

# Sandy Times

Published weekly  
by and for  
British Forces in the Gulf

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

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## We must be ready for war

Pictures: Giles Penfound

**UK National Contingent Commander, Air Marshal Brian Burrige, welcomes the return of *Sandy Times* and warns that all efforts must be focused on preparation for a war with Iraq that may be imminent.**

“This is edition number 26 of the *Sandy Times*. The last edition was published on 17 March 1991. At that stage, the deployment under Operation Granby was coming to an end but our presence in this region has continued ever since in support of a number of the UN resolutions. These have all been aimed at curbing the ongoing threat posed by Saddam and his regime to his own people as well as regional and world security. Our hope has always been that Iraq might, once again, take its place as a reasonable

member of the international community. Even before United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441, there were nine other UNSCRs in place consisting of 27 points for action, of which 15 concerned removing the threat posed by Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction. Not one of these has been met by anything approaching full compliance and only the credible threat of military action will cause Saddam to comply fully. That is why we are here.

Even at this stage,

*Continued on page 2*



(Above) Direct fire: Soldiers of G Battery, 7 Royal Horse Artillery, with 16 Air Assault Brigade exercise in the Kuwait desert



(left) Vigilance: Cpl Curtin Coleman, a ground crewman and signaller with 663 Squadron AAC, patrols near his Kuwait base

• More pictures on pages 6 and 7



Win a great mini-Maglite torch!  
Page 10

Reach for the sky

Army/Navy rugby



Shades of opinion

What do you wish you'd brought?



# Air Marshal Burridge

*Continued from page 1*

war is not inevitable but we are in Saddam's hands. The UN process is designed to show Saddam the pathway to peace. Only if diplomacy fails will we be called into action. But we cannot relax. All our efforts must be focused on training and preparation: we must be ready.

Getting this far has been a significant achievement. Our logisticians have done a magnificent job in getting us and our kit here in such good order. They have moved the equivalent of the Granby freight and equipment in half the time that it took 12 years ago. They deserve our thanks; they certainly have mine.

Our US partners have also made life easier for us by sharing the basing, equipment and expertise. But don't be taken-in by the "Borrowers" title awarded us by the media. We pay for what we use; an MRE costs us \$9.00, about the same as a couple of portions of fish and chips.

Inevitably, we have hosted

a number of senior visitors in theatre, including the Secretary of State, CDS and the three Service Chiefs. They have all commented on how impressed they are by your motivation, energy and professionalism. They are all immensely proud of what you have achieved already and the capability you represent should we be called upon to disarm Iraq. They are right to be proud of you; I know that I am.

So, welcome to the re-birth of the Sandy Times. It is your newspaper, intended to entertain you, keep you in the picture and, perhaps, even inspire you – but students of Blackadder will recognise the pitfall in that. I leave you to judge its success. From my point of view, I know that our success will require the lubrication represented by the acerbic good humour of the British Armed Forces if we are to overcome the challenges that could lie ahead. We know that Iraqi soldiers don't have much to smile about!"



Picture: Jez Doak

Air Marshal Burridge: "Credible threat of military action"

**The Sandy Times is published by the MOD and distributed free to British Servicemen and women serving in the Gulf.**

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Picture: Keith Cotton



Media scrum: News teams struggle to film US troops in Qatar

## Prepare to meet the journalists

Report: David Bennett

THE press are here – in case you hadn't noticed. This week, news correspondents who have been authorised to accompany British Forces if we go to war join their assigned ships, squadrons and Army units.

The process is known today as "embedding", but there is nothing new to it. Since the Crimea, the military machine has taken reporters under its wing and provided them with access to conflicts in all their triumphs and difficulties with one simple aim: to make sure they see the true picture, and are able to report it.

If there is a war, up to 140 reporters and technical crew will be reporting from the front lines. What they will want is simple: to see what's going on, in as much detail as possible, and to turn the information into news stories which they can send back to their media organisations as quickly as possible for public consumption.

Some of the war correspondents will be in military uniform and they will work, eat, drink, and sleep with the units. This may pose issues for many service people not least of all because of Operational

at close quarters? It can be intimidating to find a reporter standing next to you in the food queue, or sleeping next to you.

"Inevitably there'll be a degree of suspicion," says Geoff Meade, Foreign Correspondent for Sky News, currently in Qatar. "We're outsiders, but we want to build a relationship. It's about trust. We have a job to do, and we'll try to report objectively. Sometimes that may mean bad news as well as good. But if we abuse that trust it'll become apparent very quickly, and appropriate steps would need to be taken."

"The journalist won't have a hidden agenda. They'll be looking for the truth though obviously the military need to keep some things secret. But we need to be with them – the best reporting will come from being as close as possible to the action."

