

# SOLDIER



APRIL 18 1988

40 PENCE

**Exercise  
Maxi Mash**  
Pages 14 - 15

**Challenger  
and 2 RTR**  
Pages 23 - 27

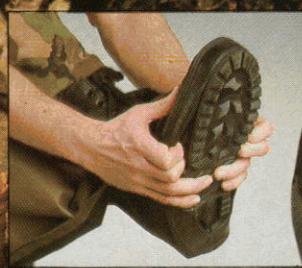
**Keeping the  
Cyprus peace**  
Pages 33 - 35

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VOL. 44/8

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**FRONT COVER:** Speed of movement gives the Challenger main battle tank a tactical advantage. Photographer Mike Perring risked a soaking to get this picture of a Challenger from 2 RTR crashing across a stream at Soltau, West Germany. See also Pages 23 to 27.

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# SOLDIER

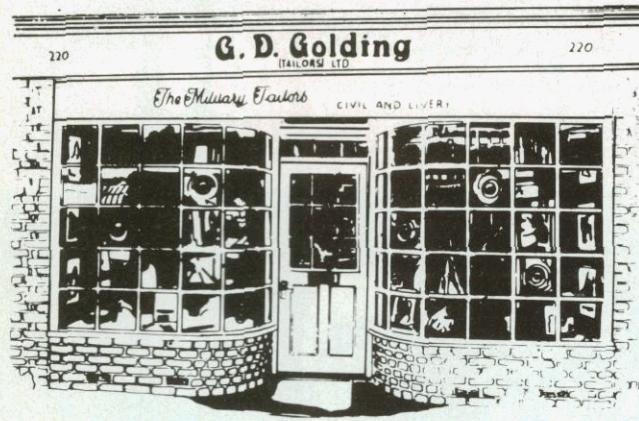
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY  
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



Men of the Gurkha Demonstration Company provided a realistic "enemy" for Exercise Tank Kill at Sennybridge in South Wales. SOLDIER has visited the Principality to see aspects of the Army's operation there. Reports and pictures will appear in the next issue.

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# LETTERS

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# This 'rifle' was used for fencing

I refer to Wing Commander C R Nicholls's letter (SOLDIER March 7) about the unusual rifle he had recently come across. This was, of course, the regulation bayonet fencing rifle used in all competition fencing corresponding to foil, epee and sabre fencing competitions.

The rifle was extremely heavy and the competitor wore a sturdy mask, a well padded jacket and gloves. He took up the on guard position, right hand on the butt, left hand amidships. He then lunged at his opponent, trying to knock his weapon to one side and prod him in the belly.

Once you let go with your left hand, you clung on with your right, but the weapon was so heavy the bayonet inevitably hit the ground. Your opponent, if quick enough, then prodded you in the belly while you were off guard!

In 1938 I won the Northern Ireland bayonet fencing championships (I think there was only one other competitor)

which qualified me for the championship at Olympia where I was knocked out (almost literally) in the first round.

The rifle was as the squadron leader described with a retractable bayonet, which hopefully retracted into the stock when one's opponent hit you.

I am somewhat surprised that fencing with this weapon no longer exists. What are the APTC doing about it? – **Brig B T V Cowey, Regional Organiser, Army Benevolent Fund, TA Centre, Sherwood Ave, Newark-on-Trent, Notts NG24 1QQ.**

● Other letters supporting this view that the "rifle" is a bayonet fencing weapon have been received from **Mr John Mackett** (ex Gordon Highlanders) of Blandford Forum, Dorset; **Maj (Retd) George Dibley** of Blisworth Arm, Northampton; **Mr D H Dean** of Exeter, Devon; and **Mr Gordon Baker**, secretary of the Artists Rifle Club, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey. – Editor.

## Reunions

● **Hong Kong, Singapore and Ceylon Associations (Royal Artillery)** reunion on Sept 17 at Kings Arms, 222 Seaside, Eastbourne. Details from Mr D A Knight, 23 Atlas Gardens, Charlton SE9, tel: 01-858 3747.

● Annual reunion of **6147th Tactical Control Group "Mosquitos"** who served with Fifth Air Force in Korean War on July 28-31 at Lowell Hilton, Lowell, Massachusetts, USA. Details from William M Cleveland, 1106 Maplewood Avenue, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 03801, tel: 603 436 5835.

● The annual old comrades reunion of the **Royal Pioneer Corps Association** takes place on June 18. Details from General Secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, Westminster, London SW1 4DE.

## ANGRY SHOTS

I believe the comment by the "distinguished WO" (SOLDIER, Feb 8) that most soldiers between 1939 and 1945 did not fire in anger is very probably correct.

I went to North Africa with the DCLI in 1943, from Algiers to Cape Bon as a private, and the only time I remember firing my rifle in anger was at a marauding German aircraft.

The only other time was when giving covering fire with a Bren for a pincer attack on a mountain in Italy. Though I ended up as a stretcher bearer, these were the only times I recall firing in anger. – **Capt R S Trude, Devon Army Cadet Force, 8 Home Park, Stoke, Plymouth.**



The "Custodian" with (inset) the real Spike Milligan

You ask who is the "Custodian of the Cup" in your feature on the centenary of the Army Football Association (SOLDIER, March 21). Our members have decided unanimously that it is Spike Milligan (or Gunner Milligan as he was known then)! — P Rafferty, hon secretary, Royal British Legion,

## Spikey theory

Leamington Club, Kenilworth Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4QS.

## What the Dickens!

Hello Mrs E M Robinson of Dickens Walk, Cooling, near Rochester, Kent. You are the lucky winner of £50 in SOLDIER's latest (No 433) HOAY competition. There's another chance to win £50 on Page 43.

