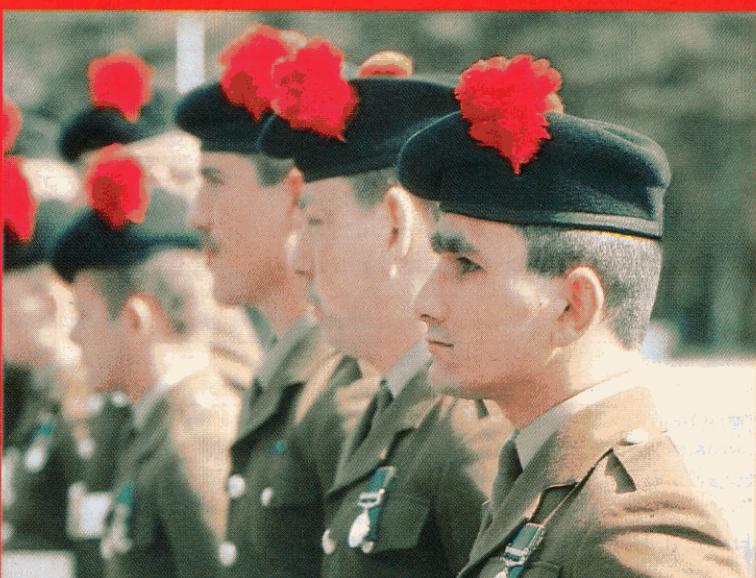


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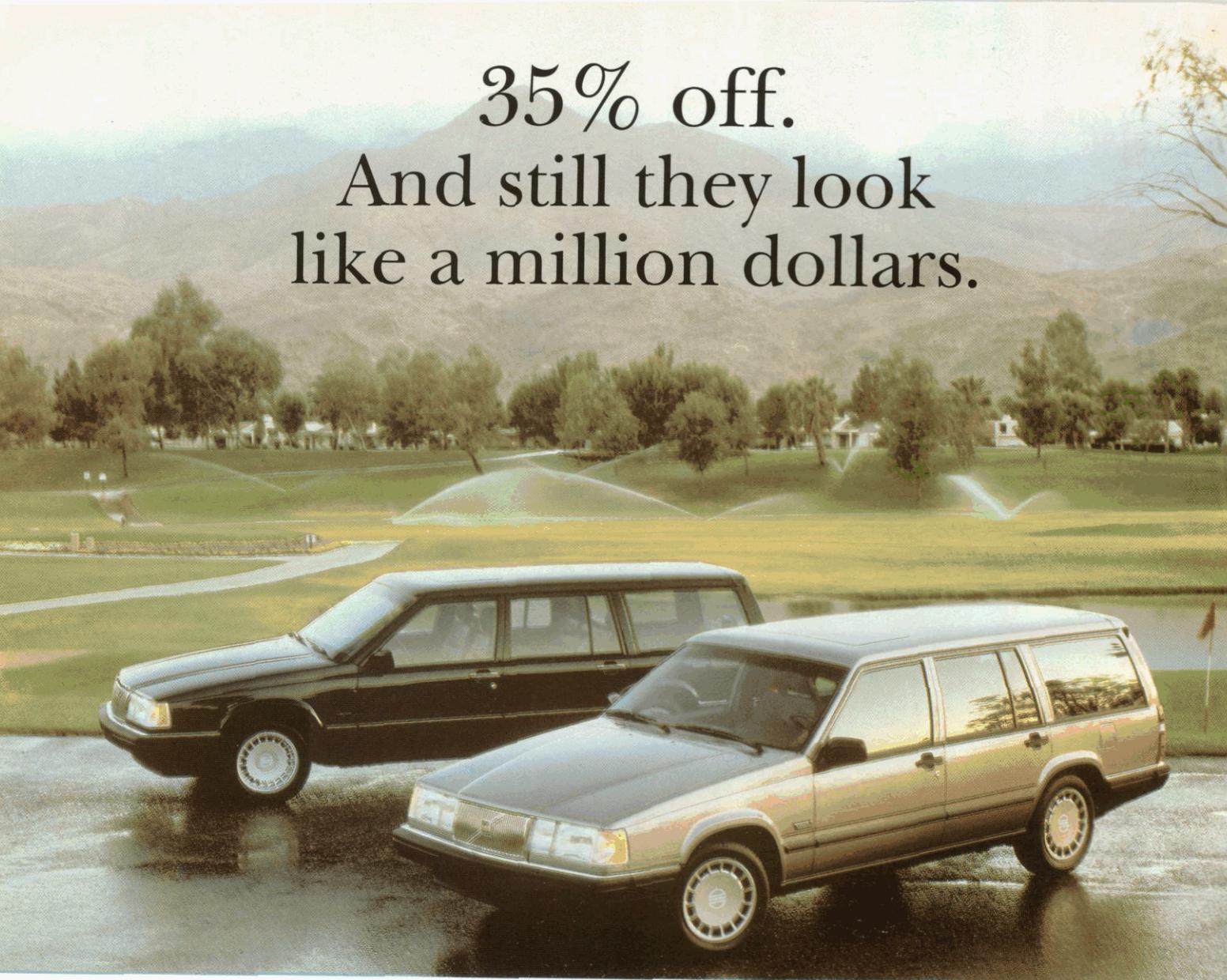
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INSIDE:
Gulf medals
Black Watch
RGJ birthday

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CONTENTS

- 5 Newsline
- 8 Gulf War awards
- 15 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 17 Black Watch in Ulster
- 23 Bovington's tank show
- 24 Royal Anglians in the Gulf
- 26 RGJ's 25th anniversary
- 28 All in a Good Cause
- 30 People
- 32 Letters to the Editor
- 34 Anne Armstrong
- 36 Book reviews
- 39 HOAY competition
- 40 SOLDIER Mart
- 46 Classified advertisements
- 48 Sport



Two sides of the Gulf Medal 1990-91. The ribbon is pictured on the cover

FRONT COVER – Main picture: Sgt Bob Capewell (left) of 2 RGJ and Rfn Willy Wilson of Dover-based 3 RGJ in the uniform of the Rifle Brigade (1800-1840). Now the Green Jackets are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their amalgamation. Story in Pages 26-27.

(Picture: Mike Weston).

Lower picture: The Black Watch, resident at Ballykinler. See pages 17-21.

Inset: The Gulf Medal ribbon.

SOLDIER

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GULF LEADERS: (from left to right) Commander British Forces Middle East, Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, KBE; Commander 1 Armoured Division, Maj Gen Rupert Smith, DSO; Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, Brig Patrick Cordingley, DSO; Commander 4 Armoured Brigade, Brig Christopher Hammerbeck, CB

GULF MEDALS

BRITISH soldiers received 369 honours and awards in recognition of their service during the Gulf War. The list, gazetted on June 29, includes 115 gallantry awards.

The Royal Air Force won 164 awards, and the Royal Navy 99. In all, the Queen recognised 811 people.

Two of the Army's top commanders in the Gulf, Maj Gen Rupert Smith (1 Armoured Division) and Brig Patrick Cordingley (7 Armoured Brigade) receive Distinguished Service Orders, and a third DSO goes to an unnamed soldier of the Special Air Service Group.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, Commander British Forces Middle East, becomes a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

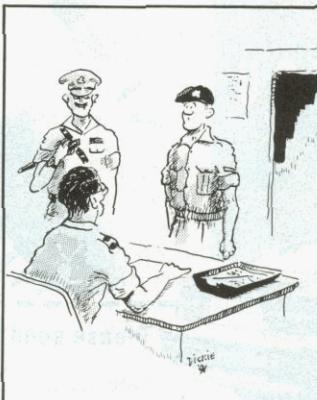
Maj Gen Smith led the largest British armoured force deployed since the Second World War "with consummate skill and outstanding personal leadership and under direct fire" says the citation in the *London Gazette*.

His Division was given a key role in the US VII Corps battle plan, which involved a rapid exploitation of the minefield

Pictures, stories, lists – Pages 8-13

breach and a rapid advance to destroy three Iraqi divisions. Failure to achieve it would have destroyed the main thrust of the Commander-in-Chief's battle plan and could have resulted in heavy US casualties.

Gen Smith swept his command through the breach and personally led from the front with fearless disregard for



I'm sure the C-in-C is fully aware of your contribution to the successful outcome of the Gulf War as Sanitary NCO at Joint Services HQ, Cpl Eccles, but I'm afraid the medals have all been allocated.'

SAS earn 41 medals

MEMBERS of the Special Air Service Group who operated deep behind enemy lines in Iraq and Kuwait passing back vital intelligence reports and destroying Scud missile sites earned 41 awards in the Gulf honours list.

The only person named is Cpl David Denbury, a Royal Engineer who was awarded a posthumous Military Medal.

In addition, the Special Air Service earned one DSO, three MCs, three DCMs, six further MMs, 19 Mentions in Despatches, two OBEs, four MBEs and two BEMs.

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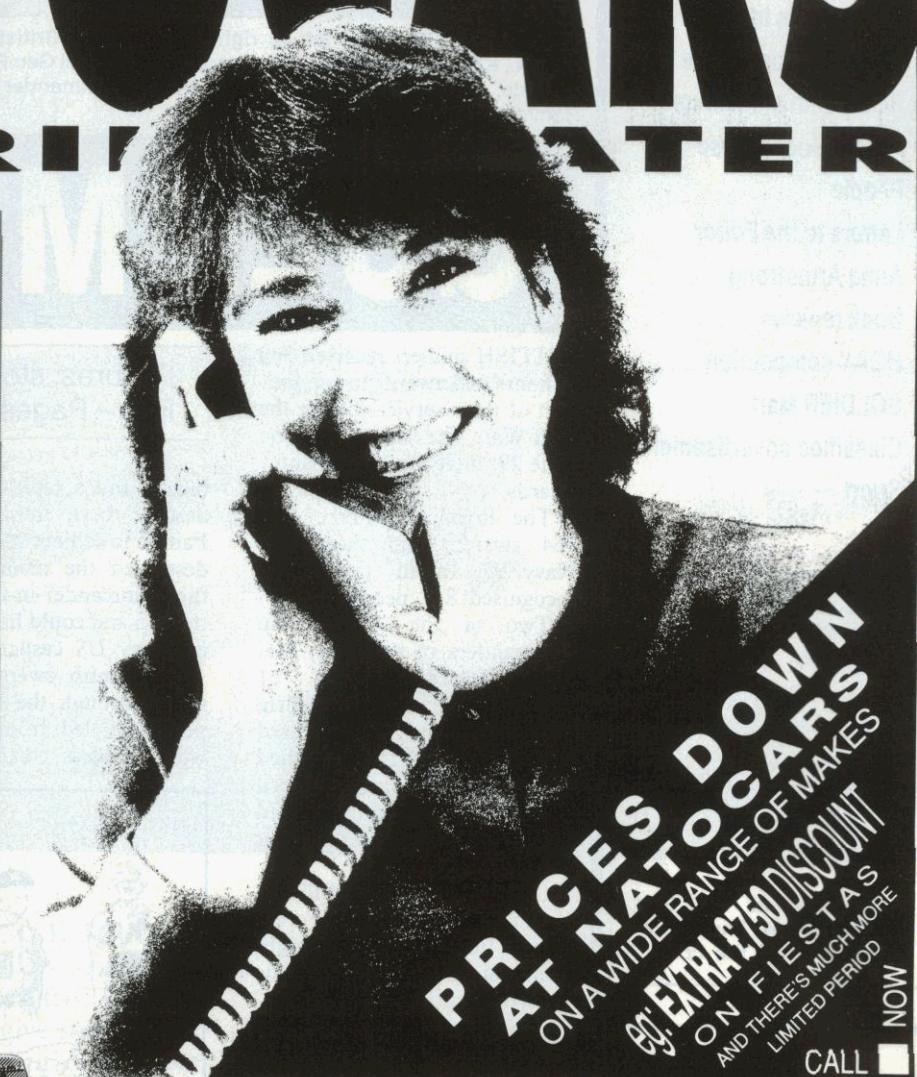
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S/TAN/22/7



Picture: Mike Perring

Aldershot laid on a wet welcome for its Gulf veterans as men and women from the Army's Medical Services paraded through the streets. The medics, who staffed field hospitals in Saudi Arabia during the war, were led by the Pegasus Band of The Parachute Regiment, whose bandmen had served at Al Jubail as medical assistants

Naafi discount suspended

NAAFI discounts or dividends on retail purchases in UK have not been paid since the end of June following a decision by the Naafi Council with the approval of the Services.

Increasingly strong competition from easily accessible superstores, where soldiers and their families make the bulk of their purchases, is the main

reason for this, coupled with a dramatic decline in profits in Germany because of the sudden deployment to the Gulf.

There is also a growing tendency for Service families to live away from bases, and despite measures to cut overheads and other costs, it seems unlikely that Naafi can continue to run 150 UK family shops when there is a net loss of £4.8m, including £1.3m paid out in discounts and dividends.

Surpluses from Germany can no longer be assumed to subsidise UK retailing services and commanders are being asked to consider mergers of families and Services shops. A number of loss-making establishments will be maintained as "mini" shops on a welfare basis to meet essential needs.

Iceland journey

A SIX-strong team from the 2nd Infantry Division Transport Regiment at Catterick is to spend more than two weeks in the Icelandic interior exploring nearly 1,000 miles of little-used tracks with three specially equipped Land Rovers.

The route will take them over terrain ranging from black desert plains to the snow glaciers in southern Iceland. Taking part from the end of July are Capt Paul Stockdale, SSgt Ken Blues, Cpl Les Cowling, LCpl Stuart Dixon and Drivers Kevin Phelps and Andy Ward.

THE islands' Defence Force came out top in the Falklands, march and shoot competition which covered 14km cross country and took the teams across several of the 82 battlefield sites.

Some very fast times were recorded but the shooting was

Junior Leaders to move

CHANGES in the way the Army organises its Junior Leader regiments have been announced by the MoD.

Training at Dover will be switched to the Army Apprentices College Chepstow. Infantry Junior Leaders of the Queen's Division centre at Shorncliffe, Kent will be transferred to the Royal Artillery training centre at Bramcote, Notts, while RAOC and RCT Junior Leaders will move to Bovington, Dorset.

Adult RAMC training at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot will move to the Prince of Wales Division at Lichfield, Staffs, and the Bovington School of Music and all REME adult and phase 1 training will move to the Guards Depot at Pirbright.

6 GR win Duffell trophy

DESPITE having no Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley to select for, the British Forces in Hong Kong still carried out their own meeting, but involved soldiers who would not normally be members of shooting teams.

The Duffell Cup, first presented when the now Commander British Forces, Maj Gen Peter Duffell, was Commander 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, went to the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles as the battalion with the best score, while the Commander's Trophy for the platoon with the best score went to 6 GR's 7 Platoon of C Company.

Island force comes first

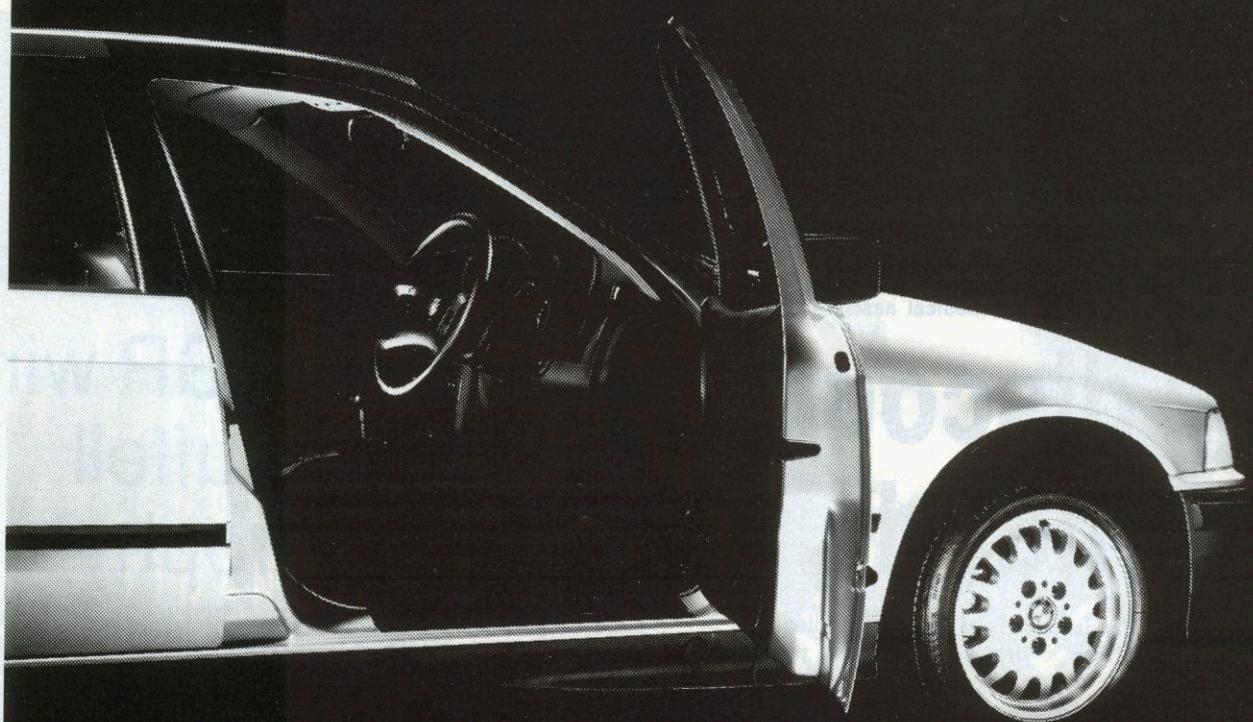
disappointing, with the FIDF eventually finishing in 1hr 28min as against 1 Pl, Sevastopol Coy, 2 Queens' second slot of 2hr.

