

# Sandy Times

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British Forces in the Gulf

جريدة الصحراء  
تتشر من قبل وزارة الدفاع البريطانية  
للقرات البريطانية في منطقة الخليج

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## Forces into action

**“The lights stayed on in Baghdad but the instruments of tyranny are collapsing.”**

***Defence Secretary, Geoff Hoon***

BRITISH soldiers and Royal Marines surged into Iraq; Royal Navy ships deployed their helicopters, missiles and heavy guns, and RAF aircraft dropped their bombs in targeted aerial attacks. On 20 March 2003, the struggle for Iraq's liberation began.

Picture: Paul Jarvis



### Moment of truth

20 March 2003: This picture by a Forces photographer, shows troops of 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers defending members of 39 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 32 Engineer Regiment as they break through an obstacle allowing British toops to enter Iraq

(Left) A RAF Chinook and Sea King helicopters begin lifting men and equipment ashore

Picture: Angie Pearce

## The first days of war

Reports on page 2 to 7. Picture story on pages 8 & 9

# Free Iraq

***“We are going in to liberate, not to conquer. We are entering Iraq to free people. Show them respect. If you are ferocious in battle, remember to be magnanimous in victory.” Lt Col Tim Collins, 1 R Irish***

**The inspirational words of the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment, addressed to his men just hours before they pushed their way through the sand ramparts into Iraq, will be remembered long after the war against Saddam Hussein is over.**

And his carefully chosen words clearly inspired his men. As described in the pooled story by Sara Oliver on page 3, 1 R Irish, a major component of 12 Armoured Brigade, treated their enemy well in defeat and showed through their actions that soldiers have a special kind of compassion.

It is not a quality that Saddam Hussein would recognise. Neither is wisdom. A few days before the first attack. He was given a final ultimatum; 48 hours in which he and his sons could go into exile and, implicitly, allow Coalition forces to enter Iraq and neutralise his weapons of mass destruction.

He refused and the outcome was inevitable. The war commenced with British and American troops operating in concert. Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade left HMS Ark Royal and HMS Ocean for a daring assault on the Al Faw Peninsula. Supported by artillery and naval gunfire, they secured the oil installations there, preventing Saddam from flooding the Northern Gulf with crude oil, as he did in 1991.

The men of 7 Armoured Brigade, in Challenger 2 tanks, Warrior personnel carriers and a host of other vehicles bludgeoned their way across the bor-

der from Kuwait, heading north towards Umm Qasr and Basra. “There was some resistance,” said British National Contingent Commander Air Marshal Burridge. “But it was not a match for 7 Armoured.”

Troops of 16 Air Assault Brigade waited briefly before being helicoptered ahead to join the battle.

There was a price for this early success. Two British Sea King helicopters collided over the sea with loss of seven men. An American Sea Knight helicopter crashed, killing eight British and four American personnel. And the crew of an RAF Tornado aircraft were killed when their aircraft was apparently shot down accidentally by an American Patriot missile. Air Marshal Burridge voiced the sadness of many when he said, “As an aviator myself, I

**Wars are fast flowing, making it difficult for a paper like *Sandy Times* to chart their progress completely and in detail. We do not try to do so. In these pages, we merely provide selected accounts and updates, using our own reports and those of other journalists and the Forces’ own news teams**

know these were very brave people, very professional. We are very sad.”

On 24 March, as *Sandy Times* goes to press, the situation is typically fluid. But Air Marshal Burridge’s Chief of Staff, Major General Peter Wall, summed the situation up at a press briefing on the evening of 23 March. He said: “UK Forces have made an outstanding contribution to the progress that the Coalition has made so far. Our operations are fully integrated and we are fighting side-by-side with the forces of the United States and Australia. 3 Commando Brigade and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit from the US are still engaged in operations to mop up the last remnants of resistance on the Al Faw peninsular and, most importantly, in Umm Qasr. The majority of resistance we have faced so far comes from Saddam’s Special Security Organisation and the Saddam Fedayeen – they are men who know they will have no role in the building of a new Iraq.

“While this is ongoing, fleet clearance diving teams are in the port areas to make safe any demolitions and

some of our mines counter-measure vessels are engaged in the critical process of clearing the sea mine threat in the Kor Al Abdullah waterway.

“In the south, elements of 7 Armoured Brigade and 16 Air Assault Brigade are consolidating their position around Basra and have taken hundreds of prisoners.

“In the Rumaylah oil-fields, our Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams are continuing the difficult and dangerous task of clearing munitions and booby traps.

“The RAF has been involved in operations around the clock, flying over 100 sorties a day. Our Tornado GR4s and Harrier GR7s, accompanied by our Tornado F3s have attacked targets ranging from critical command and control facilities to surface-to-surface missile sites.

“UK Forces will continue to make a significant contribution to all aspects of coalition operations across the whole theatre until we achieve our objectives. We will not rest until this regime and the threat it poses to the world through weapons of mass destruction is eradicated.”

## HM The Queen: “May your mission be swift and decisive”

*On 20 March Buckingham Palace issued this message from the Queen for all military and civilian personnel serving on Operation Telic*

“At this difficult moment in our nation’s history, I would like to express my pride in you, the British Service and civilian personnel deployed in the Gulf and in the vital supporting roles in this country and further afield. I have every confidence in your professionalism and commitment as you face the challenges before you. Especially for those of you now waiting to go into action, may your mission be swift and decisive, your courage steady and true, and your conduct in the highest traditions of your Service both in waging war and bringing peace. My thoughts are with you all and with your families and friends who wait at home for news and pray for your safe return.”

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**Editor:** Graham Bound

**Deputy Editors:**

Maj C Convery AGC (ETS)  
Capt RE Elms AGC (ETS)

**Design consultant:**  
David Barlow

**Clerk:**  
LCpl CD Bowen

**Write to Sandy Times at:**  
UK NCHQ, BFPO 637.

**Email:**  
thesandytimes@hotmail.com

**Phone:** (+ 974) 460 8466

# Air raids hit capital and troops advance in south

Compiled from AP, PA and BBC reports, 22 and 23 March

THE ALLIES are coming. There could be no doubt of that as all coalition members launched attacks on the military command and control targets in both Baghdad and other major cities in Iraq.

On the second day of the campaign, more than 1,500 sorties over Iraq were undertaken. British and American ships launched some 320 cruise missiles in the initial salvo on Friday night.

After an overnight lull, the bombing of Baghdad resumed. Fires raged along the banks of the River Tigris, inside Saddam Hussein's Palace compound and amongst his command and control centres. Rageh Omaar from the BBC, who is in Baghdad, said, "The realisation has dawned on many Iraqis that the bombing is quite accurate." On the 23 March Rageh Omaar also reported that the Iraqi capital is now surrounded by a choking black haze from fires intended to confuse the British and American war planes which are flying overhead."

On the ground, liberating coalition forces penetrated 100 miles into Iraq and the Iraqi 51st Division, of about 8,000 soldiers, surrendered.

3 Commando Brigade, with US marines under its command, have liberated the Al Faw Peninsular. Other units moved into the western airfield complexes where Iraq was believed to have Scud missiles capable of reaching Israel, and possibly weapons of mass destruction.