# Wife letters a revelation

Following my letter to SOLDIER (Feb 22) on Army wives working, I have received a large number of letters through the post and a number have been published in the magazine. I could never have believed that in 1988 soldiers have such high expenses, and that their wives have to go out to work, but, as I also live in this insane, money sick world, I can see, sadly, that this situation is true.

As I served in the Army from 1935 to 1974, I have seen many changes, but nothing as bad as today.

A number of the letters say today's Army wives want a career outside marriage. I think this can be a difficult thing to

do. My sister, who spent a lifetime as a nurse, retired as a matron. She married, but confessed to me she wished she had stayed at home and looked after her family.

My own wife, the daughter of a squadron leader in the RAF, had a first class education and spoke several languages. A few years ago she took up a job as a linguist. After six months she gave it up. She preferred being at home.

So, thank you all for your letters which have certainly opened my eyes to the hardships Army wives face today. — Ex-RSM John Kelly, 204 Foundling Court, Marchmont Street, London WC1.

## Veggie delights in ration pack

In reply to Mrs E Stone's letter (SOLDIER Mar 7), the Army makes wonderful provision for "veggies" with their ten-man ration packs. Firstly, in their wisdom, they have made all the tins the same diameter, so while meat eaters tuck in, we "veggies" can quite simply make a delicious oatmeal block, cheese and jam sandwich.

Secondly there is that culinary delight called the "compo sausage", which I am

sure contains as much meat as the average piece of cardboard.

As for a balanced diet, all I am looking forward to is the day when the humble chip can be included in ration packs. Meanwhile, I always take my own sandwiches with me! — Tpr B Griffiths, C Sqd (Royal Gloucestershire Hussars), The Royal Wessex Yeomanry (TA), 40 Mankley Road, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, Glos GL10 3LX.

## COBRA TAILS!

Your article on Stonecutters Island, Hong Kong (Feb 8) was most interesting and it certainly jogged my Service memories of snakes. I once saw a king cobra tailing behind a rear file man of our C Company on a training exercise — may be he wanted to carry the Vickers Bertha MLG?

Having served in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Malaya, India, Assam, Burma etc (1939-44) I learned to know about our "friends", and have enjoyed their culinary qualities, not from choice but necessity.

Any ex Burma "wallah" at Mount Poppa on the XIVth

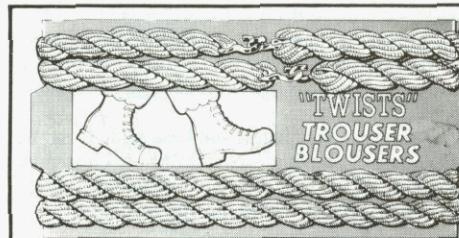
Army (4 Corps) approach to Rangoon (1944-45) will tell you it was not only a Japanese delaying action, but also a home of hamadryads (cobras) in multitudes.

Incidentally, I was bitten by an Australian black snake on the forefinger in North Queensland. Luckily I had a snake bite kit with me, and I still have the hard skin where I cut the bite out. — F G Bagshaw, formerly 1st Bn The Seaforth Highlanders, also Royal Australian Armoured Corps, 73 Portland Rd, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8LJ.

## Lee Enfield would fit ceremonial bill

During a quiet moment at the Joint Services Gymnasium, RAF Mount Pleasant, I picked up SOLDIER (March 7), and read with interest the problems facing the Irish Guards and all infantrymen with rifle drill on ceremonial occasions using the new SA 80. After all, the bearskins and red tunics of the Brigade of Guards are hardly practical items of kit in this modern day. — POPTI J Beattie, PEd Flight, RAF Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands, BFPO 655.

Surely as we are talking about ceremonial occasions,



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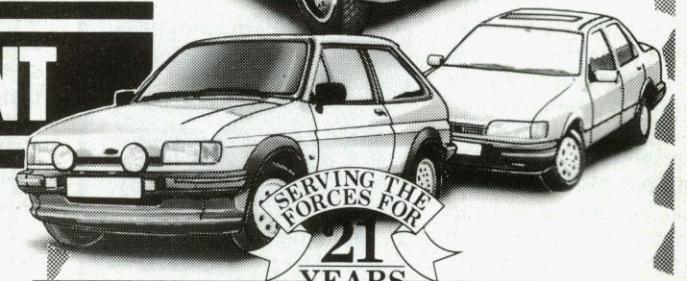


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# Service yachts sail to crisis country

SABRE and Adventure, the two Joint Services sail training yachts now circumnavigating the globe, are heading towards troubled Panama as they make their way home.

The Australian Adventure yachts, which began their epic journey from the Solent last summer, have just changed crews on the Pacific island of Tahiti and are now on passage to Panama where US sanctions aimed at removing General Noriega from

power have created an economic crisis.

Australian Adventure controllers at the Joint Services Sailing Centre in Gosport, Hants are keeping a careful eye on the situation but anticipate no problems with the yachts' planned transit of the Panama Canal.

They are expected to reach Panama in late May and will be berthing in the United States Rodman Naval Base before crew number 11 takes over for the canal passage.

The possibility of a second medical casevac loomed during the yachts' voyage from Auckland, New Zealand to Tahiti. Maj John Livingstone from ADPI at Bicester developed shingles, but a plan to put him ashore on the remote atoll of Tubuai, 300 miles south west of Tahiti was prevented by weather conditions.

On the outward trip to Australia a Royal Air Force crew member had to be taken off in the Red Sea after an attack of dysentery.

# Soldier smoking risk is 'double'

SOLDIERS who smoke are twice as likely to suffer heart attacks as civilians in the same age groups according to statistics published in the journal of the Royal Army Medical College.

The figures suggest that Service smokers aged 25 to 29 are 2.3 times more likely to suffer heart attacks than their civilian counterparts, while for the 35 to 39 year old soldier the figures are 1.6 times the national average.

