Cassidy (1 RGJ) and Canadian guide Barry Blanchard on Mount Robson. See story in Page 14

First prize won in the SSAFA annual lottery - a Peugeot 205 Cabriolet presented by Nato-cars - went to an RAF flight lieutenant whose ticket was drawn by a Wren.

The Royal Armoured Corps will be supporting the Royal Tournament at Earls Court this year but the usual Battle Day at Gallows Hill, Bovington, Dorset, has been cancelled. It is intended to hold it again in July next year, circumstances permitting.

Sappers of 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron have erected an L-shaped 14ft-high fragment of the Berlin Wall bought by Hameln Stadt Council as a civic monument. Four members of 1 Troop spent a day and a half putting the 2.8 tonne piece of masonry in position.

The newly-formed C Company of the 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers), raised at Newbury, Berks, expanded from 23 to 90 men in less than six months and was welcomed on its first big parade by the cheers of the other companies gathered at Dorchester.



Gulf togetherness

When someone in the Gulf asks: "Is Cpl **Emerson** here?", the chances are two voices will answer "yes" in unison.

They are husband and wife, **Rick** and **Karen**, married for 18 months and now serving together in 59 Movement Control Squadron, RCT.

Rick is normally with 50 MC Sqn and Karen, a WRAC clerk, is usually attached to 55 MC Sqn, both at South Cerney, the Army's Air Mounting Centre.

59 MC Sqn went to the Gulf to handle the arrival of 4 Armoured Brigade.

Karen explained: "Rick, who was in the Gulf for the arrival of 7 Armoured Brigade, was down for a second tour. The fact that we are married had nothing to do with my coming out here."

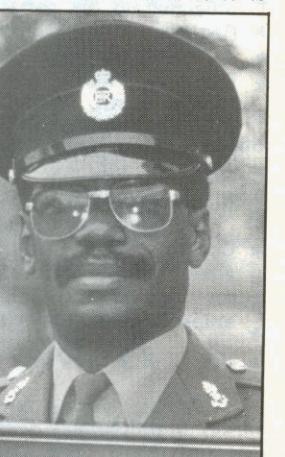
"It happened through a series of coincidences when a vacancy arose and there was a shortage of male soldiers, and I found myself also attached to 59 MC Sqn. It is better than being stuck at home on

my own at Christmas."

Karen and Rick do not have their own conjugal tent. She shares hers with WRAC Pte **Tracey Hetherington** and Pte **Julie Ross**. Rick works on the offloading of ships, and Karen on computers.

She said: "Quite honestly we are so busy the only times we see each other are at meal times and if our shifts coincide."

Rick said: "I just want to get on with the job. We will celebrate our Christmas when we are back home and have saved opening our presents until then."



Sgt Ossie Richards

Kegworth rescue award

Sapper Sgt **Ossie Richards** was one of the first people on the scene of the Kegworth air disaster, and his actions in the following frantic hours have earned him a Royal Humane Society certificate.

Ossie, who is serving at the Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow, was returning with friend Cpl **Malcolm Cameron** from New Year celebrations in Scotland when the British Midland jet crashed on the M1 just 75m ahead of them.

While Malcolm went to the front of the aircraft where he rescued a child and reached other survivors, Ossie went to the back to get out a man with two broken legs. In all, 47 people died in the crash.

The two soldiers spent two hours at the crash site before police gave them the go-ahead to leave.

Well spotted, Sergeant Major!

Eagle-eyed Sgt Maj **Phil King** of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment prevented a major tragedy while watching troops abseiling from an RAF Puma helicopter hovering 40ft up.

He noticed an inspection hatch cover on the tail was loose and in danger of breaking free. If it had done so it would have smashed the tail rotor, causing the Puma with three members of crew and seven passengers on board to crash.

He immediately alerted the crewman and the pilots made an emergency landing - to discover that the hatch hinge had broken and the cover was being retained only by its catch.



In recognition of his quick-thinking, Sgt Maj King has been presented with the RAF's "Good

Show" flight safety award, a rather unusual distinction for a soldier.

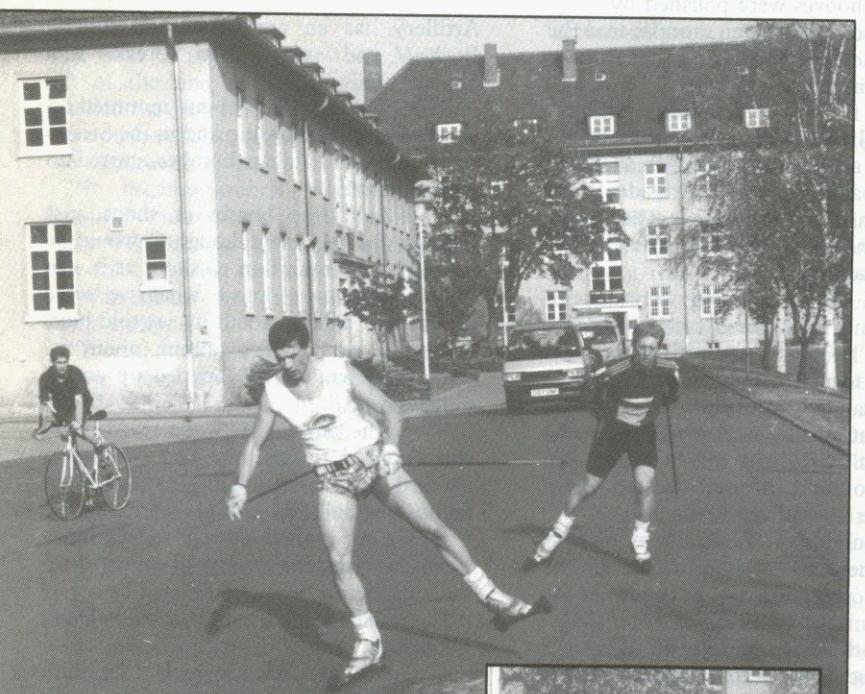


Paras' rose

Lord **St Oswald** prepares another consignment of the new hybrid tea rose *Red Beret*, bred at Nostell Priory, the Wakefield seat of the fifth baron. The rose was cross-bred to create its distinctive deep red colour in honour of the golden jubilee of Airborne Forces. Lord St Oswald (71) was severely wounded while serving with the Parachute Regiment in North Africa during the Second World War. He said that profits from the sale of the rose, which costs £4.95 by post, would be donated to the £4m Airborne Forces appeal.



Cadet Cpl **Steven Frazer** proudly displays the coveted Royal Irish Rangers' trophy awarded annually at the R Irish Depot in St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena since 1974. Participants are restricted to cadets wearing the distinctive Rangers' caubeen from ACF detachments in Northern Ireland and Merseyside and compete in a number of tests based on cadet training.



Two young soldiers from 35 Engineer Regiment will get their names in the *Guinness Book of Records* after breaking the world rollerski record. Spr **Mark Marsden**, pictured above with international skier LCpl **Ed Nicoll** (left), bettered both distance and time to set a new record of 438.123km in 29hr 40min 12sec. And LCpl **Richard McPherson** (inset, right) continued on his merry way to establish a new world endurance record of 30hr 4min 21sec. The old record of 435.9km in 30hr 2min was set in 1989 by 19 Field Regiment RA.



The Queen Mother thanks **Daniella Shipp** (6), daughter of former sapper **Shaun Shipp**, for the posy she is holding. The Queen Mother is the patron of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA), and was opening the organisation's new central office in Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1.

SPIKE'S GUILT

FOR more than 40 years, Spike Milligan – Goon, comic genius and author – has suffered guilt over a wartime episode that broke his spirit and ended his active service soldiering.

"I got bomb-happy. That's a cover word for when you've had enough. In the First World War it was called shell-shock and I would have been shot as a coward.

"I volunteered to take a supply party to an observation post, but halfway up the hillside, an absolute barrage of mortars came down on us. I don't know what happened. One burst near me and I seemed to go up in the air. I would have stayed up there if I'd known what was good for me.

"I started to cry and stammer and said '**** this!' and started to wander downhill. I left the party there, which was very wrong of me. I didn't realise at this stage that I'd been wounded in the leg.

"I know I was in a bad state and shouldn't be going, but I thought 'I can't go on...'.
"Anyway, Dipper Dai – Gawd bless him – got hold of me and took me down the hill. Mortars followed us all the way down.

"At the dressing station, I was given some hot, sweet tea... I saw all the other blokes had blood on them and then noticed I had blood over my boots. They gave me some tablets and I seemed to go quiet.

"They put me in an ambulance and as it passed through the gun lines I started to jump.

"The soldier next to me, with his arm in a sling, put his free arm round me saying, 'There, there mate'. It was a wonderful moment of tenderness. I'd love to meet him again."

Taken to Caserta hospital, he was told he could not return to his regiment.

"I was really demoralised not being with the boys. They gave me this new deep sleep treatment where they put you asleep with Sodium Amatol for two weeks. The wards were full of these silent men under treatment.

"When I came to, they said they couldn't risk me going back up the line. They said I might let my pals down, and they never let me go back. There's a sense of guilt about leaving your mates. I always felt guilty about it. I always will."

Spike Milligan was a fourth generation

gunner. His forebears saw service with the Royal Artillery all over the world, including campaigns in Burma, India and Mesopotamia. The family, he says, were the victims of the Irish potato famine when the only way to stay alive was to volunteer for the British Army.

Uniform and ceremonial made an early impression on the young Milligan.

"The Indian regiments looked superlative – Skinner's Light Horse in yellow with black puggarees and orange and lemon pennants, all the lance heads polished like silver. The horses looked as if they had been varnished.

"All the hooves were polished by the Scyce boys, who even sandpapered the horseshoes. It was like seeing the last days of the Roman Empire."

Milligan first donned uniform while at St Paul's High School in Rangoon where he enlisted as a cadet in the 14th Machine Gun Company, 3rd Field Brigade Royal Artillery – an auxiliary brigade – becoming expert in the use of the .303 rifle and the Vickers machine gun.

Most of his class-mates were Anglo-Burmese and he suffered racial prejudice in reverse. "White wog or white cockroach they used to call me."

Before call-up, Milligan was employed as a fitter at Woolwich Arsenal, where he worked on wireless sets, so it was no surprise to find himself posted as a signaller in the Royal Artillery.

"In training, you sent the occasional warning message to other units, but it would be preceded by a codeword to indicate it was not to be acted upon.

"I sent this message out all along the coast saying: 'Two German warships in the Channel. Submarine in wake. Men scrambling down sides of destroyers and getting into pontoon boats.'

"There was uproar. Half the south coast had been put on alert, but my major was very nice about it. 'Don't do it again, Milligan' was all he said."

First deployment for Milligan was to Bexhill, where the regiment had sited 9.2 howitzers which had been in action on the Marne during the First World War.

Before embarking for North Africa, his regiment sat down to an embarkation dinner where Maj Chater Jack, DSO MC, told them: "Gentlemen, the Royal



Gunner Milligan in 1944



Spike's old regiment, 56 Heavy, in action in Tunisia, early 1943

Artillery has an appointment with the Boche, and we never break our appointments."

Spike manned a Bofors gun mounted on the deck of the troopship and in the Straits of Gibraltar an Italian bomber started to circle the ship.

"It didn't drop bombs or shoot, just took photos. My mate thought it would be a waste of ammunition to shoot at it. An officer wanted to know what we were doing. 'Just talking about it,' we told him. 'What do you mean, talking about it. Shoot it down.' So we opened up and it pulled away."

When the ship passed Tangier, Milligan was tempted to desert. "The world was blacked out but Tangier was all bright lights. I actually thought, 'Wait a minute. I can get out of this. I'm a good swimmer. I can go for it and get myself interned for the duration.'

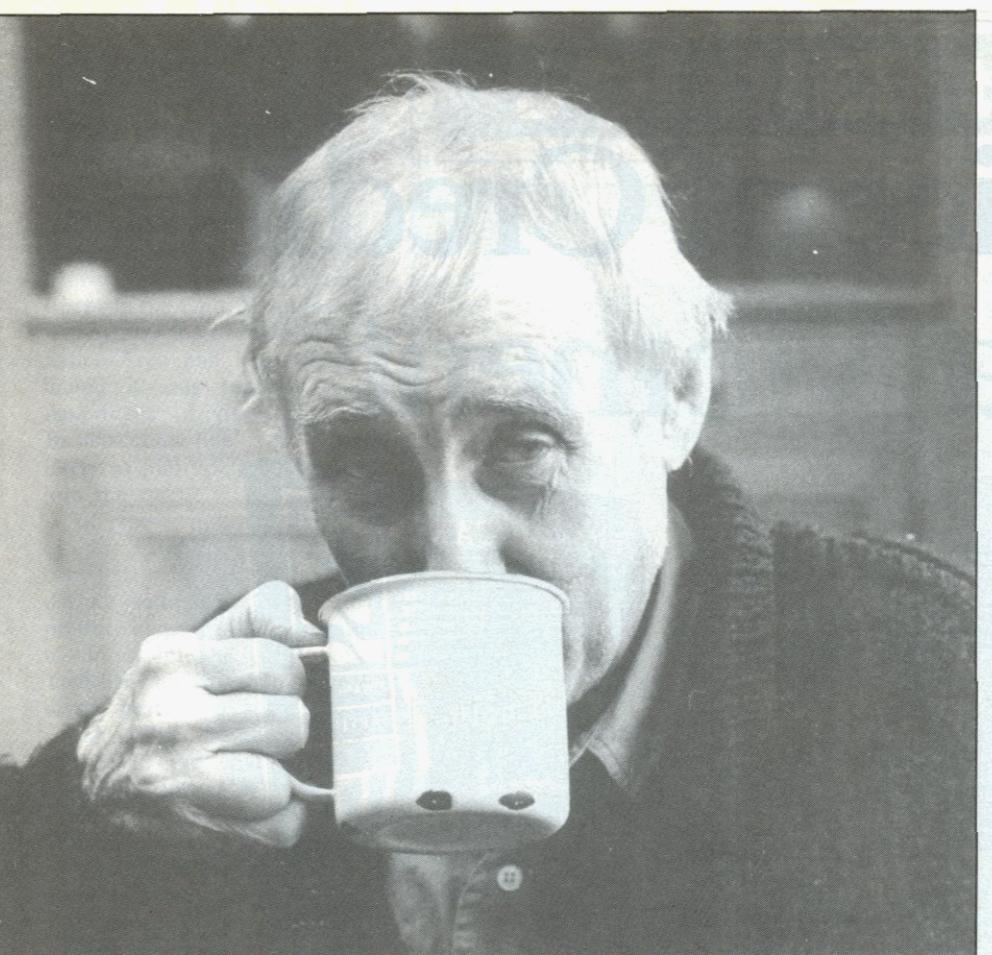
"I tried to talk my mate, Doug Kitchland, into it.