Umm Qasar was not yet benign, but 3 Commando

Brigade were in position on 23 March to push forward. The resistance seen there was felt to be minor with some troops still loyal to the regime fighting after other regular troops have laid down their arms. These troops were in no greater than company size packages.

Group Captain Al Lockwood, the UK's National Contingent Spokesperson said: "We are encountering some small pockets of resistance, as

tery fire and close air support elements of the Iraqi 6th Division started to surrender.

HMS Marlborough continued to provide naval gun fire support for ongoing operations on the Al Faw Peninsula and four merchant vessels were intercepted by the UK Naval Task Group. Mine clearance of the sea route to Umm Qasar was underway.

Air Marshal Brian Burridge, said, "We are on plan and on the time-lines as

uniform, meeting with his son Qusai, the commander of the Republican Guard, and the Defence Minister, General Sultan Hashim Ahmad. But it was unclear when the video was made and whether or not Saddam was alive following the surgical missile strike on a building where he was thought to be on 20 March. Subsequent stories, through open press sources, of a body being removed from the

building on a stretcher. Air Marshal Burridge said on 23 March, "There is no evidence whether he is dead or alive. I have no further interest in Saddam Hussein as a person he no longer matters. Our aim is to fracture the regime in its entirety. Whether Saddam Hussein is alive or dead is immaterial. I'm interested in disarming their WMD and the regime has got to go – it is not personalised."

Iraqi television reported the bombing of the northern town of Tikrit, birthplace and power base of Saddam Hussein.

The US Marine Corps tried to secure a route through the town of Nairiyah in Southern Iraq and took control of a bridge over the River Euphrates.

There were also reports on 23 March from the BBC that said, "We are hearing reports of fighting near Najaf, which if true, would suggest elements of the US 5th Corps are two thirds of the way to Baghdad. That would put them on target to reach the Iraqi capital in days."



**Thumbs up: Sgt Maj Tony Murphy signals to begin distributing food to 131 Iraqi prisoners captured by 1 R Irish. Picture: Giles Penfound**

we expected but we have both the capability and the firepower to overcome this. However, we will do this in a time and place that suits our people and with the least loss of life on all sides."

On 23 March, 7 Armoured Brigade (The Desert Rats) had moved to the west of Basra.

16 Air Assault Brigade had moved to Ar Rmaylah and had come under fire from Iraqi artillery and armour from the 6th Division. After 16 Air Assault called in counter bat-

we expected."

But Saddam Hussein's regime showed no sign of quitting. Asked whether the Iraqis plan a counter attack, Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al Sahhaf said, "Our leadership and our armed forces will decide this, in what guarantees the defeat of those mercenaries, God willing. This criminal in the White House is a stupid criminal," he added.

The Iraqi regime released a video of Saddam in his

# Going in with the Royal Irish

**Front line report** From Sarah Oliver with British troops

21 March

**WE RODE** at dawn, the men of the First Royal Irish, the vanguard of the British assault in the desert redoubt of Iraq. Our column thundered through the Ramailah oil field as well heads blazed at 600C, searing your face with their heat and making the morning air shiver with ash. Ahead were the terrified troops who had cast down their weapons in the face of the seemingly invincible Allied advance and hundreds of innocent civilians holding makeshift white flags to show their peaceful intent.

We moved swiftly into enemy territory pushing due north to secure a 50-mile front line in the richest parcel of this fabled oil field. The black gold here bankrolls the Baghdad regime and its weapons of mass destruction. No wonder then that securing it was critical to the Allies.

Critical, too, it seems to Saddam for he had dispatched to meet us elements of his mechanised 18th Division who played such a powerful role in the 1991 Gulf Conflict. But their rusty weaponry and fading spirits were no match for a battalion of the Fifth US Marine Corps who passed this way on Thursday night. The devastation they left in their wake was to be the mission of the elite infantry of the 1st Royal Irish. On the eve of battle their commanding officer Lt Col Tim Collins promised: "I shall cross the breach with the Royal Irish fanning out behind me like a cloak."

We went at the exact moment the rising sun met the setting moon bathing the Gulf desert in ethereal white. As day broke Lt Col Collins assumed control of the gas-oil separation plants being held for him by the US. A handshake marked the hand-over from one commander to another – both men believing this was a mission of mercy as much as an act of war, for these fields are home to a billion dollar oil industry without which there will be no self regeneration in Iraq.

As we drove between them the desert people, themselves

victims of Saddam's regime, tentatively approached us. Their white flags may have been made of sacking and plastic but their meaning could not have been misunderstood. The Bedouin were desperate not to be confused with the hundreds of conscripted soldiers who simply tore off their uniforms and threw aside their berets and sought refuge in the desert wilderness.

And then there were the prisoners. Last night we were holding 37 officers, 277 men and expecting another 200 on their way in from the outer reaches of the oil field. They seemed simply relieved that their obligation to Saddam was over.

The Iraqis were allowed to lay to rest those who had fallen among them. A young soldier was buried by three of his officers while Royal Irish Padre Phil Boshier read a prayer over his body. It was a moment of pure compassion in the middle of war and it was not the only one I witnessed. As the hundreds of prisoners of war huddled into their makeshift pen a team of burly Irish rangers prepared dates for them so they could have something to eat. It was in the spirit of the speech made by Lt Col Collins which captured British imaginations when he demanded that his troops be liberators not conquerors and therefore magnanimous in victory.

Those behind us, I am told, left a sign for all who follow. It says: "Welcome to Iraq, border secured by the 1st Royal Irish."

## Tornado back to battle in the Gulf



### PA report

THE Tornado GR4 ground attack jet and its pilots are no strangers to action over Iraq. During the 1991 Gulf War they were involved extensively in the 39-day bombardment of Saddam Hussein's regime. Involved in daring low-flying raids, the Royal Air Force suffered plane losses. But it is thought that this time round the tactic will not be repeated, with pilots bombing targets from a height of 20,000ft, beyond the reach of enemy surface-to-air missiles.

The two-man jets are drawn from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland and Marham, Norfolk, and are capable of 1,452mph – around twice the speed of sound – powered by two Rolls-Royce afterburning turbofan engines.

Some Tornado sorties from Kuwait are being carried out by 617 Squadron (The Dam Busters), flying on the 60th anniversary of its formation to breach dams on the

Rhur during the Second World War.

The GR4 can operate in all weather conditions, using Terrain Following Radar and Ground Mapping Radar to guide the aircraft and identify the target. To defend itself, the Tornado has Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, electronic counter measure pods, and chaff and flare dispensers. It also has two cannons.

### Storm shadow's first appearance

**IT IS** probably the RAF's most fearsome and advanced weapon, and it made its presence felt for the first time on day two of the air war. Carried by Tornados, Storm shadow is a turbojet-powered missile, designed for high-value targets while minimising collateral damage. Accuracy is achieved through global positioning technology.

## Aussies in action

### PA report 22 March

AUSTRALIAN forces destroyed a hidden command centre for Saddam Hussein's troops, Australia's defence chief said today. "This is a significant success as it has enabled all of us to avoid potential ecological disaster."