A team of FIDF recruits who had been training for only four months came fifth in a creditable 2hr 20min.

BATUS team in Arctic

CREEPING up on caribou (with the help of skidoos) and tracking ptarmigan (with the help of snow shoes) was part of the fun for 14 men and two women from the British Army Training Unit in Suffield when they took three Land Rovers through the Yukon into the Canadian Arctic.

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A new entry in the List

As the British Army awaits decisions on cuts and amalgamations under Options for Change, it has acquired a new Regular regiment.

The Gibraltar Regiment has been granted an entry in the Army List following an Army Board decision to recognise the unit.

The regiment has been in existence since 1939 as a Territorial Army-type gunner unit sponsored by the Royal Artillery. Since the Force Level Review resulted in the withdrawal of the resident British battalion, the regiment has handed back its big guns and retrained as infantry.

In March next year, sponsorship of the unit will transfer to Director Infantry.

Formal recognition, following an increase in its full-time strength, by inclusion in the Army List has allowed pay and conditions to be tied closer to those enjoyed by UK Regulars.

Basic pay will be the same, but a smaller percentage of the X factor will be granted. Local overseas allowance will not be paid to the troops. An additional "carrot" in the provision of married quarters means the regiment now has a waiting list of potential recruits.

The Gibraltar Regiment assumed full-time duty in March when the last resident battalion, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets was withdrawn. The regiment will not entirely sever its links with the gunners, having retained four 25-pounder guns for ceremonial occasions.

Granby visit

GEN Sir Peter de la Billière and his Op Granby presentation team have spoken to one of the courses at the Joint Warfare Staff at Poole. All three Services and 12 Nato countries were represented.



Arriving at Salisbury Cathedral for the diocesan thanksgiving service for the safe return of the Armed Forces from the Gulf is Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, watched by Cpl Sarah Stanton of 158 Provost Company at Bulford



Remembering the 23 bomb disposal officers who have died since 1945 is WO1 Barry Johnson GC beside the 8-ft tall statue dedicated at the Army Ammunition Depot, Kineton. Since 1945 more than 280 gallantry awards have been made to Royal Army Ordnance Corps EOD personnel, including four George Crosses and 50 George Medals. The Corps' total overall is six George Crosses and 66 George Medals.

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GULF GALLANTRY AWARDS

MILITARY CROSS

Lt Anthony Briselden, 3 RRF, commander of a battle group anti-tank platoon, deployed as part of a reconnaissance group, encountered a fortified enemy defensive position and was ordered to attack it.

Once dismounted, his section took cover and were reluctant to move forward. Lt Briselden crawled forward alone over 30 yards of exposed ground and cleared single handed the first enemy bunker with grenades.

He continued his attack on a second bunker, completely disregarding his own safety.

Inspired by his actions, his men moved forward to support him in clearing the remainder of the position.

Lt Briselden's actions led to the award of the Military Cross.

MAJ Simon Knapper, in command of A Company, 1 Staffords, which was attached to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Battle Group, led from the front when ordered to destroy two enemy positions supported by armour and automatic weapons.

Showing considerable gallantry under fire, Maj Knapper directed his platoons to eliminate enemy positions dug into bunkers.

His company fought from position to position using grenades and small arms. Three of his men were wounded.

Maj Knapper's personal bravery was rewarded with a Military Cross.

CAPT (acting Maj) Vincent Maddison led a squadron of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars spear-heading 7 Armoured Brigade's breakout to the east and involved in the first British contacts of the war.

Pressing on relentlessly, he made contact in pitch darkness with a brigade-strength enemy force, probed and fought for four hours, and accurately determined the size of the position.

Identifying an enemy armoured counter-attack, he immediately deployed his tanks and destroyed 14 enemy tanks.

At first light his squadron destroyed 12 more tanks in further actions and dozens of prisoners were taken. For his outstanding leadership and great courage, Capt Maddison was awarded the Military Cross.

MAJ John Potter, RHF commanded B Company, in the 1 Royal Scots Battle Group against three major objectives.

He pursued the enemy with ruthlessness and co-ordinated a violent concentration of fire on to one.

Shortly afterwards, the enemy began to surrender, and he switched on his Warrior headlights to encourage others to give themselves up.

After another position surrendered, Maj Potter gave clear instructions for the tending of enemy wounded and the burial of the dead. Under pressure to press on, he ensured the worst of the wounded were carried forward with the Battle Group.

On another position, he led his company in a classic rolling-up operation, easing it into a position where it could exert an unsurvivable concentration of firepower.

Moving forward alone, he opened fire with his machine gun on a pitch black night to indicate the whereabouts of the enemy.

As a result he became the sole focus of all the enemy's return fire, rounds ricochetting off his turret, but remained utterly steady, simultaneously suppressing enemy positions, describing what he could see and leading the infantry on to exactly the desired spot.

2nd Lt Telfer had joined the regiment only four months before deployment and was one of the most junior officers commanding a tank troop.

His display of clear-headed courage in the attack, out of all proportion to his age and experience set the standard for the rest of the Scots DG Battle Group and brought him a Military Cross.

Out of the barrage

CAPT Norman Soutar commanded A Company, 1 Royal Scots during more than half-a-dozen attacks on enemy positions.

During one he led his company in a mounted assault, choosing to advance rapidly

into his own artillery barrage in order to ensure complete surprise. The enemy were at rifle point when they recovered. Never placing himself in less risk than those he led, Capt Soutar was awarded the Military Cross.

Ironically, four minutes after they left the position, it came under heavy artillery bombard-

weapons and grenades, killing one member of Maj Rochelle's company.

These fresh attackers were cleared by the company using small arms, grenades and mortars which resulted in considerable enemy casualties and 300 prisoners being taken.



2nd Lt Richard Telfer, MC

COMMANDING a troop of three Challenger tanks advancing deep into Iraqi territory, 2nd Lt Richard Telfer, Scots DG, led an infantry company into the centre of an enemy position.

Moving forward alone, he opened fire with his machine gun on a pitch black night to indicate the whereabouts of the enemy.

As a result he became the sole focus of all the enemy's return fire, rounds ricochetting off his turret, but remained utterly steady, simultaneously suppressing enemy positions, describing what he could see and leading the infantry on to exactly the desired spot.

2nd Lt Telfer had joined the regiment only four months before deployment and was one of the most junior officers commanding a tank troop.

His display of clear-headed courage in the attack, out of all proportion to his age and experience set the standard for the rest of the Scots DG Battle Group and brought him a Military Cross.

MILITARY MEDAL

WHEN Cpl Kenneth Anderson of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards found himself, his Challenger tank and a lightly armoured personnel carrier in the middle of a company-strength enemy position at night he held his nerve, called their bluff and captured what was to have been a 4 Armoured Brigade objective.

His tank had broken down in the breach as 7 Armoured Brigade advanced. As soon as it was repaired he pushed forward with the REME section to rejoin his squadron, unaware that his route lay through enemy-held territory as yet uncleared by 4 Bde which had not begun its advance.

He became aware of armed soldiers ahead of him and opened fire over their heads to



Cpl Kenneth Anderson, MM

force their surrender. They promptly dived into their trenches.

In poor night visibility he closed on the enemy, shielding the REME APC behind him.

Aware that more than 40 enemy soldiers were moving near him, but unsure of their intentions, he stopped, switched on his headlights, dismounted and walked towards an enemy group, silhouetted by the headlights and signalling to the Iraqis to surrender.

One of the prisoners was an officer who spoke English, so Cpl Anderson told him a barrage was about to be fired on the position. Other Iraqis immediately surrendered.

Ironically, four minutes after they left the position, it came under heavy artillery bombard-



From the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots are (left to right) Pte Tom Gow, MM, Capt Angus McLeod, MID, Pte Scott Gillies, GOC 1 Div Commendation, Maj John Potter RHF, MC, and Pte David Gibb, MID

ment prior to 4 Bde's assault.

Throughout the incident Cpl Anderson, who has been awarded the Military Medal, was aware he was totally unsupported. But his determination to persuade the enemy to surrender led to the capture of the position and prevented the bloodshed that the artillery would have wrought on the position.

TWENTY-year-old tractor driver LCpl Ian Dewsnap of 73 Field Squadron, RE has been awarded the Military Medal for his actions on the night of February 26-27.

He had been deployed to a pipeline obstacle which 4 Armoured Brigade would need to cross, and arrived to find he was on his own, with no protection and no radio.

Soon after moving off with his 100 or so prisoners he was joined by a fellow sapper who helped him put the Iraqis in a temporary PoW cage.

The citation says the young soldier acted with great control and composure in the face of overwhelming enemy numbers, whose intentions were by no means clear.

As daylight broke another 60 or 70 Iraqi soldiers approached



LCpl Ian Dewsnap, MM

in a more menacing manner.

Still alone, LCpl Dewsnap fired several rounds over their heads and ordered them to lay down their weapons.

Realising that the momentum of the attack was being lost, he ordered his fire team to cover him and crawled forward.

Despite the fact that mines and bomblets had already exploded on the objective, he got to within 20m of the enemy vehicle and destroyed it with his Close Assault Weapon (CLAW), finishing it off with a grenade.

Pte Gow charged two more bunkers, clearing them with grenades, and captured three officers and four soldiers.

His actions, during the 1 Royal Scots Battle Group attack in southern Iraq as part of 4 Armoured Brigade's thrust east, earned him the Military Medal.

Under fire, LCpl Reid went to the helpless soldier's assistance, even though a second Spartan was hit close by.

Thwarted at first, LCpl Reid ignored the flames and eventually succeeded in dragging Bdr York free, extinguishing with his hands the gunner's burning clothes.

LCpl Reid dragged Bdr York out of the line of fire, arranged for his evacuation, and only then had his own burns attended.

LCpl Reid's conspicuous gallantry brought him the Military Medal.



LCpl Kevin Reid, MM

Sergeant took on Iraqi tank

SGT Michael Dowling, REME died trying to rescue colleagues under fire from an Iraqi tank.

Employed as the REME fitter sergeant attached to C Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, he was commanding one of two M548 logistic load-carrying vehicles grouped with C Sqn on the morning of February 26.

The squadron was deployed

firing his personal weapon at the Iraqi tank commander who was engaging with a 12.7mm machine gun.

Although one of the rescued crewmen was mortally wounded beside him, Sgt Dowling continued to fire at the Iraqi tank until he too was killed.

His outstanding bravery was recognised by the award of a posthumous Military Medal.

THE Military Medal has been awarded to Sgt Nicholas Scott

● Turn to next page

Op Granby awards for gallant and meritorious service

From Page 9

of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars for his part in the success of the QRIH's tank battles during the Gulf War.

As night fell on February 25 his Challenger squadron came into contact with an extensive enemy position.

In pitch darkness, with driving rain and a blinding sand storm, Sgt Scott and two other tanks advanced into the enemy position.

He moved 2,000m ahead of the squadron to probe the flank of the enemy, providing information about the strength and disposition of opposing

AIR FORCE MEDAL

SSGT (now WO2) Mark Torpy a helicopter instructor with 659 Squadron Army Air Corps, pioneered many new techniques using night vision goggles during Op Granby.

The desert is recognised as an extremely dangerous environment for night formation flying at very low level with no lights.

This hazardous, but crucial,

forces that was vital to the planning of the brigade attack later that night.

Three hours later Sgt Scott was again among forward tanks attacking in depth when, quite unexpectedly, a counter-attack was detected.

Visibility was so poor that tanks were colliding, it was impossible to locate minefields, and ranging was extremely difficult.

Closed down in his tank, Sgt Scott worked his way between the remainder of his squadron and the advancing enemy so that he could direct and steady the QRIH fire.

This fire-control was crucial in the destruction of the Iraqi counter-attack.

The squadron remained in contact with the enemy throughout the following morning, with Sgt Scott playing a leading role in the battle.

At one point he engaged an armoured car at 1,500m, destroying it with a single shot.

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

WHEN two Spartan air defence vehicles were hit by tank fire, Sgt Stephen Allen, RA manoeuvred his Warrior alongside and leapt on to one of the blazing vehicles to check if anyone was trapped inside.

Before he left the shelter of his own vehicle, there was a violent explosion from the rear of the Spartan which showered the Warrior with burning phosphorus and wreckage.

Nevertheless, Sgt Allen continued his search. As he got back into his own vehicle a further explosion engulfed the Spartan in flames. He received the Queen's Gallantry Medal.



SSgt Nicholas Scott, MM, with members of his crew LCpl Robert Clark (left) and Tpr Mark Tindall

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Sgt Stephen Allen, QGM



Fus Simon Bakker, QGM

CPL Michael Driscoll, RCT earned the Queen's Gallantry Medal when the joint US/British medical convoy he was travelling with ran into a minefield.

One medical officer was killed in an explosion. Shortly afterwards, a second explosion was heard off the track near Cpl Driscoll's ambulance.

A young female medical assistant had a leg blown off and sustained a large gaping abdominal wound. Four other casualties lay wounded in the minefield.



Cpl Michael Driscoll, QGM

WHEN two Warriors of C Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers took direct hits from aerial attack, Fus Simon Bakker was

gunner on the second vehicle. As soon as he saw the explosion on the first Warrior he ran across to it in an attempt to extricate the gunner.

The rescue attempt ended in failure. While trying to get the hatches open he was blown over by a further explosion and suffered shrapnel wounds in his thigh.

Fus Bakker was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

CPL Mark Griffiths, REME was in a convoy of tank transporters moving northwards into Iraq carrying replacement armour through the border breach.

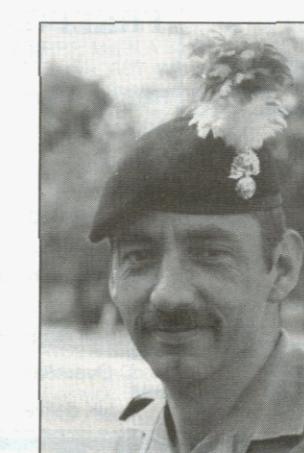
When the vehicle in front, carrying fuel, ammunition, rockets and grenades, caught fire, Cpl Griffiths repeatedly dashed into the flames to try to recover equipment.

As the conflagration partially subsided, he climbed on to the vehicle with a shovel and began to jettison burning stores.

Through his personal en-

deavours, Cpl Griffiths saved the truck from being totally destroyed by the fire and enabled it to continue throughout the operation. His bravery was rewarded with the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

SGT Trevor Smith (R Anglian attached 3RRF), was platoon sergeant in one of two Warriors hit by aerial attack resulting in



Sgt Trevor Smith, QGM

SSGT Kevin Davies, RMP and his men literally shovelled a path through a field of MLRS bomblets when the Brigade Administrative Area (BAA) looked like being delayed as it followed HQ 7 Armoured Brigade into Iraq.

SSgt Davies, who has been awarded the DCM, was in command of 3 Platoon, 203 Provost Company, and was responsible for establishing the brigade's Forming-up Point (FUP).

Forward elements were already four hours ahead of the BAA when it reached the FUP, which turned out to be covered

GULF MEDALS



temporarily blinded, he escaped from his turret. While crawling from the vehicle, another wounded soldier stumbled into him as a second explosion occurred from both vehicles.

He showed great courage and concern by shielding the other soldier with his body and then dragged him to safety. Sgt Smith, who was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal, refused treatment until the other wounded man had been tended.

BRAVE CONDUCT

BDR Robert Martin, RA received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for courage and determination in risking his life to ensure that members of his detachment could escape when fire destroyed his field gun.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

in bomblets. The group soon sustained one killed and three injured, and 3 Platoon had already lost a Land Rover and motor cycle to explosions.

SSgt Davies was ordered to clear safe lanes for the BAA's 600 vehicles, and he and his men did so using issue shovels to move the lethal ordnance aside.

They continued to recce and lay the route for the BAA through 200km of enemy territory, with SSgt Davies leading and motivating an increasingly tired and stressed platoon across battlefield after battlefield.

Operation Granby awards for gallant and meritorious service



GULF MEDALS



DSO

Brig P A J Cordingley; Maj Gen R A Smith, OBE, QGM.

MC

Lt A G Brisden, RRF; Maj S J Knapper MBE, Staffords; Capt (Actg Maj) V J T Maddison, QRIH; Maj J Potter, RHF; Maj J M Rochelle, Staffords; Capt N G S Soutar, RS; 2nd Lt R E Telfer, Scot DG.

DCM

SSgt K M Davies, RMP.

MM

Sgt M J Dowling, REME; Cpl D E Denbury, RE (SAS); Cpl K Anderson, Scots DG; LCpl I M Dewsnap, RE; Pte T R Gow, RS; LCpl K M S Reid, RRF; Sgt N M Scott, QRIH.

AFM

SSgt (now WO2) M W Torpy, AAC.

QGM

Sgt S Allen, RA; Fus S Bakker, RRF; Cpl M J Driscoll, RCT; Cpl M R Griffiths, REME; Sgt T H Smith, R Anglian.

QCB

Bdr R Martin, RA.