The latest statistics appear to support findings published in the British Medical Journal in June 1985, by Lt Col Peter Lynch, then the consultant physician in the Cardiac Department of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital. He stated that junior ranks in the British Army have a higher mortality from coronary heart disease than comparable British civilians. Of soldiers diagnosed as having coronary heart disease, 95 per cent were smokers.

"The disproportionately high mortality from coronary heart disease in junior soldiers seems to be due to the high prevalence of heavy cigarette smoking in the British Army," he pointed out.

Said Col Lynch: "British soldiers probably take advantage of the very low cost of cigarettes in some parts of the world. In the British Army the expected protective effect of physical fitness is overwhelmed by the deleterious effect of high consumption of cigarettes."

● What a fag! - See Pages 20-21

## Arabic teach-in

AN international "first" will be registered by the Army's Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield, Bucks this month when it hosts a major international gathering of Arabic teachers and scholars.



Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, heir apparent to the Amir of Qatar and Minister of Defence for Qatar, inspects men of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards at the Foreign Office in London at the start of a three day official visit to the United Kingdom

## Prince visits TA Para unit

THE Prince of Wales, Colonel in Chief of the Paras, visited the 4th (V) Bn of The Parachute Regiment at the TA Centre in Pudsey, West Yorkshire for the first time in 18 years.

He was met by CO Lt Col Brian Martin and a guard of honour before being shown a demonstration of weapons and equipment used by the volunteers in their war time role of fighting in built-up areas. The prince presented long service decorations and medals to eight members of the battalion.

## Troops to run camp prisons

PRISONERS from Britain's overcrowded gaols are soon to be housed in converted Army camps at Rollastone on Salisbury Plain and at Deepcut near Camberley, Surrey.

Announced as a temporary measure by Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, the conversions will be complete by early May.

About 500 troops from all three Services will be operating under civilian prison management at the camps.

The Servicemen will include members of the Royal Military Police and the Military Provost Staff Corps - the Army's equivalent of prison warders - under the command of military officers.

## Bedford contract

AWD-Bedford, the British owned commercial vehicle company, has secured a £50 million order from the MoD to supply more than 2,000 military trucks over the next two years. Tens of thousands of Bedford trucks have been supplied to Britain's Armed Forces over the past 50 years.

## CATPAC in Germany

GARRISON Catering Rheindahlen is the first unit in BAOR to receive its CATPAC microcomputer. The system has been designed to assist the catering managers in accounting and provisioning. Installation in 107 units throughout BAOR and Berlin will be completed during 1988.



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## It's party time for Lancashire Fusiliers

A RALLYING call has gone out to all ex-Lancashire Fusiliers. A series of events has been planned to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the formation of the regiment which became part of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in 1968 and old comrades are being

invited to join in the celebrations.

The festivities will end with a birthday party at Rochdale in November. The contact is Maj John Hallam, The Lancashire HQ, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Wellington Barracks, Bury, Lancs BL8 2PL.

# Redcaps in new helmet

MORE than 100 years of tradition came to an end in Aldershot when mounted Royal Military Police patrols took charge of a new hard hat to wear on patrol.

The RMP started using khaki-covered hard hats as everyday wear for their horsemen and women two years ago, but on patrolling duties they continued to wear their colourful service dress hats — the famous Redcaps.

Now the Army has given them permission to wear a specially modified version of the jockey skull cap used by a number of police forces. The helmet is finished in scarlet and blue with a highly polished peak.

A special mounted presentation parade where the hats were exchanged was held at the RMP Mounted Troop riding school.

Maj Pepita Simpson, the commander of 160 Provost Coy RMP, said she was very pleased with the new helmet because her mounted patrols will now be seen to be setting a good example in riding safety as well as continuing the distinctive Redcap tradition in a different form.

## Hard to swallow?

A TEAM of three cooks (plus their driver) from the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, RRF, based at Alnwick, Northumberland, won the TA's North East District Catering Competition which included the field kitchen preparation of a three-course meal for 20 people. The crust of the steak and kidney pie was decorated with a pastry cap badge.

## Welsh medics in field

WELSH volunteer medics were in the field in force for Exercise Collapsible Cot, a dummy run for major exercises due to take place in West Germany this summer.

Territorial Army personnel from 203 (Welsh) General Hospital RAMC (V) set up a forward field hospital complex at Cwrt-y-Gollen training camp at Crickhowell. The whole medical complex was housed under one clinically sealed canvas cocoon.

## Seahorse for REME

A NEW £41,000 yacht is to be used by the REME for adventurous training courses. "Seahorse of REME III" is a Sadler 34 with six to eight berths. The money for its purchase by REME was raised entirely from non-public funds.



Old and the new. From left to right are Cpl Mick Blackman, Rushmoor and Cpl Tim Gale

Picture: Mike Weston

## Sssss! It's foaling time

PREGNANT ponies are just one of the problems faced by the busy Army Air Corps base at Middle Wallop where 250 sorties are flown each day.

The border of their low flying area cuts across the north edge of the New Forest and there was some concern that low flying aircraft and helicopters might cause the famous ponies to stampede during their breeding season.

Following an approach from the local council, the AAC was only too pleased to help by diverting low flying operations from the area during the season.

## Blaze gunner commended

A SOLDIER who pulled two men from a burning tent while on exercise in Norway last year has been awarded the Commander-in-Chief's commendation. Gnr David Collins, of HQ Battery 94 Locating Regiment RA ran two kilometres over rough, snow-covered country in very low temperatures to organise the evacuation of the casualties.

## Kings Own Border win

WINNERS of the 42 Infantry Brigade Home Service Force competition at Altcar Training Camp near Liverpool were 2 Platoon E (HSF) Coy 4 Kings Own Border, who finished just five points clear of their fellow 4 Platoon.