"'Don't be a bloody fool,' he said, 'What kind of life would you lead?' Anyway, he talked me out of it."

Having landed at Algiers, the regiment drove overland to the Tunisian front where Spike came under fire. "I was asked to take a line up to an observation post. Guns were going off all over the place. I looked up at a tree and there was a startling burst of purple scarlet flame and the tree just went."

"Another three went off and I realised it was German 88s, so I * * * off pretty quick."

When the North African campaign was over, the regiment ended up in Italy,



Spike Milligan today. He lost his original issue mug in a recent move

landing at Salerno.

A bout of sandfly fever took Milligan out of the line until the regiment had reached the Volturno Plain. The Germans were pushed back up into the hills beyond the Garigliano river.

"It became trench warfare around Cassino, where there were some really nasty OPs because Jerry had learned the new trick of firing airbursts. Shells would burst in the air over the trenches, raining down shrapnel.

"I remember sitting in the trench at Monte Trocchio with Lt Walker. He was a very dry English officer. In the most trying of circumstances he would say 'Good morning. Did you get your tea this morning, Milligan?' I was scared. I didn't care about tea, I just wanted to live. But he went on, 'Is your mother writing to you?'

"I wondered when he was going to stop, and why he didn't say he was frightened like me, but he didn't. These airbursts just went on and on and I became numbed. I muttered, 'I ought to get a * * * * * medal for this!' 'I'll write to the King straight away', said Lt Walker."

That night, Milligan was sent back to collect rations from the rear of Monte Trocchio.

"It was a hell of a place. There were all these blokes with their capes glistening in the rain and mules that had brought up the rations. After collecting two big pots of stew and tea, I heard a voice say, 'Guards' rum ration', so I took it. When I got back, I said, 'Never mind about the food, look what I've got.'

"During the night there was a terrible stonk (concentration of artillery fire) and a

German infantry attack. We knew nothing about it, being asleep in the bottom of the trench as Germans jumped over the top and shot people.

"We awoke in the morning and our relief came at dawn. He crawled in saying, 'That was a terrible attack. How did you cope?' 'What attack?', we said."

Last year Spike presented a dozen bottles of rum to the Guards to make up for what he took that night in Italy.

"There were instances of incredible bravery. British soldiers don't like to be moved out of a slit trench once they have dug it. That's why they are so good at defence. I dug that trench and I don't want any German taking it over. That was the feeling.

"We were at our gun positions one night and dinner was nearly ready. Lonnie May was the cook and an airburst set fire to the canvas cover of an ammunition lorry.

"We all ran away and hid in trees and trenches, but Lonnie got into the lorry and drove it down the hill. The canvas burnt out without blowing up the charges, and he ran back.

"I told him I thought he was pretty brave. 'Brave?' he said. 'Brave my arse. I'd only just cooked the dinner and didn't want it blown up!' He got a Mention in Dispatches for that. I'd have given him more."

Milligan was Mentioned in Dispatches himself for making repeated journeys to an OP on Stuka Ridge. "I'd been going there continually for five days and nights with very little sleep. In a way, I used to enjoy it."

"Finally, the OP came under fire and we

Spike Milligan

The **SOLDIER** Interview

couldn't get any grub up to them. I said I would go and strapped canisters of food and tea to my back and made my way there. Afterwards, Lt Goldsmith, who had been at the OP, told me he had put me in for a Mention."

Milligan's most exciting experience came when the Germans got round the back of the British lines.

"Our wagon lines were being evacuated. Running away would be a better way of putting it. I was up the OP and came back to find everyone limbering up... so I ran to get my kit from the hut and heard bullets whizzing.

"I looked up the hill and saw a lot of what I thought were American soldiers... I had never seen German paratrooper helmets before. So I shouted out: 'Don't shoot! We're British', which brought a further hail of bullets.

"I had this tommy gun and I instinctively ran backwards and fired it up the hill before jumping on the Bren carrier which drove us away at speed. As we drove across the Plain, they got our range and shells burst in a line around the guns. It was an exciting day."

Many years after the war, Milligan met a former German paratrooper who may have been one of those shooting at him.

"We met for dinner. It was a strange experience meeting a guy who had been trying to kill you. At the end of the meal, he wrote on the menu, 'This has been a wonderful day, sorry I missed you on February 26, 1943.'

At the meeting of the two former adversaries, Milligan recounted the tale of how he once saved a German soldier.

"We were in a Bren carrier behind Stuka Ridge. There was an early morning mist and he had just got a brew going and started to shave.

"Suddenly a lone German halftrack appeared with its driver singing. Several rounds of phosphorous were fired at it and the driver's trousers were set on fire. I rushed over with a dixie full of water that I threw over him. Trouble was, the water was boiling hot and the German dashed about screaming. We took him prisoner and found his leg was very badly burnt."

After release from the military hospital, Spike worked as a camp clerk, wine waiter and driver before joining the Central Pool of Artists and playing his full part in entertaining the troops.

He left the Army in 1946 and feels the post-war humour of Harry Secombe and others came out of the Army experience.

"After all, the British Army is part Goon Show, isn't it? Imagine white-washing stones and sergeant majors who shout, 'Silence when you speak to me.'"

Today, Spike Milligan (72), keeps in touch with his former comrades through the annual reunion of 56 Heavy Regiment and the pages of *Gunner* magazine.

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Proof of the pudding

FEW compliments can be as sincere as that paid by the US Marines to the Army Catering Corps in the Gulf. A couple of weeks after the Force Maintenance Area had been established it was noticed that Americans driving past a British 'chow line' were quite likely to pull up, get out and join the queue.

All reports indicate that the caterers have done a magnificent job in feeding the troops despite sometimes having to produce chips in what amounts to almost infernal conditions. Tom likes his chips, regardless of the heat.

Maj Cliff Noones, who arrived in the Gulf as SO2 Catering, and Maj Norman Larke, 7 Armd Bde Catering Officer, reckoned that within two months more than a million meals had been served.

In the celebrated Tent City 2,000 occupants were getting three a day, exclusive of containers and packed meals being issued.

One successful innovation copied from our US allies is the widespread use of disposable plastic plates and cutlery instead of the traditional metal mess tins and 'KFs'. This practice is eminently more hygienic... and of course saves on using precious water for washing-up.

Pedigree rodent

If Operation Granby will be remembered for anything, it will be the Desert Rat symbol which has appeared in ever-increasing numbers on tanks, signboards, T-shirts, mugs and tattoos, as well as shoulder badges.

Now it can be embroidered on cushions by mums, wives and girlfriends - with the distinguished backing of the Royal School of Needlework.

The design of the little russet-coloured jerboa, adopted by the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Second World War, has a "registered pedigree". The National Army Museum provided an original badge and final approval was received from 7 Armd Bde, who had submitted an official drawing



Meet Helen Reed - one of the vital links between families at home and forces in the Gulf. Helen sorts out the mountain of requests received by the British Forces Broadcasting Service. About half are passed to Simon Bates of BBC Radio One and the rest go into a Gulf request programme which she co-produces with Simon Gittigier. "May I make my own request through SOLDIER?" she asked. "Pen pals for the lads are urgently needed."



before departing from their German headquarters.

With ten per cent of sales going to SSAFA, the Desert Rat kit can be ordered for £12, plus £1.50 p&p, from the Royal School of Needlework Mail Order Service, Little Buntington, Burford, Oxon OX8 4TE (tel: 0451 4433).

SOLDIER to Soldier

artist and reporter of the eight-pager printed locally with an initial run of 3,000.

But he is relying on units and individuals to contribute photographs and articles and urges people to write in.

"I want to hear of people's experiences and how they see things," he said. "They would be well worth having. First World War literature is replete with such experiences. This is history and we are playing a part in it."

BAA on the up

Spike Milligan, whose reminiscences and feelings about his Army service are recorded elsewhere in this edition, is hoping to be able to attend a British Army Association fund-raising dinner in the spring.

The zany comic, who is the Association's national president, has been invited as guest of honour at the Margate event in March, along with his fellow Goon Sir Harry Secombe, the Maidstone branch president.

Since a piece appeared in this column last April the Association has grown to 23 branches and applications for membership and new branch inquiries have been received from BAOR and California, as well as from all over the UK.

Details about membership of the association, which supports the Army Benevolent Fund, can be obtained from the national secretary, c/o The Royal British Legion, 14 Cliff Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HS.

Finally...

Former Japanese prisoner-of-war Mr David Clemens, 75, of Colchester, has published his autobiography in the hope of raising £3,000 for charity.

Mr Clemens, a former top-class athlete, aims to donate the proceeds to the North Essex branch of the Far East Prisoners-of-War Association and Hamilton Lodge for handicapped people.

Books can be obtained by telephoning 0206 240374.

UP FRONT

"FAR UP FRONT" is how they normally describe the operating area of Wolfenbuttel-based 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, and the Gulf is no exception for the regiment whose A Squadron is acting as the eyes and ears of 7 Armoured Brigade.

Its role is to carry out forward reconnaissance of enemy positions, far in advance of the brigade's main battle groups. In Saudi Arabia the squadron is working closely with the Americans, and comes under the command of the 1st Marine Division. It is currently working with the United States Marine Corps' 4th Recon battalion and with infantry dug in on the ground.

Troop leader of 2nd Troop is 2nd Lt Sandor Carter who, in common with all his men, has found working in the desert vastly different to the way they operated in BAOR.

"In Germany, you had roads and forests and definite landmarks you can read by. Out here the map is just yellow and looks rather like a piece of sandpaper."

"We do, of course, have satellite navigation equipment which is very useful," he said.

The squadron had just come out of the line after several hard weeks of work-up exercises, but training had not come to a stop.

Explained Lt Carter: "We have come to this location to give the men a chance to relax. It is termed 'enjoyable progressive training'. There is a day off and then we spend a number of days exercising in desert tactics and NBC, followed by another day of rest. The cycle just goes on and on."

QDG's Logistics Troop is in the charge of Capt Tim Robinson, the EME, whose men are responsible for keeping the fighting elements of the squadron on the road and ensuring that it gets all its fuel, rations, and ammunition.

The troop, which works extremely long hours, comprises three different parts - a fitter section which goes forward with the troops in two tracked vehicles to do immediate repairs; an SQMS department dealing with combat supplies; and a Royal Corps of Transport immediate-replenishment group responsible for keeping the squadron topped up with second-line combat supplies.

Spare a thought for the squadron armourer, Cpl Matthew Mather, who is responsible for the repair of small arms and the Rarden cannon fitted on the Scimitars, and also gets involved in fixing the troop's petrol cookers and all manner of bits and pieces. That, for a squadron, is quite

QDG goes to work with the US Marines



QDG soldiers clear their weapons before the heli-lift exercise

"It is impossible in an environment like this to keep weapons clear of sand. You just do what you can," he said.

Squadron commander is Maj Hamish MacDonald.

He said: "I think what helped was the initial maintenance, servicing and training that we did in BAOR. It stood us in very good stead. When the vehicles arrived here my men had been out ten days and acclimatised, so that, when they did go out into the desert, not only was the man comfortable but the machine performed extremely well."

"For example, over the six weeks we have been in the desert, we have only had two engine changes, two gearbox changes and one final drive. Anybody who thinks the system is not robust is wrong."

remarkable. The actual vehicles themselves seem to go better. They like the desert.

"The radios suffered initially until we learned how to cool and maintain them. Now they work extremely well and have a very good range and reliability."

"Our surveillance equipment works well, especially the thermal-imaging kit."

"We couldn't ask for better main armament than the 30mm Rarden cannon, and Swingfire was fired for the first time live in an all-arms battle back in November. Out of 12 missiles, we got nine hits and two misses. One missile did go awry, but that was after a good 55km thrashing over the desert."

"They like working with the Marines, and we have varied the tasks they're doing -



A QDG Scorpion with shredded hessian camouflage. In attendance are driver Tpr Steve Williams, gunner Tpr Philip Jones and commander Sgt Martin Gardner, of A Squadron, 2nd Troop



A Sea Stallion CH53 Echo helicopter hitches up a CVRT. Doing the hitching are men of the US Army's Combat Services Support Detachment

anything from long advance to contacts, mainly at night, through to minefield clearance operations. We have also developed an indirect fire cell, channelling in all the resources of artillery, air and naval gunfire support.

"We are about to go into another live-fire, which will be preceded by a heli-borne lift in which the squadron will be moved more than 50km by air."

"We are now developing

"It's the start of a long and intricate process, but undoubtedly this extra capability gives us an independent flexibility that will be very useful to any commander in the future."

"We are a small force, but I think we are a well-trained



Capt Tim Robinson



Four soldiers from 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt serving with QDG. From top to bottom are Sgt Steve Clancey, LCpl John Kendrick, Dvr Jez Quinn and Dvr Jonah Jones

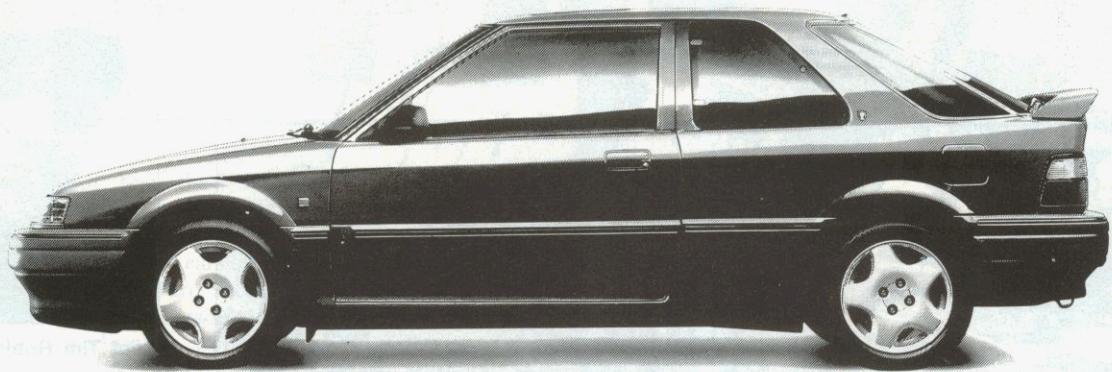
force, well adapted to the desert, and with teeth. That actually keeps the boys' morale up without doubt.