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

Cpl J V Baglee, RCT; Capt J Bailey MBE, RA; Capt J Bellis, REME; Bdsnn J Bennett, LI; Sgt S Blackburn, RA; SSgt A D Bond, 16/5 L; WO2 K J Brennan, REME; WO2 M G Coombs, REME; Sgt I Copland, RS; Spr G Coxon, RE; Lt Col R J Croucher, REME; Sgt S B Crowfoot, RE; LCpl (Actg Cpl) A Currie, KOSB; Cpl (Actg Sgt) T G Davison, RRF; Maj A P Domeisen MBE, R Anglian; Lt B A Duxbury, AAC; Lt (Actg Capt) C J Edwards BEM, RA; Capt M H England, RAMC; Maj R J Eustace, AAC; Lt Col P A D Evans OBE, RCT; Maj D J M Ferguson, RAMC; Capt N O Fitzgerald, RA; WO2 D M Forster, RAOC (EFI); Cpl G Foster, RCT; Maj P D W Garbutt, 14/20 H; Pte D A Gibb, RS; Capt D G Halstead, R Signals.

Tpr I A Hammond, QRIH; Maj L G Hammond, Int Corps; Capt J L Hewitt, LG; Lt (Actg Capt) A Hood, 5 Innis DG; Lt J F Horton, 16/5 L; Lt Col A R E



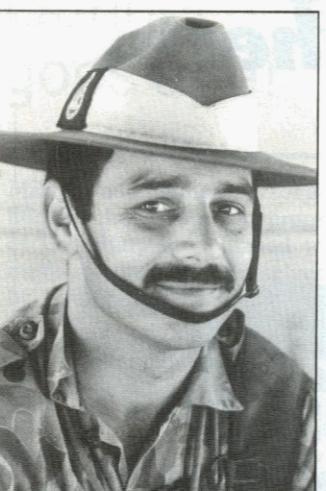
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Lt Col Arthur Denaro, OBE



Lt Col Charles Rogers, OBE



Maj Chris Cromack, MBE



Lt Col Rod Croucher, MID



WO2 David Stevenson, MID



Col Willie Shackell, CBE



Lt Col David Radcliffe, OBE



Lt Col John Sharples, OBE



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Gds; Lt (Actg Capt) A D Murdoch, Coldm Gds; Maj C J Joynson, Staffords; Lt Col (Actg Col) J C L King MBE, PWO; Bdsnn (Actg LCpl) P D Lawson, LI; Lt Col (Actg Col) L P Lillywhite MBE, RAMC; Pte I Mair, LI; Maj J M May, RCT; Lt A R McLeod, RS; Lt Col I H McNeil OBE, Coldm

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Teeling, RE; Lt Col S F Thornton, RAOC; Maj E J Tomlinson, REME; Cpl W B Tyson, RGJ; Maj J R Wallace MBE, RCT; Capt R G Wootton, Staffords; Lt R W Yorke, Coldm Gds.

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KBE
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Master Gunner goes ape!

Military and civilian personalities, including the Governor of Gibraltar, have agreed to make monkeys of themselves by having Rock apes named after them.

When the famous Gibraltar creatures' new season of offspring came along it was felt they should take the names of dignitaries.

One such personage is Gen Sir Martin Farndale, Master Gunner, St James's Park, who told SOLDIER he was honoured and delighted to have an ape named after him.

"Sometime I will call in and make my number with him!" he said.

A year ago the world's media reported that responsibility for the Barbary apes had passed to a tourist theme park, which would charge visitors to view them, thus ending a 78-year-old association with the British Army, by whom they were fed.

We are happy to reveal that the Army's official ape keeper, Cpl Ernie Asquez, Gibraltar Regiment, continues to feed the animals on their rocky perch.

Gibraltar's Barbary apes (as such not strictly apes at all, but tail-less monkeys) are the only wild monkeys in Europe.

In 1913 a master gunner of the old Royal Garrison Artillery was given the task of feeding the apes as a military duty. The Gibraltar Regiment took over responsibility in 1954.

In 1941 Prime Minister Winston Churchill expressed disquiet at the decline in the number of apes and fresh stock

SOLDIER to Soldier



Ape keeper Cpl Ernie Asquez with one of his charges

was imported. It may have had something to do with the old saying that when the apes leave the Rock, the British will go, too . . .

the Division's volunteer origins in the 19th century and traces its action-packed history through the two world wars.

To stir further memories there is footage showing last year's pilgrimage to The Somme and St Valery-en-Caux as well as three reunions in the 1960s, and the viewer is brought up-to-date with the story of the 51st (Highland) Volunteers (TA) from 1967 to the present.

Copies, at £12 each including postage, can be obtained from Lt Col Alastair Rose, Hon Secretary, Highland Division Club, Army HQ Scotland, PO Box 85, Edinburgh EH1 2YX. Cheques and POs should be made payable to 51st HD Video Account.

Legendary 51st on video

The Army Benevolent Fund Scotland will benefit from sales of a new colour video telling the illustrious story of the 51st (Highland) Division.

Made by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation with Ministry of Defence backing, *The Legendary 51st* starts with

War pension body formed

With war pension claims continuing to rise, a new official body overseeing all aspects of this multi-million pound expenditure no doubt has its hands full.

The War Pensions Directorate was formed in February as a further measure in providing a reliable and valuable service to "customers" in all aspects of the scheme, including welfare.

Social Security Minister Lord Henley reported last month that more than 248,000 people are receiving a war pension at a cost to the Government of £640 million.

Pensioners and widows surviving from the First World War still total 5,000, while the remaining beneficiaries are from the 1939-45 war and other subsequent conflicts as well as peacetime service.

Last year there were more than 20,000 new claims for war disablement pensions, a rise of almost 18 per cent over 1989.

Extra support for disabled ex-Service personnel was included in last year's improvements to the scheme and is one of the areas being managed by the new directorate.

Howzat? Desert Brits pitch in

Recent successes against the West Indies notwithstanding, what could be more British than losing at cricket? Particularly when there are at least three ready-made excuses for it - the tarmacadam pitch, the hardened tennis ball deputising for the real thing, and the absence of batting pads and gloves.

Oh yes, and it was being played in Saudi Arabia . . .

A British Forces Logistic Support Group team suffered

just such a defeat against a combined Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan eleven in Al Jubail after a sporting challenge thrown down by the cricket-mad Col Graeme Cowell, Deputy Commander of the Logistic Support Group (Middle East).

His team, which despite its scratch nature included Army level players, lost by nine wickets - and even though achieving a more respectable score in the return match a

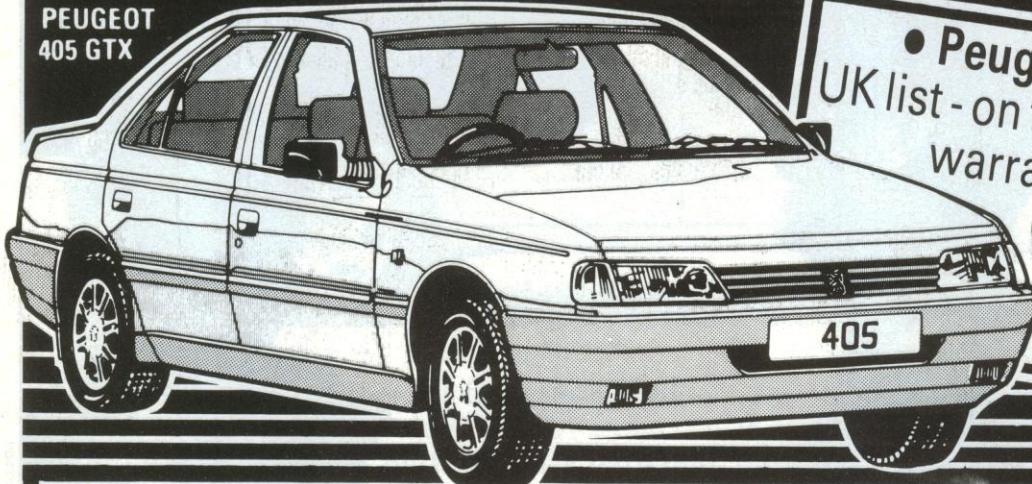
week later, still lost by 34 runs.

With a third match in the offing, battle plans were being drawn up to cope with the extra bounce on the wicket and the dazzling skills of the opposition, one of whom showed an annoying tendency to hit the ball to the boundary and beyond.

Meanwhile, the Brits were reflecting on the joys of merely playing the game - and yearning for that rain-soaked, green, green grass of home . . .

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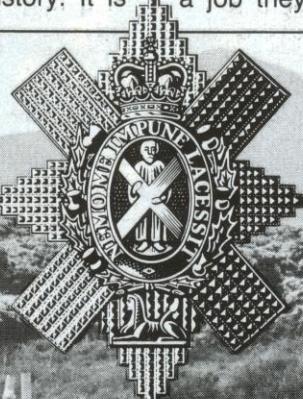


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The Black Watch evolved to police the Highlands but soon found itself either fighting Hanoverian battles or policing Ireland. Fighting or policing, it is master of its art and is today coming to the end of its tenth tour in Northern Ireland and second as resident battalion in Ballykinler since the present troubles began. Watching over a troubled land has been the regiment's speciality for centuries, and its soldiers can understand some dimensions from their own history. It is a job they do well, as **Gordon Skilling** discovered during a visit.

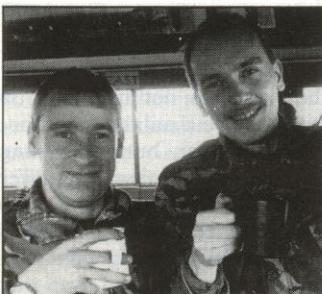


Black Watch in Ulster



No time to admire the view as LCpl Wilfie McShane takes members of HQ Company on a Combat Fitness Test. In the background are the Mountains of Mourne

Masters of their art



Toasting their success in spotting a smuggler are Cpl Mike Smeaton and Pte Skin Meek

TWO young soldiers are watching a cattle truck on a country road in Northern Ireland. It is full of livestock, and it has avoided a checkpoint.

Cpl Mike Smeaton and Pte Skin Meek are alert. When the truck arrived from the south earlier in the day it had been empty. A message to a patrol nearer the border ensures that this particular smuggler won't be making a contribution to

terrorist funds.

The Black Watch has been doing this kind of thing in Ireland since the Bessbrook linen mill started up a couple of centuries ago.

Today the mill houses a company headquarters, while detachments are spread about doing substantially the job their predecessors, and sometimes ancestors, were doing in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Some things, like too many

soldiers in too little space, have not changed. But even since their first stint as resident battalion at Ballykinler from 1976 to 1978 there have been a lot of changes.

Maj Ronnie Proctor, ex-RSM and now QM, feels the essence of the task is still the same. The most significant change is in the equipment. From Jock's point of view, boots and socks keep his feet

● Turn to next page

Masters

● From Page 17

dry, and his clothing protects him from elements both natural and man-made.

"The soldier has much more equipment such as night sights, the SA 80 and better webbing, which allows him to operate more efficiently," said Maj Proctor.

"He also has a barrack block where he can have his own duvet. Living quite happily together can be one soldier with a Rangers duvet and another lad with a Celtic duvet."

This religious tolerance is significant for Maj Proctor. Steeped in the history of his regiment, church and country, he points out the irony of present experience.

"It was the mainly Scottish Plantation Presbyterians who started the republican movement after the American Revolution, and the first Catholic cathedral in Belfast was built by public subscription - from Presbyterians."

The Jocks standing in their watch-tower are effectively doing exactly the same job as the legionaries did in the Roman signal towers and forts around Perth. Nor are they far distant from the kind of job Rob Roy was undertaking as an officer of the Watch.

Indeed, they may even have a fellow-feeling for him, particularly in the way he put one over on the government of the day with his "insurance". It was an honest-to-goodness protection racket, which probably gave us the expression "blackmail" and may even have given the Royal Highland Regiment part of their name - watching for the black mail, or tribute.

Not a lot has changed on the political side: the Jocks were aware of hopes for the most recent talks, but there have been hopes before and they will soon notice if anything affects the atmosphere on the streets.

If it does, they will be suspicious. If it has been quiet for several weeks then it is too quiet and they will first consider what the opposition is up to before indulging in the luxury of considering that he may be letting up.

Internal Security is something the Royal Highland Regiment knows well. It was born to it.

Ironically, the regiment was formalised by an Irishman who was GOC Scotland and had it watch over the Highlands after the failure of the Jacobites to oust German Geordie in 1715.



The .5 Browning adds a lot of weight to a vehicle checkpoint manned by (from left) Pte Euan McGilp, Pte Alan Irving and Cpl Andy Forrester

The Jocks expected to remain in their Highlands, and if they hadn't been sent to fight the French in Flanders over who should be king in Austria, the Bonny Prince Charlie business might have been nipped in the bud.

While the last hopes of a Catholic monarch were being dashed on the mainland, the regiment was in Kent, watching out for a possible French invasion, and as the brutal pacification of Scotland after Culloden was getting into its swing, they were on the first of many postings to Ireland.

Since then they have been back and forth across the water in Cork, Limerick and Dublin as well as in the north. They are well used to their historic role as the "Watch" - still a curious role for a soldier who finds himself more and more of a policeman, says the battalion 2iC, Maj Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.

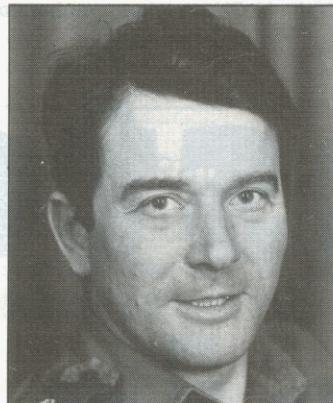
Now he supports the police in helping the Province to lead a normal life, continually watching out for trouble, his apparently relaxed manner belying his capacity to move "from nought to 60" in seconds.

The Jocks will tell you that even in the hard-nosed republican areas the vast majority of folk just want to get on with their lives in peace.

Many in those areas talk to them kindly, if carefully. Others may be watching. LCpl Willie Johnston was touched to

get a Christmas present of boxer shorts from one girl who used to talk to the soldiers on the street. He had spoken to her while on patrol and she handed them in to the canteen for him.

A rural patrol he was on was given a cuppa and biccies in a barn, after the Jocks had taken



"Courtesy is a weapon," says the battalion 2iC, Maj Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn

precautions to ensure they were not being set up.

"You've got to stand and talk to them and nine times out of ten you know when they are all right. A lot want to talk to you but are afraid. The girl who gave me the shorts had to leave her job because she was trying to be friendly."

The young lance corporal blames the parents and cannot understand why they teach such hatred.

It is more a feeling of sadness which envelops his sergeant

major, CSM Colin Gray. "You say to yourself: 'What a shame', because it is ruining their whole lives."

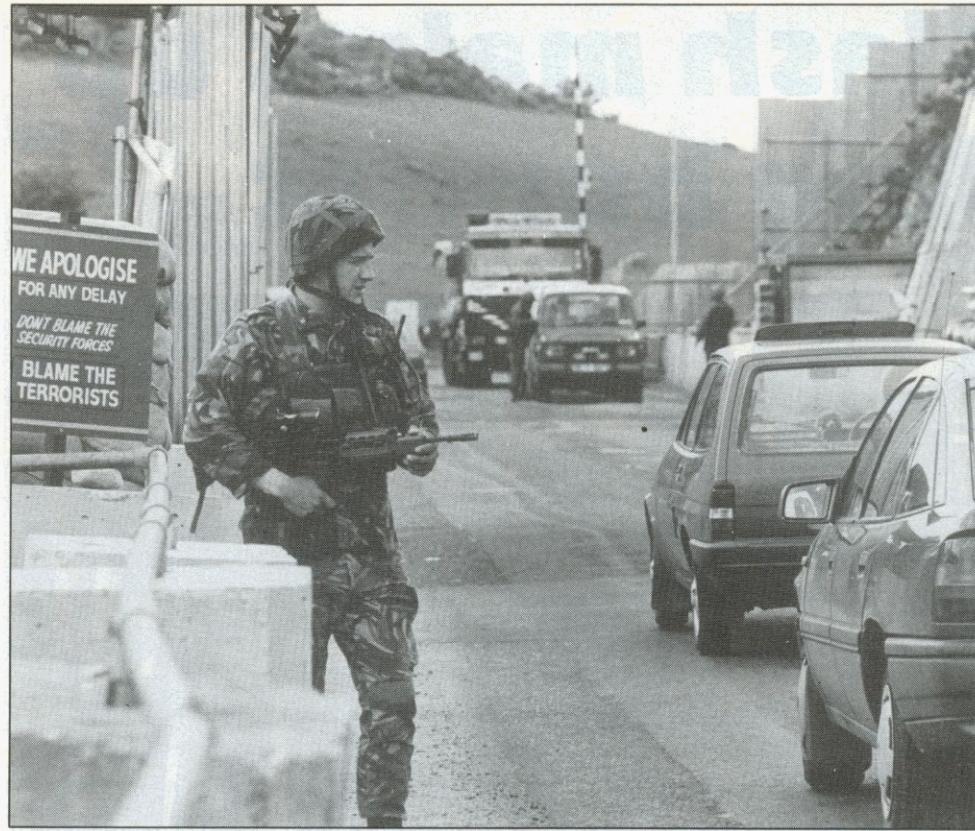
It is the younger Jocks and officers patrolling the streets and fields who take part in this game of watching-them-watching-us-watching-them. But many of the more experienced corporals and sergeants, probably the most dedicated and highly motivated Jocks, are on watch too. They are rarely seen.

Few of the Jocks get to know the effect of their reports. A cryptic comment that this was a good sighting, or that was a good report, may be all that comes down from on high.

They will not know it was their part of the jigsaw which confirmed a suspect's guilt. They will not know their part in the police swoop which picked up a particularly slippery character.

They might even miss the report of the trial and the details of the sentence, because proceedings are slow and they could well be in a new posting by that time.