Geoff Meade has a further piece of advice: if you are unsure, ask. "If you're in the meal queue and the war correspondent asks 'where you went on holiday last year' simply ask them if it's for publication. That way the crucial ingredient of mutual trust, based on both sides recognising

# Hoon feels the heat

Report: Graham Bound

THE DEFENCE Secretary told troops camped in Kuwait near the Iraqi border that their threat of force is vital if Saddam Hussein is to be disarmed. In a message of unequivocal firmness that was meant as much for the dictator a few hundred miles away as for the British troops, Geoff Hoon made it clear that if the Iraqi leader does not submit to the pressure of diplomacy he will be disarmed by force.

Speaking on 24 February during a whistle-stop tour of the region, Mr Hoon reminded the uniformed men and women why they are there; why they are involved in the largest operational deployment since the Gulf War and why – if last-ditch effort to resolve the crisis through the United Nations and diplomacy fails – they will need to fight.

Mr Hoon pointed out that the territory on which they are based was fought over almost exactly 12 years earlier, and the perpetrator of that war is still in power. "It is twelve years since he began what has become a pattern of misleading, lying and deceiving in an attempt to hide many of his weapons of mass destruction away. It is Saddam's belief that only by possessing and being prepared to use the most devastating and indiscriminate weaponry available will he be able to retain his influence in this region."

## New dimension to problem

Mr Hoon pointed out that there is a new dimension to the problem of Iraq. He simply had to utter the numerals 9/11 to make his point: "The mass murders committed by al-Qaida terrorists in the United States on that terrible day showed the civilised nations of the world that they were facing an enemy who would stop at nothing to achieve their goals," he said.

Mr Hoon implied that the existence of such terrorists and the possible unholy alliance between them and a quartermaster with biological and chemical weapons amounts to a major threat. "It is in the light of 9/11 that Saddam's hidden arsenal of chemical and biological weapons must be judged. Saddam has shown himself more than capable of using these weapons, but we know now that there are others who would be only too pleased to be given access to them."

The Defence Secretary's said he believed the Iraqi people also deserve to be free of Saddam's tyranny. "We want to help Iraqis recover their former prosperity, drawing on their own oil wealth. We would work to lift sanctions and begin the long process of rebuilding the decades of damage wrought by Saddam's regime. We want to see a new Iraq – a free and equal partner, not a client state or colony."

The main message for the dictator who at that moment continued to rule in Baghdad a few hundred miles to the north was simple: "You cannot win. You can only comply and disarm. Or be

## "I want to ensure we have the best possible welfare package for our people"

Sandy Times' Cath Convery met Geoff Hoon

**I understand you're a Derby County fan and therefore obviously a born optimist. What do you believe Saddam Hussein will do now?**

Well, I've been watching Derby County a lot longer than I have been watching Saddam Hussein and the one thing I have learnt from watching both of them is that it is a frustrating exercise. What we want to see Saddam Hussein do is accept the will of the international community. Even at this late hour there is still an opportunity for him to do so.

**Do you think welfare facilities we provide for our deployed personnel are adequate?**

**You might be aware that there is a disparity between the welfare packages given to the other coalition partners.**

Obviously part of the purpose of my visit is to look at that, to hear from our Forces their views, which they certainly express in a very clear way. It is something that we will continue to review. I don't think that it is always helpful to make comparisons in any given point in time between what we offer and what may be offered forces from another country because there are all sorts of differences that people don't always appreciate. Nevertheless I want to ensure that we have the best possible welfare package for our people doing what is quite clearly a diffi-

**With regard to Saddam Hussein and Iraq, should we have done things differently four or five years ago?**

We can always, with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, look at the situation in a different way. I was not in any sense directly engaged in the conflict in 1991 but I can remember the pictures of burnt out tanks demonstrating that Iraq had been comprehensively defeated. With the benefit of hindsight it would have been better to ensure

the ejection of Saddam Hussein as well. That was not covered by the relevant UN resolution at the time.

Certainly at this distance I can perfectly well understand why people say it might have been better to have resolved that problem then. We did not do so; but we have to deal with it now.

**Is there anything that keeps you**

**awake at night?**

No, there isn't. That is not to say that I do not take the responsibilities I have extraordinarily seriously but I have had the advantage of working with Britain's Armed Forces for more than three years. During this period they have been remarkably busy. They have never let the United Kingdom down. It means that I can sleep perhaps more soundly than my counterparts elsewhere in the world because I know that the country has people of extraordinary skill and ability who will use that training and professionalism to the best possi-

Picture: Keith Cotton



Arrival in Qatar: The Secretary of State is greeted by AM Burridge

# Vox pop

IT might take a magic wand and your own C130, but what single non-Service issue item would you have brought to Op Telic? We put the question to 10 people – and, despite the rumoured shortage, not one of them mentioned Android.