"I think it is important that we try to act as normally as we can out here. In the waiting game, you cannot be 'hard' operational 24 hours a day for weeks."

"A lot of people who come out are still conditioned by Germany and train for training's sake. We are in a completely different ball game here - we are training for war."

"The main preoccupation of the squadron has been not only training hard, but also of when are they going home, and what they have got to look forward to when they go home. Certainly, out here, it focuses one's attention on the better things of life."

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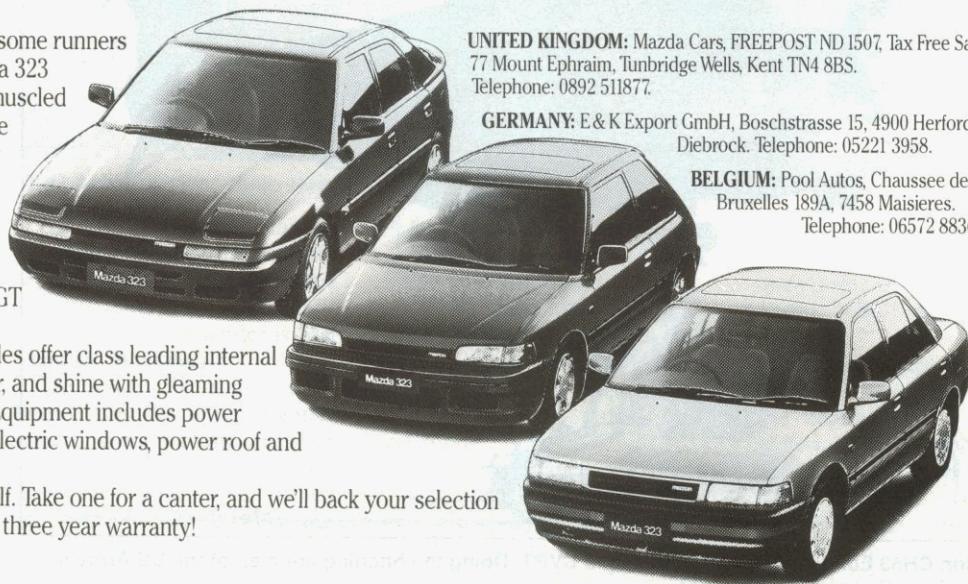
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SCOTS DG RISE TO THE OCCASION

Above - Desert conditions present no problems to these Challenger main battle tanks of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards pictured on exercise in Saudi Arabia. Men and machines have adapted well to the harsh desert environment

'Challenger meeting all expectations'

CHALLENGER, and the men who drive the Army's main battle tank, have coped superbly with desert conditions, says the commanding officer of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Lt Col John Sharples.

"Men and machines are standing up well to life in the desert," he said. "The boys have adjusted to their surroundings commendably well since we arrived here. It was still quite hot - 110 degrees - but they acclimatised quickly and we had no heat casualties at all, which is quite an achievement."

"There has been tremendous improvisation and above all my men have maintained that irrepressible sense of humour which is always so important to the maintenance of morale."

Col Sharples said that his regiment's Challenger main battle tanks had coped with desert conditions extremely well. "Challenger was original-



Lt Col John Sharples

ly designed to operate in this climate and was destined to go to the Iranians. Some of the problems we expected to occur did not and the tanks are meeting all expectations."

Navigation in the desert was very different from Germany.

"The desert is very bare and you might just as well operate on a piece of sandpaper. We have the benefit of satellite navigation aids so we can keep people on the straight and narrow, but on the whole we have had few problems with navigation."

The colonel praised his regimental band, whose members took on strength eight APC ambulances which they have learnt to drive, maintain and navigate.

"Although an alarmingly new experience for the musicians, it has really developed their military skills in a very short space of time and provided a boost to our own soldiers' confidence."

"The casualty evacuation side of life is clearly an important part of our training because if we go to war that is an aspect that we must have confidence in. We are spending

a lot of time on that training to ensure that if someone does become a casualty they know they are going to be evacuated."

Col Sharples has become a popular focus of attention with press photographers because of his habit of wearing a shemagh - Arab head-dress.

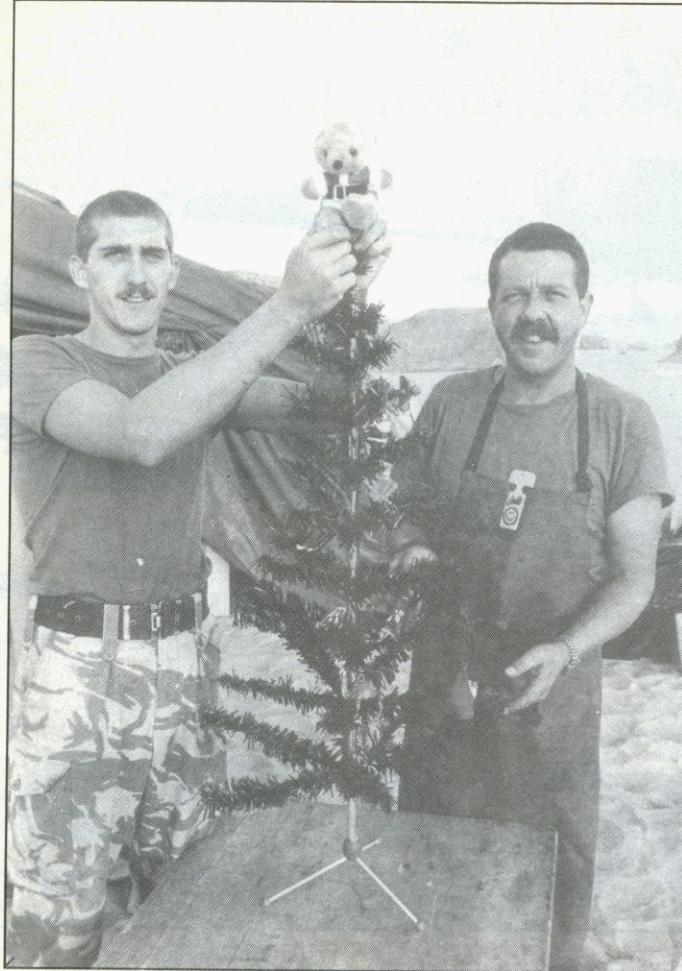
"I used to have this when I was on loan service with the Omani Army in the Gulf," he explained.

"It is normal head-dress for the Omani soldier and is very practical, particularly in very dusty conditions."

"What I normally do is to wrap it well round my face, which saves you from dying out in the sun and protects you from the enormous amount of dust that clogs up your eyes, ears and nose."

So practical is the shemagh that the British Army is set to issue an official version of its own to desert troops.

● **Turn to next page**



Hygiene is all important, so "keep everything off the floor" is the motto of popular Sgt Pete Byrne ACC (right) who leads the cooks' fight for cleanliness... and that includes the Christmas tree. Cpl Iain Caldwell fixes Bimbley Bear to the top of the tree.

"Sand gets everywhere so every cooking utensil is carefully wiped clean before use," says Sgt Byrne.

Desert sand is mixed blessing

LIFE in the desert has been a healthy occupation for men of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, suggests the regiment's medical officer, Capt Chris Calcot, RAMC, whose role within the Regimental Aid Post is to take charge of medical training and equipment and treat patients and casualties, as well as advising the commanding officer on matters medical.

"On the whole, the sand is a good thing. The climate is warm, dry and to a great

Scots DG

From Page 17

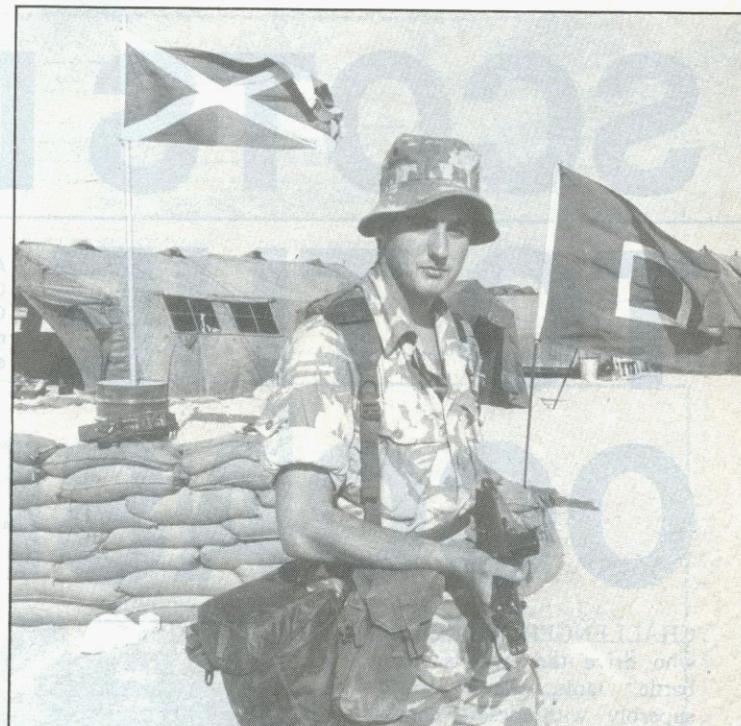
Purchased locally, it will be light brown and white.

"It's a very useful bit of kit and the sooner the boys get it the better," commented Col Sharples.

18



Three members of Brig Cordingley's tank crew are Tpr Bill McCarthy, Cpl Alan Smith and LCpl Kevin Stevely



Cfn Mark Ganney REME guards the entrance to St Andrews Camp, a temporary R and R refuge for members of Scots DG

Alan's a one-off!

SPARE a thought for Cpl Alan Smith of the Scots DG who commands the Brigade Commander's tank. Everytime Brig Patrick Cordingley jumps on board, Alan has to jump off!

That leaves LCpl Kevin Stevely (driver) and Cpl Shaw (operator) together with Tpr Bill McCarthy (gunner) on board as the brigadier's crew.

Pennant flown from the tank is that of the 7th Armoured Brigade... but only when the brigadier is on board.

Hit band provides cover

NEARLY twenty years after the regimental band of the Scots DG had a worldwide hit with the record *Amazing Grace*, band and bandmaster find themselves in the Gulf providing medical cover.

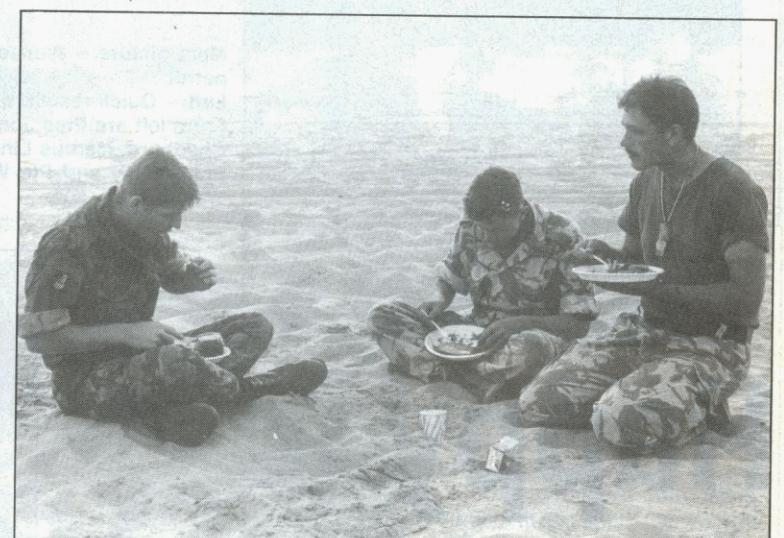
Explained the Bandmaster, WO1 Alf Alshaw: "The majority of musicians in the Army have the secondary role of regimental medical assistant and as such we are supplying medical cover to individual



British Forces Commander Middle East, Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, (back to camera) chats to members of A Squadron Scots DG before a photo-call in the desert



A sunny smile from the Rev Phillip Majcher, RACChD, padre to Scots DG



Plastic plates and cutlery are the order of the day for these men of Scots DG A2 Echelon as they grab a bite before sundown. From left are Tpr Gerry Donnelly, Pioneer Pat Wright RPC and Tpr Gavin Arneil



Band aid! Sgt Bob Minnis (behind) looks on as LCpl Victor Baranowski and Bds M. Mick Chanler remove a stretcher



LCpl Rod Mason and SSgt Glen Crease with Achmed. Waddi derives from the storemen's stock question - "Wha'dya want?"

squadrons and assisting the regimental medical officer in the RAP (regimental aid post)."

Interesting historical point is the fact that when the red cross arm bands are issued, they are stamped with an official

International Red Cross authorisation to validate them.

The band took its instruments and recently performed at the United States Marine Corps birthday parade, as well as playing at a number of British Army remembrance

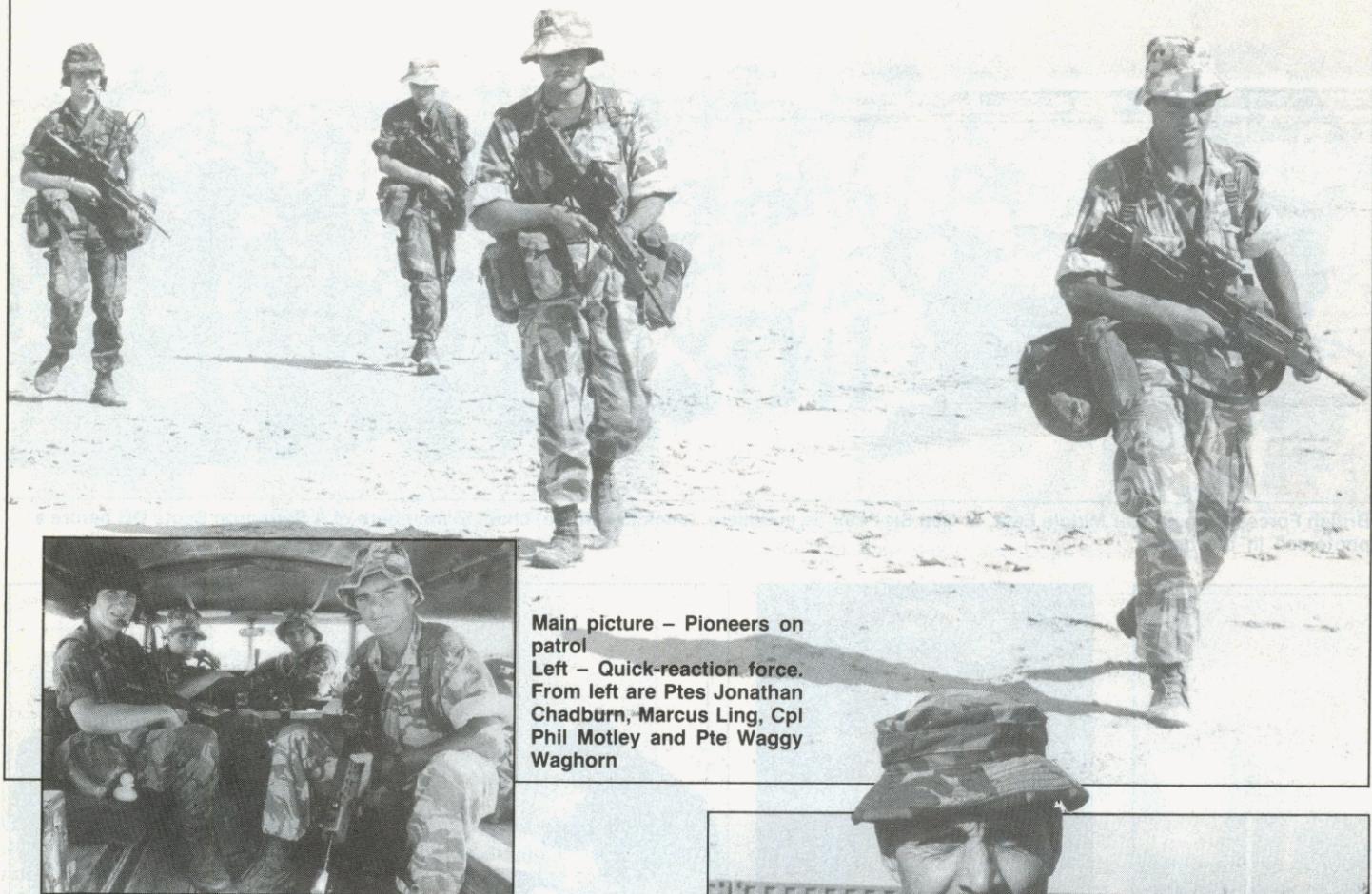
services in the region.