But that it will eventually bear fruit is not in doubt. It may not be a military solution, they tell you, but the feeling they get is that there are fewer and fewer people on the marches, that only a handful are stopping everybody else living a normal life, and that they are more and more willing to stretch out to them and wish them good luck.



A VCP manned by the Black Watch. They give a high profile to deterrence



Watch towers like this help the Black Watch keep a close eye on their parish, an activity with which they have been associated for more than 200 years

Back to the Maginot Line

IT HAS been a busy tour for The Black Watch at Ballykinler, particularly during the latter half of the stay. Following a rationalisation of brigade boundaries it has been the only resident battalion in the area, with a net result that the Jocks can spend three-quarters of their time away from their normal beds.

Four companies are split between their familiar stamping ground of Newry, a brigade operations company, a guards and duties company, and by no means least, the company on the sacrosanct leave followed by further intensive training before returning to the start of the cycle.

By common consent, least popular is the guards and duties side of the empire, even when the manpower is not filched to support other companies. The handful of youngsters under 18 find it particularly trying because they are not allowed out on patrol at all, even although, as they are quick to point out, lads under 17½ were serving in the Gulf.

The brigade Ops company stands ready, like the little Dutch boy, to stick its finger in the dyke. From a cold start they have been known to react in half the time required. It is particularly disruptive for the families, who never know when

their men will be at home.

It is a more settled existence at Newry in support of the Armagh Roulement Battalion – the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards during SOLDIER's visit – where one of the main responsibilities is to man the permanent vehicle checkpoint on the A1 from Belfast to Dublin.

CSgt Jake Gauld and Capt Gary Couser probably wondered if they would have to sign for a pile of rubble, because it was blown up during the recce for the hand-over. It was rebuilt, up and running within the week after some incredibly hard work by the Jocks and sappers.

Maj Sir Andrew Ogilvy-

Wedderburn, 2iC, would love to see greater manpower available for manoeuvre forces.

"We've gone static here, just like the line of forts in the Boer War, the Maginot Line, or even like Hadrian's Wall. We should not be doing that as infantry men, sitting in towers all round the world, or in checkpoints

● Turn to next page



LCpl Colin Easton and his team keep on top of the situation by good soldiering

Tartan flash makes up for missing bunnet

THE distinctive red vulture feathers which the 42nd of Foot brought back from the wars in North America have long identified the Black Watch to the world. But it does so no longer in Northern Ireland operations.

To the disgust of many Jocks, it has been decreed that the wearing of the Tam-o'-Shanter has to take second place to the helmet in operational situations.

While the Jocks understand that lives have been saved by the helmet and, indeed, lost through not wearing it, tradition is something that is not always amenable to such logic and many would still prefer the bunnet to the tin bin.

Just looking like any other regiment is a condition not enjoyed by the Jocks for another reason.

They tend to have a close affinity with the Irish, and are better able to strike up a working relationship.

It is a delicate matter, remarked upon in previous centuries and summed up now by one soldier's comment that while the English might not be universally popular, the Irish like the Jocks.

Once upon a time, speaking the same basic Gaelic helped communication, but even now there is often an instant rapport which stems from an awareness of common Celtic roots. Go far enough back in time and the first neolithic inhabitants were going to Northern Ireland from South West Scotland. Even St Patrick was a "North Briton", and the Scots themselves were



The proud red hackle disappears on actual operations, but a tartan flash on the shoulder declares the identity of the Black Watch

pirates from Antrim.

When Maj Ronnie Proctor points out that the only time brothers ruled together in these islands was when Robert the Bruce and Edward Bruce were kings of Scotland and Ireland, it is easier to understand why there is an affinity, and why the Scottish soldiers want to be seen as Jocks.

"We are very proud of our identity and the Jocks were very miffed at not being allowed to wear their bunnets and red hackles," said Maj Sir Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn, the 2iC.

"That was why the commanding officer, Lt Col Nigel Lithgow, had small tartan patches made. It identifies us

from everybody else and many people have talked to us out on the streets and remarked on this."

When the Black Watch arrives in a new area, they are soon recognised by another trait.

"The Jocks are very good at talking to people, and this allows us to get a better feedback which they might otherwise not have given," continued Maj Ogilvy-Wedderburn.

"Courtesy is a weapon. There are times when you have to be hard-nosed, but in the normal run-of-the-mill of operations, if you are polite and respectful to people, it pays enormous dividends."

Maginot

● From Page 19

which can be avoided.

"It ties up a lot of men who could be out on the ground, adding an element of surprise and uncertainty.

"On Hadrian's Wall there was cavalry ready to burst out, but we would relish more helicopter hours which would give our 'cavalry' greater flexibility."

Quartermaster Maj Ronnie Proctor is not so sure, though he agrees about cavalry resources. In some ways it is like static fire bases in Vietnam, but the soldiers have to live somewhere, he contends.

Armies have always had to have well-defended areas from which they could operate and he feels the system is probably as good a way as any given the tools they have and the restrictions under which they operate.

The youngest soldier and officer understands the frustrations and appreciates there will never ever be a military solution, but The Black Watch is used to this. They have seen it all before.

No Roman wall was successful in keeping out the Caledonians, but they know how to man their own wall.

WRVS representative
Flora Williams comes from the Falkland Islands. Her trade mark is a bag of sweeties. Here the recipients are the lads of the Quick Reaction Force (front) Cpl Alex Beattie, Pte Scott Jamieson, Pte Graham Young and Pte Pete Brindley (rear) Ptes Andy Green (holding Flora's dog Daisy May) Craig Cathro and Alex Campbell





Above: Initially suspicious, CSgt Willie Nichol now declares that having women in the battalion is working well, a considerable relief to LCpl Sally Renshaw

Above right: Cpl Simon Hayward felt strange working with Ptes Lisa Bradfield and Tracey Dennison, but he is used to it now

Right: Pte Kerry Clarke (left) adds another dimension to the team of Ptes Gary McDonald, Stephen Trotter, Allan Steele and Lt David Orr-Ewing. She can search women without having to wait for a policewoman.

'CULTURE SHOCK' RAISED THE HACKLES

Women of the Watch!

THE Black Watch is struggling to survive a severe culture shock. Since the beginning of the year there have been women in the regiment, and it has fairly been raising the hackles of old sweats and young soldiers alike.

Not only are they women, most are Englishwomen!

In such a strongly traditionalist regiment as The Black Watch, long-established attitudes die hard, even though the 2iC's auntie had a platoon when the 5th Battalion was mobilised in 1939.

It's not that the regiment rejects them - goodness, they are far too gentlemanly for that - it's just that, well, "It's just no right".

They probably feel as the regiment did in the American War of Independence when a draft of 150 arrived, described

as "the refuse from the streets of London and Dublin". Half were packed off to hospital, the other half to another regiment.

This of course, was taken as an insult by the Highland gentlemen of the Watch, but the ladies need have no fear on this score.

"It's good for them to be in the Army, there's no doubt about that," says medic Cpl Hamish Norbal, "and they're good at doing their jobs, but . . ."

Having said that, he becomes protective: "They are well looked after and will certainly be well defended. They are part of the family now."

The women have, in fact, fitted in very well, possibly because both sides have been aware of the immensity of the concept.

Lt Lindsay Gowland, who

commands the WRAC platoon, said: "The girls responded to the approach they met, and everybody has benefited."

"I think it has worked out a lot better than we thought initially," says CSgt Willie Nichol, who runs the HQ Company store and has an ex-WRAC RMP corporal with him now.

"Initially there were a lot of fears, but now they can replace administrators and we can get more soldiers out on the ground."

"It was a bit worrying whether they would actually accept us," says LCpl Vicky Cunningham, who does an extremely useful job collating information.

"They are very regimental and have very high standards in dress and discipline. They are not laid back as some battalions

I have been with are, and that's not a bad thing."

Possibly a language conversion course might ease the communication problem, but MT WO Garry Kerby has the answer - just shout louder!

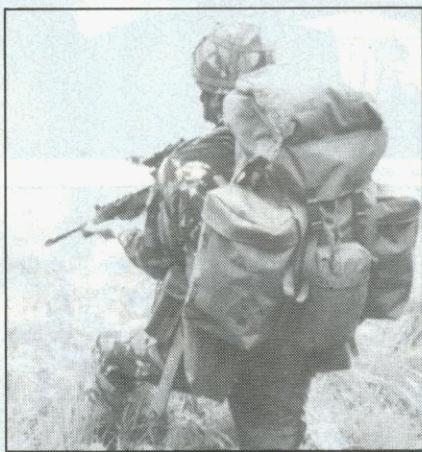
The girls certainly add a new dimension, and new flexibility, though LCpl Willie Johnson would prefer to see them wear tartan skirts.

Lt David Orr Ewing is delighted to have a woman soldier on his patrols because he can now carry out searches on females without having to wait for a UDR woman or policewoman.

There will also be a considerable benefit in that the platoon will remain in situ when the battalion returns to the mainland, providing a significant spin-off in continuity.

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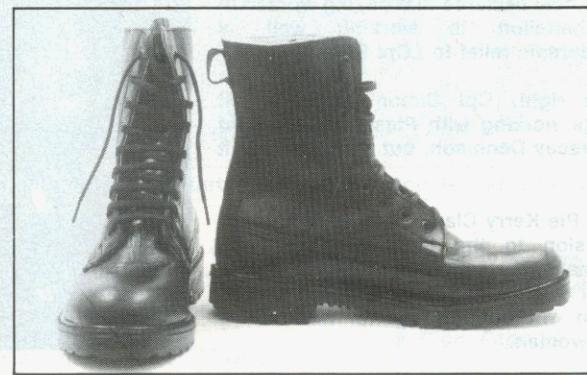
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Victory exhibition

Captured armour to go on show at Bovington

IRAQI tanks which faced British troops in the Gulf will be a highlight of a special exhibition mounted by the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp in Dorset throughout the summer, writes Gordon Skilling.

As well as a selection of British armoured fighting vehicles, up to 5,000 people a day are expected to see the T72 tank which was the backbone of the much-vaunted Republican Guard.

The display will be opened by the commander of the Desert Rats, 7th Armoured Brigade, Brig Patrick Cordingley, on Sunday July 28, but his presence will be felt long after that. He has donated his desert uniform to the museum.

A Challenger tank, fully modified for service in the Gulf, will also be on parade for the start of the exhibition, along with a Warrior fighting vehicle which enabled the infantry to keep up with the cavalry in the flanking dash which so successfully wrong-footed the Iraqis.

Some of the "spoils of war" are still on the high seas, so not all the enemy equipment earmarked for the Tank Museum will make the first parade.

With any luck an early appearance will be made by a BMP 1, the standard Soviet



An Iraqi T55 photographed on the Basra road north of Kuwait City soon after the war ended

MUM'S MUSEUM!

IT IS not a particularly welcome idea to a museum that a large number of people who visit it are not really interested in it at all.

They are the long-suffering wives and daughters.

But it is a nettle which the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp has firmly grasped and is turning to its own advantage.

The museum is quite candid about the distaff side, and appreciates that while an enthusiastic ex-Service dad might happily spend hours

explaining the most intricate mechanical details to his young lad, the women in his life may not be as enthralled.

This makes the old garrison church opposite the museum something of a bonus for the ladies, because the museum has converted it into a shop and free display specially for women.

While father is poring over past campaigns and the rest of the family are playing in the amusement arcade, mum can enter the world in which there is not a tank in sight.

built armoured personnel carrier which was one of the Iraqi equivalents of Warrior.

A reconnaissance BRDM 2 vehicle will eventually go on show beside a Chinese-built troop carrier, the YH531.

The museum is also borrowing a T62 tank, the inspiration

for the museum's Chinese-built derivative, the T69, and an up-armoured T55.

Among the detritus of war which will give a flavour of what was in the Gulf are Iraqi uniforms, badges, maps and other battlefield memorabilia.

One of the most striking

displays will be by SOLDIER, whose photographers' dramatic encapsulation of the preparation, battle and aftermath forms one of the most comprehensive records of the conflict.

Other photographs of American and French equipment have been sought.

Soldiers from the Vehicle Squadron of the RAC Centre at Bovington who were involved in delivering tanks in the Gulf will add a touch of animation by setting up a bivouac beside the Challenger.

They will be on hand to explain how its amazing performance and effectiveness made it such a potent contribution to the Allies' armoury.

"Only a limited amount of equipment has been brought back," explained Lt Col George Forty, the museum's director and curator.

"All the museums put in for vast amounts of equipment: I asked for 20-plus vehicles – but only a certain amount could be brought back, and that is being split up between the various museums and regiments which fought in the Gulf."

"We only have to pay to bring our allocation from the docks, so instead of costing us an arm and a leg, it is only costing an arm."

Col Forty believes that there will be strong interest from the public in the Gulf exhibition. He expects 45,000 people during August.

Bang goes a quiet picnic

THE picnic area at the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp may not be the most peaceful of places on Sunday July 28.

It will be the scene of a special military fun day organised to take the place of the traditional RAC Centre

Battle Day which was cancelled because of the Gulf War.

As well as a static line of vehicles and stalls, there will be helicopter rides, fieldcraft displays, and music.

Proving that *entente* can still be *cordiale* will be La Garde

Imperiale, a Napoleonic re-enactment society which concentrates on the French rather than British perspective. In their authentic period costumes and equipped with two cannon, they will go through their gun drills.

It's just like the real thing



Lads from 31 Field Battery load a shell into the M109

No holding back for R Anglians in the desert

"WE will never again experience a training opportunity like this," was how Lt Col Alan Deed, Commander of the British battlegroup in Kuwait, described the last live-firing exercise in the Kuwaiti desert.

At 07.30 on a surprisingly bright morning (a haze produced by the pollution from burning oil wells more often than not darkens the sky and cools the air) observers had made their way out of Kuwait City, north into the desert to rendezvous with the 45 Warrior APCs of A Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglians.

Looking a little like toy tanks in the distance, they waited,

surprisingly well camouflaged in their sand-coloured paint and spread out across hundreds of metres of desert, positioned for attack. This was to be the last major live-firing exercise before the redeployment of the battlegroup.

The location was ideal, desert scrubland littered with Iraqi positions – dig-ins, trenches, bunkers, lorries loaded with ammunition and abandoned tanks, APCs and artillery pieces.

Intense safety preparations had been carried out, with an Apache helicopter sweeping the miles of desert in the first hours

From Peter Reid in Kuwait

of daylight to ensure local

Bedouins had not strayed into the firing area. Unfortunately they had, causing considerable delay.

The Scimitar recce vehicles were at work, scouting ahead looking for the enemy. The Warriors held back, aware that the excellent visibility afforded by the flat, clear landscape of the desert could reveal their positions.

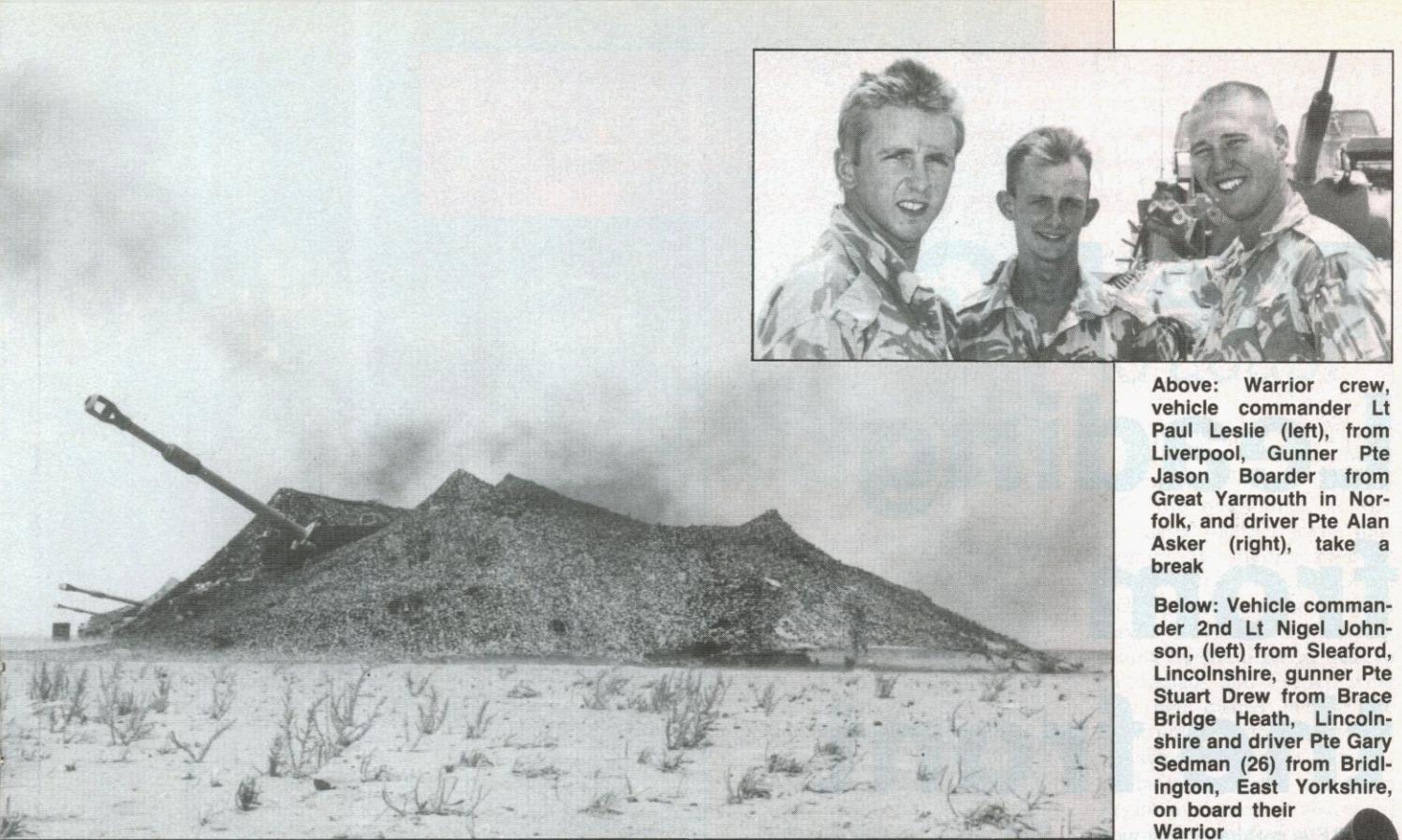
Radios crackled as the recce party spotted the line of trenches, bunkers and abandoned vehicles being used to simulate an Iraqi position. Locations were relayed to the

gunners of 31 Field Battery nearly ten miles away.

