

FRONT COVER: Sgt Dave Chambers turns his back to the danger and closes his eyes as he dons an S10 respirator during NBC drills at a 7 Armoured Brigade base in Saudi Arabia. Personnel in the Gulf have to carry respirators at all times.

Picture: Terry Champion

Season's greetings to our readers and advertisers. The next issue will have the cover date January 7, 1991

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Defence Secretary Mr Tom King (left) gets first-hand experience of life on board a Challenger tank during live-firing battle runs in the desert of Saudi Arabia. With him are the Commander 7th Armoured Brigade, Brig Patrick Cordingley (centre) and Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, British Forces Commander Middle East.

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4 Armd



Bde on its way

SOLDIERS of the 4th Armoured Brigade from Germany are on their way to Saudi Arabia to reinforce the 7th Armoured Brigade. Together they will form the 1st (British)

● Turn to Page 5

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Helicopter crash hero awarded QGM

SERGEANT John Howe of the Royal Engineers is to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his actions following a helicopter crash last year.

The aircraft crashed on Stanford Training Area, Norfolk, three minutes after taking off with Sgt Howe and five members of his troop of young soldiers from the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE, Dover. They were on a helicopter familiarisation exercise.

The aircraft crashed into a field, throwing

one soldier clear. The soldier sitting next to Sgt Howe had difficulty releasing his safety belt and started a panic.

Sgt Howe calmed him down, helped to release the belt, and prevented the soldier from rushing out into the spinning rotor blades.

By this time the wreckage had started to burn and threatened to engulf the soldiers in toxic fumes.

Despite this danger, Sgt Howe calmly

waited for the right moment to leave the aircraft. Disregarding his own safety, he helped the young soldier to get clear before returning to the burning wreckage to assist the badly-injured pilot.

He again returned to the aircraft to help four soldiers who were trapped. Unfortunately, his valiant effort was to no avail and he was beaten back by the intense heat.

Now a staff sergeant, he is currently serving in Northern Ireland.

4 Armd Bde on its way

● From Page 3

Armoured Division with a strength of about 25,000 men under the command of Maj Gen Rupert Smith.

Most of the troops will fly to the Gulf after Christmas, by which time their equipment will have arrived by sea.

Announcing the reinforcement, the Defence Secretary, Mr Tom King, said the formation of a UK armoured division would represent "a potent increase in the fighting capability of British forces in Saudi Arabia."

British troops will continue to be under US tactical command for specific actions.

In addition to 4 Armd Bde (Brig Christopher Hammerbeck) with its armoured regiment of Challenger tanks, two armoured infantry battalions equipped with Warrior, an armoured reconnaissance squadron, a Royal Artillery field regiment, Royal Engineers and other supporting services, the Division will deploy with two Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) batteries, M109 and M110 self-propelled guns, tracked and towed Rapier, Lynx anti-tank helicopters and additional support helicopters.

The 4th Armoured Brigade was one of the original Desert Rats brigades and its badge is a black variation of the famous red 7th Armoured Division jерboa symbol.

Main firepower of the brigade is provided by the Challenger main battle tanks of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, and the M109 155mm self-propelled guns of 2 Field Regiment RA, both based at Munster. Armoured infantry comes from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) from Werl and the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from Iserlohn.

Eyes of the brigade are Herford-based 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, equipped with Scimitar, and 23 Engineer Regiment from Osnabrück provides sapper support.

Two of the regiments, 14/20 H and 3



On their way to the Gulf. The Army's new MLRS (above) and the M110A2 self-propelled howitzer, pictured on exercise in Germany



RRF, have the Battle Honour Baghdad, awarded for service against the Turks in 1917.

Other components of the brigade include Javelin-equipped 46 Air Defence Battery RA and the Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

In addition, 32 Heavy Regiment from Dortmund equipped with M109 and M110

howitzers, and 39 Heavy Regiment RA from Paderborn with MLRS give the Division a massive punch. Other Divisional units include Rapier-equipped 12 Air Defence Regiment RA (Dortmund), 32 Engineer Regiment (Munsterlager) and 4 Regiment Army Air Corps (Detmold).

BAOR support will include REME workshops.

As SOLDIER went to press, an announcement was expected that logistic back-up would be drawn from a number of formations based in the United Kingdom.

Your magazine

UNITS serving in the Gulf who are having difficulty in obtaining enough copies of SOLDIER Magazine to circulate among personnel are asked to increase their orders either through their unit headquarters in the UK and BAOR or by contacting the Circulation Department, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU.

● Omitted from the list (November 26 issue) of units serving in the Gulf was 7 Armoured Workshop REME and numerous REME light aid detachments (LADs). Others with a presence in the area include 49 EOD Sqn RE from Chatham, 21 Engineer Regiment, RAEC personnel and chaplains of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.