"We had them with us in the desert, but found sand was getting into the trombone slides and gumming up the keys of the flute," said WO1 Alshaw.

"Because of the heat, we did not bring out ceremonial

uniforms so we dress in combat kits for the occasion - it's the first time I have ever worn combat on an Army band engagement before."

● *Amazing Grace* has sold more than 19m records and royalties continue to roll in.



Main picture - Pioneers on patrol
 Left - Quick-reaction force.
 From left are Ptes Jonathan Chadburn, Marcus Ling, Cpl Phil Motley and Pte Waggy Waghorn

Happy to wander . . .

THERE MAY be lots of Rats in the desert, but there is only one Desert Duck, say the men of 518 Pioneer Company RPC. Their special mascot is Homeless the wandering amphibian.

Homeless was the brainchild of a former OC who came up with the idea of a duck who wanders the globe carrying all his belongings on a stick; outwardly fairly miserable but quite happy at heart. This sums up the mobile nature of the unit who in their peacetime establishment support all three Services.

"We carry out operational tasks for the Ministry of Defence throughout the world. My location board shows my men deployed in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Belize, Cyprus, Germany and with BATUS in Canada," said the OC, Maj Colin Code.

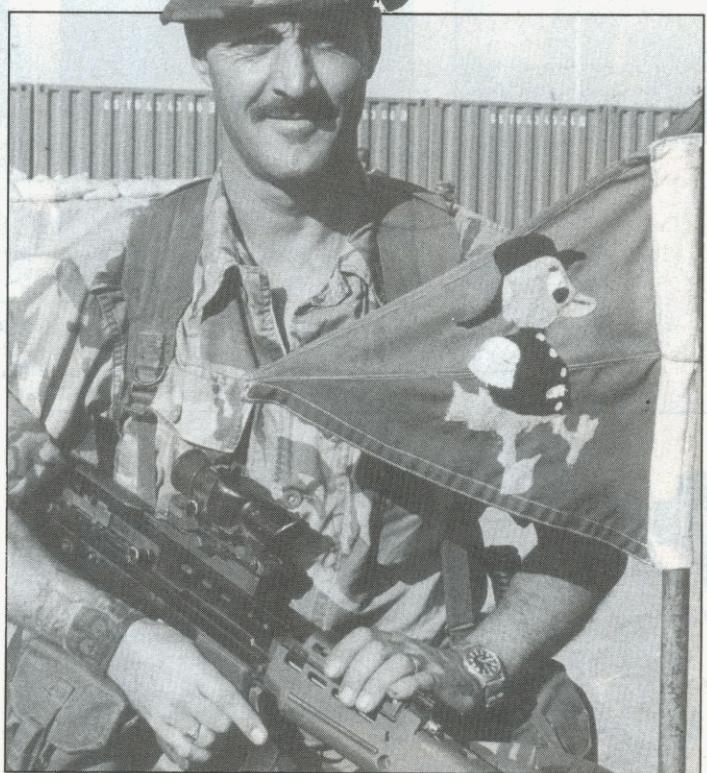
"More recently I have sent soldiers to Kenya, Gibraltar,

BAOR and Sardinia." Because of its heavy operational commitments, deployment on Operation Granby has led to the company being reinforced by platoons from 187, 522 and 521 Pioneer Companies.

The list of tasks undertaken in the Gulf is impressive, including assisting the Royal Engineers with artisan, plumbing and carpentry support, manning defensive positions and providing welcome assistance to the REME.

"They call us the master of no trades but the jack of all. For example, it seems silly to take highly-skilled REME craftsmen away from vehicles being repaired because engine parts require ferrying around, so my men help out by driving the supply vehicles," said Maj Code.

One of the toughest roles is the ten-day tour of duty at Hellhole 2 (ASP2) where the



WO2 (CSM) Dave Long of 518 Coy. The pennant shows Desert Duck dressed for the part - as a soldier of the Foreign Legion

Pioneers provide guards and a quick-reaction force.

At gun position 24 Delta, Pte Brian Lafferty was manning a Browning .50 calibre machine gun which provided defensive fire support to the guards manning the main gate. The weapon was provided by the Americans who trained the Pioneers in its use.

Resting on a camp bed beneath a mosquito net was

LCpl Ian Jackson, who explained the net was essential to keep away the flies. "Without it the off-duty men would get no sleep," he said.

SSgt Kevin Shields of 2 Platoon spoke of the dust storms that sweep the area every two weeks. "I have to issue all my men with goggles to keep the dust out of their eyes. You just can't see a thing."

Bulk fuel unit tests new tanker

TALK about putting a tiger in the tank! BAOR's one and only bulk fuel squadron transported and distributed five million litres during the first six weeks of Op Granby.

Having sailed with half-full tanks, every 7 Armd Bde Group vehicle landing at the port of entry was topped up by A Troop (2nd Lt Adrian Thurgood) of 9 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

In BAOR the role of the squadron (OC Maj John Goodall) is to take fuel from depots and bulk installations and carry it forward to the armoured division's transport regiments.

In Saudi Arabia the role is similar and the tankers are a familiar sight on the roads.

It has been calculated that if one of them were to run as far as the fuel it carries would take it, it would cover 56,000km.

The whole of Tiger Squadron – it adopted the crest a few years ago – has 100 bulk fuel specialists who work round the clock in shifts.

It is totally self-contained and completely mobile.

It refuels everything from a



Pictured are (from the left): Maj Dave Winkle, Technical Quartermaster, SSgt Rob Smith, LCpl Tom Guise, SSgt Mick Meehan, LCpl Tick Whittaker, Dvr Henry Painter, Cpl Joe Sweeney and LCpl George Shaw



The new all-wheel drive Bedford is put through its paces



LCpl Mike Newton of 9 Sqn RCT adjusts the tyre pressure

motor cycle to a tank transporter, including a host of civilian vehicles on contract to the Army, buses, lowloaders, vans and so on.

The tankers (apart from the unit bulk fuel equipments used for domestic purposes) are of two types, carrying either 12,000 or 22,500 litres.

A single tanker of the 22,500 litre size can fuel an entire

squadron of main battle tanks – even if their fuel gauges show empty.

Every soldier is drilled in vital safety regulations, such as the earthing of vehicles against static electrical discharge which could cause a fire.

They are also well trained in fire fighting.

With the amount of skill available it is not surprising

SSgt Rob Smith's "sit up and beg" bicycle is a much-prized possession as only one of two in Baldock Lines.

Its main use is for the five miles or so he covers each day working for Maj Andy Meiklejohn, QM of 10 Regt RCT. But as darkness falls the quaint machine goes on permanent standby for those caught short in the night. The problem is that the line of toilets is at the other end of camp and it saves a long walk to spend a penny.

SSgt Smith finds that the Chinese-made bike – bought locally – is tailor-made for the

that 9 Squadron was asked to trial a brand new tanker concept.

The exclusive pictures by SOLDIER photographer Mike Weston show the vehicle being tested in desert conditions in Eastern Saudi Arabia.

It is the all-wheel drive Bedford, designed to carry 20,000 litres of fuel across country, and it goes under the designation AWD-TTF-MTM-55.

Semi-articulated, the wheels of the rear bogie are steered in the same tracks as the tractor unit.

Fitted with two fully-laden 10,000 litre tanks, the vehicle was driven at speed across various types of sand.

Eventually it came to grief in some exceptionally soft sand and, despite much digging and the use of sand ladders, had to be towed out by a Foden recovery vehicle.

Nevertheless, its cross-country capability made a very favourable impression on Maj Goodall.

One of the secrets of success – the lowering of tyre pressures from 90 to 28 psi.

For use in emergency

shorter, Oriental leg . . . his knees keep banging the handlebars. He said: "I kid people it is one of a batch of 200 given by China to aid the Gulf crisis."

The camp's other bicycle is now fully posted into the regiment – it sports desert camouflage and a Desert Rat badge.



Cpl Mark Reed inspects a 155mm fuse during a major re-fusing operation at ASP 2

Life at Hellhole 2

THE TWO ammunition supply points in the Gulf, ASP 1 and 2, have been renamed Hellhole 1 and 2 by American troops, and no unit agrees with them more than 53 Ordnance Company RAOC, whose members maintain a major presence in the area.

Under command of Maj Phillip Hanlon, the company is normally based at two locations in Germany, Paderborn and Sennelager, where it takes responsibility for the Corps supply areas and routinely handles thousands of pallets of ammunition.

Armed with this expertise, the unit was sent to the Gulf early in the crisis to set up a depot that would hold a considerable amount of ammunition and to carry out a number of ammunition tests.

First of all, the team carried out a massive programme to re-fuse all the artillery's smoke and illuminating shells. All stocks of ammo were checked to ensure that when it was sent to the front, it could be guaranteed to do its job.

Said company 2iC, Capt

David Towndrow: "ASP 1 and 2 are the official names of the two ammo points, but the Americans know them as Hellholes 1 and 2 because when we all arrived here last August it was very hot and extremely dusty."

Other names for the ASPs have included Moonbase and Dustbowl.

The ASPs are situated in areas known as *sabkha*, low-lying salt flats that many thousands of years before would have been under water. In some parts the ground is white with small sea shells.

"Before we settled in, the place was bloody awful. On only the second day, our cook tent and an accommodation tent were blown away in a sand storm and a lot of the lads' personal kit tumbled away into the desert. Very little of it was ever recovered," said Capt Towndrow.

Life for the troops became more bearable after a number of large containers were placed around the site to act as windbreaks.

"It's a bit like the old 'wagon

train' principle. It helps for the defence and security of the place and protects us from the winds. Predicted winds for the area are 70 miles per hour, but so far the men have experienced only 45mph gusts," said Capt Towndrow.

There are no problems in storing ammunition in high temperatures.

"British ammunition is packed so it is safe to carry virtually world-wide," he said.

Life at Hellhole 2 has not

been without its surprises – sometimes unpleasant. One of the Pioneers who guard the location slept in a sangar with his arms outside his sleeping bag. He woke in the middle of the night believing he had been bitten by a mosquito and turned over and went back to sleep.

When he woke up in the morning he found two snake bite puncture marks in his arm which had swollen up to Michelin Man proportions.



Guess who is minding the store?

A MAN with a load on his mind is Maj Moe Sutton of the 7 Armoured Workshop REME Echelon. He arrived in Saudi Arabia with 18 massive ISO containers packed full of stores – and a mountain of paperwork to be sorted.

The workshop was first to sail from Bremerhaven and the containers were loaded with specialist tools and test equipment at the rush, and before any receiving action could take place.

Maj Sutton and his team have the task of providing all the operational equipment for the workshop's sub-units – Main Repair Groups Alpha and Bravo – as well as the Forward Recovery Group (FRG).

"In the rush to pack the containers, all the kit was thrown straight in. Now we are starting to clear the clag and sort out all the problems over receipts. It will take some time but, I am afraid, paperwork still has to be kept up," he said.

Collecting stores at the time of *SOLDIER*'s visit was WO2 (TQMS) Trevor Bown, commander of Admin Platoon, responsible for unit-employed tasks such as the provision of meals, collection of equipment for repair from the field locations, and returning it again to the units. This can include vehicles, power units and any of the brigade's equipment that



No flies on Cpl Alan Tankard (centre) of 7 Armoured Workshop REME Echelon. He is well protected by fly whisks held by WO2 (TQMS) Trevor Bown and Maj Moe Sutton

needs to be fixed. A number of his men carried whisks which were very good at keeping away the swarms of flies.

"We came over here prepared for mosquitoes, but flies have proved the worst enemy," said WO2 Bown.

"Because of the problems of sanitation, you don't want flies around you when you are eating, so these locally-manufactured items are just the job to keep them away.

"Simple and easy to make, they consist of a short length of elastic rope which has had the outer covering removed. Cover part with tape for a handle, separate the strands of the remainder and there you have it – a fly whisk that is not only one hundred per cent efficient but environmentally friendly as well!"



Marathon medics!

Even during the crisis there are still charity relay marathons being run in the Gulf. Pictured left before competing at Bahrain is the A team from 22 Field Hospital RAMC which finished seventh out of 90 teams.

The hospital's B team were 37th and a nurses' team 83rd.

GLoucester

Shipboard gunners. Members of a Javelin detachment of 21 (1779-1783) Gibraltar Battery of 47 Field Regiment, based at Thorney Island, are pictured on the guided missile destroyer HMS Gloucester in the Gulf. From left to right are Ldr Wayne Bradley and Gns Andrew Pickstock and Colin Rowley.