A number of 10-man teams were entered by 103 AD Regt RA (V), DLOY, and 5/8 Kings for the competition which included first aid, shooting, NBC and map reading tests.

## Marching Howards

EIGHT men from 1st Bn The Green Howards, based in Londonderry, have successfully completed a 535 mile sponsored relay walk from Stranraer to London.

Code named Exercise Iron Feet, the walk was in aid of the National Deaf Children's Society who stand to benefit from money raised through sponsorship by other units in Northern Ireland and donations from spectators and motorists en route.

## Tattoo earns £25,000

THE 1987 Hong Kong Military Tattoo held last November raised a total of HK\$344,000 (around £25,000) for charity. The proceeds were divided between SSAFA and the Hong Kong Community Chest.



**TANK DAY:** Orlando on a Scorpion with Lt Rory Shackleton

THE Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps gave ten-year-old Orlando Treacy a day to remember when he visited Bovington Camp, Dorset.

Young Orlando, who suffers from a chest infection, was issued with combat gear, given a tour of the regiment and the RAC's famous tank museum, did a bit of rifle shooting and had a look over a Chieftain tank and a Scorpion. "Smashing" was how he described his day. Orlando is hoping to join the regiment when he recovers from his illness.

**TANKS A LOT!**

## 'Doc' Linda keeps an eye on crew!

THIS appears to be a clear case of the dentist doctoring the sailor, if you see what we mean! Army dentist Capt Linda Trepess RADC and Lt Tim Swain RN are pictured at Auckland in New Zealand shortly after the arrival of the Joint Services sail training yachts Adventure and Sabre from Sydney, Australia. The yachts are now bound for Tahiti on their long haul home.

Linda is serving with 6 Dental Group at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs.

### GREEN

Wales in the Officers' mess at HQ Barracks, Brecon were celebrated on St Patrick's Day with - wait for it - emerald green beer. Artificial colouring gave the tipple its appropriate hue, but there was nothing artificial about the shamrock bought in specially for the mess celebration.

### WHAT?

## joins the team

NORTH West District's newest Territorial Army public information officer (TAPIO), Carlisle journalist Taryn Rock, completed her first official duty when she covered the annual TA field cookery competition, Exercise Grey, at Catterick.

Taryn is exceptionally well qualified for her TA role. She was the North West Journalist of the Year in 1987 for a series of articles on 4 Kings Own Border training at Sennybridge, Wales published in the Cumbrian News and Star.

Taryn now works for BBC Radio Cumbria.

She is currently an officer cadet with A Coy, 4 Kings Own Border. After commissioning she will join the Public Information team at District HQ.

## General accident!

FUNNY thing, snow. One minute you are skiing along with no problems in the world, and the next you are flat on your back. Lt Gen John MacMillan, GOC Scotland, took

a tumble during the 25th Army ski meeting at Aviemore, but happily there was help near at hand from JL Brian Mair of the Junior Infantry Battalion at Ouston, Northumberland.



**AYE, AYE!** Capt Linda Trepess (left) and Lt Tim Swain of the Royal Navy at Auckland, New Zealand



**FIRST JOB:** Taryn Rock with NW District senior public information officer Roger Goodwin



**THUMBS UP:** Ganga smiles before her first parachute descent

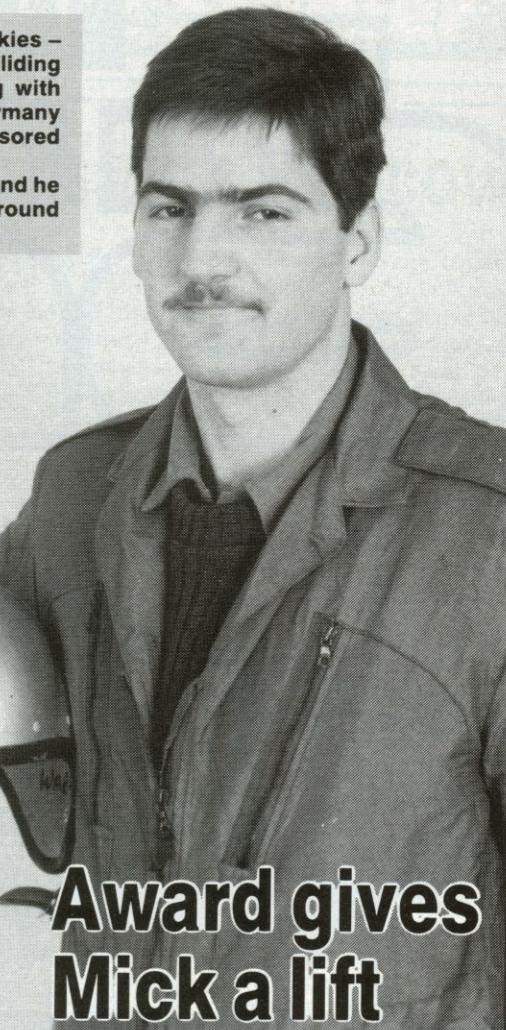
LCPL Mick Preston took to the skies - thanks to the Malcolm Clubs Gliding Award Scheme. He was serving with 14 Sig Regt at Celle in West Germany when he noticed the RAF sponsored award scheme in a DCI.

His application was approved and he was soon making the 160 miles round trip to the Pegasus gliding club at RAF Gutersloh, finally going solo after three months to qualify for the £200 award.

Soon afterwards Mick was posted to 244 Sig Sqn (Air Support) at RAF Brize Norton and has joined Bicester gliding club.

Before applying for the Malcolm Clubs award he had tried unsuccessfully to gain a place on the popular Army and Joint Services gliding courses.

The awards are open to corporals and below, aged under 25. Applicants should not have had previous flying experience.



