

Toshiba

It's late. In the darkness a journalist sits at his Toshiba filing a story for the following day. Nothing new. But here, the gentle chatter is not that of deft fingers on the keyboard, but the rattle of sniper and anti-aircraft fire.

For John Burns, Foreign Correspondent with the New York Times, is more likely to be found at the wheel of an armoured Land Rover in 'Sniper's Alley', Sarajevo than in an air-conditioned office on Fifth Avenue.

Huddled in the cabin of the Land Rover, John draws a blanket around himself and his equipment. This is not shelter from the cold, but a method of preventing the glow of the screen from attracting the sniper's fire. One adapter lead connects the notebook to the cigarette lighter socket. Another specially fitted

The messages beamed tonight will provide breakfast reading tomorrow in Manhattan.



socket powers a NOMAD satellite transmitter. The messages beamed tonight will provide breakfast reading tomorrow in Manhattan.



John has been a foreign correspondent for twenty years, and has owned a notebook since 1986. Since then, it's been a Toshiba notebook, along with a flak jacket, that has

accompanied John to the Gulf War, Russia, China, Kabul in Afghanistan and South Africa, providing the freedom to report from the heart of the action. Through extremes of weather and terrain the notebooks have delivered 100% reliability and have repaid John's investment more times

John's only hope is that his flak jacket will prove as reliable as his Toshiba.

than he cares to admit.

"In the days when I was

computer illiterate, I came to realise that a portable PC had the potential to make life much easier for me as a correspondent. When I was with my colleagues at international meetings, I looked around the news rooms at the choices my colleagues had made. Toshiba was the most common choice. It's paid off, following the popular choice."

John bought a T4400SXC in 1992. It, and a spare, accompanied him on his recent tour of the former Yugoslavia, where it suffered in the bitter war between former neighbours.

In the winter of 1992, John joined a convoy out of Gorazde, a town besieged by Bosnian Serbs. It was a journey which

entailed 85 miles, up 8,000 feet through mountain passes. The temperatures of -20°C en route were usually enough to deter the Serbs, but the passage was by no means safe. John managed to secure a mule to carry his Toshibas, NOMAD and Honda generator, but a 200 yard ice slope took John three hours to climb and separated him from the main group.

When John finally arrived at the camp, he was greeted with the news that the mule carrying his equipment had died. As with all additional weight that

cannot be carried, it had been pushed off the trail, along

with John's precious equipment. The whole journey appeared to have been wasted, but the convoy leader agreed to send out a search party the following night. A day later, the thankful John was reunited with his only contact with the outside world, when a beaming Bosnian army officer delivered all the equipment to John's hut. And it all worked!

In November 1993, John's insistence on an armoured Land Rover was justified when a drive along the notorious 'Sniper's Alley' airport road ended in a hail of machine gun fire. Even the usually calm John Burns could not control the vehicle, which swerved violently and plunged off the road. John remained relatively unscathed, but the screen of the T4400SXC was smashed and John was forced to rely on his spare until a replacement screen arrived.

Not surprisingly, John is particularly attached to his T4400SXC. Stories written on it in Sarajevo earned him the Pulitzer prize for foreign correspondence in 1993. The hard disk contains invaluable first-hand material that he plans to use to write a book on the Bosnian war. He even used it to play golf on 'quiet' evenings in his shell-riddled Sarajevo Hotel.