Cosgrove said elite Australian troops had been involved in at least three fire fights with Iraqi forces deep in enemy territory, and that Australian land and sea forces intercepted a shipment of Iraqi mines bound for the Persian Gulf. Cosgrove said troops from the Special Air Service Regiment had destroyed an Iraqi command and control post and killed a number of Iraqi soldiers. "I am delighted to report, relieved to report, there were no Australian casualties," he added.



# Iraq is for Iraqis

*Opinions expressed in The Sandy Times do not necessarily reflect those of the MOD and the Services*

**IT IS desperately sad that Americans and British have died, both in combat and accidents.**

**It is also tragic that Iraqis have been killed.**

**But it seems at least possible that well-targeted coalition attacks will minimise the civilian and military death toll.**

**Mass surrenders may also keep casualties down. Huge efforts have gone into convincing Iraqi soldiers that they should not fight for a dictator.**

**The act of surrender should not be under-estimated. For an Iraqi to defy Saddam means ignoring the instinctive fear that has been imbued over decades of brutal rule. Refusing to fight for him can be an act of courage.**

**The best motive for this war is the freeing of these people from such cruel domination.**

**Iraqis deserve to be welcomed back into the world. And they need the opportunity to benefit fairly from their natural resources.**

**We should remember that Iraq was the cradle of civilisation. Iraqis are proud of this heritage. And they were proud of their modern learning, science, medicine, culture and art. They will be so again.**

## Front line report

From Martin Dillon with British troops in Iraq



**“The man said the word ‘Saddam’ and made a gesture with his hands as if he wanted something to go away”**

Picture: Giles Penfound

# A sky lit by oil well fires

TODAY I'm around 80 kilometres inside Iraq and we have moved to a new position

We drove through an Iraqi oil field. Some of the pipes had been burst and bright orange flames leapt out and smoke drifted across the highway. There were also destroyed Iraqi army positions in and around the oil field.

We drove past US soldiers who were guarding the installation and I saw them rounding up some of the people who worked on the site. The US soldiers made them lie on the ground and put their hands on their heads while they searched them.

I could also make out a pick-up truck with about ten bullet holes through its windscreen, a burnt-out lorry and the wreckage of two Iraqi tanks which had been blown apart.

It was only after we had gone through the border that I was told the bright lights I had seen in the sky had been tracer fire from Iraqi tanks.

During the night I received a report from Major Nick Peek of 7 Para RHA. He told me: “Rumallah oil fields in the north and south have been secured by the US 5th Marines

and British troops are relieving US positions. As US troops push forward in our area everything is fine and the morale of the men is very good.”

Through the night I could hear US warplanes overhead and the sound of the bombs hitting targets north of our position.

I slept out in the open last night. There was a bit of rain so I slept under our truck, which has been pulling a spare gun.

The soldiers take it in turns to be sentry, doing an hour each guarding our position.

Soldiers stand in their NBC suits - nuclear, biological, chemical - just in case we are attacked.

During the day, some of the local people came up to us, as they were intrigued by their new neighbours.

A man and two boys came to see me and one of the soldiers as we were talking. The man approached us shyly and the soldier gave him a cigarette and his two boys water. I offered them biscuits, which they took. I took pictures of them on my digital camera and showed the images to them. They laughed as they saw the pictures of themselves on my little camera screen. The two

boys found it hilarious.

The man said the word ‘Saddam’ and made a gesture with his hands as if he wanted something to go away. He seemed to be quite keen to be rid of his country’s leader.

I am a passenger with 20-year-old Mike Paige, an ammunition driver. He and everyone else here now has experience of war which they can tell people about afterwards.

Staff Sergeant John Shorrocks, 36, from Salford, described to me just how he felt when he crossed the border into Iraq. He said: “The adrenaline was pumping as we went through the Iraqi border positions because we didn’t know what we would encounter. Driving in those conditions was difficult because it was dark. There were problems caused by dust from the other vehicles which meant that, at times, we couldn’t see anything. There was no sign of wreckage of any other vehicles as we went through but it was still tense driving out there.”

Life is basic. We all live off army rations and it’s a hole in the ground if you want to go to the toilet. But that is the way it has to be.

# Heat, dust and e-blueys



**During the long period of waiting, troops lived a life that would be familiar to veterans of previous desert wars – with a few digital-age differences**

**IN THE weeks before the outbreak of hostilities, more than 40,000 British troops joined around 220,000 Americans in camps across the north of Kuwait, including the massive Camp Coyote desert training area.**

The hostile desert environment demanded that soldiers adapt quickly, while still training and performing the vital tasks that would ensure they were ready for war when the call came.

The soldiers made the most of what they had, and some were better off than others. Those based at some of the main southern camps benefited from relatively normal toilet and showering facilities, located in specially designed cabins and tents. But for those located with their vehicles in the desert a simple solar-heated shower bag was a vital asset. Usually hung from a convenient vehicle, a very

limited amount of water would be heated by the desert sun. After an hour or two the shower would be ready to rinse a sand and dust-caked body.

Water is probably the desert's most important commodity and the soldiers need to be aware that their bodies' need for fluids is far greater than they are used to. The usual instruction is to drink at least ten litres of water each day. Demand was satisfied with an almost constant stream of bottled and crated fresh water.

Meal time for soldiers based in the major camps was reassuringly similar to the routine they enjoyed back home – except that the cook-houses were huge hangars catering for hundreds of people, four times a day.

Again, life was more difficult for those on the more remote camps. Food came from British ration packs or

equivalent US MREs (Meals Ready to Eat). Menus, though, were as varied as possible, including chicken with salsa, chilli and vegetables with pasta.

Tough it certainly is, but most of the soldiers serving out there say that they have had years of practice during previous operations and exercises, and they are well prepared to cope. Lance Corporal Andy Mason, 29, of the Scots Dragoon Guards says: "The living conditions are fine. It's no better or worse than when we are on exercise."

Most of the guys have little luxuries such as CD players to make life a little bit more comfortable. But what really makes desert life easier to bear is the welfare package of satellite phones, and the trusted bluey postal system.



Pictures: Giles Perfound

**(Main picture) Escapism: Cpl Robert McClymont receives an e-bluey (Above) Close shave: Camp ablutions**

Each soldier is allowed 20 minutes of free phone calls a week, using a satellite system that can operate almost anywhere. And the tried and trusted free bluey postal system has been given a huge boost with the e-bluey – undergoing its biggest test.

Around 5,000 e-blueys arrived in theatre each day – and that is in addition to the thousands of letters and packages being sent via the regular postal route. Everything goes via Arifjan camp in the south – for distribution throughout the theatre.

# Tornado raid over Baghdad

**Front line report** From Stewart Payne at Ali Al Salem in Kuwait

22 March

THE BRITISH Tornado air crews who paved the way for the massive aerial bombardment of Baghdad returned safely to base late last night and spoke of the “awesome” sight of the city erupting in flames as they delivered their missiles and turned for home. “Baghdad was ablaze. There were explosions going off every few seconds”, said Wing Commander Derek Watson, who led his IX(B) Squadron into the face of enemy fire.

“We had anti-aircraft fire to one side and multiple rocket-launchers were used against us, putting up about eight to 10 missiles. We could see them but they were never a threat.”