## Graham Threadgill

“I’ve been on the Sir Bedivere for the last two years, and the only thing that I want is a woman”



## AB Vincent Webb

“I’d like a bath. I’d really love to relax in a bath after training.”



## LS Mark Taylor

“I’m a lazy sod. All I want is a deck chair”



## Cpl Ian Jones

“My quilt. I miss it at night. It’s something nice and cuddly.”



## Cpl Andy Roberts

“I wish I’d brought my mobile because it’s difficult to contact my wife, and she’s stuck at home with the two kids. I haven’t heard from her much. I’ve had e-blueys but not much more”



## JT Jason Larsen

“My laptop. There are plenty around here, but I can’t play games on them. And I can connect my mobile up to the internet on mine.”



## Cpl Neil Skeldon

“I wish I had a lot more civvy clothes – sports stuff and underwear because there’s a five day turn-around for washing, so you can start to run out.”



## Flt Lt Marie Clare Allen

“I wish I’d brought my jeans with me. I brought nothing but flimsy trousers and it’s cold here at night. Oh and my MX5 sports car.”



## Sgt Rick Marriott

“Somebody won a Bible at bingo last night, so we can pass that around. I would like to have a TV of my own, not just for the soaps, but for keeping up with the news.”



## Cpl Nicola Evans

“A TV. There’s nothing else I need.”

**Hey, nobody asked me!**

Sorry, but why not why not write to us? We’ll print as many letters as possible – and the best letters win prizes (see page 10). Our address is on page two.



# Sandy Times is back

**THIS is the 26th edition of *Sandy Times* – but only the first to appear in the messes, sangars and hangars of British Forces in twelve years.**

**That would be an disastrous record for most journals, but we would be much happier if it had been possible to leave our newspaper slumbering even longer in the memories of veterans of the 1991 Gulf War.**

**Even now, we happily anticipate its second demise. Then, may it be remembered fondly but sleep on in a peaceful Middle East.**

**But meanwhile, we, the editorial team, will do our enthusiastic best to bring you a weekly read that is full of news, entertainment and views.**

**You can help make this your own newspaper by submitting articles about your unit and by telling your folks back home that they can have their messages published in our pages. Or, if you have a view you want to share, you can write to our letters page. We will publish as many as we can. And if you have a query about any aspect of life on Op Telic, we will do our best to find an answer. Our contact details are on page two.**

**Remember, Sandy Times is your paper – at least until, once again, it belongs only**

# “We’re ready to go now”

## Jackson says British forces poised for action

Report: Eddie Elms

Picture: Keith Cotton

GENERAL Sir Mike Jackson, Chief of the General Staff, has confirmed that British troops are ready for action if the call comes. During a brief tour of the Joint Operations Area he visited a number of land contingent units and was clearly impressed by the enormity of the logistics move, the thoroughness of training, troop morale and readiness. “It has only been six and half weeks since the government gave the orders for the deployment of the land component,” said the general, who led British land forces during the Kosovo campaign. “In that time we have put together a fighting division more than 5,000 miles from home. It’s been a remarkable logistics achievement. Sixty-plus ships, over thirty thousand people, thousands of vehicles, including battle-winning heavy equipment and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of stores have been brought into the region.”

The General watched units in Kuwait training hard for possible operations in Iraq. He said he was impressed that despite the tough training and demanding conditions, morale was high. “I’ve found, as ever, the British soldiers’ cheerfulness and desire to get on with the job in hand is very apparent,” the General said. He added: “If you look at the components of the fighting force we have in place, you will see they are all in here. We have got the physical component, the conceptual component and the moral component right. These things are in place now. We are ready to go now if ordered, but in the next few days we can put the icing on the cake.”

### There is only so much money

Asked about alleged equipment shortages that have been widely commented on in the UK press the general replied, “It is true that there are quite a lot of people going around in Combat 95 temperate [kit]. If this operation takes place, there are certain parts of Iraq in which we may find that temperate combat kit is exactly the right colour to have. More desert clothing is coming, but we do not as a matter of course buy everything on a just-in-case basis. There is only so much money.”

As a soldier renowned for his toughness, the General was clearly satisfied that conditions for British personnel in the desert areas are adequate. “People are living in pretty well found camps, bearing in mind that this is an assembly area for what could be a war-fighting operation,” he said. “This is not a peace support operation. We need to be careful of expectations and what is appropriate when you prepare to go war-fighting.”