## Award gives Mick a lift

**HIGH FLYER:** LCPL Mick Preston

## GANGA THE 1st?

MOTHER of two Mrs Ganga Gurung (24), wife of Sgt Tulsi Gurung of the Gurkha Transport Regiment, is believed to be the first Nepalese woman ever to parachute from an aircraft. Unless you know better!

Ganga jumped from a Cessna 182 at 2,200ft.

Her husband, a physical training instructor at the Physical and Adventurous Training Centre in Sek Kong, Hong Kong parachuted about three years ago. Following his daring wife's feat he aims to have another go.

# PEOPLE

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# Punjabi VC tops £35,000

The price of VCs is still rising.

Sotheby's New Bond Street auction house had two for sale among a miscellany of orders, medals and decorations, and expected one to sell for £8-10,000 and the other for £12-15,000. When the hammer dropped, the cheaper one went for £19,800 and the other for £35,750.

The more expensive medal was awarded posthumously in 1945 to Lance Naik Sher Shah of the 16th Punjab Regiment.

The gallant Punjabi personally killed 23 Japanese attacking his position in Burma, firing and encouraging his men even after his right leg had been shattered and severed by a mortar bomb.

The other VC was won by a young midshipman in the Crimean War - but later forfeited when he became a drunkard and deserter.

## SOLDIER to Soldier

### IWM trades tanks with Moscow

Britain is about to capture a Russian tank - an old one.

For probably the first time, tanks are to be exchanged between the Imperial War Museum collection at Duxford, Cambs, and the Central Armoured Forces School in Moscow.

Duxford will get a Josef Stalin II, the first in Britain, and Russia will be sent a Conqueror.

There are already several Josef Stalin IIIIs in the country, one of them at the Tank Museum

at Bovington and others in private hands.

When Duxford heard they could obtain a JS II, they "went out and found a Conqueror" on the Fingeringhoe ranges at Colchester, although it had to be "totally rebuilt".

The condition of the JS II is unknown. "Everything that has come out of Russia before has been in perfect condition, so we are hopeful," SOLDIER was told by a museum spokesman. "There has been an interchange of small arms and suchlike before but nothing on this scale. We consider it quite a coup."

### TA has lot to offer employers

The Territorial Army is anxious to recruit members from industry and commerce - but the TA also has a lot to offer the employers.

To put this message across, the reserve forces of all three Services have been taking it to the leaders of industry and commerce, including setting up a publicity stand in the Royal Albert Hall where the Institute of Directors held their annual conference.

Maj Bob Peedle RMP (V) who is a TA Public Information Officer, and representatives of the other Services, discussed

the virtues of belonging to the reserve forces - fitness, new skills, and management and leadership training - issued publicity packs and screened a video film. The 1,000 delegates could not fail to get the message.

The visit was deemed a success and will be taken to other similar gatherings. Said Mr John Gorman, an official of the Institute of Directors in Northern Ireland and a leading member of the province's TAVRA's Employers Support committee: "Senior members of industry should be made to realise that it is to their advantage for their employees and managers to be in the reserve forces and get the benefit of the training and experience."

### From little beginnings!

Back in 1967 a new firm selling to soldiers cars with such names as Hillman and Humber, Singer and Sunbeam, began advertising in SOLDIER with a one-inch double column advertisement.

Today, Natocars are still advertising in SOLDIER although these days with

full-page advertisements, and this year they celebrate their 21st anniversary.

When they began selling cars by post to Servicemen, Dusty Springfield was top of the hit parade, Harold Wilson was Prime Minister - and a Hillman Minx cost about £550!

The firm is still privately

owned by the two originating partners, still based at Bridgwater in Somerset, and perhaps surprisingly, 80 per cent of its Service customers travel there to pick up their new cars.

To say a thank you to the Services, Natocars is running a £100,000 prize competition in June.

Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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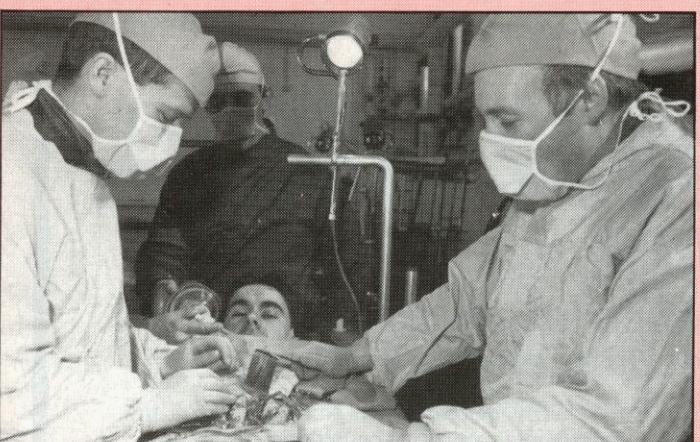
Tick items of main interest: FIESTA  ESCORT/ORION  SIERRA   
GRANADA



Pte Angela Brown QARANC tends the injuries of Gdsmn Duffey, Scots Guards



A ready supply of literature prevented boredom setting in ...



A total of 250 operations were performed during the 48 hour exercise



LCpl Smudge Smith, 1 Armd Fd Amb creates a head wound on one of the casualties

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Sgt Sally Murdy, QARANC, tends to one of the 1,300 casualties to pass through the hospital

# A FINE MASH YOU'VE GOT US INTO!

ONE OF a soldier's greatest worries in time of war is what will happen to him if he is wounded on the battlefield. Will medical help be readily available? Will he survive long enough to get back to a hospital?

For 300 soldiers in Germany, the answers were well and truly brought home when they acted as simulated casualties on Exercise Maxi Mash 1, the first of BAOR's annual field hospital exercises.

It was the turn of BMH Rinteln to mobilise, set up and begin functioning as 21 Field Hospital. In 48 hours, the 320-strong staff treated 1,300 casualties, performed 250 major surgical operations and, of course, dispensed gallons of tea and sympathy.