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by BOB PEEPLE

Published by Patrick Stephens Limited

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Chapter 1 of the 'Encyclopaedia of the Modern Territorial Army' substantially reproduces passages from 'The Story of the Territorials' by

Stanley Simm Baldwin published in the souvenir edition of *The Territorial Army Magazine* in April 1983. Patrick Stephens Limited and Bob Peedle apologise to Stanley Simm Baldwin for the failure to acknowledge the use of his work as the result of a regrettable misunderstanding.



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On their "veiled elephant" are (from left to right) Cpl Lee Errington, Sgt Jerry Naef and LCpl Graham Kenward

REME keeps 'em rolling

IT LOOKED like a elephant in a wedding veil but turned out to be Sgt Jerry Naef's tame Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle.

Sgt Naef and his crew, Cpl Lee Errington, vehicle mechanic, and LCpl Graham Kenward, who drives the brute, had just finished "camming up" their vehicle after nine days at Equipment Collection Point 7/4.

These "ECPs" are established close behind a battle group as outlying stations of the Forward REME Group which tasks them by radio.

At an ECP you can expect to find one of the new 62-ton Challenger Armoured Repair

The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed in 1942 when the desert war was at its height. The corps kept the Eighth Army on the

move then and it is keeping the tracks and wheels of the British ground forces turning in the Middle East today. A **SOLDIER** writer and photographer visited 7

Armoured Workshop, which has been backing up the 7th Armoured Brigade in Saudi Arabia since it arrived. The brigade found REME waiting on the quayside.

and Recovery Vehicles which, because of their pulling power, concentrate on recovery, and the older Chieftain ARRV generally used for repair work because it can carry the massive CV-12 Challenger power pack over its rear decks.

The roles can, however, be switched if need be. The CRARRV tows replacement power packs on a special trailer.

The area where the 7th Armoured Brigade first deployed and trained contains some of the worst soft sand anywhere (further north towards Kuwait and Iraq the "going" is much firmer).

So tracked and wheeled vehicle drivers have had a lot of learning to do.

As Challenger, Warrior and the 432s avoid graded tracks to

preserve them for lorries, they can and do run into trouble.

Furthermore many of the quarries with which the region abounds are not marked on maps. Night driving can become nightmare driving.

Sgt Naef and his crew had extracted one Challenger tank which had slipped over the side – luckily without doing serious

● Turn to next page

REME on a roll

● From Page 25

harm to its occupants or engine.

Only the previous night a tank of the QRIH had been driving steadily over a plain when it dropped like a stone and stopped dead. It had fallen victim to *sabkha* and gone through the crust of the treacherous salt marsh which is undetectable in the dark.

It had covered 300 yards from firm ground and though it took only 15 minutes to winch it out, it took over two hours to hook it on during which time two more Land Rovers and a Spartan had also come to grief.

Though a CRARRV has excellent night sights for commander and driver — "I have the Mk I Eyeball and a bucket of carrots," said Cpl Errington — it is difficult to tell hills from hollows in the shadows.

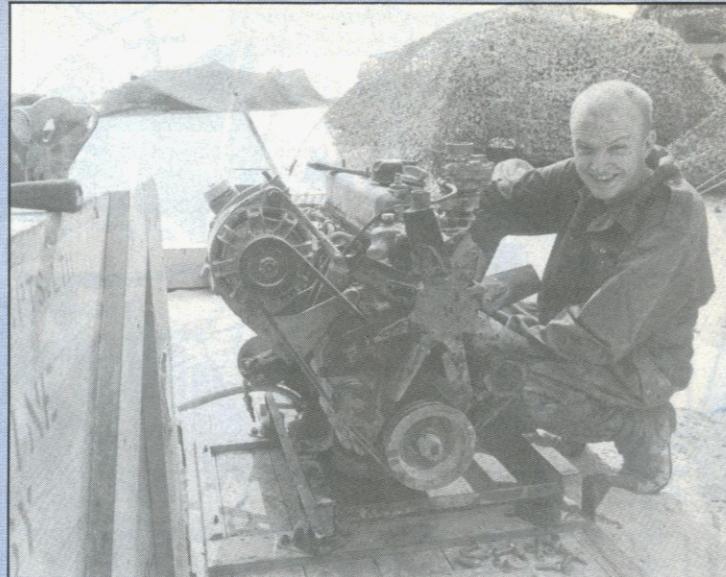
They had once searched from 5pm (which is dusk) until 7am

when they came across their objective only a kilometre from where they decided to park. The Challenger tank had been skilfully concealed and camouflaged in a depression where the crew had spent a comfortable night.

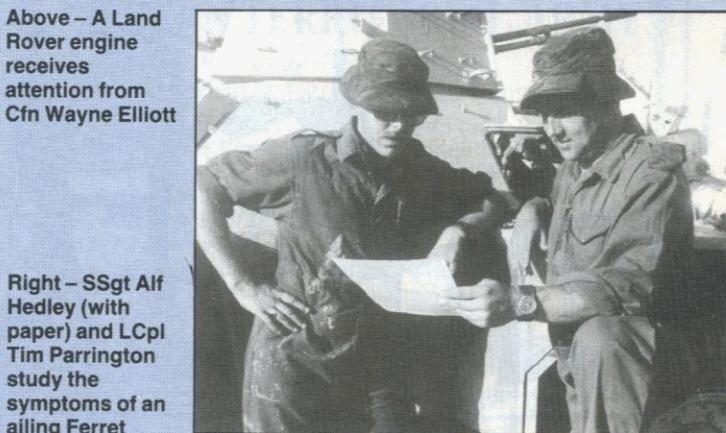
"We've found every job we've been given so far," said Sgt Naeff, "but not without trying. Map references given by casualties are not always accurate and sometimes they manage to move and take themselves off without telling anyone."

He and his crew were full of praise for their CRARRV and only regretted that it was condemned to spend so much time churning through soft sand (try running through deep mud if you want to get some idea of what it is like).

The vehicle is undoubtedly a success story, especially if more can be provided. You can't have too much of a good thing.



Above - A Land Rover engine receives attention from Cfn Wayne Elliott



Right - SSgt Alf Hedley (with paper) and LCpl Tim Parrington study the symptoms of an ailing Ferret



Technician with customers and Ferret

monster dragging off its prey showed against the starry sky for a while then vanished.

Like Ronnie Barker's famous shop, the units of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are open all hours in Saudi Arabia, 24 out of 24, seven days a week.

You see REME craftsmen everywhere in the Gulf — boots protruding from under vehicles; heads and shoulders calling for spanners; legs hanging from raised bonnets.

All units in this unique all-armoured force have their

own Light Aid Detachments or attached tradesmen, but the main burden of keeping the wheels of 7 Armoured Brigade going round rests on 7 Armoured Workshop (Lt Col Croucher).

When the ships carrying the heavy elements of the brigade docked, the Workshop was already "set up" near the port.

Lt Col Croucher: "Our initial aim was to modify the Challenger tanks for desert operations to enable them to deploy quickly into the desert and then for us to be able to

Muscle power is used to move a trailer at MRG 7 Alpha where soft sand equals hard work



Cpl Steve Kane in a familiar position

support them. That was achieved within two weeks of their arrival."

The Workshop adapted the proven BAOR organisation.

In immediate support of the LADs in the front line is the FRG or Forward REME Group (Capt Mark Hygate) with 110 men. Further back are the two MRGs or Main Repair Groups, each 240 strong.

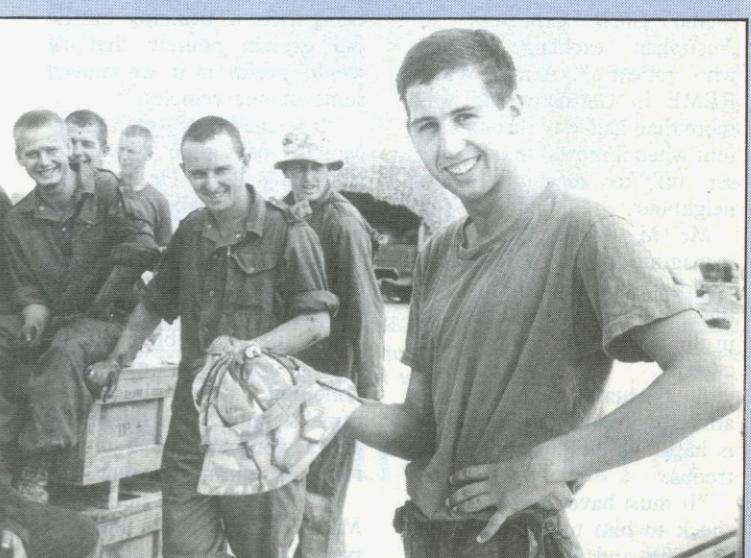
In the desert and occupying what had actually been a camel graveyard until it was sanitised by the sappers who levelled it, was MRG 7 Alpha (Maj Chris

Cromack, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers); near the docks is MRG 7 Bravo (Maj Dave Bowhay) occupying what had once been part of a container port.

Lt Col Croucher and his HQ operate from two "box bodies" with awnings attached to each side. "Maint" has been chalked on the door of one of them.

That simple five-letter word stands for "Muck, sweat and tears of frustration".

"Though we prepared ourselves well and did a lot of



REME joker - Cfn Peter Hoare with spider on his hat

training before we left Fallingsbostel, the conditions here require a special mental and physical toughness," said Lt Col Croucher.

"Actually getting to a vehicle casualty takes longer than normal because of distances and the difficulty of map-reading in the desert. Because conditions are rugged the men have to be tougher. The mental frustration experienced in finding a vehicle in the middle of nowhere calls for patience and strength of mind."

It is a pleasure to report that there is no shortage of men with those qualities in the Corps.

● Turn to Page 29

This 'shop' is open all hours



Lt Col Rod Croucher

shire Regiment and collect a "dead" Warrior.

He and Sgt Tony Welsh, of A Company's REME fitter section, discussed the matter and eventually call-sign 22 was hooked to the Chieftain and hauled off to be dealt with by the Forward REME Group, part of 7 Armoured Workshop.

The grotesque shape of the

THE PURPOSE of looking through the Warrior's sights was to get some idea of their ability to penetrate the darkness, not to focus on a monster.

Yet there it was, glowing green in the eyepiece, dipping and heaving across the dunes, its snuffling and snorting growing ever nearer, and looking absolutely immense.

Someone else took a quick look and said it was "only the REME going walkabout."

The beast eventually turned out to be a Chieftain armoured recovery and repair vehicle (CHARRV) with a box containing a Challenger tank power pack on its rear decks. The top of the pack must have been at least 18ft off the ground.

Cpl Steve Bromley and his FRT (forward repair team) had been tasked to take the tank pack to one location but were diverted en route to call in on the 1st Battalion, The Stafford-

Technician with customers and Ferret

support them. That was achieved within two weeks of their arrival."

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● Turn to Page 29

How MRG 7A came up to scratch

IT MUST BE a long time since a British unit set up shop alongside a camel farm.

When MRG 7 Alpha tucked itself neatly behind a rocky ridge it found the area littered with the bones of the beasts mingled with defunct sheep and goats, piles of old tyres and mountains of Coke cans.

Heaven knows how a rubbish dump materialised in a stretch of desert in which the only visible signs of humanity are a type of weekend-homestead and corral occupied by a fearsome stud camel.

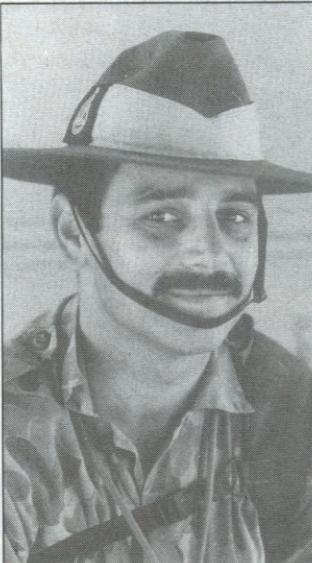
Nevertheless, it was there and a good site, so the Royal Engineers did some neat work with bulldozers, buried the remains, and REME were in business.

Maj Chris Cromack, an Australian exchange officer who joined 7 Armd Wksp REME in Germany and was more than half-way through his tour when it moved to the Gulf, set off to meet his new neighbour.

Mr M A Al Qahtani is managing director of a trading company and normally lives in town but enjoys spending time in the desert with his breeding camels.

A graduate engineer who attended Bristol University, he is happy to be "Mike" to the troops.

"It must have been a bit of a shock to him to wake up one morning and find us on his doorstep," said Maj Cromack. "He had no objection to us



Cfn Ben Farrell knows the drill



Old Middle East hands - ASM Jeff Standing was serving in Kuwait a few months ago; Maj John Pover has seen service in Oman

being there in principle but he did explain politely that he would prefer it if we moved some of our vehicles.

"It seemed they were scaring camels off their favourite scratching pole." He indicated a solitary pole about ten feet high.

The REME took the point and moved the vehicles. The camels came back to scratch and a friendship bloomed.

Maj Cromack has even been honoured with glasses of camel's milk, considered a delicacy but not always suitable for a European stomach.

The most obvious activity at MRG 7 Alpha is the repair of power packs under the eagle eye of Capt Bill Gowman.

These are kept in stock on the

site, having been reconstituted by, say, mating the gear box from a problem engine to a serviceable engine with a faulty gear box.

The sub-unit even has its own Challenger so that apart from running a replacement

engine on a test bed it can be load-tested in a tank before being sent to the customer.

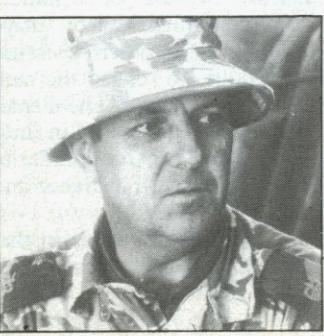
Engines may be worked on in the open but the REME has built a short stretch of railway track so the heavy engines can be pushed under cover by four men if necessary.

At night, no white light being permitted after dark, work goes on in "barn" tents which also provide useful shelter from dust storms which can spring up.

These barns are also used at MRG 7 Bravo where, not being

subject to the strict lighting restrictions of the desert, the repairs are carried on by the glare of halogen lamps constructed by the workshop itself.

He had been with the 7th Armoured Brigade for more than three years and was all set for a tour of Belize when the Gulf crisis developed. His wife even had the air tickets.