The General was equally unimpressed by press speculation about the reliability of the SA80 A2 rifle. “The SA80 is an old story” he said. “About five months ago I found myself in the Ministry of Defence standing up and saying SA80 A2 is probably now the best small arm in the world. The A1

The A2 has put that right; it is as simple as that. Its yesterday’s business, the fact the Press keep re-churning old stories is a bore”.

The General was keen to emphasise that the British contribution to the coalition is no token gesture. “We are not a small blister-on. We are providing a quarter to a third of the combat power, so this is substantial.”

As a major partner, can British Servicemen and women work smoothly and efficiently with the Americans? Mike Jackson has no doubts. “We have been alongside the Americans often enough in the past and I don’t think this operation will have any horrors for us”.

The General travelled back to the UK from Qatar on Saturday after a meeting with senior American CENTCOM officers and the UK’s National Contingent Commander.



**Gen Jackson: “Things are in place now”**

**Sir Mike Jackson is an eloquent champion of the British Army. He said this to our reporter:**

*“We have in the British Army something quite unique. For its size it is beyond anything anybody else can put into the field. It is not just about organisation and equipment these are very important but prosaic things. It is about the British Army’s ethos. It is about its can-do attitude. This is a pearl beyond price, one that must be maintained and, if possible,*

# “Good to go”!



Realism: Men of 42 Cdo RM exercise in Kuwait

THE Army's senior soldier, General Sir Mike Jackson, put it in a nutshell. "We're ready to go now if ordered," said the CGS, in his exclusive interview with this paper. In interviews for Gulf news and British television, he was even more to the point, saying: "We're good to go."

The pictures on this page, all taken by Services photographers, illustrate his point vividly. In Kuwait, adjacent states and in the seas of the Arabian Gulf itself, men and women of the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Army are firmly established and at a high state of alert, "good to go" if diplomacy fails.

Attack rehearsal: Royal Marines of 42 Commando



Close support: RM "battle PT" on HMS Ark Royal

Pictures by: Tam McDonald, Sean Clee, Giles Penfound and Angie Pearce



(Above) Ready for take-off: A Gulf-deployed GR4A Tornado



## Families noticeboard

*For Sgt Thomo Thomson, D Coy, 1 BW BG: "Hi Daddy! Mummy and I wuv and miss you millions. I am getting so big already, and you've only been gone two weeks. I hope your work is giving you lots of pennies for me and mummy to spend on sweeties. Saving big hugs and kisses for you. Lots of love from Mummy and Luke."*

This terrific message is the first of what we hope will be many for our Families Noticeboard. Let your wife, husband, mum, dad, girlfriend or boyfriend know that their special message can appear in the Sandy Times. All they have to do is contact the ST. Post/E-mail details on page 2. (*Hope you liked it, Thomo!*)

## DU: your health in your hands

Britain's Armed Forces continue to use Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition because it's the most effective material available. DU is almost twice as dense as lead and therefore is highly valued for its ability to punch through armoured vehicles. The types of DU ammunition used by British forces are 120mm anti tank rounds fired by the Army's Challenger tanks and 20mm rounds used by the Royal Navy's Phalanx missile defence system.

When a DU weapon strikes a solid object, it goes straight through it and then erupts as cloud of burning vapour. The vapour settles as dust, this dust is radioactive and poisonous, if inhaled or ingested.

The medical services have this advice to offer on how to avoid unnecessary exposure to contaminated dust.

"If you do not need to enter vehicles or buildings destroyed or damaged by DU rounds, stay well away and do not pick up shrapnel or souvenirs.

"If you are to enter a contaminated area you should cover all exposed skin, especially any open cuts or wounds. You should wear your issued NBC gloves and the special issue face mask."

"On completion of your task, or as soon as possible afterwards, you should change and wash your outer clothing. You should wash your hands before you eat, drink or smoke. This will prevent any contaminated dust entering your body."

"If you think you have been exposed to DU contact your MO for advice immediately."

The risk from DU is small but these simple



(Above) Light artillery: 105mm gun crew of G Battery RHA  
(Below) Maritime role: Royal Marines seaborne exercise



# A month of living dangerously

Compiled by Walter Scott

**In February and early March, the world experienced chilling international tension, the like of which few had ever witnessed. International friendships came**

**dangerously near the rocks, and organisations like Nato and the UN groaned under the strain. And all the while, we prepared for the possibility of war.**

## January 31

In a meeting at the White House, Prime Minister Tony Blair sought US President George Bush's support for a second UN Security Council resolution (further to November's resolution 1441) for military action against Iraq. The President agreed, but specified that a deadline would be set for Saddam to show compliance with weapons inspectors.