But it was not only the hospital which deployed. To make the exercise as realistic as possible, a full casualty evacuation chain, consisting of two regimental aid posts and a dressing station, was set up in the field.

These vital links in the chain were manned by a combination of RAMC staff and Army medics and bandsmen from units all over Germany.

Four eight-man teams from 1 Armoured Field Ambulance, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Own Hussars provided first stage

relief at both regimental aid posts. Their job was to stabilise the injured with pain killing injections and intravenous infusions of body fluids to help them survive the onward journey to the dressing station.

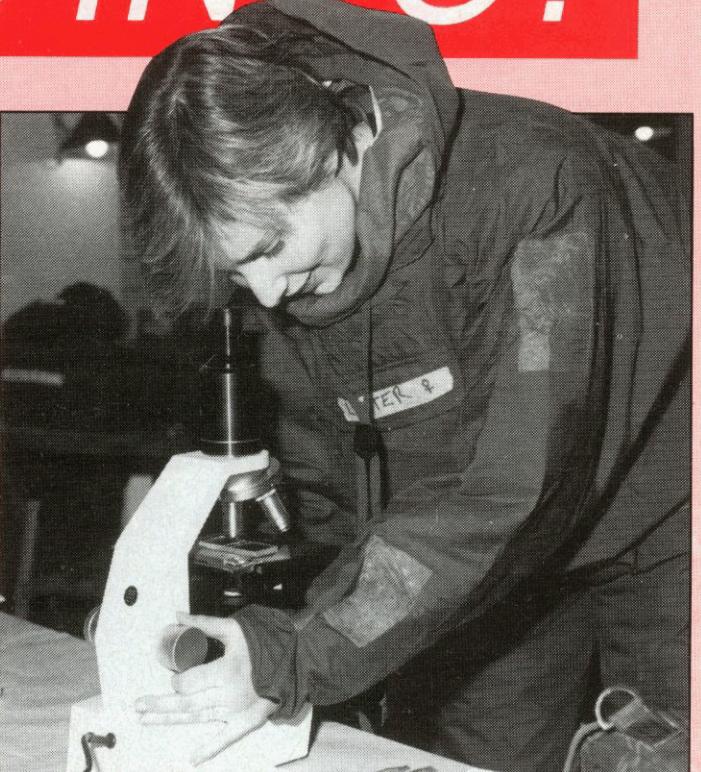
Here 25 bandsmen from 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, with 26 medics of 1 Armd Fd Amb refined the treatment already administered, before sending the casualties back to the field hospital 25 minutes drive away.

At each stage of the chain the triage system of grading casualties into P1s (those requiring immediate treatment), P2s (requiring surgery, but not immediately) and P3s (minor conditions which do not require immediate aid) was practised.

At the field hospital this meant all P1s were taken straight to one of the four operating theatres, followed by a well earned rest of at least two hours in the tender care of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

A primary aim of the exercise was to imitate as closely as possible the casualty patterns of real conflict. In this, casualty control, under the command of Lt Col Henderson RAMC, played the major part.

Before the exercise a template of types and numbers of



Cpl Diane Lister, one of only three female laboratory technicians in the RAMC, assisted in the hospital pathology laboratory

injuries was drawn up. This was then translated into casualties, some obviously having more than one injury, by means of a casualty card which laid down precisely the condition of each simulated casualty on the exercises.

It was then up to the men of 2nd Armoured Field Ambulance to turn make-up artist for the weekend and create

as realistically as possible the wounds and injuries.

For the exercise commander, Col Robin Short, it was a total success. "It is the best Exercise Maxi Mash we have had," he said. "All participating players came through this test of their operational capability with flying colours."

**Story by Kate Teesdale**  
**Pictures by Cpl Dave Miles RAOC**



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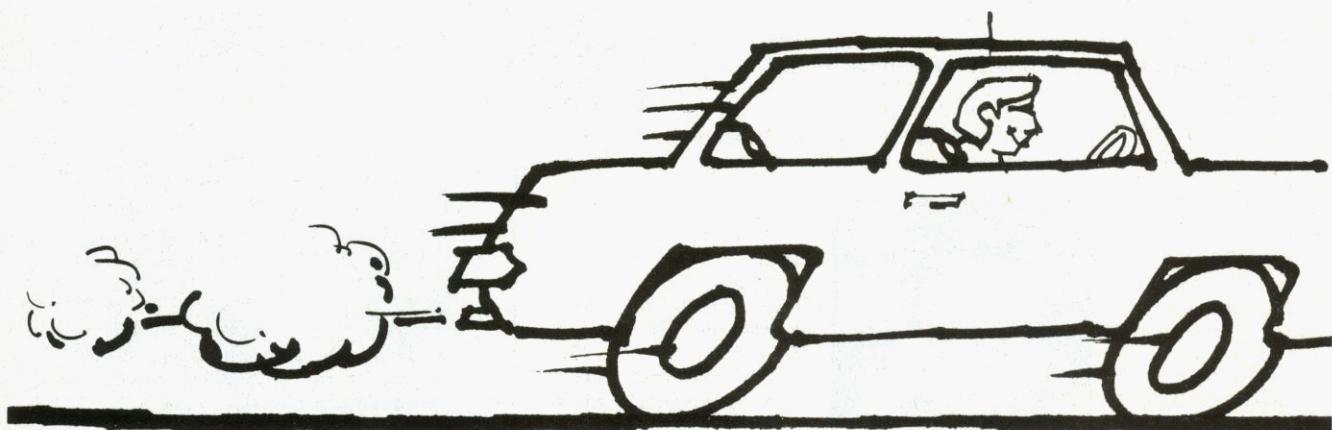
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# BFG JOBS – WHAT IS GOING ON?