The quiet of the desert was broken as M109 shells pounded the target site, shaking the desert floor. Warriors sped forward, dust and sand flying in their wake, supported by a mortar platoon, mobile Milan missiles and the ever-present REME and medical support.

As soon as they were within range the Warriors opened fire, continuing until each target had been hit.

Later, at the debriefing, Col Deed said: "It went very well. This sort of training is invaluable, allowing the lads almost total freedom. This is



Above: M109 artillery pounds the target site from beneath its protective camouflage in the Kuwaiti desert

Below: Lt Col Alan Deed (left), Battlegroup Commander, discusses the exercise with Company commander, Maj David Whitehead



Warriors speed across the desert towards the target area which is being pounded by artillery

the second of these full-scale exercises.

"Having practised vehicle manoeuvres before, we were able to concentrate on polishing the command and control side of operations as well as, of course, the co-ordination of firing live ammunition.

"Unfortunately, because of the danger from unexploded Iraqi ordnance we are unable to hold dismounted exercises in

this area, allowing soldiers to leave the Warriors and attack the trenches on foot.

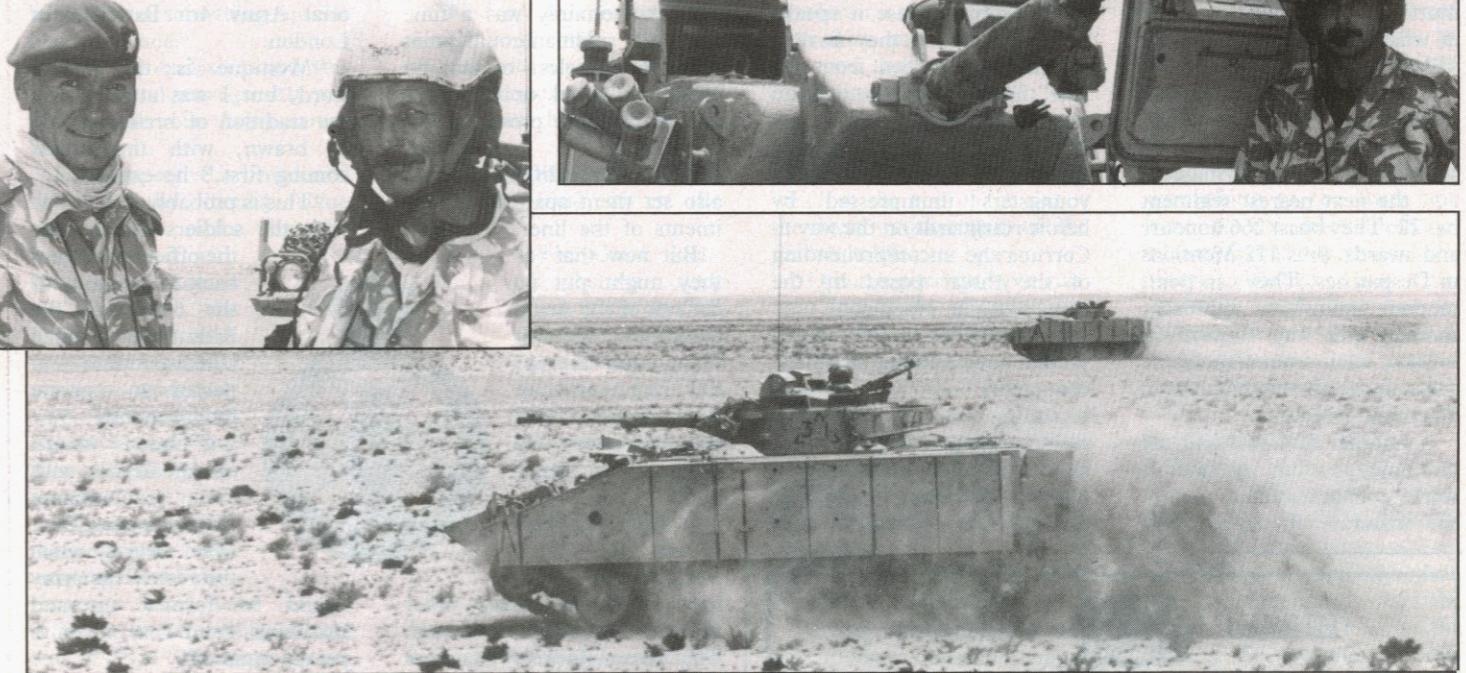
"On a larger scale they have the chance to see, here in Kuwait, the damage and the aftermath of war, which has a very sobering effect on people.

"Although we have to live under operational conditions, that in itself is an experience. We have plenty of water to shower, wash and drink, the



Above: Warrior crew, vehicle commander Lt Paul Leslie (left), from Liverpool, Gunner Pte Jason Boarder from Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, and driver Pte Alan Asker (right), take a break

Below: Vehicle commander 2nd Lt Nigel Johnson, (left) from Sleaford, Lincolnshire, gunner Pte Stuart Drew from Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire and driver Pte Gary Sedman (26) from Bridlington, East Yorkshire, on board their Warrior



accommodation is airy, spacious and spotless. We have a field cinema showing films regularly and we have just had a CSE show here to entertain the troops," said Col Deed.

Company commander Maj David Whitehead was also delighted with the chance to exercise in "real" conditions.

"This is an excellent chance to put all that dry-training to the test, to see if it actually

Men in Green Jackets have always been to the fore. They have shown the way forward to others, guarded their flanks and watched their backs. As The Royal Green Jackets prepare to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their amalgamation, **Gordon Skilling** asks what sets them apart.

The RGJ: Leading from the front

THERE is nothing wrong with thinking you are the best, nor even anything inherently wrong in actually being the best, but it tends to colour others' perception of you, even if you do not keep pointing it out. In the case of The Royal Green Jackets it leads to jealous glances and mutterings of favouritism within what others perceive as the "Black Mafia".

Their record bears any comparison. Since the amalgamation they can point to 43 stars in the military firmament... the next nearest regiment has 22. They boast 266 honours and awards, plus 112 Mentions in Despatches. They can point to their innovative approach, showing the way forward in infantry tactic from Napoleonic times to the present troubles in Northern Ireland.

A burgher of Calais will tell you how, as a boy, he saw his world collapse around him in the disarray of defeat until

three Green Jacket battalions (the 60th Rifles, the Rifle Brigade and the Queen Victoria Rifles) arrived, not knowing how to surrender to two Panzer divisions nor aware that they were saving the Dunkirk evacuations.

They are quite relaxed about their record because it speaks for itself. But if they have a record to be envied from the past, they are possibly not quite as relaxed today.

How can they present themselves to a new generation, youngsters unimpressed by heroic rearguards on the way to Corunna and uncomprehending of the threat posed by the megalomaniac Napoleon?

It is not as if the Green Jackets have a strong territorial connection with traditional recruiting areas (save for the recent exceptions of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire), nor is it sufficient to say they are an elite. Anybody with

Men of The Royal Green Jackets parading in front of the Queen, their Colonel-in-Chief, at Winchester on July 25, 1967

regimental pride will point to their own flashes of brilliance and argue that they are the best.

There certainly was a time when the rifleman could point to his special roles - on foot, by elephant, camel or glider as well as by more prosaic forms of transport.

Their very different dress also set them apart from regiments of the line.

But now that (as they might put it) the rest of the Army has caught up with them, they are indistinguishable from any other unit on the streets of Ulster or the sands of the desert.

If they think their system is more flexible and more forward thinking, many other regiments would claim this too. The Green Jackets recognise this, and appreciate that some standards are common to all training.

Lt Sebastian Willisfleming, a platoon commander at the Light Division Depot at Winchester, was struck by the quality of the JNCOs he encountered in the Gulf when he and 48 Green Jackets joined the Staffords Battle Group.

Capt Charles Macdowell, an ex-Regular in a county regiment, took the opportunity of moving over to the Green



would be formed up and marching around as if on a parade square."

In those days they wanted only the best soldiers in their ranks. The ordinary rifleman had to be able to think for himself, act on his own initiative, survive on the battlefield isolated from his muckers.

Explaining the regiment's identity is a problem with which regimental recruiting officer Capt John Fritz-Domeney has long grappled.

"Even after 27 years it is really difficult to understand

Jackets when he left his regiment 2½ years ago. It was the reputation of the RGJ that attracted him to their Territorial Army 4th Battalion in London.

"Mystique is the wrong word, but I was attracted by the tradition of brains as well as brawn, with the brains coming first," he explains.

"This is probably more to do with the soldiers rather than the officers and goes back to the days of the 60th and the Rifle Brigade when riflemen were expected to operate independently.

"They would operate in pairs with their revolutionary rifles, choosing their own targets when the rest of the army

the ethos of the Royal Green Jackets. It is not meant to sound insulting to other regiments, but you are made to believe it is something special

from day one.

"It is an exclusive club you belong to and consequently you go through your Army career believing it."

His perspective is broadened not only by having come through the ranks, but by having served with

the regiment's nearest cousins, the Light Infantry, whom some would praise as being half way between the Green Jackets and the "heavy" infantry.

"There were differences, but really only regimental differences. The Tom is no

different, but the older officers and SNCOs, who have grown up surrounded by their regimental tradition, are different persons. At the end of the day, the song is a little different," he said.

Joint courses, such as those at Brecon, are seen as a strength, even though they

produce a standard product. The Green Jackets, however, endeavour to produce a variation on the theme of the standard soldier, as Maj Jeremy Knight, a staff officer at the Winchester Depot, points out.

"We tend to get a lot of city

dwellers, and often they are more streetwise and respond to our kind of treatment better.

The county regiments' soldier may be good at field craft because he's a country man, but he is possibly not so good at doing things on his own initiative."

Cpl Rob O'Hagan, perhaps

wisely, agrees with the colonel. "You can see it when the guys first come here. Those from places like London are a lot more confident than the lads from the country."

This has also been John



Fritz-Domeney's experience.

"We try to recruit a slightly different kind of animal from the traditional county regiments but it is not until you serve with them and live with them that you can actually observe this at first hand. I wouldn't say they are necessarily more intelligent, but they are certainly more cunning overall, which at the end of the day is the basic requirement of the British soldier.

"Other regiments have cunning soldiers too, of course, but we are perhaps different in that we try to harness these natural cunning skills and bring out what is latent."

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Regiment that's ready to adapt

THE Royal Green Jackets have a long history of doing things differently.

In the days when it was considered polite to invite your enemy to fire the first volley at you, the ancestors of the Green Jackets were running about in Davy Crocket hats, hiding behind trees and giving back to the Indians and French what they had dished out to the unfortunate regiments who had not adapted to forest fighting.

The 60th Royal American Regiment proved so successful that a 5th Battalion was raised, mainly from Hanoverian and Austrian riflemen.

Armed then with the new rifle with its 300-yard range instead of the short-range of the musket, their Austrian colonel brought in swords instead of bayonets, green jackets with black buttons instead of red with shiny, manoeuvres by bugle call, and introduced radical changes in tactics.

The French had already shown the value of trained marksmen in dark uniforms skirmishing to the flank and front of the main body of infantry before the young John Moore learned how the Austrians had further developed these strange ideas.

His training of the original Light Division illustrated the lessons to the rest of the Army in the Peninsular War.

Whether as mounted infantry in the Boer War, motor infantry in the Second World War or glider troops spearheading D-Day attacks, the dash and resourcefulness of the Green Jackets has been at the front of the new and the best.

On January 1, 1966 The Royal Green Jackets were formed from the 1st Green Jackets (43rd and 52nd), the 2nd Green Jackets (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) and the 3rd Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade). As its three battalions go about their duties today in Dover, Northern Ireland and Osnabrück, 25 years after the amalgamation, the regiment awaits Options for Change with the same adaptability that has been such a strength in its past.

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Express delivery to Romania



A convoy carrying food, clothing and medical supplies collected by British Forces Germany prepares to set out for Romania from Rheindahlen. In the centre, Air Commodore Peter Gover wishes Maj Peter Gibson, the Romanian Express project leader, a safe journey. The supplies were being delivered to orphanages, old

people's homes and hospitals in the north western city of Bala Mare.

Ten soldiers from Hildersheim-based 1st Royal Tank Regiment were meeting up with the convoy after running in relay from Hanover. The tankies were led by Capt David Couzens and are hoping to raise £1,000 a man for the Romanian appeal.

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Desert posties hot-foot it for the blind

OUT OF the distant desert haze strode the fiery 15 – occasionally disappearing in the undulating sand as they approached the finishing line.

But it wasn't a lost patrol of the Foreign Legion, just 11 weary women and three dog-tired men from the Gulf Postal and Courier Squadron based at Al Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

Cpl Jacky Newall from Mill Hill and LCpl Paula Monkhouse from Dusseldorf were to blame.

It was their idea to carry out a 21km walk near the air base to raise money to buy guide dogs for the blind.

Supported by medics and the RMP, the posties – sponsored by nearly every unit at the port – raised £1,780, enough for a dog each for Salisbury (closest to the PC Sqn HQ at Bulford) and Hendon.

The dogs are to be called Granby One and Granby Two and the money was received on behalf of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association by Brig Noel Muddiman, Commander British Forces, who with Maj Eddie Lyons, CO Gulf PC Sqn, encouraged the walkers over the last few kilometres.

Pte Diane Newton raised more than £500 towards the final total.

★ ★ ★

Children from Charlottenburg First School in Berlin have collected DM12,000 for the Princess Royal's fund for starving children in Africa.

Sponsored activities included cycling, running, swimming, skipping, spelling and picking up litter.



Brig Noel Muddiman (fourth from left, back) receives the cheque from Cpl Jacky Newall and LCpl Paula Monkhouse as the posties recover from their desert walk

OVER THE TOP

FIVE instructors from the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot went a bit over the top, for the best possible reasons.

They helped 60 staff and clients "escape" from the Chelsea Hotel in Sloane Street, London . . . the hard way.

Captains Jim Noble and Paul Munchenbach and SSgt's Mick Stott, Tony Mims and Martin Colclough assisted the plucky volunteers to abseil 400ft down the front of the Chelsea.

Jim and Paul took a number of children down strapped to their backs.

Their activities, over two Saturdays, stopped the traffic in Sloane Street, but helped the Sarova Hotels group to raise more than £10,000 for the Princess Royal Save the Children Fund.

★ ★ ★

Officers and NCOs of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment stationed at the Depot King's Division, Strensall, York raised £320 by a sponsored relay race from York to Preston.

The proceeds were handed to Mr Steward Ramsey, Area Organiser of the Save The Children Fund at the Depot by the commanding officer Lt Col Jack Sheldon.



Moment of truth for Lesley Hall of Sarova Hotels and Save the Children Fund's Julie Boyd as the ASPT team prepares them for their descent. From left to right are SSgt Mick Stott (kneeling), SSgt Tony Mims, SSgt Martin Colclough, Capt Paul Munchenbach and Capt Jim Noble

Hamelin Garrison held a car boot sale on the square of 35 Engineer Regiment and raised DM4,000 for SSAFA.

As well as 40 stallholders, there were a variety of sideshows, including pony rides, a bouncy castle and a wet sponge booth in which popular (and profitable) targets in-

cluded the CO (Lt Col John Field), Quartermaster and RSM of 35 Engr Regt, and officers from Garrison HQ.

★ ★ ★

The Army Benevolent Fund will be one of the beneficiaries of the Berkeley Scott cooks'

charity challenge which is hoping to raise £50,000. Capt Dave Norris, ACC, based in HQ Western District, organised one challenge for catering industry employees at Nesscliff Training Camp near Shrewsbury. The day included a full assault course and other physical tasks.

Now for something a little quieter

Being chaired out of HQ Western District is Col **Alan Thompson**, Chief of Staff at Shrewsbury for the past three years.

Having been awarded the MC in Borneo in 1964 and the MBE in 1973 and having been Mentioned in Dispatches in 1975, Col Thompson might have thought Shrewsbury offered a bit of peace and quiet.

Not a bit of it. During his tenure he was confronted by the massive COD Donnington fire, IRA bombings at Tern Hill, a large fire at RAOC Stores Hereford, terrorist shootings at Lichfield station, and the demands of Op Granby.

Now he joins the School of Infantry as commandant Tactical and Small Arms Wing. That certainly sounds like a quiet job!



**Didn't Keith's
'unknown' do well?**

PEOPLE

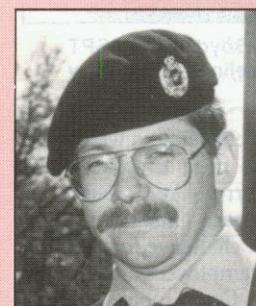


Ten years ago former Territorial Army staff sergeant **Keith Williams** booked an unknown snooker player to appear at a TA camp at Deepcut in Surrey. In the six months between the booking and the appearance in camp the young player won the world championship.