## February 2

A survey published in the Mail on Sunday revealed that 71 per cent of British people believe that Iraq possesses chemical and biological weapons.

## 3

The New York Times claimed that in the event of war on Iraq, 3,000 precision-guided bombs would be launched on Iraq over 48 hours, followed by a two-pronged ground attack on Baghdad. In a statement to a packed House of Commons, Tony Blair compared the UK's position now to its position in 1930s, when Germany was allowed to re-arm: "Show weakness now, and no one will ever believe us when we try to show strength in future," he said. Returning from meetings with Saddam, former MP Tony Benn said: "Whatever the Iraqi government does, Bush will raise the stakes and demand something else. This is about a regime change to give the United States control of the oil."

## 4

At a summit meeting with Tony Blair in Le Touquet, French president Jacques Chirac said: "War is always the worst possible solution. We need to wait". Tony Blair said: "Of course there are differences. But it is

notion of disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and the belief that it is best achieved through the UN". In the Iraqi city of Mosul, Mrs Muntaha abdel abi-Habi, a 45 year-old government clerk and currently military trainee, told The Times: "When the Americans come, we will eat them like rabbits".

## 5

In an 80-minute presentation, Colin Powell, the US secretary of state, laid before the UN Security Council satellite photos, taped conversations, video footage and reports from prisoners and defectors to prove Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. He asked: "How long are we willing to put up with Iraq's non-compliance before we say enough is enough?"

## 6

Geoff Hoon announced that 100 aircraft and 7,000 personnel (one-third of the RAF's operational force) would be deployed

to the Gulf. Air Marshal Brian Burridge was appointed to lead the British task force.

Interviewed on Newsnight, Tony Blair said: "If there were a second UN resolution, then I think people would be behind me. I think if there is not, then there is a lot of persuading to do."

## 9

The Observer reported that, "scores of British Servicemen heading to the Gulf are seeking to visit sperm banks so their partners can still have their children if they are killed or rendered infertile by chemical or biological weapons." The Star reported an unconfirmed claim that the British Forces had ordered 1.9 million cans of Red Bull to counteract battle fatigue. From Baghdad, the weapons inspectors reported that they had seen, "the beginning of a change of heart on the part of Iraq." Meanwhile France and Germany revealed a plan to increase the number of weapons

inspectors in Iraq. US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld called the measure a "diversion not a solution."

## 10

France, Germany and Belgium blocked the supply of NATO equipment – including Patriot missiles and AWACS aircraft – to Turkey. The Evening Standard reported that financial institutions were hurriedly finding out how many of their staff were reservists and liable to be called up. Veteran Labour MP Tam Dalyell was thrown out of the Commons debating chamber for refusing to sit down while complaining about the Government dossier on Iraq.

## 11

Following intelligence warnings of a possible surface-to-air-missile attack on an airliner, Tony Blair ordered more 1,000 police and troops to Heathrow Airport. Referring to Turkey, Jack Straw said in a speech to the International Institute for



*The world awaits the 17 March meeting of the Security Council. The coalition build-up in the Gulf continues and the people of Britain, its military allies and Iraq wait to see if they will be plunged into the second Gulf War*



Strategic Studies: "Inaction in the face of a threat to an ally risks eroding the solemn commitments which underlie the North Atlantic Treaty." The MoD revealed that 51 percent of troops offered the anthrax immunisation, before going to the Gulf, had refused it.

**12** Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, an envoy from the Pope, attended Mass in Baghdad at which Iraqi Catholics were praying for peace. Meanwhile, The Guardian quoted the Bishop of Rochester as saying: "While we pray for peace, we recognise that the Iraqi regime may have to be disarmed by force."

**13** German chancellor Gerhard Schröder told his parliament: "We can disarm Iraq without war; I see grasping this chance as my responsibility." Shashi Tharoor, aide to Kofi Annan, UN secretary-general, announced that the UN was looking for \$120 million to cover emergency assistance in the event of a war against Iraq, warning: "We are looking at a potential catastrophe."

**14** Hans Blix told the UN Security Council that Iraq could still be disarmed if his weapons inspectors were given more time, but added that 1,000 tons of chemical agent were unaccounted for, and Saddam's al-Samoud missile programme breached UN limits. Afterwards, a proposal by the French foreign minister, calling for more time, was met with applause.

**15** At least a million people marched through the streets of London demonstrating their opposition to a war on Iraq. They were addressed in Hyde Park by American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, veteran socialist Michael Foot and other key opponents of government

es also took place in other countries .

**16** France was excluded from a meeting of the 18 other NATO allies, in a bid to resolve the divisions over military assistance to Turkey. The Financial Times reported that Germany was in support of NATO proposals to defend Turkey from an Iraqi attack. The International Herald Tribune reported that 500 US military personnel arrived in Turkey to begin renovating air bases.