His Tornado GR4 precision bombers fired their air-launched anti radiation missiles (ALARM) to take out Baghdad’s integrated air defence systems to open the way for bombers to target Saddam Hussein and his high command.

“Hopefully we provided the protection we were contracted to do. We got our missiles off on time. We did the job. It was a remarkable sight to see them drop away from our aircraft and fire off towards their targets. I was full of admiration. They were brilliant.”

“We will have to wait for a detailed damage analysis, but they were heading the right way when we turned to go. We set off with a full payload of ALARMS and we saw them all go.”

Baghdad was already under a huge missile attack when the Tornados arrived to target the radar systems. Once the RAF fast jets had done their job, much more was to follow. “When we got up we had to fly through a wall of Coalition aircraft waiting to go in behind us. We found our way through. It was in some ways the most dangerous part. There was so much up there. I have never seen anything like it,” said Wing Cdr Watson, 39.

“Once we were over Iraq it thinned out and we had the place to ourselves for a while. When we approached Baghdad it was a red glow on the horizon. The missiles were already doing their work. But the Iraqis were still firing back. It is not over yet.

“I felt nervous when I set off but now I have been there, done it and seen it, I don’t think I will feel the same next time. And there will be a next time. The job is not finished but I think it is only a matter of days.”

All of IX(B) Squadron returned safely, as did the Tornados of 617 Squadron (The Dam Busters), which were flying a separate and unspecified mission.

Wing Cdr Watson and his formation were in the air for two and half hours. As his aircraft taxied to a halt he gave the thumbs up to his waiting ground crew and then turned and shook the hand of his navigator, Sqn Ldr James Linter. Sq Ldr Linter said: “They talked about the attack on Baghdad being shocking, and that is what it was. I would not have wanted to be on the receiving end.”

Tornados of II, 13 and 31 squadrons are also based at Ali Al Salem, flying as a combined air combat wing, and all are expected to conduct bombing missions over Iraq.

Despite the swift advance into Iraq by armed forces on the ground, Saddam Hussein’s troops were still able to get missiles into the air last night, one causing a full scale chemical alert at the Ali Al Salem base late last night. All personnel, including the recently returned Tornado crews, had to dive for cover in bunkers.

It later emerged that an Al Samoud missile had fallen safely in the surrounding desert. Earlier in the day Patriot missiles were used to down several other Iraqi missiles aimed towards the base, plumes of smoke clearly visible in the sky overhead.



Arming: Tornado GR4 with Stormshadow missile (see P4)

## Missile attack

THE NAVY never discusses the whereabouts of Britain’s submarines, but there is one sure way of knowing when one of the awesome weapons platforms is in the area: the dramatic and violent burst of a Tomahawk missile from the sea. On 20 March the attack on Iraq commenced with just such a firing. The exact quantity of weapons fired is not known, but one or more submarines of the Trafalgar class launched salvos at key command and control centres in Iraq.

Known as TLAM (Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles) in Navy jargon, the Tomahawk is effectively a small jet-powered pilotless aircraft used to strike targets up to 1,000 miles distant. It flies at around 550 mph at very low altitudes, navigating its way through valleys and over hills. Because the Tomahawk flies so low and is so small, it is extremely difficult to pick up on radar.

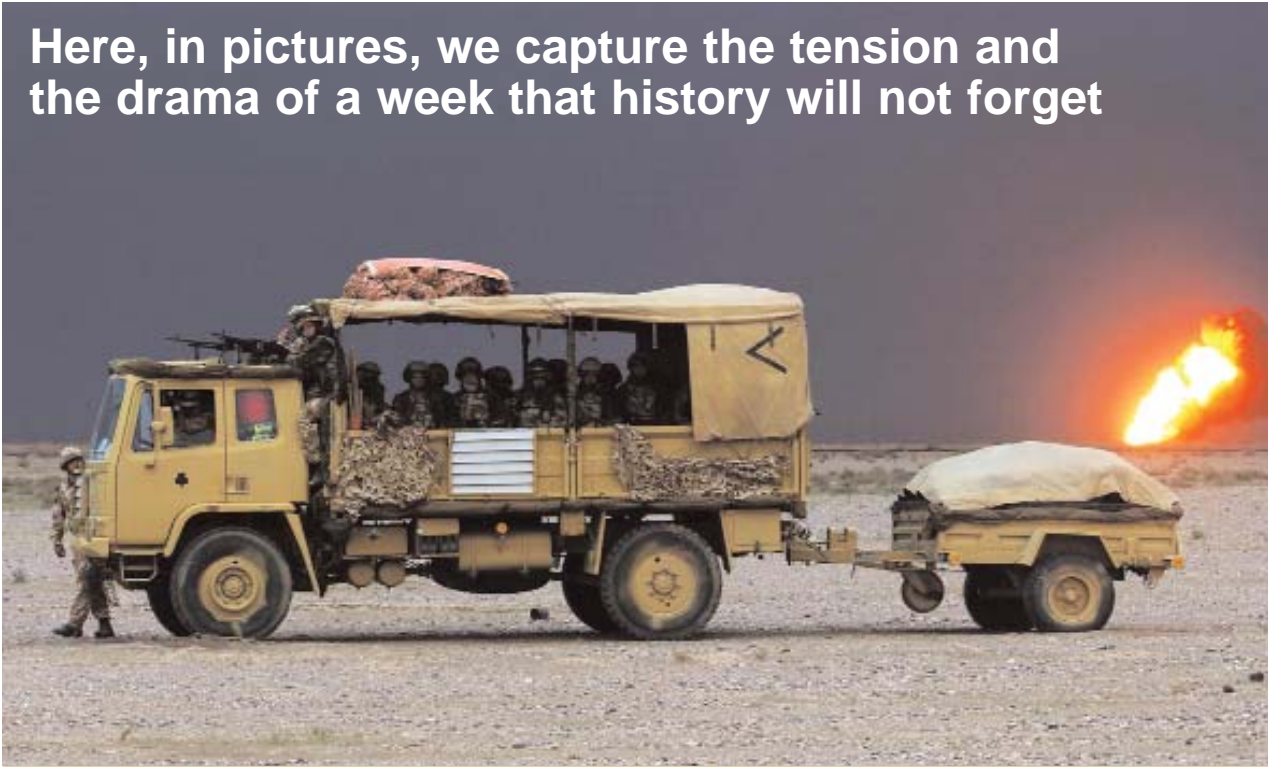
The next generation of Tomahawk, due to enter service next year, can be re-programmed in flight to strike any of 15 alternate targets. It will also be able to loiter over a target area, and with its on-board camera allow commanders to assess the damage inflicted on targets. (Sky News)



Tomahawk: Missile launch viewed through a periscope

# The week we went to

Here, in pictures, we capture the tension and the drama of a week that history will not forget



(Clockwise from top left)