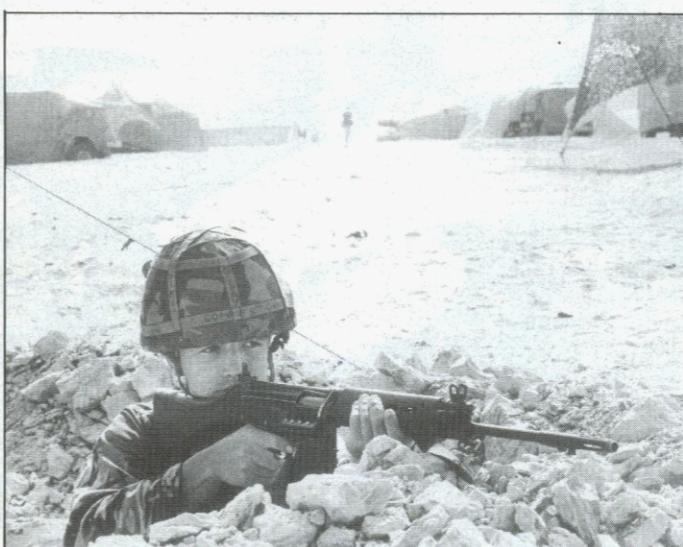
When SOLDIER spoke to him his boxes were in Belize but he was in the Gulf, awaiting the arrival of his relief.

"It's a hostile environment and its subjecting our equipment to pressures they don't normally experience. Without the FRG and the two MRGs we couldn't function. We're working flat out but holding our own."

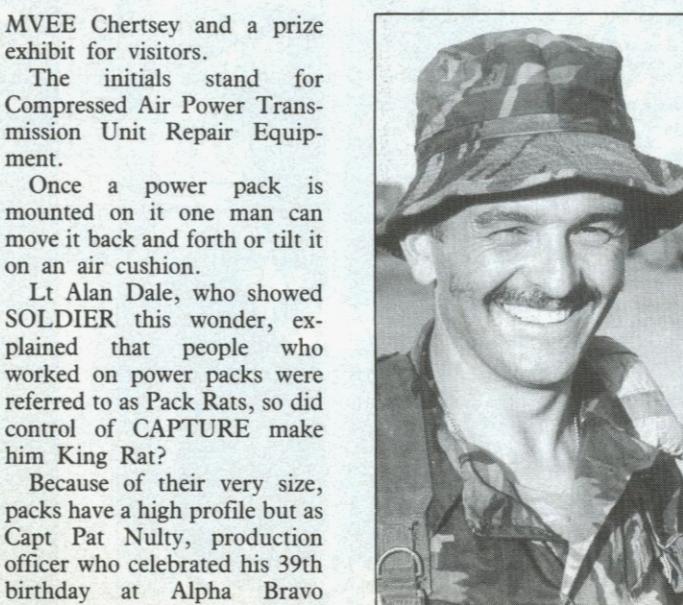
There is also an ingenious prototype machine there called CAPTURE, a product of



Men of MRG 7 Alpha pause for a photo call in what was once a camel graveyard in the desert. They don't get many breaks from work



Soldiers first - Cfn Sean Comrie occupies a trench hewn out of the rocks at MRG 7 Alpha



MRG 7 Bravo - Cpl Sammy Pritchard QDG watches Cfn Stephen Connor and Cfn Scott Blaney at work on his Ferret

Open all hours

● From Page 27

The proof lies in the pudding. A figure of 80 per cent availability of vehicles is considered acceptable and all scaling for spares is based on that figure.

The statistics show that though the level goes up and down the figure has been over 90 per cent for most of the time.

Lt Col Rod Croucher, CO 7 Armd Wksp, reflecting on the experiences of the past weeks said:

OF CHALLENGER - "We fitted a new air filter which has proved effective. Dust gets into everything and the crews have to be meticulous in their servicing. Challenger is a powerful tank but the conditions here are really tough. It has been fully tested in the soft sand of the training area and has proved itself. It is performing well."

carrying out fitness and military training, they are probably putting in 17 or 18 hours a day, every day.

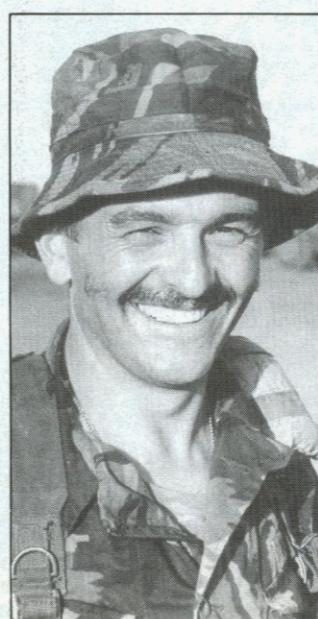
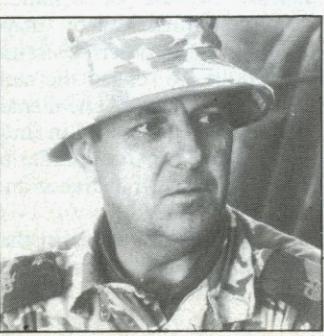
"We've come from BAOR to Saudi Arabia and we've moved a huge support system . . . what the boys have done is magnificent."

OF CHALLENGER - "We fitted a new air filter which has proved effective. Dust gets into everything and the crews have to be meticulous in their servicing. Challenger is a powerful tank but the conditions here are really tough. It has been fully tested in the soft sand of the training area and has proved itself. It is performing well."

WHICH WAY TO BELIZE?

THE man who tasks the Forward REME Group to go to the aid of casualties, replacing power packs and the like, is Maj Eric Tomlinson (left), Brigade EME (or BEME).

He had been with the 7th Armoured Brigade for more than three years and was all set for a tour of Belize when the Gulf crisis developed. His wife even had the air tickets.



Capt Pat Nulty, MRG Bravo production officer

No monkey business



Jimmy (right) the Iban tribesman, persuades an instructor that the fish he has cooked is a delicacy. All manner of culinary delights are found in the jungle. Note the effect of tribal custom on his left earlobe



A sharpened vine provides a welcome source of water for CSgt Tika Rai



WO2 Ishwar, 10 GR, sets a trap to catch food. It could also create havoc with the enemy



Instructors at TTB are past masters at blending into the jungle

"TRY this, you'll enjoy it," said CSgt Barney Barnes, 2 LI, of the Training Team Brunei, as he handed a chunk of burnt meat to SOLDIER's scribe and snapper as they stood somewhat bewildered in a jungle clearing.

When Barney says eat, you eat. So it was that we chewed our way enthusiastically through the impromptu meal. Suspicions were confirmed when CSgt Barnes revealed the origin of the meal as ... monkey!

Barney's "guests" stared with unfeigned horror at a smouldering joint skewered on a stick over an open fire. On cue, Jimmy, the Training Team's tame Iban tribesman, stepped forward with a wide grin. "He caught it this morning and cooked it in your honour," explained Barney with undisguised glee.

The occasion was SOLDIER's visit to what is in effect the Jungle Warfare Wing of the School of Infantry.

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in jungle warfare training. Its doctrine, which had remained largely unchanged for more than 40 years, had been updated.

Current doctrine is based primarily on the lessons learned from the counter-revolutionary campaign in Malaya, modified in the light of experience in Borneo and Vietnam. Jungle warfare then had been carried out in primary jungle at company level against an essentially

Words:
Laurie Manton
Pictures:
Mike Perring



TTB has its own jungle survival garden. Pictured is LCpl Sombahadur Siris

ill-equipped enemy.

It is now more likely that British troops would be committed to operations on the fringes of the jungle against an enemy as well-equipped as itself. This shift in emphasis is reflected in an updated Jungle Warfare Instructors Course (JWIC) which nevertheless retains old jungle skills.

Training Team Brunei (TTB) runs two seven-week courses a year. Space is allotted to foreign armies and troops from America, Malaya, Singapore, Nepal and the Philippines train there. Australian and New Zealand Forces also take advantage of the facilities.

Many of the foreign soldiers have seen active service, and the sharing of their operational experiences with the British student is tactically valuable.

Specialist skills taught include basic visual tracking, cacheing, close-target reconnaissance and harbouring.

CSgt Tika Rai demonstrated how a length of vine sharpened to a point provided a supply of life-giving liquid ... albeit one drip at a time. Care is needed, though. Clear liquid is safe but milky sap poisonous.

WO2 Lokbahadur Gurung demonstrated fire-making and fell victim to our photographer's desire for authenticity. Fiddling a bowstring round a stick is a technique familiar to most former Scouts, but Warrant Officer Gurung worked up a real sweat demonstrating this technique.

Requested to produce more smoke, WO2 Gurung set to work with a vengeance. There seemed a real danger of the fire-maker himself bursting into flames so it was as a relief to all when an instructor suggested it might be time to look at other aspects of survival.

Our men asked permission to go in with the troops making a live-fire platoon attack on enemy gun emplacements.

Machine gun bullets cracked overhead as they scythed through the branches above the attackers. "Stick to me," warned the sergeant major as the battle ranged across a jungle hillside.

Objective taken, it was proposed that our lads man the bunker while the demonstration platoon from 10 GR charged its defences. Time and again, the attacking force charged forward - but without any evidence of the fearsome reputation of the Gurkhas.

Step forward SOLDIER writer to ask, unwisely, if it was possible for the Gurkhas to look a little more warlike. On the next charge there was a terrifying change in the facial expressions of the attackers who emitted blood-curdling screams as they hurled themselves at a bunker.

Exit two journalists at the double waving a white flag of surrender.

Other infantry courses run by TTB include the Infantry Section Commanders' course, which teaches junior NCOs and senior riflemen section and platoon tactics and skills for jungle operations, and the Long Range Patrol course.

TTB also provides assistance to the month-long Infantry Trials and Development Unit field trial which provides an opportunity to judge the performance of new and current equipment in a hot, wet environment. There is also a jungle survival course for aircrew.

With their requirement to assist exercises in Brunei, visit Belize annually, and maintain close links with the United States Jungle Operations training centre in Panama, the Australian Land Command battle school, the New Zealand Army's regular battalions and the Special Air Service, life at Training Team Brunei, say the staff, is both busy and rewarding.

Officer Commanding Maj Mike Parish, Kings, believes the Jungle Warfare Instructors' course has much to offer, for it provides a rare opportunity for all ranks to draw on the skills each has acquired.

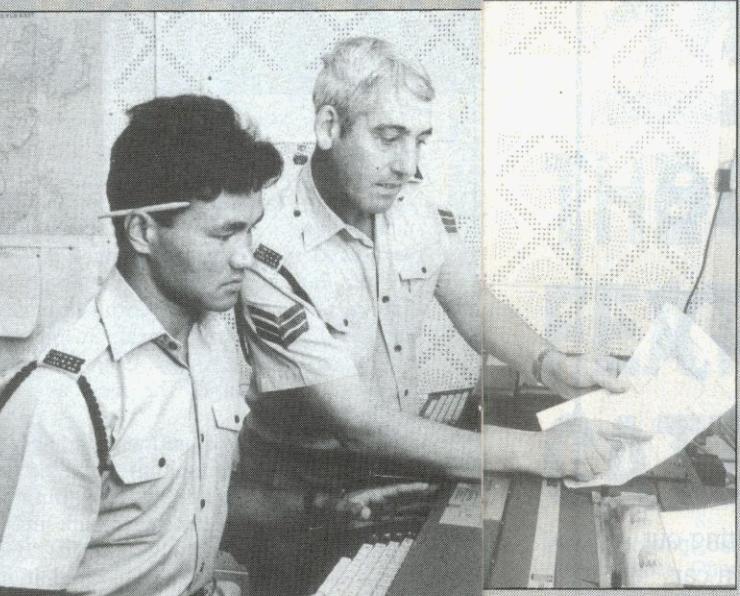
It is said that young officers learn more about how to organise themselves by watching sergeants and corporals than they ever learn on officer-only courses. NCOs start to understand that young officers are paid to think in order to stay one move ahead of the enemy.

"The jungle is a hard taskmaster. The heat, the permanent green twilight, the hazards to health, and the humidity all demand the highest standards of personal discipline and infantry skills if they are to be successfully overcome," he said.

Spotlight on Brunei Garrison HQ staff



Admin Commandant is Maj Mike Moran RAOC who commands the whole operation



Providing Comcen facilities in Brunei are the Queen's Gurkha Signals. Here Sgt Ray Short (right) checks through a sign with Sig Thapa Ratna

Down in the rain forest...

LOCATED on the north-western coast of the Island of Borneo, Negara Brunei Darussalam (Brunei) is 75 per cent rain forest and has a tropical marine climate with high temperatures and an annual humidity range of between 67 and 91 per cent.

At Seria in the

southern part of the country, the resident Gurkha battalion and Training Team Brunei are established in barracks close to the jungle and within the oil-fields.

Indeed, to the occupants of the married quarters, the sight and sound of the oil industry's "nodding donkeys"

are as familiar as the chatter of the "chit-chat" lizards found everywhere.

Headquarters Brunei Garrison provides vital administrative back-up to TTB and the Gurkhas. C Flight of 660 Squadron Army Air Corps is stationed close by and also receives support from the Garrison.

Pictures: Mike Perring



SSgt George Thom RMP is the garrison's popular community policeman. His "village" police station is a converted MQ



Sgt Roger Williams RE is Brunei Garrison's postman ensuring prompt delivery of all the mails



Garrison Engineer, Maj Bob Mollinson RE (left) and Clerk of Works, WO1 Dave Tonkin, check building plans



Sgt Jeff O'Brien-Organ, Garrison Chief Clerk, checks his facts and figures with Mrs Angelina Ho



Normal furniture cannot stand the attacks of termites. WO2 (SQMS) Ron Price RAOC has a large stock of rattan furniture to issue to families

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THE CARING FEATURES OF CATTERICK

Team effort

WHAT a change has come over Catterick. Often when I visited the garrison in the past I came away with a sorry impression of the lack of opportunities for wives and a list of their needs. Not so nowadays.

During the past 18 months the Families Housing and Welfare Service team has tackled problems with imagination and dedication.

It has even bought its own computer to improve the service required to meet housing needs — essential with most of the 1,000 on its list below standard.

An impressive audience including civic heads and representatives from Richmond and Darlington turned out to hear the good news at a presentation given by Lt Col John Byne, the FHWS Commandant.

A video made by 8 Signal Regiment showed the wide range of activities and opportunities now available and a team of enthusiastic wives answered questions.

Three new initiatives were projected — Routes, the Job Centre and FRED, all established to supply the needs of wives looking for training, work advice and qualifications.

Darlington College of Technology and the North Yorkshire Replan Office established Routes in conjunction with the FHWS and the Federation of Army Wives.