**17** At an emergency EU summit, Tony Blair opposed moves to give UN weapons inspectors unlimited time, saying, "The most important thing is to signal strength, not weakness." 3 Regiment Army Air Corps left for the Gulf. The Sun quoted 18-year-old Private Ben Mills: "I'm excited. And I'm nervous. My parents were a bit upset. They just said, 'Take care'."

**19** 1,000 members of 16 Air Assault Brigade left RAF Brize Norton for the Gulf. According to the MOD, they have the ability "to deploy and fight across enormous depth to secure a point of entry to a theatre of operations." NATO's Defence Planning Committee agreed to the provision of AWACS aircraft and Patriot missile to defend Turkey.

**20** The Pope said: "War is always a defeat for humanity. It is also a tragedy for religion." But he said of national leaders involved in the conflict: "They are daily in our thoughts and prayers, as are all those who would find themselves caught up directly or indirectly in a war." Meanwhile, a joint statement issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster said: "The events

still persist about the moral legitimacy, as well as the unpredictable humanitarian consequences, of a war with Iraq."

**22** At a "private" meeting in the Vatican, the Pope asked Tony Blair to work for a peaceful solution, and to give "special consideration" to the people of Iraq, who he said had already suffered greatly from international trade sanctions.

**23** There was little sympathy for Iraq's government in the Kurdish-run section of the country. The Financial Times quoted Samad Ali Bahram, a victim of Iraqi torture, as saying: "The source is Saddam. Just kill Saddam, the mad dog."

**26** In a major debate that drew huge media attention, the Government was rocked by the size of the backbench revolt against its stance on Iraq. Almost one third of all MPs, many Labour, argued that the case for war is unproven. Nevertheless, British deployments continued, with major movements of strike and support aircraft.

**27** Under pressure from arms inspectors, Iraq agreed to destroy missiles that have a range exceeding that allowed by the UN. Saddam reported to be pulling back front line soldiers to give him personal protection. In Britain, an 80 year-old veteran was accidentally called up for active duty.

**March 1** Under UN supervision, Iraqi missiles continued to be destroyed. Speaking in the Sunday Express, Tony Blair paid tribute to British Servicemen he had met recently in the Gulf, while

paper, were in short supply. He said that the press had also exaggerated reports of faulty equipment.

**3** "The UN will not rubber stamp war," insisted the French as Tony Blair maintained efforts to secure votes for a second United Nations resolution that would clearly authorise an invasion if Iraq was found to be in breach of it. Success continued to elude the Americans in their efforts to secure Turkish territory as a possible launching pad for a northern attack. Volunteer "human shields" were reported to be leaving Iraq, complaining that they were being directed to oil refineries rather than hospitals. US B52 heavy bombers deployed to Fairford in Gloucestershire.

**5** "Get Stuffedski" headlined the Mirror, reporting that the Russians might use their veto in the Security Council. Colin Powell insisted that Iraq is destroying some of its weapons only because it faces the risk of war. US frustration with Turkey continued to grow while Kurds in the Northern part of Iraq said they feared attack by Turkey.

**6** France, Germany and Russia made clear their diplomatic alliance in opposition to war. The United States said it reserves the right to act without a second UN mandate.

*As Sandy Times goes to press, the world awaits the 17 March meeting of the Security Council. The coalition build-up in the Gulf continues and the people of Britain, its military allies and Iraq wait to see if they will be plunged into the second Gulf War.*

# Radio can keep you tuned-in

**STEVE Wright's BBC Radio 2 Sunday Love Songs** show will include messages for military personnel in theatre from family and friends from across the UK. The show can be heard on BFBS (0900 – 1100 GMT, dedications from 1000 hrs).

**BFBS and BBC 2 Radio presenter Richard Allison** will use his **Sunday show on BFBS radio 1** to invite dedications from theatre, which he'll drop into his **Late Night Show** on Radio 2 (Monday to Thursday 2230 – 0000 GMT).

**Virgin Radio** launched a new Saturday request show between 1000 and 1200 GMT. **Presenter Ben Jones** will pass on dedications. Those transmitted, as well as those that do not make it onto the air, will be passed to BFBS.

Contacts have been made with **Key 103 Manchester** and **Plymouth Sound** with dedications from these areas also going into the Telic output (The same principles apply to Garrison radio).

The **BFBS Middle East Service for Op Telic** will also be online soon at [WWW.BFPS.COM](http://WWW.BFPS.COM).

**BFBS in Germany** will also be relaying dedications and can be heard in theatre. Considerable parts of the BFBS Germany make up the BFBS Middle East feed.