**Ablaze:** Members of the 1st Btn R... past a blazing oil well and a smoke

**Moment of calm:** Sgt Charlie Ben... Penfound)

**Assault battery:** The 4.5 inch gun... positions prior to Royal Marines lar

**Sand storm:** Sand and dust fill the... Regiment dig in following a desert

**POW guard:** A Royal Marine of 40... their capture on the Al Faw Pensin





Royal Irish Regiment advance  
e-laden sky (Giles Penfound)  
tley of G Battery 7 Para RHA (Giles  
of HMS Norfolk opens up on land  
nding (PA)  
e air as men of 51 Sqn RAF  
march (Paul Saxby)  
Cdo guards Iraqi soldiers following  
sula (Jim Gibson)



# Iraqi artillery repelled by 7RHA guns

**Front line report** Martin Dillon  
in Iraq

“C’MON, you’re fighting for your lives,” screamed the artillery captain as British troops hit back against a surprise attack by the Iraqi army. Within seconds a thunderous explosion followed by a flash of light shook the night sky as shells headed towards Saddam’s forces. I stood within a few feet of a gun position as 7 Para Royal Horse Artillery battled to repel the advancing forces on Saturday night. Captain Grant Ingleton, of F Battery, toured the gun positions about 100 kilometres into Iraq in the strategically vital oilfields, bellowing encouragement and making sure his men realised how serious the situation was. They were facing three enemy D30 gun batteries - consisting of a total of 54 guns with a range of 25 miles. Six of their powerful 96lb shells had already been fired at us.

The British response was swift and deadly as the men worked furiously to load the 105 mm guns with 36lb shells. I could hear the dull explosions in the distance as they found their targets. Radar had picked up enemy positions 10km away at about 7.30pm local time when many of the British soldiers were getting ready to sleep. After a few hours the Iraqis moved position and began firing on US Marines and again 7 Para provided fire cover despite having no air support.

I was initially told to lie in a trench about 200m from the gun battery because the Iraqis had us within their range but I was eventually given the chance to stand by one of the mighty guns, C-sub gun, one of the six F Battery guns involved. Its commander Bombardier Rudy Fuller, 30, of Bradford, barked out the co-ordinates which were typed into a computer on the gun before being fired.

Eventually the news came over the radio that those Iraqis still alive were holding white flags. A sense of relief descended over the weary troops. The adrenalin was still pumping through them as we realised the situation could have been deadly for us if the Iraqis had managed to hit our positions. They had larger shells which could have inflicted serious damage.

Capt Ingleton, 42, from Dorset, said: “It was a fantastic response from the men because it was a do-or-die situation. Some of them had only just finished training the day before we came out here. They have been given a baptism of fire and a lot of boys have become men overnight.”

Battery Sgt Major John Wadsworth, from Derby, said: “This was a tough pressure situation for the lads and they rallied superbly because we didn’t have any air support.” Last night British artillery was called into action again when Iraqi soldiers fired at coalition observation posts near our station, about 100km inside enemy territory. Our guns responded by immediately launching about 20 shells. During the next hour the artillery regiment launched a further 80 high explosive devices against Iraqi positions.

As the men of 7 Para RHA rested they spoke of their determination. Bombardier Fuller said: “We were within their range but the lads were determined to send them packing.”

# Life saving field hospital

Report: Cath Convery

202 FIELD Hospital is the major British facility providing vital care for those injured in the fighting.

Although predominantly manned by augmentees, the staff have become accustomed to working together through frequent exercises.

The CO, Lt Col Barry Smith, spoke about the mobile facilities and 500 staff under his command. “The hospital provides surgical and primary health care for our own troops and external troops. Transport bring casualties in and out but there is also a dedicated helivac.

“Our facilities reach the same standard of care that British personnel would expect within the NHS.”

Those facilities include operating theatres, laboratory support, psychotherapy and intensive care. All kit has been “ruggardised” so that it can be easily moved into and around the operational theatre.

Although 202 Field Hospital is located some way from front line positions, this distance does not compromise treatment. Casualties receive first line support within units and there are other medical facilities near the front line so that critical casualties can receive surgery within a few hours.

Impressively qualified staff, medicines, beds and operating theatres are the vital components of any hospital, this one included. In hot Middle East conditions a further essential might be a sense of humour. Col Smith’s appears to be intact, if a little lame: “We may be 202 *field* hospital,” he says. “but if anyone can find me a field around here I’d be grateful”



Compiled by Eddie Elms

# UK scene

## Stories the papers back home are reporting

### Terror exercise is postponed

An exercise simulating a terrorist strike on a London Tube station has been postponed because of the Iraq crisis.

More than 400 personnel, including fire, ambulance and police, were due to take part in the five-hour simulated biological attack on Bank station. Scores of people had volunteered to act as "casualties" in the operation.

### US attacks on al-Qaeda

A US military operation is under way on a former al-Qaeda stronghold in southern Afghanistan, a military spokesman said.

There were no details immediately available about the operation which is in the area of Kandahar, the former spiritual headquarters of the Taliban.

"I do not have anything to say about the Kandahar operation at this time," said Colonel Roger King, US army spokesman. He confirmed it was under way, but he would not give the details.

### Mystery virus

A mystery virus is sweeping across the world. One woman has died and several are seriously ill after being

struck by flu-like virus. Doctors believe it may be the same mystery virus that swept Asia recently. Airports and hospitals around the world were on alert for carriers of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome which is, they believe, being spread across the globe by air travellers.

### Lawrence suspects are freed

Two former Stephen Lawrence murder suspects have had their sentences cut for a racist attack on an off-duty black police officer.

Appeal Court judges reduced the sentences on Neil Acourt and David Norris from 18 to 12 months each.

They were released from prison in January after eight months but have continued serving their sentences under the "tagging" system. As a result of the ruling, the tags, due to stay on for another month, can be removed.

Neither 26-year-old Norris of Chislehurst, Kent, nor Acourt, 27, of Greenwich, South East London, was at court for the appeals.

### Prescott acts in fire row

John Prescott is to bring in extra powers to take control of the fire service and impose a pay settlement on crew in an effort to end the

long-running dispute.

He told MPs that he was bringing in a Fire Services Bill to give additional control over the service.

He acted, he said, because 19,000 troops were being tied up by the dispute and he was "astonished" that the latest offer had been rejected. He was to meet both sides after delegates at a special meeting rejected the latest offer, rounding on their executive who had recommended acceptance.

Firefighters' leaders were to decide next month whether to accept a final pay offer, removing the threat of industrial action for almost four weeks.

### Trial of TV Quiz major

The Army major accused of cheating on a TV quiz show has been fighting back tears as he described his "horrendous" ordeal since the claim was made.

Charles Ingram, 39, accused of cheating his way to the £1m jackpot on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, told a court his pet cat was shot at, his car was vandalised and he has been abused as he has been sitting in his own garden.

Ingram, who allegedly used an accomplice's coded coughs to pocket the £1m, said he felt he had been living under a "great cloud".

He said: "Our cat was shot at, we have had people driving past shouting 'cheat' as we were eating meals in the gar-

den, I have had my car vandalised. It has been absolutely horrendous."

He again denied he had cheated on the programme.

Ingram and his nursery nurse wife Diana, 38, of Easterton, Wiltshire, along with Tecwen Whittock, of Cardiff, who is head of business studies at Pontypridd College, South Wales, each deny one charge of "procuring a valuable security by deception" on September 10, 2001.

The case continues.