Routes, co-ordinated by Helen Truman, offers 20 courses including basic numeracy, GS maths, English, food hygiene, child care, and computer studies. Some last for 12 weeks (two-hour sessions daily) and costs run from £10 for home studies with a

visiting tutor every three weeks to £100 for others.

The establishment of a Job Centre actually in the FHWS is a simple but effective approach to the situation, which cuts down travel to Northallerton, Richmond and Darlington as the list of vacancies is updated daily.

The introduction of FRED, which aims at matching work to the requirement of wives looking for either voluntary, charity or paid jobs, has been paid for by the Federation of Army Wives.

New initiatives, such as self-funding schemes, have enabled 52 wives to be employed and paid by FHWS Catterick.

The changes which have transformed the place have taken hard work as well as money. Around £21,000 was raised to keep the improvements introduced afloat. Wives' fees for tuition brought in £11,000.

"More ideas are in the pipeline," Lt Col Byne told me.

"We are hoping to make the garrison a much sought-after posting."

RELATE (the Marriage Guidance Council under another name) has published two helpful leaflets explaining what services it offers and how counselling can help. Available from CAB, HIVES etc and Relate counsellors with the Forces ... or Relate HQ and Bookshop, Herbert Gartay College, Little Church Street, Rugby CV21 3AP (tel: 0788 73241).



Lt Col Byne and young friends at the play school



Helen Truman (left), the Job Shop manager, with a prospective client

Cash cut for a Mum-to-be

RECENTLY a Service wife stationed in Germany was refused Statutory Maternity Pay at the higher rate because her husband was posted just before she was due to complete the required two years' work with the same employer. The alternative was for her to claim Sickness Benefit or Maternity Allowance at a much-reduced rate.

The Ministry of Defence is looking into the case and until guidelines are forthcoming my advice to any

wife who faces the same situation is to ask her husband to see if the posting can be deferred or if she can remain in the job for the necessary period and follow him later.

To claim Statutory Maternity Pay at the lower rate you must have worked for the same employer for at least six months into the qualifying week — which is the 15th week before the expected week of confinement. I asked the Department of Social Security if a

wife could pay Voluntary Class 2 contributions to fill a gap and was told that to change the law to allow this would place them in a more privileged position than other women and set a dangerous precedent.

Pregnant wives who have to give up work to accompany husbands overseas can claim Maternity Allowance if they go to another European Community State or one with which the UK has a reciprocal agreement.

BOOK REVIEWS

Two faces of propaganda

'ALTHOUGH war has been recognised throughout human history as an accepted – and mostly even as a natural and glorious – activity, propaganda is still seen by many people as something quite different, an altogether unacceptable proposition designed to undermine the will to engage in the acceptable art of war.'

A book that challenges this assumption is the recently-published *Munitions of the Mind*, in which Dr Philip M Taylor examines the relationship between warfare (the communication of violence) and propaganda (the communication of persuasion).

The author defines two types of propaganda: that designed to persuade people to fight, and psychological warfare "designed to persuade the opposition not to fight".

He examines the development of propaganda techniques in ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages, the Thirty Years War (described as a "watershed" for the sheer internationalisation of propaganda) and the English Civil War, by which time the printed word was playing a major role in the art of persuasion.

It was with the French and American revolutions that propaganda in its various forms began to come of age, but all his readers will acknowledge the

truth of Dr Taylor's assertion: "The locomotive of historical change was set in full flight in 1914 for both warfare and propaganda."

It marked the rapid emergence of new technologies but it still comes as a surprise, at least to this reviewer, to read that in the USA:

"With radio still at the stage of Morse-code transmissions, a network of speakers was formed known as the Four Minute Men who gave a million four-minute speeches to perhaps 400 million people."

Propaganda can, and often does, backfire. "Exposure to the fighting ability of the Saracens led the Crusaders to respect and admiration for their enemies. This happens in most wars when soldiers realize that the image of the enemy they have had painted for them by propagandists rarely conforms to the reality."

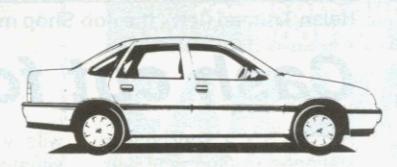
The author argues that persuasion is a necessary means for forging consensus in a liberal democracy and that propaganda for peace is vital in the nuclear age – despite *glasnost*. – BJ

Munitions of the Mind: War propaganda from the ancient world to the nuclear age by Dr Philip M Taylor. Published by Patrick Stephens. Price £14.99 hardback.

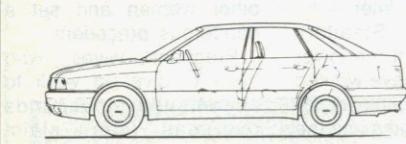
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The Battle of the Ruhr Pocket
by Leo Kessler. Second non-fictional work by the war-writer, sub-titled *The Greatest Blunder of WWII*. Published in paperback by Mandarin. Price £4.50.

General Wrangel 1878-1929
by Alexis Wrangel. Biography of the World War 1 and Russian Civil War commander, compiled by his son from memoirs and papers. Published by Leo Cooper. Price £18.99.

Great Soldiers' Tales edited and introduced by Field Marshal Lord Carver. Eighteen stories of the soldier at war by such authors as Rudyard Kipling, C S Forester and Tolstoy, with all royalties going to The Royal British Legion and The Army Benevolent Fund. Published by Bellew. Price £11.50.

Gestapo – Instrument of Tyranny by Edward Crankshaw. New edition of the 1956 study by the distinguished journalist. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £14.95.

Britain at War by Roger A Freeman. Life in the Blitz, told in 96 large-format pages illustrated by more than 200 photographs, drawings and maps. Published by Arms and Armour. Price £6.95.

Fire and Sword in the Sudan by R Slatin Pasha. A personal narrative of fighting and serving the Dervishes 1879-95, first published in 1896, now reproduced as a facsimile of the revised 1897 edition. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £17.50.

One Day in a Long War by Jeffrey Ethell and Aldred Price. Well-researched narrative of the most intense dawn-to-dark aerial action in the Vietnam War on May 10, 1972. Published by Greenhill Books. Price £15.95.

An amateur side show in Norway

IN the early hours of April 9, 1940, the Germans launched a daringly executed invasion of Denmark and Norway.

"It was the first occasion in the history of warfare that the three Services had participated in a tightly controlled and co-ordinated joint exercise . . . It was a process which reached its apogee in the Normandy landings of June 1944, and was so vividly illustrated again in the Falkland Islands in 1982."

So assesses Air Commodore Maurice Harvey in *Scandinavian Misadventure*.

It was a campaign in a year that was to be overshadowed in importance by the withdrawal of the BEF from Dunkirk and by the Battle of Britain.

As Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett writes in his foreword to the book: "It may well have been only a side show judged by other larger and longer campaigns in the 1939-1945 war . . ."

Norwegian armed forces in 1940 were pathetic, one of their naval ships in commission dating back to 1858. From the British viewpoint, the decision of the War Cabinet to send a force to defend Norway was logical but was to show up a characteristic amateurish attitude to war: "... to an Englishman, Norway was a land of wild and mystic beauty,

The two dramatic raids on Norway are described in detail but the major part of the book

is concerned with the conflict between the Germans advancing northward from Oslo with the Norwegian Army and the British and French forces of "Mauriceforce" and "Sickleforce" and finally the battles at Narvik and south of Bobo.

Being an airman, the author places particular emphasis on the air forces' contribution to the land and sea battles, and finds alibis for the less than total success of the Allies.

"It is an illuminating reflection on the inadequacy of our planning that the pilots of the bomber squadrons prepared their target maps from the pages of *Baedeker's Scandinavia*, 1912 edition . . . One wonders what the military attachés and planners had been doing in the months preceding the German invasion . . ."

The Allied involvement in Norway was, with the benefit of hindsight, doomed from the start.

The book concludes with an analysis of the lessons that should have been learned from what was a disastrous episode for the Allies. – BJ

Scandinavian Misadventure: The Campaign In Norway 1940 by Maurice Harvey. Published by Spellmount. Price 95p.

The defence policy bargain

HISTORIANS of the 21st Century "will probably link 1956 and 1979 as the two major turning points in British history during the second half of the 20th Century."

So writes General Sir William Jackson in *Britain's Defence Dilemma: An Inside View* from his unique standpoint as former Assistant Chief of the General Staff and official historian to the Cabinet Office.

Making the Suez débâcle of 1956 and then the withdrawal from east of that place in 1979, the hinge points of Britain's decline as a major power is as convenient, if not original, a device as to any to explain 'the watershed between our impe-

rial past and our offshore island future . . .'

The book is essentially a chronicle of British defence policies, beginning, by way of an explanation, with an account of the process of defence practice decision and the difficulties besetting the policy-makers.

"It is far less to do with strategy than with financial bargains struck in the marketplace of Whitehall."

It is a scholarly work with close examinations of the policies instigated by successive secretaries of state, commencing with Duncan Sandys' revolutionary pro-nuclear White Paper of 1957.

The analyses continue

through to the 1980s with Thatcherism and the Falklands, the Westland affair, and the break-up of the Warsaw Pact all given comprehensive coverage.

Sir William takes the view that only war itself "reveals the inner secrets of new weapon systems and produces fundamental changes in military strategy and tactics."

War also causes radical modification of defence secretaries' cherished policies. John Nott planned considerable reduction in naval power before the Falklands War. "If it had occurred a couple of years later the key naval units that made the South Atlantic campaign

thinkable . . . would no longer have been available."

Like almost all serious military books published in the autumn of 1990, *Britain's Defence Dilemma* suffers the disadvantage that it was released too early to give consideration to the threat of war coming from the Middle East rather than from Eastern Europe and the USSR. We are now back to east of Suez, which is where Sir William begins his account of Britain's imperial decline some 35 years ago. – BJ

Britain's Defence Dilemma: An Inside View by Gen Sir William Jackson. Published by Batsford. Price £19.95.

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

We're there too!

IN "Men on the move" (January 7) you say that members of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RCT are "probably the only articulated vehicle drivers in the Army" to be "A" tradesmen.

This is misleading. My colleagues and I are members of the Scammell Crusader section of 45 Fd Sqn Royal Engineers (not RCT) and although with our 35-ton trailers we cannot carry the Challenger MBT, unlike our friends in 16 Tank Tptr Sqn it is quite normal for us to carry loads of two APCs or various loads of plant equipment as well as more conventional loads, including mines.

More importantly, we are also fully-qualified "A" tradesmen of articulated vehicles – so the RCT are certainly not the only military drivers of such vehicles this side of Baghdad!

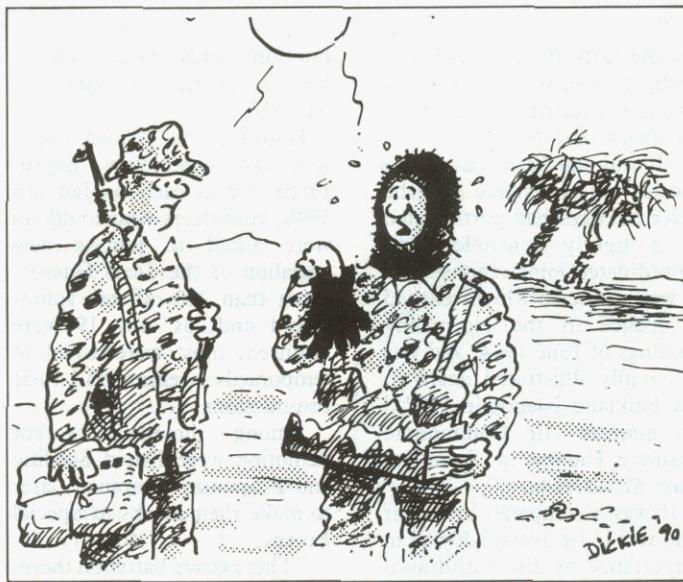
May we also point out that unlike the RCT, who have crews of two or three, we work with just a single crewman at all times of the day and night. – **Cpl Blue Price, 45 Fd Sp Sqn RE, BFPO 644.**

AS a Scammell operator driver specialist A1 trade pay classification in the Royal Engineers, may I supply some facts about our articulated vehicles:

Length, 19.1m; width, 4.85m; wheels, 26; speed, 41.25 at 2,100 rpm; engine, Rolls Royce Eagle; gears, 15 forward, 3 reverse (not pre-select).

We are trained in hydraulic operation; winch work; loading and carriage of plant equipment and most of the largest abnormal loads in the Army; and recovery (road and field). – **Cpl A C Bromley, 26 Scam Sect, c/o Armd Ech, 21 Engr Regt, BFPO 644.**

YOUR unit list ("They're in the Gulf", Nov 26) failed to mention 203 Provost Coy RMP, which was formed in



'The wife says if they were good enough for her grandfather, they're good enough for me'

Keep in touch

• May we repeat that we are trying to give at least a "mention" to as many units as possible in the Gulf – but with limited resources it is not possible to provide as comprehensive a coverage as we would wish. Why not persuade your Unit Press Officer to send us an article? Meanwhile, keep the letters coming – they are welcomed. – **Editor**

Werl, West Germany, on September 18, 1990, the manpower being drawn from all BAOR Provost companies.

We number 104 (all ranks) and deployed in support of 7 Armd Bde on October 13. – **WO1 (RSM) J A Mills, RMP, 203 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 649.**

AFTER reading your superb article on the RMP in Northern Ireland (Nov 12) I was really put back when (Nov 26) everyone got a mention except us.

We arrived in the Gulf ahead of quite a few other units – and our unit is serving with both 7 and 4 Armoured Brigades, so the Engineers are not unique. – **Cpl L Clarence RMP, 203 Pro Coy.**

WE chefs (not cooks) of the first-to-start-last-to-finish

Army Catering Corps would also like a mention, which failed to happen in the November and December issues.

Wherever a unit is deployed, we specialists are on hand to keep the troops fed and watered – although they might tend to disagree. – **Cpl G B Stanley, ACC/Att 91 Ord Coy RAOC, BFPO 637.**

THE Band of the 13/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) should be included in the list of bands deployed as medics. – **WO1 P M Greener, Bandmaster, A Sqn, 1 Armd Fd Amb, BFPO 644.**

IN your November 26 list I saw no mention of our unit, 22 Engineer Regiment, and in particular 2 Tp 3 Fd Sqn RE, which has been in the Gulf since September 23 and was joined by the rest of 3 Fd Sqn in December. – **Spr C Davidson, BFPO 644.**

FOR the second time (the first being the Falklands) you have failed to mention the RAOC apart from 11 Ordnance Battalion.