## Germans criticise 'Stone Age' rules

GERMAN Press comment on the recent National Audit Office report on how British Forces Germany could save money, makes interesting reading.

The NAO, a watchdog body which keeps Parliament in the picture, pointed out in a report on Cost and Control of BFG, that considerable savings could be made if British dependants were used to fill the jobs at present being done by 5,000 Germans.

The newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* (Sunday World) said at the time that one trade union official had described the mood of German employees in garrison towns as "like shortly before an earthquake".

The official said that allegations that German workers cost more to employ because they went sick more often than British staff was "an insult".

He then (says *Welt am Sonntag*) declared that the only reason British dependants were cheaper was that they had to put up with working conditions "reminiscent of the Stone Age".

He is quoted as saying: "The British personnel... can be fired from one day to the next; there is no protection against wrongful dismissal, and no protection for young mothers."

"Instead of 30 days leave the British get only 13 and when they get sick they have to take leave."

This, he claimed, was because they came under British "Labour Laws".

So much for one Sunday morning's reading. The next issue was equally interesting.

*Welt am Sonntag* reported that Senior Service officers in Germany had "assured Minister President Rau in a personal talk that German jobs are not at risk".

A spokesman from the Rhine Army was alleged to have said that the NAO recommendations were "in no way binding for the



**IN MY VIEW**

British Government".

Well might one ask:

"What is going on?"

As far as British "Labour Laws", Employment Acts, etc are concerned, there are provisions for maternity benefit, sickness benefit and reasonable leave – in Britain.

The questions that should be asked in BFG are –

Hence the cheapness of employing wives who don't strike, have no union backing and are naturally concerned about the effect their actions may have on their husbands' jobs.

How come a German employee of the British is entitled to redundancy pay but not a dependant wife?

Why is unemployment benefit paid to Germans working for the British but not to dependant wives?

Why do Germans get 30 days leave on full pay when in British employ and dependant wives only 13?

And is it really the intention of the authorities to slash BFG costs at the expense of wives working at cut rates without any of the German or British benefits?

A new era may be dawning however. In 1990 British women are to be taxed separately and the full import of this has yet to be seen.

Maybe it will be the first step out of the Stone Age. I certainly hope so.



## CONGRATULATIONS to the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales for taking the initiative in the frustrating problem of finding jobs for their wives.

Half of the married women had been working when the unit was posted to Lemgo, Germany, in 1982. Very few of them found employment there.

When the situation persisted Lt Col David Bromhead, then CO, began to encourage wives to take on jobs within the battalion, a policy which has been continued.

Today they are to be found operating a type of cottage industry, much of it self financing.

Wives are to be found working in the kindergarten (see Mrs Lesley Pritchard above), in the battalion driving school (Mrs Julie Perrett (left) discusses the Highway Code with Mrs Dagmar Wilson), and in the tailors shop (see Cpl Rob Smith and his wife Danielle below).

They do clerical work at battalion HQ, work in the sports store, the messes, the Naafi, families shop, the regimental restaurant, a hairdressers, a unit cafe called the Pop Inn, and sell souvenirs in the PRI.

What I admire is their determination not to be beaten. By keeping their hand in they will be better placed to find work when the unit returns to Britain in a few months. Well done the Welsh!



## Equal pay drive

European Community legislation is giving an impetus to the drive for equal pay and opportunities.

A survey carried out recently showed that the average pay for manual workers in the UK in 1985 was £190 for men and £125 for women.

It would be interesting to know what the averages are for dependants in Germany!

# WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

# Anne Armstrong

Home telephone:  
Camberley 29653

## Heartcry from a single soldier

### What about us?

I agree that further improvements are needed.

However, I disagree with your priorities for change.

Surely the single soldier must come to the front when the "Army Brass" decide how to spend money.

Many single soldiers still live in cramped conditions, with only the basic facilities.

Some barracks are in need of improvement or complete renovation, but quarters are rarely offered to single soldiers to help ease the problem.

The single soldier, while living in barracks, is always the first to be called out in the event of an emergency, as seen during the recent storms.

Today, a lad of 18, with little experience and, as yet, little commitment to the Army, can marry and have a quarter with nominal effort (probably a lot less than his civilian counterpart). A single soldier, having given 10, 15 or 20 years' service, has to seek permission to live out of barracks (in many theatres this is turned down without consideration).

If a single soldier serving in the UK buys his own home and receives permission to live there, he is

not entitled to the MMA, from residence to place of duty, as is a married man.

If, when their tour of duty is finished, both the single and the married soldier are posted away, the married soldier has the option of leaving his wife in the house whilst he lives in barracks at a reduced rate for food and accommodation.

This is done to save the married soldier from separation, but little thought is given to the single soldier's social life or welfare problems.

Come on Anne, it's time the SINGLE soldiers had a break.

from a wife who may be able to work part or full-time and can at least maintain a tidy home.

Although it is about a 50-50 split in the Army of single and married soldiers, I personally feel that the single soldier takes the brunt of call outs and detachments.

This is done to save the married soldier from separation, but little thought is given to the single soldier's social life or welfare problems.

Come on Anne, it's time the SINGLE soldiers had a break.

● Thank you Sgt P. – I look forward to hearing the news of other single soldiers.

## AHOY THERE!

**LONDON Sailing Projects 1988 summer cruises are being offered once again to Army dependants – LSP have granted me four places for four boys aged between 16 and 19 years who have been or are living in London or the Home Counties.**

The cruises consist of either one week or three week-ends sailing on LSP 77-foot ketch Rona. Cost: £30.

The programme

assumes that every boy is a beginner.

A number of previous Army dependants have won Amory awards which entitle them to continue to sail with LSP as assistant watch leaders and watch officers. Dates are: 2-8 July or 9-11 September, 23-25 September, 7-9 October.