Steve Davis, who went on to win five more world titles, bumped into Keith again when they shared the green baize at a snooker exhibition at the Lakeside Country Club, Camberley, not far from Deepcut.

Steve won the game, but made Keith's night by presenting him with a plaque and signed certificate.

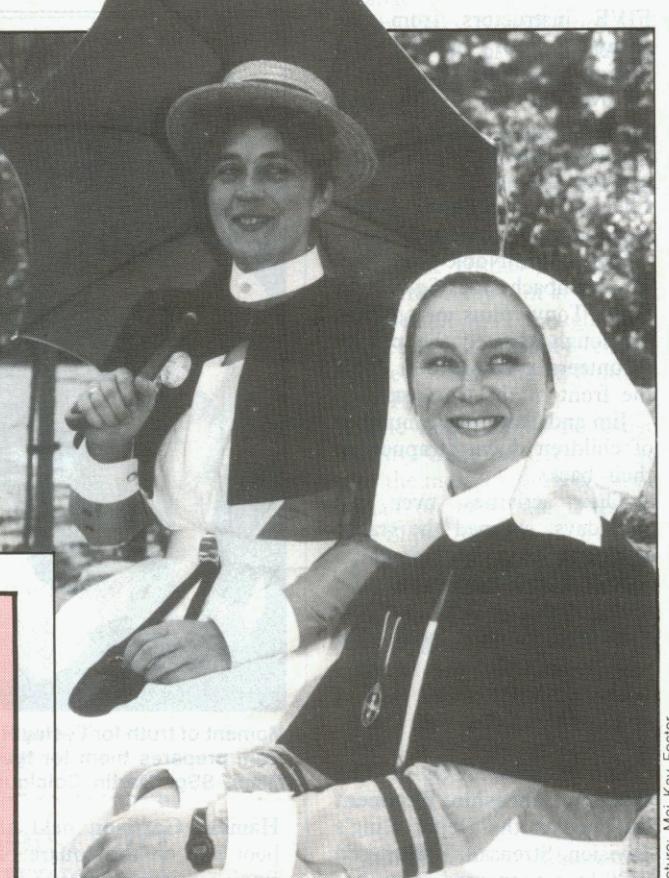
Kevin makes his mark . . .



Cpl **Kevin Rodgers** (above) is putting his name on the map in his specialisation – cartography. He has been presented with the Royal Engineers Association prize for achievement by Lt Col **Geoff Parkes**, Chief of Staff, 42 Survey Engineer Group.

So outstanding was Kevin's work on his survey cartographic technician course at the School of Military Survey, Hermitage, near Newbury, that it has been entered by his instructors for the prestigious Keuffel and Esser award presented by the British Cartographic Society in September.

Winner of that award is recognised as the best young cartographer in the country.

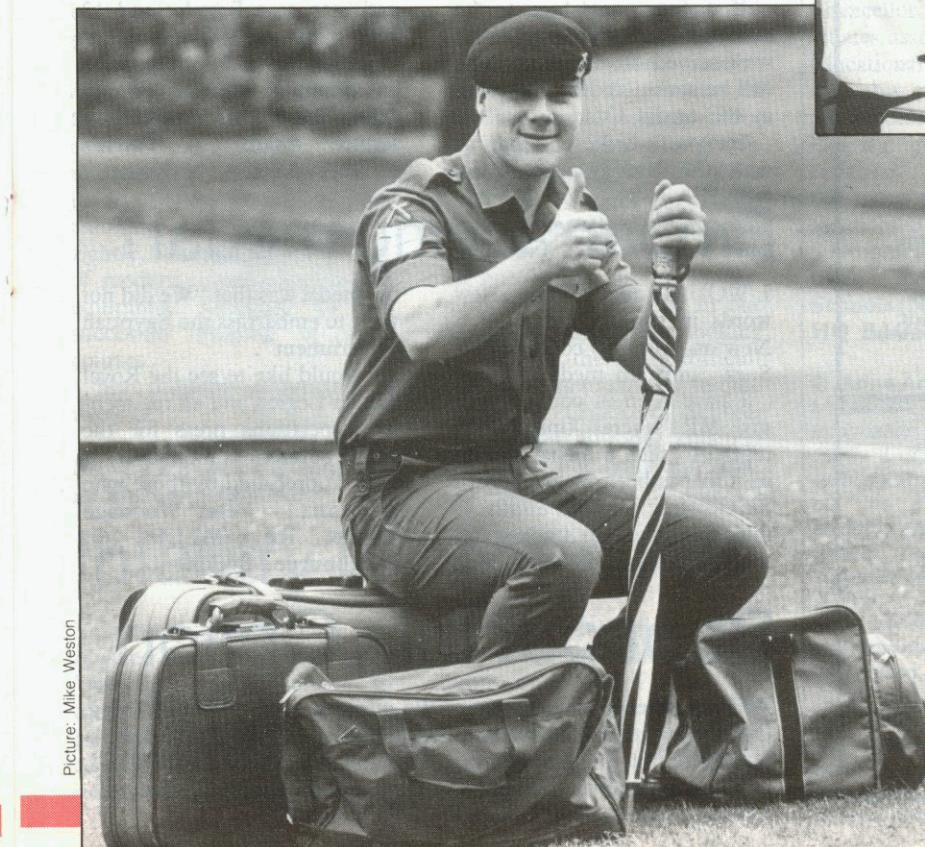


Adding a dash of historical colour to the QARANC Training Centre annual fair at Aldershot are Cpl **Sheila Welbourne** (left) in the Boer War uniform of the corps, and Cpl **Linda McAuley** in the First World War version. The fair raised about £900 for Army charities.

Picture: Maj Kay Foster

Picture: Mike Weston

Picture: Mike Weston



Ian's top job is in the bag

Sgt **Ian Lambie** RAMC will be the envy of every rugby enthusiast in the country when the World Cup tournament starts on October 3.

Ian, a skill-at-arms instructor at the RAMC Training Centre, Ash Vale near Aldershot, has been appointed bagman to the England team, and will spend a month looking after their training and match kit, sorting out hotel problems, liaising with the media over player interviews, and generally making himself useful.

And he will be able to watch the 16 World Cup nations competing at venues in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France.

Ian, who admits to being a bit keen on the game, plays scrum half for Woking 1st XV and for the training centre.

"I thought they were joking when I was offered the job," Ian told us. "I'm glad they weren't."

One that got away

That the military mind should turn to fishing in the middle of the desert in the middle of a war must be symptomatic of something.

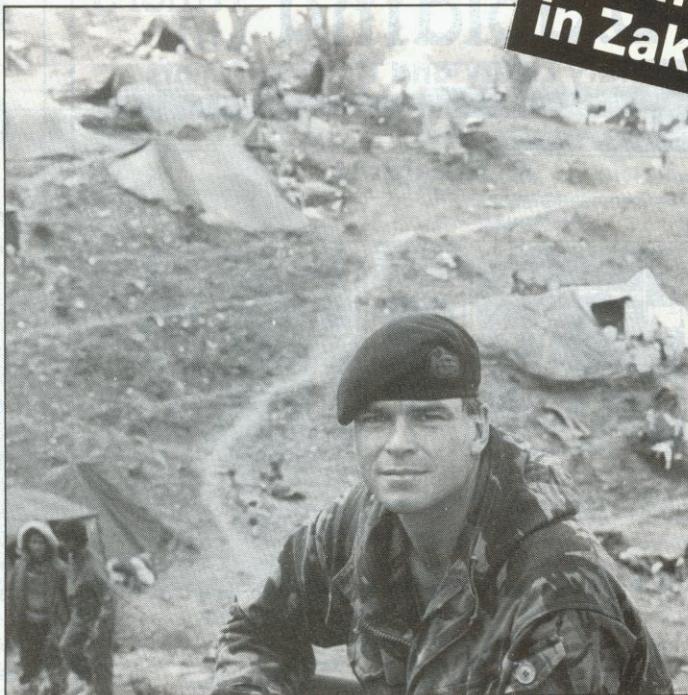
As there was enough shooting to get on with, the anglers at HQ British Forces Middle East flung down the gauntlet to some West Sussex fishermen during Op Granby – and so the HQBFME Fly Fishing Association was founded.

No sooner were they back from the Gulf than several had to go to Turkey on Op Haven.

The match was not ditched, however, and Maj **Ged Argyle** RAOC, SO2 exercise logistics with the Joint Force Ops Staff at Aldershot, led his depleted team to victory.

They landed 70lb of fish, the largest of which weighed 6lb 4oz.

PS: The HQBFMEFFA (!) is looking for more fixtures.



Army public information officer Maj **Andrew Venus** swapped his office in York-based HQ North East District for the less salubrious surroundings of the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Andrew, the PIO for 2nd Infantry Division, spent two months in the troubled area



Col **Barrie Harban**, Naafi's new Army director, meets clothing assistant **Gaynor Taylor** in JHQ shop during a visit to Germany to meet staff and customers in the Rhine region. Before taking up his new appointment, Col Harban was Colonel of Personnel Branch 8 on the Military Secretary's staff.



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Case for Greece campaign medal

OVER the years there have been many letters stating the case for the delayed issue of a medal for the Suez campaign.

A good argument may have been presented. But surely a greater case can be made for the issue of a campaign medal for all those who fought in the two completely different campaigns in Greece, 1941 and 1944-45.

With hindsight, the more significant of the two was undoubtedly the latter. If the British forces had not been diverted to stem the Communist march on Athens, history and, more than likely, our lives would have been completely different. The Soviets would have obtained their most sought-after prize, a base in the Mediterranean.

As it was, the crack British divisions, despite being battle-weary after a bloody Italian campaign, took on the might of the Elas, many of whom were regulars and supplied by the Soviets, and set the uneasy peace.

Believing it is better late than never, may I suggest to those who feel as I do that an effort should be made to obtain recognition of the part played by the British forces in Greece at this time.

They should send a copy of the book *Victory of a Sort* by Ed Smith (Brig "Birdie" Smith of the Gurkhas) to their respective MPs, seeking their support. This book states the facts with no punches held. — John Clarke, Manchester.

I WOAS there!

WITH reference to the Suez medal letters (April 29 and May 13), I served with REME in 3 Division from April 1953 to January 1955 and noted that all 252s were headed WOAS — While on Active Service!

If a Suez medal is to be awarded I hope that I and those who served at the same time will be considered for inclusion in the medal lists.

I expect, however, that as with the late awards of the

Embarrassing medal?

I WOULD like to say a few words in support of Col P S Newton (May 13) concerning a Suez campaign medal.

I have been in contact with my MP several times with regard to such a medal and he in turn has been in touch with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith. I, too, was given to understand that the reason for not issuing

Boot out this Option

WITH reference to your witty little piece entitled "All the Wrong Options" (June 24) I have been led to believe that all the Yorkshire regiments are to be amalgamated to form the Prince of Wales's Green Wellingtons. — Maj M C J Davis, Staffords, Army Schools Liaison Officer (South London), Blackheath.



Veterans on film

I HAVE recently found two photographs of British paratroopers taken in the Falklands/Malvinas by Argentine soldiers — after the ceasefire, I presume — and I think it would be very interesting for these men to get them after all these years.

I would be very pleased if you could help me find them. — Ignacio Javier Osacar, Sanchez te Bustamante 1751, (1425) Buenos Aires, Argentina.

BAOR schools perform well

ANNE Armstrong drew attention (June 10) to the problems of adequately funding courses in information technology and business studies in Service schools in Germany.

She illustrated her case by drawing attention to a particular set of examination results in one of our schools, which undoubtedly did less than justice to the efforts of both teachers and pupils. Again, rightly, she referred to the lack of modern — and expensive — equipment necessary to the successful running of such courses.

My purpose in writing is to ensure we here in Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) remain at the forefront of curricular development.

First, although this particular venture into the world of information technology and

Infantry in command

Your story (July 8, Page 11) referred to Col Alan Behagg as "the first infantry officer to command BATUS." May I point out that the first three commanders of BATUS were infantrymen, starting with Col Tom Gibson, late DERR.

Although Col Behagg may be only the fourth infantryman to command BATUS, his appointment is a welcome step forward for this very important training unit. — Maj HPM Chambers, 2iC, Depot The King's Division, York.

REUNIONS

● 148 Cdo FO Bty RA: 50th Amphibious Observation reunion, July 24-26, 1992. Former interested members who have not received personal notification should write to: "AO Reunion 92", 148 Cdo FO Bty RA, Royal Marines Poole, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4NQ.

● 16 (Lincoln) Company, 4th (V) Bn, The Parachute Regiment is arranging a reunion for all ranks, including members of its predecessors, 16 (Independent) Company (1950-78), at the TA Centre, Newport in March 1992. Details from Alan Lock, 16 (Lincoln) Coy, 4 (V) Bn, The Parachute Regiment, TA Centre, Newport, Lincoln LN1 3DT.

● Eighth Army Veterans' Association (the original Desert Rats 1940-45) holds its El Alamein reunion at Hove Town Hall, Sussex on October 19. Tickets from Ken Buckle (21 Maresfield Road, Brighton BN2 5ED, tel 0273 608637) or Mrs Pat Hill (79 Hallyburton Road, Hove BN3 7GN, tel 0273 506405).

● 169 Inf Wksp REME (TA): Calls welcomed from those interested in a 1992 reunion on the 50th anniversary of REME; and from Old Rintelnians (1949-52). Contact Dennis (Jim) Munro (tel: 081-906 0327).

SEARCHLINE

● Badge history: Information sought on a badge found some years ago in Ballarat Goldfields, Australia. It shows three horses' heads in a circlet inscribed "Seventh Cavalry, Rough Rider", with, in the foreground, crossed sabres with the figure 1. The reverse of this 3in disc reads "Manufactured by J Purdy, Oxford St, London, England". Contact Owen A O'Neill, 110 Lingfoot Crescent, Sheffield, Yorks S8 8DB.

● Self-propelled 40mm Bofors Gun: To help with restoration project on this gun, the Morris Commercial C9/B, information is sought about its usage in the British Army, 1943-56. Contact G L Sprack, 13 Colenutt Road, Haylands, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 3HS.

● Man-pack wireless: Lt Col AF Austen (retd), 1 Benham Road, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants is researching Second World War man-pack wireless sets. He seeks human interest stories from anyone who slogged uphill with one. Letters acknowledged.

Guards debate goes on

THE debate about the three Grenadier Guardsmen injured in Canada has not gone away.

John Browne, the MP leading the campaign in the House of Commons, has requested that the board of inquiry into the affair be reopened.

The guardsmen's plight has raised a number of issues.

From 1987 until May 20 this year, 1,619 such claims have been made. Of these, 235 have been accepted and settled, while 331 have not been pursued.

It would be interesting to know the reasons behind those 331. It would help claimants to register claims with a central ex-Service organisation so that resources and advice would be readily available and not left to be discovered by chance.

A Ministry of Veterans' Affairs, such as those in Canada, Australia and the USA, and for which the Royal British Legion is campaigning in this country, would help.

INJURED TA Cpl Simon Robinson, whose plight is now being investigated after I told his story in the July 8 issue, has stressed the advantages of taking out personal accident insurance.

As a result of an injury received while training in the UK over a year ago, "Cpl X", as I called him in the story, has since lost his job and was being threatened with mortgage foreclosure and the calling-in of a bank loan.

Thanks to the prompt response of an officer in the Directorate of Army Reserves and Cadets, who acted within minutes of my raising the matter with him, Simon is now "in the system" and his case is being considered for help.

When I visited Simon at home he was proudly wearing a TA T-shirt, limping, and by no means mobile. Although his em-

ployers had been very good to him, his Statutory Sick Pay ceased in November.

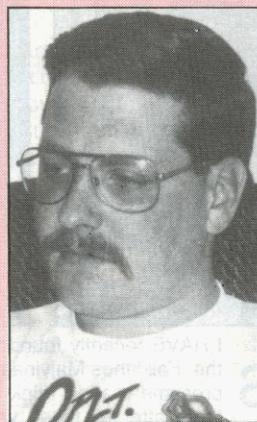
He reflected on what might have been had he invested in PAR – the TA and Reserves' personal accident insurance.

"For £19.80 a year – the price of 15 or so beers – I could have kept up my mortgage repayments and paid off my bank loan.

"This would have been a relief while I sorted out all the DSS and medical problems tied up with whether I am a civilian or the responsibility of the Army."

Simon hopes that bringing his case to light will help clear up the grey areas surrounding training injuries such as his.

TA personnel injured during training may be eligible for DSS benefits, and can claim against the Crown.



Cpl Simon Robinson

Problems arise if units do not follow set procedures. If the Serviceman is not advised what to do or who to contact then cases like Simon's will continue to occur. Unnecessary suffering and delays will compound the problem.

The system itself appears to be better than

that for Regulars. For example, Ministry of Defence Personnel and Logistics (Legal Services) Claims have agreed that in the event of death or injury attributable to procedures conducted during a District Assessment Board (DAB) or recruit selection weekend, the injured party or representative is under no obligation to accept compensation and is free to claim through the civil courts.

The MoD will accept vicarious liability for the wrongful acts of omissions of any officer, soldier or Crown employee who, while in the course of official duty, was concerned with the organisation or conduct of all or part of the DAB or an approved selection weekend.

This is fine for TA personnel injured on duty – but why does it not also apply to the Regulars?