### Biggest "E" seizure ever

Armed police believe they have smashed a major crime gang after seizing ecstasy worth £1.5m. Around 300 Surrey police officers took part in a series of raids in the county and the South East on Wednesday night. The drugs haul is the largest ever recorded in the country.

### Asylum seeker killer jailed

The teenage killer of an asylum seeker has been jailed for life.

Gang member Steven Roberts, 18, plunged a knife into the chest of Iranian Payman Bahmani, 30, as he was helping to defend the home of fellow refugees from being attacked.

# Crisis diary

It has been a momentous week. Saddam did not accept his last chance to leave Iraq, and the Coalition attack duly followed. At home, the political scene was no less volatile

By Peter Caddick-Adams

## 16 March

SADDAM Hussein says it is a “great lie” that he has weapons banned by the UN and vows to fight if the Coalition invades.

## 17 March

France reiterates its plan to veto on a second UN Security Council resolution, while Russia’s President says war “would be a mistake”.

The UK Attorney General explains that war would be legal on existing UN resolutions, and the UK Ambassador to the UN, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, announces withdrawal of the UK, US and Spanish sponsored second resolution.

At 16.00 Robin Cook resigns, but Clare Short decides to “review her position”.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard commits troops to join the Coalition.

President Bush broadcasts at 19.00 eastern standard time, giving Saddam 48 hours to leave Iraq or suffer the military consequences.

## 18 March

Two more ministers, Lord Hunt and John Denham, resign before the House of Commons debate. The rebel Labour amendment (that this house believes there is no moral case for war) attracts 218 votes. 396 support the Government against the amendment, giving the PM a majority of 178. The main motion, approving use of force, was supported by 412 votes to 149. President Bush says force will be used even if Saddam goes into exile.

## 19 March

Colin Powell announces that 45 nations have signed up to the coalition.

Overnight, cruise missiles and F117 stealth fighters are directed at key regime targets in Baghdad.



In Iraq: A British soldier surveys the scene



## 20 March

During the morning Saddam launches three missiles at Kuwait, though at midday, Baghdad denies firing any missiles. There are at least four biological and chemical false alarms during the day for Coalition forces and Kuwaiti citizens.

At 22.00 (UK time), PM Tony Blair broadcasts to the nation, and a message from HM The Queen is read out to all UK forces in theatre (*see page 2*).

Coalition forces move into Iraqi territory, with 3 Commando Brigade attacking

the Al Faw peninsula.

Iraqi radio broadcasts that “the enemies of God have committed the stupidity of aggression against our homeland”.

## 21 March

Overnight it is announced that a US CH46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed, killing all

## 22 March

British forces, including the Desert Rats of 7th Armoured Brigade, are reported fighting towards Al Basrah, whilst US forces approach Najaf (some 160 kms South of Baghdad) and An Nasariyah.

Men of the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, attached to US forces, start to make safe booby-trapped oil installations.

Two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters collide over the sea and seven passengers and crew are posted missing. Coalition forces start to capture significant numbers of Iraqi prisoners.

## 23 March

Coalition forces say that Iraqi resistance has been stiffening, but that Umm Qasr is “nearly secure”.

Baghdad claims to have shot down five planes and two helicopters, but these claims are dismissed. Only one RAF Tornado is confirmed as down with its crew of two missing.

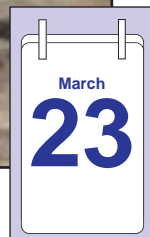
During the day, Iraqi TV shows US prisoners, captured near An Nasirayah, and other dead Americans.

Evidence emerges that Iraqi troops faked surrenders to attack Coalition soldiers.

16 Air Assault Brigade are reported fighting deep in Iraq.

The ITN TV journalist Terry Lloyd died, apparently in cross fire in Southern Iraq, while an Australian journalist was killed in the North.

At a Coalition press conference, US General John Abazaïd announces that “no one has killed more Muslims than Saddam Hussein”.



# Families noticeboard

For Cpl Steven Hilton, 1  
IRRF BG: Hiya darling,  
wanted to let you know that  
me and the kids are miss-  
ing you terribly back here,  
and hope you come home  
real soon. Love you, L xxx

For Cpl John Williams  
IRRF LAD BG: Hi honey!  
Me and the kids are miss-  
ing you terribly. Can't  
wait for your safe return  
home. All our love, hugs  
and kisses from Sharon, Joe,  
Alysha, Freyja and John

For Cpl Steven Warren,  
65 Fd Spt Sqn: Steve –  
I'm missing you loads  
and loads. Can't wait to  
see you again. Love you  
always, Carly (-:

To Daddy (Pte McConnachie:  
I love you loads and miss you  
very much. The teddy you  
gave me before you left is  
looking after me while you  
are away. Mummy also gives  
it a big kiss and cuddle. I had  
a nice birthday last week with  
lots of toys and sweets. Lots  
of love, your sweetpea and  
Mummy, Kel, Karl. xxx

For Sgt Simon Slater: This is to let  
you know that Claire and Luke, both  
miss you and love you so much. We  
can't wait for you to be back home  
and we're looking forward to having  
a lovely holiday and quality time  
together when you get back. You are  
always in our thoughts.

Send your  
messages to  
thesandytimes  
@hotmail.com

For Cpl Tony  
McGill, 7 Regt  
Missing you loads.  
Hope you are ok.  
Keep smiling . Love  
and kisses Marie  
xxx

For Jon Sharples:  
love and miss you  
more as each day  
goes by. Take care  
All our love,  
Jeanette, Rebecca  
and Jack. xxx

For LCpl Atkinson,  
2CS  
Missing you lots -  
hope you are ok.  
Keep safe. Lots of  
love from Nes xxx

To Capt M Snape PCRS  
Argus: Mark, I really miss  
you. Take care. Love you,  
Anna

Also to all at 33 Field  
Hospital: Haslar and Fort  
Blockhouse just aren't the  
same without you. Steve  
you're seat's being kept  
warm at the bar. Anna

## Bishop of Manchester: "You are in our prayers"

To HM Forces in the Gulf – and  
especially those from Greater  
Manchester and South  
Lancashire:

Just to let you know that you,  
your families and friends are in  
our prayers, and that in every  
church in the Diocese of  
Manchester special prayers for  
you all are being said.

With warmest greetings from all  
of us back at home.

From the Bishop of Manchester  
(The Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch)

Craig, Ross and Jen Nelson send their  
love to **SSgt Alan Nelson**, RAMC, who  
is currently serving with 5GS Medical  
Regiment. We are all missing you very  
much and want you to know that you are  
forever in our thoughts and hearts.  
Love Jen.

I would also like to take this opportuni-  
ty to thank all of the British Servicemen  
and women who are currently out there  
fighting on our behalf. Those of us left at  
home wish you all a safe and speedy return.

Lots of love to you, **Mark Warriner**.  
We are all thinking about you. Keep safe  
and come back home soon. From Mum,  
Frank, Adrian, Neil, Karen, Zoe and  
James xxx.

For **Cpl Colin Cook**, A Troop, 7th Armd  
Bde and Sig Sqn: Hi Colin. We all love  
and miss you very much. We can't wait  
for you to come home so we can give  
you lots of hugs and kisses. Ryan is  
missing his daddy. Take care out there.  
Lots of love from Karen and Ryan xxx.