Dedications can be sent via the dedications link on the BFBS Radio pages at [www.bfbs.com](http://www.bfbs.com) and these will be also aired in theatre.

**Full Op Telic theatre BFBS schedules in our next issue.**

## Radio frequencies

- **BFBS.** Short wave in all areas: 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).
- **BBC World Service.** FM in Doha: (97.4). MW in many parts of the Middle East: MW (1413 khz). Short wave in all areas (Khz): 9410, 12095, 15575, 17790, 11760, 15575, 17640, 9740, 15575, 15765, 17640.



We want to hear from you. There are great Maglite Army torches for writers of the best letters. Tell us how can we make the paper better? You can write about anything (although we reserve the right to refuse publication and to edit). If you have a question, we will do our best to find a person who knows the answer. We must have names and units, but these can be withheld. *Sandy Times* contact details are on page 2. Please address all letters to the Editor.

• We also want to receive reports about units. No prizes for

## Solution to page 12 crossword

**Across**  
 1 Piece, 4 Thyme (Peacetime), 10 Topic, 11 Knavish, 12 Mermaid, 14 Tattle, 15 Bach, 17 Allib, 19 Ascot, 22 Isis, 25 Throb, 27 Teenage, 29 Legroom, 30 Idiot, 31 Drake, 32 Agent

**Down**  
 2 Imperil, 3 Cocoa, 5 Hearths, 6 Moist, 7 Stamp, 8 Skoda, 9 Shrew, 13 Ibis, 16 Case, 18 Bibcock, 20 Oration, 21 Atoll, 23 Hems, 24 Neath, 26 Roger, 28 Eying

## Sport (Courtesy of Sky Sports – website: www.sky.com)

### Football Nationwide Premiership, state of play at 10.3.03

	Played	Points
Arsenal	29	63
Man Utd	29	58
Newcastle	29	55
Everton	29	49
Chelsea	29	48
Liverpool	29	46
Charlton	29	45
Blackburn	29	43
Tottenham	29	43
Southampton	29	42
Mid'brough	29	38
Man City	29	38
Fulham	29	37
Aston Villa	29	35
Leeds	29	34
Birmingham	29	32
Bolton	29	26
West Ham	29	26
West Brom	29	21
Sunderland	29	19

### Time for replays to go, say Arsenal chiefs

THE GUNNERS must face Chelsea again after their quarter-final ended all square at the first time of asking on Saturday.

The Stamford Bridge rematch will take place on March 25, which means David Seaman, Sol Campbell and Frank Lampard will be forced to join up late for England training ahead of the crucial Euro 2004 double header with Liechtenstein and Turkey.

"I would rather finish the games on the night, from the stage where we come in at the third round," said Wenger. "The clubs might not vote for it because it makes money but it is difficult to play all the fixtures."



# Army & Navy prepare for Twickenham

Report: Roger Thompson

Pictures: Graham Maine

**Showdown time is 15.00 hours, Saturday 3 May**

YOU don't need us to tell you that the Armed Forces are stretched. Just look around you, for a start, while around 45,000 personnel are deployed on Op Telic, others continue to keep the Green Goddesses ready for action, and peacekeeping continues in assorted trouble spots. No time for sport? Hey, some things are sacred; like the annual Army v Navy rugby showdown at Twickenham.

True, many rugby players are deployed overseas, but despite the difficulties the Services sporting spirit prevails. This year's match at Twickenham is scheduled for 3 May, and it will be championed by new sponsors Babcock, a leading provider of support services to the Forces, including refitting slips and managing military bases. Kevin Thomas, Managing Director of Babcock said: "The Army v Navy at Twickenham is always a great occasion, and the camaraderie

shown makes it a special event as well as a superb game of rugby."

Last year the Army won a tough game 18 to 13 but the Navy scored the only try in front of 40,000 spectators. Memories are long and the Senior Service is desperate to extract revenge. Nick Bartlett currently playing civilian rugby with Lydney retains the captaincy and should have alongside him Dan Parkes who is propping for Plymouth Albion in National League One.

Under new Coach Steve Wrigglesworth, the Royal Navy are bringing their backs more into a broader game plan. Dave Pascoe is shining at scrum half for Penzance and Newlyn whilst Andy Crompton is likely to form the centre partnership with the nearly veteran Dave Sibson. The icing on the Naval cake should be the England International Spencer Brown who is currently setting the stands alight at Bedford. Spencer's class must be a top factor in the Army's defensive game plan. The Royal Navy are preparing in Dublin for the grand finale to the season.