How could you fail to mention a whole battalion – 6 Ord Bn, of which I am a member? It is made up of AMF (Bakers), 63 and 62 Ord Cos, 51 and 53 Ord Cos and 91 Ord Cos. – **RAOC Soldier.**

Reunions

● **195 Airlanding Field Ambulance Old Comrades** (late Sixth Airborne Division): 43rd annual reunion will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday April 13, 1991. Details from A Lodge, 7 Duke of Beaufort Court, Gloucester GL1 5UB (tel: 0452 26122).

● **The 50 Missile Club RA** third annual reunion will take place at the Dome in Doncaster on May 25, 1991. Details from Tony Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1TN (tel: 0387 62378, evenings).

● **Army Catering Corps Airborne Reunion 1991:** As part of the ACC Golden Jubilee celebrations it is proposed to hold a reunion in Aldershot on June 1 for all members of the Corps, past and present, who have served with Airborne Forces. Contact ACO, 5 Airborne Bde, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU (tel: 0252 24431 ext 4374).

● **British Model Soldier Society:** Military in Miniature Exhibition will be held at Fleet Civic Hall, Hants, on Feb 16, 1991. Details from Graham Pettitt, The Hollies, Roe Downs Road, Medstead, Alton, Hants GU34 5LG.

I WAS dismayed to see that 21 Engineer Regiment was not mentioned in your November 26 list.

Could you please ensure that 21 Engr Regt is included in any future Gulf Roll of Honour.

Thanking you in advance. Keep up the good work. – **SSgt Bacon, Armd Engr Ech, 21 Eng Regt, BFPO 644.**

I HAVE just read your December 10 issue and would like to point out that not everyone lives in tents out here – only the REMFs.

Most regiments live either in holes or on their vehicles. We also do not have shower facilities (until we get R and R) unless you get your mate to pour a jerry-can over your head. – **Cfn M Cotgreave REME, A Sqn LAD, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, BFPO 644.**

YOUR roll call of units in the Gulf missed the huge contingent from the largest Corps in the Army – the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Believe us when we say – without us, nothing runs! – **SSgt Feeney, 4 Armed Wksp REME, BFPO 41.**

● **See Pages 23-29**

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The pictures below differ in ten details. Find them and you could be £50 richer or win a new book. Just circle the differences in the right hand picture, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 504, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot GU11 2DU by Feb 8. Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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Competition No 501:
Winner of a £50 cheque for HOAY 501 is SGT J Lloyd, of 24 Fd Sqn RE, Chattenden Barracks, Rochester. Book prizes go to runners-up Mr Roy Price, of West Wickham, Kent, and Mr John Bate, of Swanwick, Derbyshire.



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For security reasons Eddie Williams is a fictitious character

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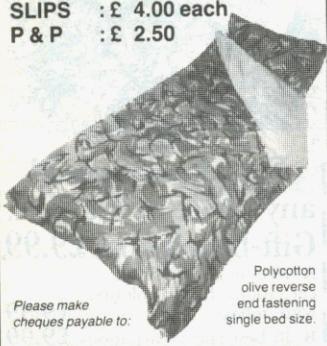
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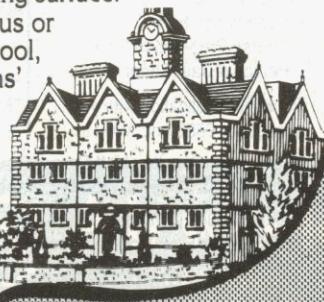
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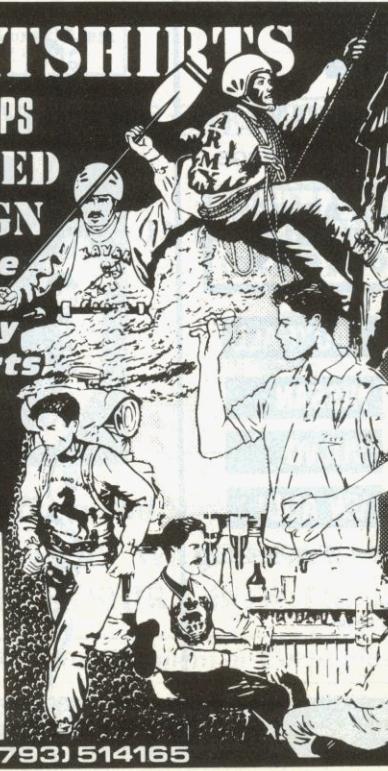
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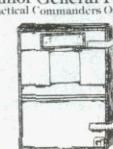
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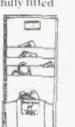
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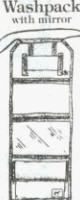
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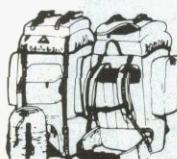
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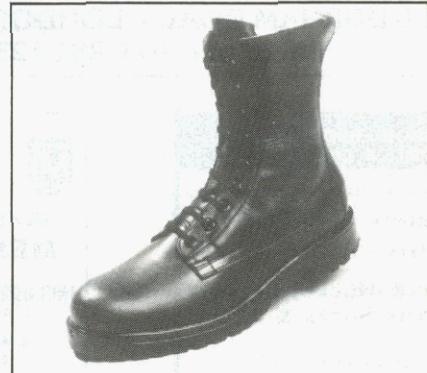
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Dave's double hits Hants

**Army 2,
Hampshire 0**

TWO well-taken goals by Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) gave the Army a significant win over Hampshire in their opening game in the South West Counties championships, ending in the process any chances the county might have had of progressing in the competition, writes Pat Massey.

LCpl Shane Smith (REME) and QMSI Joey Roach (APTC) kept the visitors at full stretch with pacy raids down the flanks, and it was Smith who made the opening for Maynard's first goal.

Smith was again involved in a move which ended when the county goalkeeper turned away a thunderous shot from Bdr Steve Bates (RHA).

Former Army skipper Sandy Brown, now with Basingstoke Town, began to orchestrate play in midfield and Hampshire twice went close to scoring.

Roach's defence-splitting pass to Maynard 15 minutes from the end finally settled the issue. Maynard rode one crude tackle before planting the ball in the back of the Hampshire net, and minutes later nearly completed a hat trick after LCpl Colin Brown (RE) had put him in the clear.

Somerset and Avon lead the table with five points from three games, and the Army's win immediately lifted them into second place above Devon, Hampshire and Wiltshire who have all played two.

**Army XI 6,
Army Crusaders 0**

Following their narrow 1-0 win of a year ago, the Army paid the Crusaders the compliment of fielding a very strong side for the latest fixture between these sides.

The result was a six-goal win for the Army, although only after the officers' side had put



Maj David Viccars (RTR), pictured here running the line during the last Hong Kong rugby sevens tournament, achieved a long-held ambition when he was selected to referee a match between the Colony and Fiji. Although the match was not regarded as a full international, the Fijian XV was made up of capped players. They won 77-3. David was forced to give up playing eight years ago after breaking a leg badly during a game

TOP TEAM

TOP Service team of the year are the Army's male athletes. They were voted Team of the Year by the Combined Services Sport Board.

The award recognises several years of unbroken success by the Army team which has won the Inter-Service athletics title for the past four years, the marathon championship for the past five years, and the decathlon championship for the past seven years.

Man of the Year is Army rugby captain Maj Brian McCall, and Woman of the Year Chief Wren Sue Cradock, the Royal Navy's long range shooting champion.

up a brave struggle.

SI Mickey Johnson (APTC) opened the scoring and Cpl Dave Maynard (DERR) added a second before half-time.

Crusaders opened the second period with their best spell of the match, but were twice denied by skipper Sgt Clint Webbe's timely interceptions.

In the second half Johnson and Maynard both scored again, and a Maynard shot was deflected in by Lt Paul Bosher (R Signals). Webbe finished off the scoring with the best goal of the match, a looping header into the corner.

**Army 1,
Civil Service 2**

An error by Gnr Mark Mahoney (RHA) allowed the Civil Service in for their first goal against the Army at Aldershot Military Stadium, but he made amends just before the interval when he converted a cross from LCpl Shane Smith (REME) to equalise.

Some straight talking by coach QMSI Tommy Armstrong (APTC) during the break produced much greater commitment from the Army players in the second half.

But two minutes after the restart the Civil Service 'keeper saved from Cpl Shaun Gilman (RAOC) and banged the ball upfield. A centre was whipped across the Army goal and SI Nigel Wiscombe (APTC) was given no chance by a diving header.

With the Army piling on the pressure, Gilman hit the crossbar, then fired just wide. Johnson brought the save of the match out of the Civil Service goalkeeper.

Bdr Steve Bates (RA), who had another outstanding game, also had a good effort saved.

Man of the match was Sig Jim Strouts (R Signals), a member of the Army Youth team last season.

**FA XI 7,
Combined Services 1**

A Football Association XI drawn from northern non-League clubs proved much too

strong for a weakened Combined Services side playing their first match of the season.

The Servicemen arrived at Frickley Athletic in Pontefract, Yorks full of vim and vigour, only to suffer their worst walloping for years.

Scorer of the Services' goal was LWtr Paul Benson of the Royal Navy following a move which involved Bdr Steve Bates and Sgt Clint Webbe of the Army.

The FA uses this fixture as a trial for the England non-League international squad, and on this evidence they have some impressive young talent from which to select.

● The Gulf crisis has caused the postponement of the scheduled Combined Services tour to Oman.

Super sappers

THE Royal Engineers retained the Inter-Corps squash championship, sweeping all before them, writes Lance Brett.

The RAOC came second and the APTC third. Sadly, the Royal Signals who lost their star players to Op Granby duties in the Gulf, came last and were relegated.

REME did not lose a single match in Division 2 and were promoted, while the Infantry B team was promoted from Division 3 to Division 2.

APTC hold off Signal effort

ELEVEN corps teams gathered at the RCT's excellent indoor facility at Grantham for four days of highly competitive basketball in the Inter-Corps championships, the Army's premier tournament.

APTC confirmed their top seeding by finishing their pool unbeaten, and went on to win a superb final against Royal Signals who led the other pool.

But the signallers were not given an easy ride, losing to RAMC/RADC. The pool eventually had to be sorted out on points difference, with the Royal Artillery joining R Signals, APTC and the Royal Engineers in the semi-finals.

In the first of these the young gunner team went down 73-59 to APTC after a spirited performance in which Sgts Martin and Laurence and Gnrs Bent and McNally kept the game alive with consistent scoring.

But APTC's greater experience paid off in the final ten minutes with a sustained, error-free attack coupled to solid defence.

QMSI McCracken and Sgts Rollinson, Johnson and Toney all hit double figures for the PTIs.

Superior sapper shooting gave them an early lead over the signallers in the second semi-final, but the second seeds fought back and levelled at 60-60 after Cpl Higgins, the sappers' main rebounding strength, had been side-lined with five fouls.

R Signals were eventual winners by 74 points to 67.

Smith, Grant, Bain, Peat and Williams did the damage for the signallers, while RE relied on Laslett, Higgins and McGill.

APTC took an early lead in the final but some devastating



Medics win in Bahrain

CPL Nigel Rigby scored twice for 22 Field Hospital Group when they took on Bahrain RFC in a rugby match played in the Gulf. The British medics went on to win by 28 points to three.

There were also tries for Capt Kevin Griffin and LCpl Rab Kenny, and conversions by Sgt Ginge Whitfield and LCpl Taff Thomas.

Left - Brian McCall in action for the Army at Twickenham

CAPTAIN'S HONOUR

MAJOR Brian McCall, REME, last winter's Army and Combined Services rugby captain, has been named Sportsman of the Year by the Combined Services Sport Board, writes John Quin.

The announcement will be greeted by all who know him, administrators and players alike, with great satisfaction.

Brian has been at the helm of the Army XV for the past three seasons, skippering the side to three consecutive Inter-Service crowns.

He always led by example, on and off the field, and won the trust of players both in the Army camp and Combined Service colours.

His warm personality, coupled with that soft lilt of his, belied his ability to motivate 14 other hairy rugby players to a peak of controlled aggression

before they left their Twickenham dressing room to "do the business".

Brian resisted all attempts by the ARU to get him into the Army pullover and may be best remembered for his rendition of *Danny Boy* after one notable defeat of the Royal Navy at Twickers.

I am assured that when he collects his award at the Royal Tournament next summer he will not be asked to take on the Navy in the Field Gun race.

The Regular Army beat the Territorial Army by 29 points to 15 at Aldershot just before Christmas, with the "home" side skippered on the night by 2nd Lt Andy Deans (RAEC). Not a bad start for someone playing his first game for the Army.

In the Army Cup, the Major Units' line-up in the UK

quarter-finals is a rematch of last year's semi-finals, with Troops Hereford entertaining the Dukes, the Welsh Guards taking on 1/3 Training Regiments RE, an all-gunner clash between 7 Para RHA and 29 Cdo Regt (if they beat 2 Para!), and SEME entertaining the winners of the 15 Sigs - 3 Para match.

Bidding for places in the Minor Units' (UK) competition are Scottish Div Depot, who take on AAC Harrogate, JIB Shorncliffe and JLR Colerne, and 5 AB Bde Log Bn against the winners of 33 Fd Sqn RE and RMP Lisburn.

The fourth spot goes to Depot Prince of Wales's Division who were given a bye when 9 Ordnance Battalion had to withdraw because of their Op Granby commitments.

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shooting by Tedby meant the signallers were never more than eight points adrift, and only three at half-time.

The nerve of the PTIs was fully tested as the spectators got behind the underdogs, and for a period it looked as though the favourites might crack.

Excellent shooting by Smith and Tedby, ably supported by Williams and Grant, pushed the signallers into a three-point lead. But shrewd use of the

APTC substitutes by coach QMSI Francis enabled rested legs to raise the tempo in the closing minutes.

The offensive and defensive rebounding strength of McCracken and Rollinson swung the advantage back to APTC, while Pask, Johnson and Tony sustained the fast break and pressurised R Signals into inaccurate shooting.

The final whistle blew with the hard-pressed PTIs ahead

by just four points, 63 to 59.

In the play-offs for the minor places, the gunners beat the sappers 60-42, REME (5th) beat RCT (6th) 81-68, RAMC/RADC (7th) beat RAOC (8th) 58-39, and ACC (9th) beat Infantry (10th) 96-53.

Prizes were presented by Lt Col George Donald, RE who, after many years of involvement with Army basketball at all levels, was saying his farewells before his retirement.

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to UK Military Personnel

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A section of B Company, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment deploys from a Warrior during debussing drills in the Saudi Arabian desert.

Picture: Sgt Andy Mason RAOC