For **Tina Flanders**: We are all missing  
you at home and send our love to you. A  
special kiss from Callum, Charlie,  
Harrison, Donna and Richard X.  
Everyone is well, we love you lots and  
are always thinking of you. Love, Mum,  
Mike, Richard, Donna and kids xxx.

For **SSgt Dave Graham**, 1RRF BG:  
Dear Darling, miss you sooo much!  
Hope for your safe and quick return.  
Love you for ever. Your HAG, Irene.  
also a big hello to all the tiffy SSgts in  
action – Craig, John, Rat etc.

Hi **Sexy Bum!** Love you loads and miss  
you so much. Keep your pecker up! All  
my love, Ger xxx

For **Robbie Kirk**: We miss you, Dad.  
Love you lots! From Rhys, Erin and  
Chris xxx.

**Sheriff:** So proud of you. Love you and miss you loads. May God protect you and all your comrades. See you soon. With you always, Kaddi xxx

For **LCpl John Marshall**, 101 Pro Coy 5 RMP: My sweetest Chink! I'm feeling so lonely already. Make sure you are looking after yourself and that you will be back soon and safe. Everybody is sending their love to you. Keep your chin up. Can't wait for you to come back. Love you, always and forever, your spoon!

For **Steve Mac**, 20 FD SQN, 36 Engineers: Miss you lots and lots. Can't wait to have you home - well, actually, the lawn needs mowing! No, honestly, you are greatly missed. Just kick ass while you are out there! Trude xxx

**David:** We are all thinking about you. Wanted to let you know that we love you and hope you'll be home soon. Kisses to you, Sweetheart, from Mum, Dad, Becky, Jack and Megan xxx

## Remember your mum. She worries!

Next Sunday, 30 March, is Mother's Day (Mothering Sunday). This year, in particular, the mum in your life will be thinking about you. Show you are thinking of her by sending an e-bluey, an e-card or calling home.

## Clocks forward for summer time

British standard time is advanced one hour at midnight on Saturday 29 March. This *does not* affect Op Telic, as time in theatre remains zulu.

### Solution to crossword on page 16

#### Across

1 Trunk, 4 Eight (Truncate), 10 Extra, 11 Giggles, 12 Cellist, 14 Easel, 15 Eels, 17 Arrow, 19 Osier, 22 Info, 25 Nobel, 27 Amerind, 29 Pumpkin, 30 Shift, 31 Hyena, 32 Betel

#### Down

2 Rattler, 3 Naafi, 5 Ingress, 6 Hills, 7 Fence, 8 Agate, 9 Psalm, 13 Sewn, 16 Loom, 18 Oilskin, 20 Edifice, 21 Snips, 23 Faint, 24 Edits, 26 Bumpy, 28 Ensue



**WE WANT to hear from you. There are great Maglite Army torches for writers of the best letters. We reserve the right to refuse publica-**

**tion and to edit. Names and units must be supplied but can be withheld. Sandy Times contact details are on page two.**

## You have right to be proud

IN THESE anxious times for our countries, I just wanted to drop you all a short note to express my family's appreciation for your service to our nations. your dedication and professionalism in support of our freedom and safety is very much appreciated. We are indeed thankful and grateful to have such fine men and women representing our countries.

As a veteran, I'm extremely proud of each of you and your willingness to serve your country. Please believe me that there are millions of good Americans that are wishing you individually the best and are praying for your safe return.

When this victory has been attained and in years to come you will reflect with pride upon your conduct and service now. Your families, friends, community and country want to honour you for your service. As you know yourselves, not everyone is willing to make the contribution that you are making now. Take a minute and be proud of yourself. You have earned the right.

Sincerely, R Kent Morgan, Seattle, Washington

## Sad about loss of your boys

I AM a former US Navy Seabee and I was saddened to hear that some of your boys were lost. Our thoughts here in America will be turned towards that loss. Thanks also for the friendship your nation has provided America. Here is to both our armies in the field, and, God willing, may the rest come home safely.

Thanks Britain.

Yours, Sgt Layard Soulsby

## Journalists interviewing each other

Rosie Laydon of BFBS TV came to Qatar and found a manic media

OUR welcome to Doha didn't quite go as planned. The friendly customs staff took such a shine to our camera kit they decided to confiscate the lot of it.

Things continued to go downhill, despite the best efforts of the press centre staff. Apparently we'd arrived at the beginning of the Qatari weekend and our kit was unlikely to see the light of day for two days. So with nothing more to be done on that front we decided to do what so many had done before us and borrow some gear from the Americans.

Eventually we join up with the rest of the UK media pack. It was a very inter-

esting experience. The print journalists never seemed to let each other move out of sight, for fear that someone might break a story first.

As the campaign began to unfold, the media presence at the base increased enormously and with the first briefings taking rather longer to materialise than anticipated they all began desperately filming and interviewing each other.

We were lucky to get a series of great interviews with official spokesman Group Captain Lockwood, Major General Wall and the UK Contingent Commander. These were good for our audience: it's so impor-

tant for them to hear that their bosses know how hard they're working, and how proud they are.

We should be going soon, but the date continues to shift, so we may be seeing more of As Saliyah than we anticipated. Either way, it's been a very interesting time, everyone we've spoken to has been incredibly friendly and helpful and we've thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



# Football

## War raises doubts security issue

ENGLAND'S European championship qualifier against Lichtenstein in Vaduz on Saturday could be under threat because of security fears. The Sunday Times reported that Lichtenstein police had asked UEFA to postpone the match, fearing the England team could be a target for anti-war protesters. It said UEFA security experts, already fearful of rumours regarding the proliferation of black market tickets for the game, would visit Lichtenstein on Monday to

investigate concerns.

The Euro 2004 Group Seven qualifier is due to be played at Vaduz's 3,548-capacity Rheinpark Stadium. England have been allocated just 900 tickets but Lichtenstein is drafting in police from neighbouring Switzerland and Austria to help police the game. "Security for the players comes first. We want the game to go ahead but at this stage we leave that to UEFA," he said. "No-one could have predicted events in Iraq when the game was arranged."

## Eriksson won't pick Rooney

ENGLAND coach Sven-Goran Eriksson revealed he does not think Everton youngster Wayne Rooney is ready to play competitive football for his country yet. Eriksson is hoping to catch a glimpse of the youngster in action at Highbury on Sunday when the Toffees travel to play champions Arsenal. But a brief look at Rooney is all Eriksson expects to get, as he is well aware that Everton boss Davie Moyes is content to use his young striker spar-

ingly. England have back-to-back qualifiers against Euro 2004 qualifiers against Lichtenstein and Turkey on the horizon, but Eriksson does not plan to use the youngster in either of them. "It is difficult to pick him for qualifying games because of the number of minutes of Premier League football he is playing," said Eriksson. Premier League football and it is difficult to pick a player who plays only for the last 15 or 20 minutes of games.

## Nervous Pompey hold Preston

A last minute goal by Paul McKenna earned Preston a 1-1 draw against Portsmouth at Deepdale. Pompey now have only a three point lead over Leicester at the top of Division One and will be

glancing nervously over their shoulder.