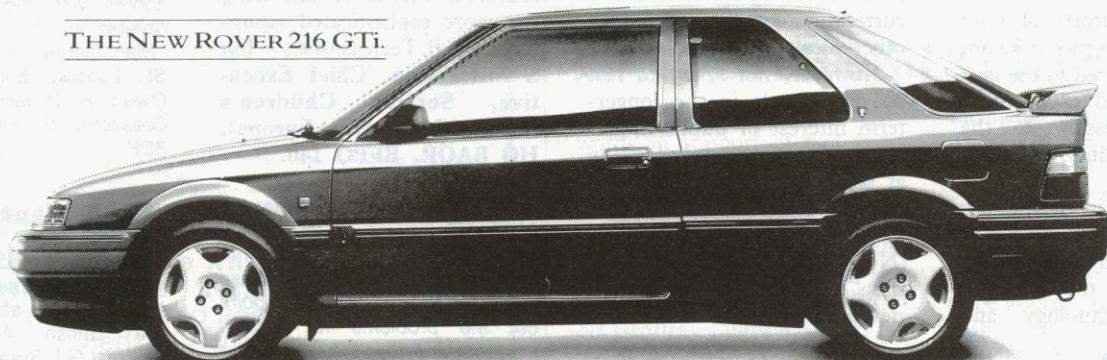
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Now for the good news!

GOOD news has come the way of the Baverstock family, who I mentioned anonymously in the July 8 issue.

Ex-SSgt Maurice Baverstock and his wife, Dee, were due for eviction from their married quarter this month.

They had been offered £50-a-week bed and breakfast accommodation, which meant that mother and daughter would share one bedroom, husband and son the other, and their ten-year-old pet dog would have to be put down.

I telephoned Haig Homes and within a week the ex-Service housing charity was able to find the family a three-bedroom house in Carlisle.

"It will mean Maurice commuting monthly to his job in Staines," Dee told me, "but we hope he will be able to get a job transfer at the end of the year. I'm used to separation – that's Army life."

"The rent is marvellous, half what we would have to



Smiling again. Former SSgt Maurice Baverstock with wife Dee and children Louise (16) and David (14)

pay for two rooms, and we are told the house is due for modernisation in the autumn. As it has a garden, Duchess, our dog, can stay with us.

"Next day the council offered us a shared ownership scheme instead of B and B!"

John Holt, general secretary of Haig Homes, said: "We have 800 houses and flats in 32 estates from Penzance to Glasgow for rent at very reasonable rates.

"We are desperately trying to get hold of more houses such as redundant Service MQs – our waiting list for those in dire housing need grows daily."

I would like to hear from estranged families or irregular occupants awaiting accommodation. Send

me your name, address, housing requirements (numbers of beds, preferred areas) and the date when you will need the accommodation.

The ex-Service organisations all hold lists of Service personnel looking for accommodation in its various forms, such as self-build, shared ownership, rented, private market purchase, local authority, or housing association. The Services have lists of irregular occupants and those nearing the end of their time in MQs.

With all these individuals chasing around trying to find accommodation, an immense amount of time and energy is being wasted.

In the age of the computer and the fax,

surely this can be overcome with a central information cell to which both the voluntary ex-Service organisations and the Services could have access.

Those with vacancies – including the civilian side – could input what they have on offer; those who need accommodation could register their names and needs a year or so before discharge.

Perhaps a housing vacancy list could be sent out with the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation job vacancy list. Or why not add the details to the Joint Service Married Quarter sales list?

When the Department of the Environment decreed that the Citizens' Advice Bureaux would be the main housing advice service, I asked if the Services could have a small grant to set up a bureau to be their main information link. "No" was the reply.

But I believe that in due course a central housing information cell must be set up. I know Service charities are trying to solve this problem.

If the Catholic Housing Aid Society can set up an information and advice cell, why not the Services – or at least become an arm of one already in existence?

Patriot may be of help

IF you are looking for rented or shared ownership housing, the Royal British Legion Housing Association Patriot Scheme may be able to help.

Patriot now has 20 two-bedroom houses and one three-bedroom in Cornhill, Plymouth.

Contracts are being exchanged for 12 four-bedroom houses at Newton Abbot, eight two-bedroom at Bovey Tracey and Okehampton respectively, and two three-bedroom and three two-bedroom houses at St Austell.

Details are available from the RBL Housing Manager, PO Box 32, St John's Road, Penn, High Wycombe, Bucks NP10 8SF.

Your right of appeal

SPOUSES and dependants of members of the British Armed Forces are among those entitled to appeal if they consider a Social Security decision to be wrong.

The revised NI 246 "How to Appeal" and NI 260 "A Guide to Reviews and Appeals", both now available from DSS offices, Unemployment Benefit offices or BFPOs, give details.

Appeals can be made to the Social Security Appeal Tribunal, Medical Board or Medical Appeal Tribunal. Claimants can also ask the Attendance Allowance Board to review a decision.

Don't forget to send SAE

PARENTS who require the return of their received Boarding School Allowance bills are reminded that they must attach a self-addressed envelope to the bill. Many are not doing this.

Haig Homes at your service

IF you are due for release within the next six months, Haig Homes may have accommodation for you.

The organisation has semi-detached houses comprising three or four bedrooms, one or two living rooms, kitchen and bathroom, with garden. Rents vary from £35 to £50 a week.

Application can be made

to join the waiting lists of the following areas: Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Carlisle, Dartford (RA only), Harrow (RA only), Jersey (qualifying residents only), Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (RA only), Sheffield, and Sunderland.

Haig Homes also has an associated charitable trust which houses retired offic-

ers with a disability, and the widows and dependants of officers, in accommodation in London, Morden, Ashtead (Surrey), Cambridge and Cheltenham. Some vacancies exist.

Applications for both officers and other ranks should be made to Haig Homes, Allan Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5NS.

DESERT DIVISION

RAISED in the Western Desert in 1940, the 7th Armoured Division, the famed Desert Rats, fought in all the great battles of the North African campaign – at Beda Fomm, when the surrender of an entire Italian Army was taken; at Sidi Rezegh against the might of the German Afrika Korps; at Gazala and Alamein, Tripoli and Tunis – until, after three years, the Axis powers in North Africa were defeated.

The men of the 7th Armoured Division then repainted their vehicles, covering the sand colour with green, and took part in the Italian campaign, from Salerno to the Volturno.

At the end of 1943 the Division returned to England to re-equip for landing in Normandy on D-Day Plus One. As a component of 21st Army Group, the Desert Rats were engaged in actions across Normandy, and through Belgium and Holland.

In *The Desert Rats*, Robin

Neillands tells the story that "follows their tank tracks from the deserts of North Africa to the streets of Berlin" – from February 16, 1940, when the Mobile Division, with its original components of the 7th Hussars, 8th Hussars, 11th Hussars and the Tank Regiments, was renamed the 7th Armoured Division, to July 21, 1945, when they paraded past Winston Churchill down the Charlottenburg Chaussee in Berlin.

After a couple of introductory chapters explaining the history of armoured fighting vehicles from 1914, and that of General O'Connor's Western Desert – or Mobile – Force ("Immobile Force" as some cynics called it) which was formed in 1938 and grew into 13 Corps on January 1, 1941, Neillands adopts the now well-used technique of relating a patchwork of reminiscences of men who took part in the actions – in this case, from the

divisional commander down to those at the rear and persistent sharp end.

This formula makes a good basis for authenticity but does tend to be somewhat repetitive with inevitable backtracking. Nevertheless, the mainstream history of the Division's part in the war is clear, making the Battle of Alam Halfa in the last days of August 1942 the real turning point.

There are 15 maps spanning the Desert Rats' progress from their first bleeding at Sidi Birani up into Germany. Unfortunately there is a transposition of captions for two of the maps which could be confusing.

The book clarifies some of the popular legends of the Desert War; for instance, "Brigadier Jock Campbell of the 7th Support Group . . . was one of the first, if not the first, to introduce the casual style of Desert Army dress with silk neckerchief, light cord trousers, suede desert boots, and in cold weather a goatskin coat from Afghanistan or Persia."

Reminiscences bring forth fascinating anecdotes and it is gratifying to read of one tank troop having a pretty good time at the expense of the enemy.

"In search of officers' hideouts my driver, 'Granny' Knott, found a cash box . . . Inside was the payroll, including a separate package containing the pay of a general. In all it contained over 53,000 lira . . ." – BJ

The Desert Rats: 7th Armoured Division 1940-1945 by Robin Neillands. Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, hardback, £15.

Border Regiment at Arnhem

HISTORICAL details and reminiscences from Arnhem are contained in two recent publications.

In *1st Battalion, The Border Regiment, Arnhem*, Canon Alan Green has painstakingly researched and written the first account at any length of the battalion's action in September, 1944.

He has set out the narrative chronologically, drawing on battalion, brigade and division war diaries and the memories of

Artistic view of a world at war

THE Second World War produced more artistic records than any previous conflict.

For *Images of War: The Artists' Vision of World War II*, the editors have selected a remarkable cross-section of 456 examples from 13 countries, mostly from museums, with a handful from private collections, almost all being published in colour.

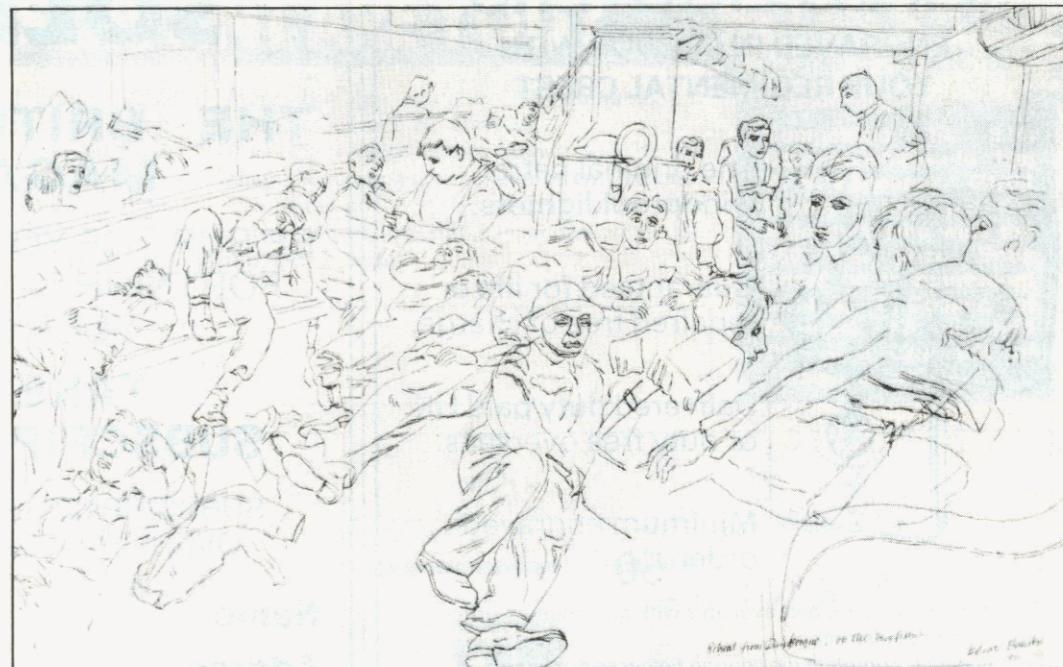
Some are by those commissioned to record the war as they saw it and many are by artists who were serving in the forces.

The special interpretation of an artist recording war was summed up in 1964 by Dr Noble Frankland when he was Director of the Imperial War Museum.

He said: "The resulting record naturally tends to conflict in exactitude of detail, and sometimes abruptly so, with the photographic record . . . It may, because of this, tend to conflict with the image of war in the eyes of the beholder.

"If this is so, it is because these works of art have no stereotype. On the contrary they enshrine the imaginative response of many artists whose differing impressions were inspired by their having witnessed, and in many cases experienced, the incidents they depicted."

But also there were of course



Edward Bawden's sketches, now in the Imperial War Museum, of dazed soldiers below decks being evacuated from Dunkirk. One of the *Images of War*.

many incidents which were not recorded photographically, particularly in prisoner-of-war and concentration camps and in the heat of battle.

In addition to the picture captions, there are several pages of recollections complementary to each of the 15 chapters (Blitzkrieg in Europe, Struggle in North Africa, Invasion of Russia and so on) selected mostly from published sources, which give additional feeling to the paintings.

For example, Fd Marshal Montgomery receives acclaim before the Battle of Alamein from Brig Kippenberger: "... he left me feeling stimulated. Now we were told that we were going to fight, there was no question of retirement . . . we are delighted and the morale of the army went up incredibly."

I liked Lord Carver's description of the Battle of Arnhem: "The whole area looked like a badly organised

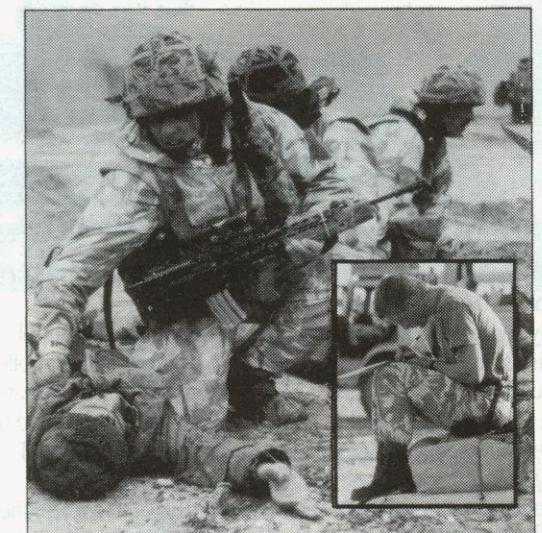
car park at an immense race meeting held in a dust bowl" – very true.

This book provides an immensely important record of the Second World War through the eyes of individuals and one can see why the present Director of the Imperial War

Images of War: The Artists' Vision of World War II, edited by Ken McCormick and Hamilton Darby Perry. Published by Cassell. Price £35.

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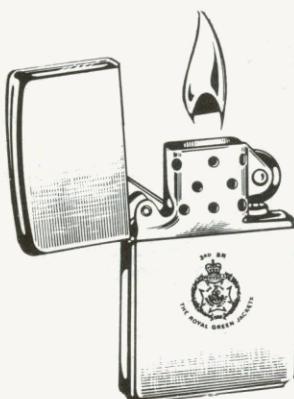
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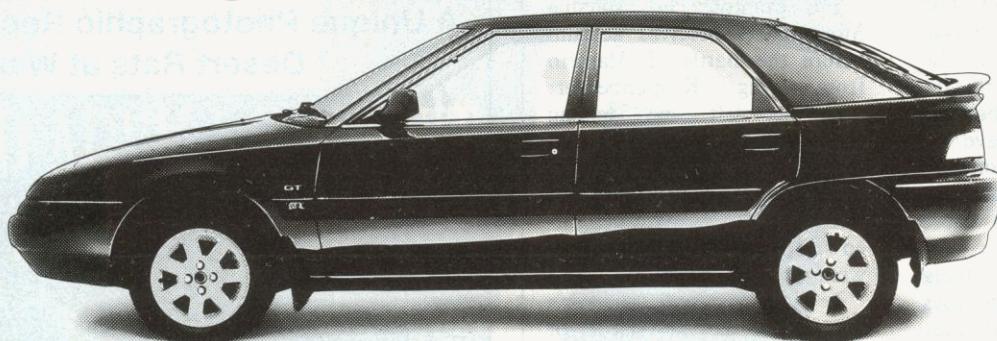
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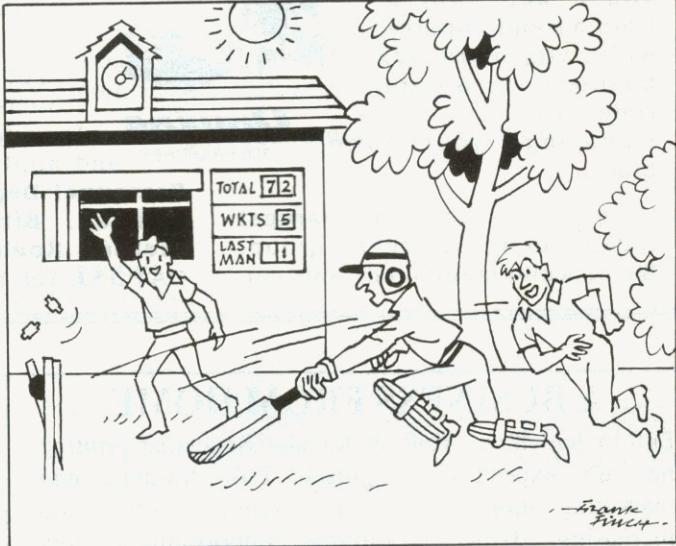
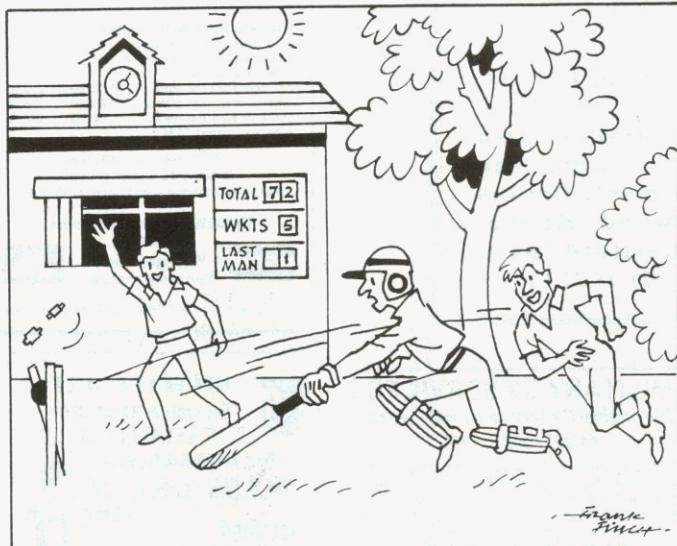
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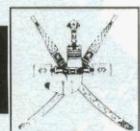
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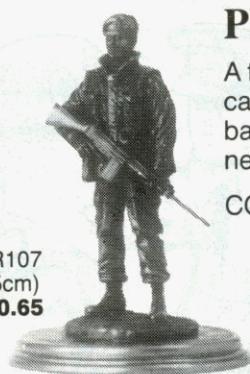
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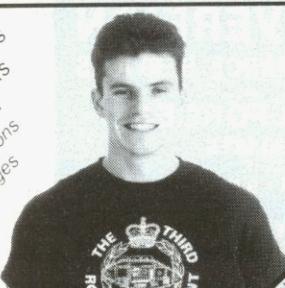
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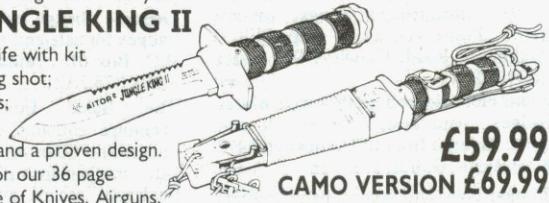
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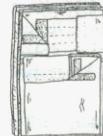
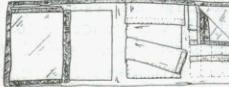
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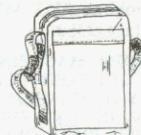
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In fact, of the two Infantry teams entered in the championships, no players had a handicap higher than eight, and some of their very best players were missing.