The Army XV continues to feel its way, with a number of senior caps currently unavailable. Andy Dawling and Rory Greenslade-Jones are digging sangers with the Gunners in the sand whilst early season injuries have taken a large bite into promising players from Army Academy X.



Heights of excitement: Navy secures ball in last year's game

conducting an in-season training camp in Australia and New Zealand. Coach Lt Col Andy Hickling emphasised that the training regime would be very hard, with concentrated fitness and mental preparation for the Inter Services Championship. Five competi-

tive games would be used to integrate new players and then sort out the wheat from the chaff. The final match in Australia

against Blue Thunder, the Northern Queensland champions, would be a crucial stepping stone in the build up. New blood includes full back Eugene Viljoen from South Africa, Ed Stone from the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who made his name initially on the Sevens circuit, and Phil Littlehales Royal Signals who has played for England U19. The squad

Roberts whose attacking style and place kicking consistency are key.

As in 2002 the injection of Fijian style rugby will lift the Army crowd. Emosi Naisaramaki and Apolosi Satala, both Fijian Sevens

Internationals with recent Twickenham experience will add flair to what is bound to be a great forward contest.

Engaging the enemy at close quarter is the daily stuff of the Royal Navy and Army. In the

most exciting and red blooded Twickenham match of the year, team work, fitness and single mindedness will be required to attack with style and defend to the last.

This is one battle that, whatever the result, the Armed Forces will win. The victors will hold their heads high but be only too pleased to share their moments with Combined Services friends at the end of a titanic



**Most red blooded match of the year**



## Snapshot



## Colin curries flavour

Report: Eddie Elms

COLIN Quinn, is normally a chef at RAF Brize Norton, but after just one year's service, the Senior Aircraftman, along with another 13 British chefs, is preparing food for over

5,500 British and American servicemen and women in the "chow hall" at Al Udeid Air Force Base.

SAC Quinn says: "We start work at 05.30 hours and don't normally finish until about 19.00. The master chef keeps us busy all day in order to keep the troops fed. It's really hectic but I'm thoroughly enjoying the experience"

When asked what's it like working with the Americans, Colin replied: "They are really friendly, but although we speak the same language some of their jargon is totally different to ours. For example when I say chips they think crisps."

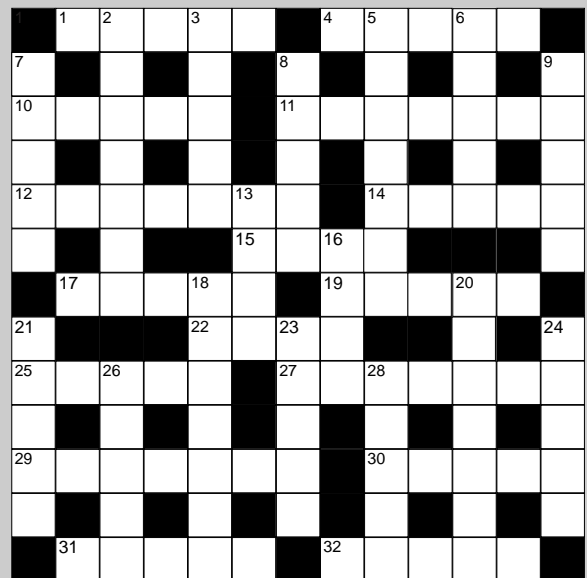
Colin is keen to make his mark on the American menu by introducing curry. He says: "The Americans aren't used to curries but I'm trying to convince them to allow me to prepare one".

The American way of life appeals to him. "The facilities here are excellent," he says. "We have air conditioning in our tents and there is lots to do when off duty". The Base entertainment programme offers Karaoke, movies and even discos. And there is

## Crossword No 1

A quick crossword from Kernow.

Can you complete it in your tea-break?



### Across

- 1. Scrap (5)
- 4. Herb (5)
- 10. Point (5)
- 11. Anthemish trick? (7)
- 12. Marine siren (7)
- 14. Spud (5)
- 15. Composer (4)
- 17. Excuse (5)
- 19. Race-course (5)
- 22. Oxford's river (4)

27. 13-19 (7)

- 29. Clearance (7)
- 30. Mug (5)
- 31. Admiral (5)
- 32. eg Bond (5)

### Down

- 2. Endanger (7)
- 3. Drink (5)
- 5. Firesides (7)
- 6. Juicy (5)
- 7. Heavy footmark!

- 8. Make of car (5)
- 9. Vixen (5)
- 13. Bird (4)
- 16. Action (4)
- 18. Stop-tap (7)
- 20. Speech (7)
- 21. Pacific isle (5)
- 23. Objects (5)
- 24. Welsh town (5)
- 26. Old Romeo! (5)
- 28. Scrutinising (5)