Harry Redknapp's side were under the cosh for long periods but looked to have held on for three hard-fought points.

## I'll strike over war says Pires

Robert Pires claims he is ready to go on strike in protest against the war in Iraq. He also hinted that his French club-mates would also back their President Jacques Chirac in his opposition to the war. Arsene Wenger has six Frenchmen in his squad and their loss would seriously hin-

der Highbury's championship charge. But the Footballer of the Year and his fellow Frenchman are willing to stand up for what they believe in, regardless of the cost to the Premiership champions. Pires insisted: "I'd be ready to stop playing as part of an anti-war protest.

# Rugby

## England on course for grand slam

Report: Miles Harrison

WE HAVE the Six Nations Grand Slam decider that everyone was hoping for in Dublin next weekend, but it was desperately close. It was really cruel on Wales to lose after they had done so well to get back into the game, but it does show the mettle of the Irish side. They had to win the restart after Jones's drop-goal and they did. And Ronan O'Gara landed a superb drop-goal to win it. That could be the moment that won Ireland the Grand Slam.

But on that evidence Ireland have still got a lot to do to beat England next week, even taking into account the Dublin factor. After watching the two games today, England will rightly start favourites to win. In the second half against Scotland, England played their best rugby of the tournament. It's difficult to single out individuals from England's second half display, they were all excellent.

So who will win the Grand Slam decider? I just think it will be England, although it is impossible to rule out the Irish. They are probably the best team in the Championship and they also have probably the best player of the tournament in Brian O'Driscoll. Ireland have got a good chance and they have beaten England in Dublin before, but in this World Cup year I think that England will win and take the Grand Slam.

# BFBS & BBC *Turn on and tune in*

• **BFBS**

• **BBC World Service**

SW: 13720 Khz from 05.00 hrs to 08.00 hrs and 5945 Khz from 18.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs. FM: Ali al Salem; (BFBS 1) 107.0 Mhz, (BFBS 2) 102.0 Mhz. Thamarit; (BFBS 1) 102.4 Mhz, (BFBS 2) 105.2 Mhz. Al Khari; 96.2 Mhz (BFBS 1)

FM in Doha: (97.4).  
MW in many parts of the Middle East: MW (1413 khz).  
Short wave in all areas (Khz): 15575 and 11760

**BFBS** radio for the Middle East

local	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	GMT
00		CLUB CULTURE	CHILL OUT ROOM	BFBS RADIO 2				21
01	BFBS R2 World Tonight Late Night Drama			World Tonight + Rock at Bedtime				22
02	EURODANCE	CHILL OUT ROOM Mark Humphries	FORCES FINEST	LISA DAVIS				23
03			GREATEST HITS					00
04	COX & BUMFREY	SIM COURTIE	EARLY RISER PARTS Paul Wisdom				01	
05							02	
06	THE SELECTOR	GROOVE COLLECTIVE	MIDDLE EAST BREAKFAST Chris Pratt (Kuwait) and Darren Carrington (UK)				03	
07			Newsplus 0400 M & S 0330, 0430, 0530 GMT				04	
08	MIDDLE EAST SATURDAY BREAKFAST	UK SUNDAY BREAKFAST	GERMANY BREAKFAST Neil Carter				05	
09			11 & S 0630, 0730 GMT BFO REPORTS 0703 GMT				06	
10			GREATEST HITS STEPHEN BUMFREY				07	
11	COX & BUMFREY	MOST WANTED Richard Allinson	GERMANY MORNING James MacDonald				08	
12	RACKING OUR BOYS 1						09	
13	BFBS & VIRGIN RADIO Sheela Ghazal	ACCESS ALL AREAS Neil Carter	UK LUNCH Newsplus 1100 GMT				10	
14	Ben Jones/Jazz						11	
15	Forces Finest		HATCH & DUFFUS				12	
16		Forces Finest					13	
17	BFBS RADIO 2		BFBS RADIO 2				14	
18			Victor Turner + The Archers				15	
19	Five Live Sport	Five Live Sport	PM (BBC R4)				16	
20			SIX O' CLOCK NEWS (BBC R4)				17	
21			Comedy	Feature	Feature	Sitrep	Comedy	18
22		LISA DAVIS	FIVE LIVE SPORT				BAILEY COLLECTION	19
23	CLUB CULTURE	CHILL OUT ROOM						20
local	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	GMT



## Snapshot

# Goodday, mate!



**Greater challenges: Doug Wren RE**

THE Australians are here. The Australian Prime Minister aligned his country with the coalition forces on 19 March and has made clear the Australian's role in the campaign.

However, Maj Doug Wren RE joined us slightly earlier. Doug took the unusual step of transferring from the Australian Army to the British Army some six weeks ago.

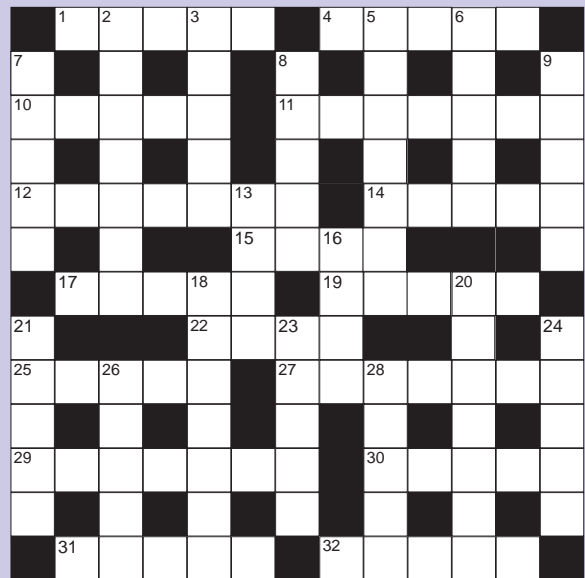
He sees working in the British Army as a challenge with far

more opportunities than his previous force offered. Some two weeks after enlisting into the British Army, he found himself in Kuwait as the 2ic of 36 Engr Regt RE.

So what are the major differences that he has noticed to date? The abbreviations and acronyms have been a real headache but he is quickly coming to terms with the operational differences. "Soldiers are almost identical," says Doug. "They moan about the kit and the food. If they don't, they know nothing will happen later on."

## Crossword No 3

A quick crossword from Kernow  
Can you complete it in your tea-break?



### Across

1. Snout (5)
4. Crew (5)
10. Wide? (5)
11. Titters? (7)
12. Player (7)
14. Rest (5)
15. Fish (4)
17. Penetrator (5)
19. Willow (5)
22. Gen (4)
25. Prize-giver (5)

27. eg Cheyenne (7)
29. Halloween veg (7)
30. US gearstick (5)
31. Scavenger (5)
32. Nutty chew? (5)

### Down

2. Snake (7)
3. Your canteen (5)
5. Entry (7)
6. Range (5)
7. Uncle (5)

8. Gemstone (5)
9. Sung prayer (5)
13. Mended (4)
16. Weavers frame (4)
18. Waterproof (7)
20. Building (7)
21. Cutter (5)
23. Pale (5)
24. Emends (5)
26. Rough (5)
28. Follow (5)

Answers on page 13