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The Infantry B team, having soundly defeated the ACC, lost to ACC A, who were led by 1990 Army champion LCpl Smart. Infantry A comfortably defeated REME B before overwhelming AAC A by 15 holes in the final.

The Infantry has won the 17-year-old Singapore Cup once before, in 1987.

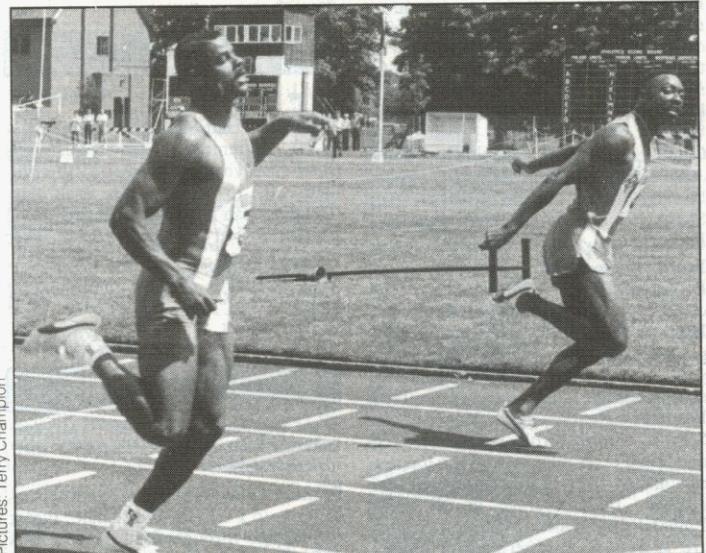
Infantry A were represented by Gdsm J Ripley (Coldm Gds), Pte R McKerron (UDR), Lt Col N Menzies (Para) and WO2 D Crombie (UDR), and the second string by Lt Col F Dowling (R Irish), Sgt C Goddard (RRF), WO1 S Knights (Para) and WO2 G Macey (Gordons).

Golden Dragons

THE Flying Dragons, free-fall parachute display team of The Queen's Regiment, won gold, silver and bronze medals at the British canopy relative work and classics championship at RAF Weston-on-the-Green.

Representing the British Army, the Flying Dragons won the eight-way speed event, were second in the four-way rotations event and third in the four-way sequential competition.

Led by WO2 Brad Reader of 2 Queens, the team is now in a strong position to be selected to represent Great Britain at the next world championships.



Pictures: Terry Champion

Cpl Clarence Callender (right) beats Cpl Lenny Paul in the 100m



Decathletes (from left) Cpl Trevor

McSween, Cpl Mark Tout, SSgt Neil Killen and Cpl Viv Henry blast out of their blocks in the 100m

THE CHAMPS!

FOR the fifth successive year the Army men's track and field team has won the Inter-Services athletics championships.

After an uncertain start at the sunny military stadium in

Aldershot, the Army recovered to beat the Royal Air Force by 17 points and the Royal Navy by 112.

The Army began badly when both their second string

hammer thrower and pole vaulter failed to score.

Cpl Lenny Paul (3 R Anglian) and Cpl Clarence Callender (2 Div HQ and Sig Regt) both recorded 21.2 sec in the 200m, finishing first and second and breaking Cpl Steve Hall's 1977 championship record by 0.2 of a second.

There was a bonus for the defending champions when Sig Braysford (21 Sig Regt) and SSgt Brian Dupree (94 Loc Regt) took first and second places in the 3,000m steeplechase, traditionally an RAF preserve.

In fact, the Army won every track event from 100m to the steeplechase, with the exception of the 110m hurdles, Callender taking the short sprint ahead of Paul, Cpl Paul Beaumont (SEME Bordon) the 400m ahead of Cpl Darryl Maynard (R Anglian), and Sgt Geoff Finch (RAPC att 1 Staffords) the 800m and the 1,500m.

Beaumont, who for so long played a supporting role to Kriss Akabusi, ensured the maestro's winning sequence for the Army in the 400m hurdles was extended.

The RAF briefly stopped the rot by taking the first two places in the 5,000m and the 110m hurdles.

Despite putting safety first in the 100m relay, the Army won with some ease, and went on to dominate the 400m relay in the 3,000m.

The RAF's strength in the

field events kept them in the hunt, but Gnr Harvey (50 Msl Regt) in the long jump, Gnr Mark Stirling (50 Msl Regt) in the hammer and Gdsm Rix (IG) in the javelin contributed valuable points with winning performances.

Cpl Walker (1 Regt AAC) split the experienced RAF challenge in the triple jump with a leap of 14.23m, and Cpl Mark Tout (2 RTR) and Bdr Caines (50 Msl Regt) picked up second and third places in the shot.

Tout and Pte Bowland (1 PWO) combined to pick up the valuable second and third points in the discus.

The Army women's team finished second, just three points behind the WRAF.

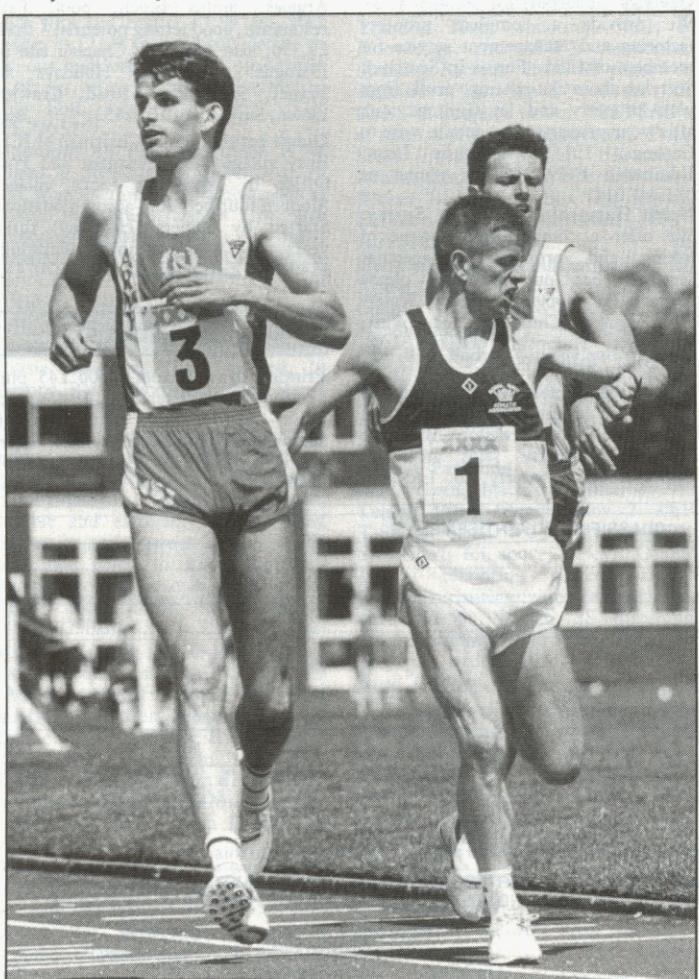
LCpl Kelly Holmes (York Garrison) and Capt Karen Osterberg (NI) did the double, winning respectively the 400m and 800m and the shot and discus.

First-place points were also contributed by Sgt Nancy Thorne (WRAC Centre) in the 100m, Cpl Sue Sharp (BAOR) in the 3,000m and Sgt Stephanie Paul (MoD) in the high jump.

Cpl Jackie Gilchrist (15 Bn RAOC) was second in both high jump and 200m and placed in the long jump, while Sgt Betty Gash (MoD) was second to Sue Sharp in the 3,000m.

WO2 Lyn Higgs (NI) finished second in the 1,500m and Cpl Liz Churchley (BAOR) gave good support in the 100m, 110m hurdles and long jump.

Other excellent performances were put in by newcomers Pte Diane Mathias (RMAS) in the javelin and Pte Amanda Burton in the discus.



Sgt Geoff Finch (3) wins the 1,500m ahead of the Navy's Chris Robison and Bdr Steve Overton (94 Loc Regt)



Above: Gnr Mark Stirling wins the hammer competition while LCpl Kelly Holmes (inset) crosses the line first in the 800m

But the whole match turned on the 4x100m relay, which the WRAF won by a single stride. The Army girls went on to win the 400m relay by most of a lap, but it was not enough to make up those three heartbreaking points.

The Army 10,000m championship was won by Sgt John Martin (School of Signals) in a time of 31min 21.2sec, with Bdr Tony Arnell (7 Para RHA, 32:00.7) second and Sgt Joe Docherty (School of Signals, 32:51.8) third.

Killen claims his seventh title

SSGT Neil Killen (21 Signal Regt) has been winning Army athletics titles for three decades. He added the seventh decathlon crown to his collection at Aldershot last month – but only after a tremendous tussle with teammate Cpl Trevor McSween.

The two Wildenwrath-based athletes battled it out over two days, with McSween ending the first day's programme (100m, long jump, shot, high jump and 400m) on 3,031 points, just six points behind Killen. Both of them trailed Cpl Viv Henry (also 21 Signal Regt) whose 11.1sec 100m and 50.7sec 400m boosted his tally to 3,102 points.

But Killen's strength told on the second day, and after winning the first two events – the 110m hurdles and discus – he never looked back.

His final score was 5,845, McSween was second 424 points adrift, and Henry fell away to finish eighth on 4,497.

Capt Terry Gyorffy (4 RTR), whose consistency in his first-ever decathlon rarely saw him out of the top three or four, took third place with 5,275 points.

Fourth was Cpl Garry Smith (4 Armd Wksp) on 5,189, and fifth Sig John Smith (21 Signal Regt) on 5,081.

Not surprisingly, 21 Signals filled first and second places in the team competition.

Killen, unfortunately broke a thumb in training, and was unable to turn out for the Army in the Inter-Services track and field championships at Aldershot.

The Army 10,000m championship was won by Sgt John Martin (School of Signals) in a time of 31min 21.2sec, with Bdr Tony Arnell (7 Para RHA, 32:00.7) second and Sgt Joe Docherty (School of Signals, 32:51.8) third.

Goodbye to cup replays

RE-PLAYS are to be a thing of the past for drawn Army (UK), BAOR, and Army Challenge Cup Finals, writes Pat Massey.

In future they will be decided on penalties after two periods of extra time. Unresolved semi-finals and finals in the minor units' competition are already decided on penalties.

Challenge Cup sponsors Wilsons Hogg Robinson are to do the honours again next season, while Leyland DAF will be involved again with the Minor Units' Cup.

Maj Gen Brian Pennicott has succeeded Maj Gen Richard Peck as chairman of the Army Football Association. Gen Peck, who leaves the Army in the autumn, is to become a vice-president of the AFA, while Lt Col John Smith, who retired in January, is to be an honorary vice-president, as is Brig Graham Bartlett.

Former Army and Combined Services team coach Alf Coulton, now a Football Association course director, led a preliminary coaching course at Aldershot for 25 students drawn from all three Services.

A team of coaches headed by Capt John O'Rourke, R Signals, assisted.

More courses are being considered for Kineton later in the year, and a course is planned for BAOR in September. In the meantime, the FA has yet to confirm the results of the last course held in Germany.

Scottish rally

CPL Dave North (61 Sqn RCT) and Sgt Mark Taylor (658 Sqn AAC) came second in class and 31st overall in the Perth and Kinross RSAC International Scottish Rally.

Their service crew was Sgt David Easby, who prepares and rallies the Land Rover himself during the rest of the year, and Cfn Andy Williams, both of 38 Sqn RCT Wksp REME based at Mulheim.



OCdt Dan Wilkinson defends against a strong Kent XI which visited RMAS Sandhurst for a cricket match to mark the Academy's 250th anniversary. Opener Wilkinson carried his bat as RMAS were dismissed for 47 in reply to the Kent total of 222

Picture: Mike Penning

Kibble keeps triple crown

MORE than 260 competitors took part in the 1991 Army-TA triathlon championships at the Cotswold Water Park, South Cerney.

Last year's GKN Defence Army champion, LCpl Phil Kibble (RCT) was first across

the lake, completing a chilly 1,500m swim in just over 20 minutes. The cold water caused a few to drop out.

Kibble was chased hard on the 40km cycle ride by Cpl Steve Ward (RCT), also of JLR RCT/RAOC Colerne, fol-

lowed by Sgt Gary Smith (R Signals serving with 7 Para RHA). The TA competition was led by LCpl Steve Richards of 4 RRW(V).

Looking very strong, Kibble started the run in front of the field, retaining his lead to finish in a superb time of 1hr 56min 28sec, with Cpl Ward second three minutes behind, and Sgt Smith third.

Maj Barry Lillywhite (APTC) was first in the veterans' race, while WO2 Lynn Sleightholme led the HQ York Garrison to victory in the women's team race.

The Major Unit men's team competition was won by RMAS with 7 Para RHA second, and the Minors by JLR RCT/ RAOC.

LCpl Richards was first TA competitor across the line, followed by Capt Webster (198 Eng Sqn V) and Lt Williams (289 Cdo Bty RA), and OCdt Mandy Fryer won the TA women's race with 2nd Lt Morris second.



Capt David Iffland of RMAS receives the Major Units' triathlon team trophy from Lt Col Clive Bogie, chairman of the Army Triathlon Association

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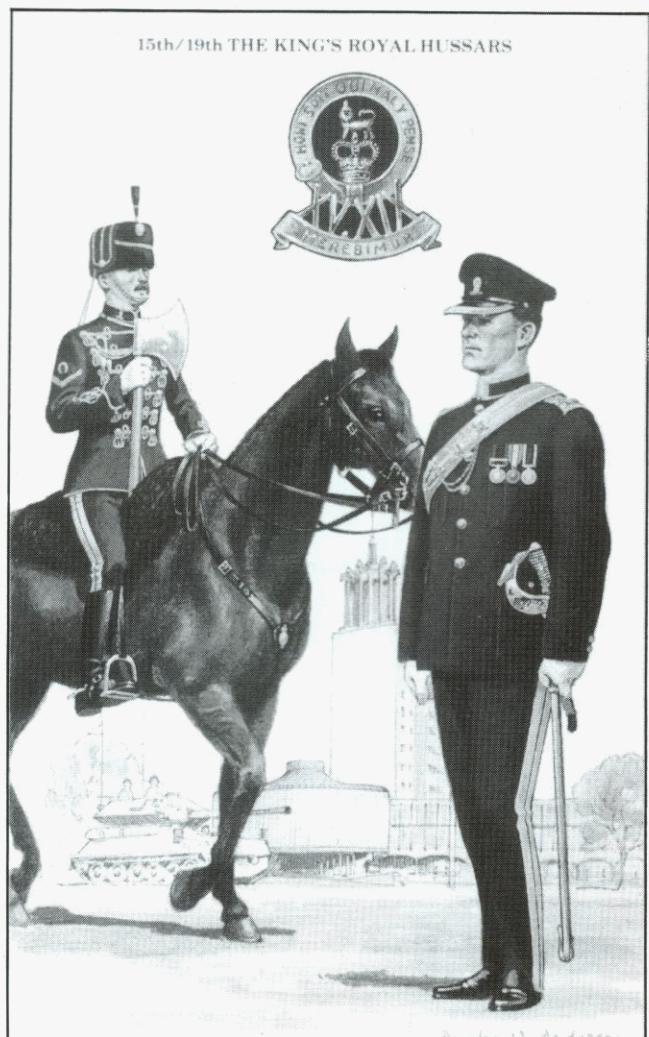
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WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS





For the first time since 1949, the uniform for women in the Army has undergone a total redesign and the results have been unveiled at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. Following the recent integration of women into 17 regiments and corps, the MOD introduced new uniforms which will come into service in August. Six colleges were invited to design a range of practical uniforms suitable for women aged 17 to 55, including barrack dress, parade uniform, temperate and tropical wear and sportswear.

Picture: Mike Perring

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