Payment must be made a month in advance.

Applications should be sent to me c/o SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

## Dilemma of the Pre-Rising Fives

**A READER WRITES: My four-year-old son and a neighbour's four-year-old daughter have been in full-time education for a term; our posting falls in the middle of their second term.**

**We have been told that they will not be able to continue school until they are five when we are posted to Germany. Is this so?**

**MoD replies:** The 1944 Education Act says: A child does not

become of compulsory school age until the beginning of the term in which he/she reaches the age of five years.

In recent years, the

situation in the UK has become somewhat confusing as some local education authorities still stick rigidly to the above rule, others admit youngsters as

Rising Fives (at the beginning of the term in which they reach the age of five years) while some admit them earlier.

Service children's schools are authorised to admit children as Rising Fives which is at the beginning of the term in which they reach five.

For this purpose the calendar year is divided into notional terms, the dates of which are:

**Autumn: 1 Sep to 31 Dec. Spring: 1 Jan to 30 Apr. Summer: 1 May to 31 Aug.**

It is not Service Children's Education Authority policy to admit children before the beginning of the

term in which they reach the age of five years (Pre-Rising Fives) not even if they have already attended full-time infant education in a UK LEA.

However, where there are extenuating family medical/compassionate reasons competent authorities may approve the admission of a Pre-Rising Five if all the following conditions are met.

● that admission will be made within existing financial and manpower ceilings and will not be to the detriment of the school.  
● that suitable accommodation is available.  
● that admission, being outside the scope of UK statutory provision, is voluntary on the part of the parent and the school.  
● that a suitable nursery environment is available for younger infants and that half day attendance has been considered.

# First you give up smoking – then you go on a diet!

HAVE you ever wondered how to give up smoking? 27 Regiment RCT think they have found an answer with their successful Regimental Stop Smoking Campaign – an idea which might well be taken up by other units to good effect.

In addition, the cheerful group of addiction busters are managing to raise money for Children in Need.

Co-ordinator WO2 (QMSI) Dick Angell APTC told SOLDIER stop smoking campaigns require more imagination to attract participants and should appeal to the sense of pride and the will to win.

Twenty one men drawn from all ranks

of the regiment have joined the campaign and meet every three or four weeks to monitor progress and talk about the problems they face trying to cope.

They feel the campaign has been a success because it is a group effort – and a high profile one. It is well publicised around the regiment via Orders, posters and letters. Everyone taking part feels pride, determination and ability to succeed is on the line for all to see.

As their nicotine levels drop, most of the men have taken to food to help calm their cravings and the resultant increase in body weight has lead to the introduction of fitness training.

The taste of food becomes acute and during the lively therapy session one member told the group that he could now tell just how bad his wife's cooking was!

All 21 have sought sponsorship from their fellow soldiers and anyone dropping out has to pay a voluntary donation of £30 to the Children in Need appeal.

So far only two men have failed, paid their money and suffered the ignominy of being listed on Orders as having "wimped out!"

How many other units of the British Army are going to be man enough to take 'one pace forward' and follow the example set by 27 Regiment?

Research by Laurie Manton

# What a fag!

**SOLDIERS** aged 25 to 29 who smoke are 2.3 times more likely to suffer heart attacks than civilians of the same age group. For those aged 35 to 39, the figures are 1.6 times the national average.

These shock figures are revealed in medical statistics published by the Journal of the Royal Army Medical College.

A breakdown of Service deaths from all causes between 1980 and 1984 shows an average of 22 fatalities a year from heart disease which can be linked to smoking.

A spokesman for the Environmental, Medical

and Research section of the Defence Medical Services Directorate said: "Because of the effect on heart and lungs, smoking does have an effect on fitness. The amount is unquantifiable but undoubtedly it has an effect. In the Services, medical opinion is against it but only the MoD can decide what steps to take."

An MoD spokesman said: "The Army is very aware of the implications of smoking for Servicemen. It gives regular briefings in health lectures to Servicemen on the hazards of smoking both in terms of its dangers to individuals' health and its detrimental



DESERT BREAK: A soldier lights up in the Western Desert during the Second World War

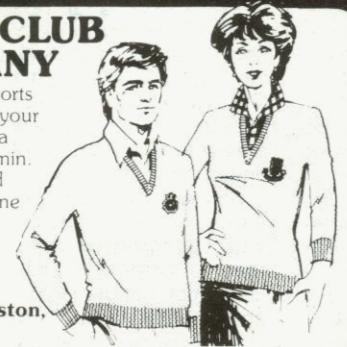
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MILITARY IMAGE: It helped to sell cigarettes

impact on operational effectiveness in terms of physical fitness."

A Naafi spokesman said they had no plans to reduce the entitlement of duty free cigarettes to Servicemen on health grounds.

"It's not our domain to reduce level of entitlement to our customers. The figures are set by outside authorities."

## Soldiers blamed for British habit

SMOKING is out of favour with today's health conscious squaddies. More and more men are kicking a habit firmly established since the Crimea War when British soldiers first began to puff on cigarettes.

Since its introduction to the civilised world several hundred years ago opinion has divided as to its effects. It was smoked to ward off infection during the Great Plague while at other times smokers were threatened with excommunication from the church if they were caught.

In Russia smokers were publicly knouted (flogged), often with fatal results.

With the switch from cigars and pipes during the Crimea War, it was the British soldier who was most responsible for the general introduction of cigarettes into Britain – although at first the civilian population looked upon this military fashion as effeminate!

But in the First World War funds were made available to provide free smokes for the troops.

During the Second World War the War Office did its best to see that troops were supplied with cigarettes. In the Mediterranean and Far East, many troops were issued with the notorious "V" cigarettes manufactured in India.

There was even a wartime scheme by which people at home could send duty-free cigarettes to friends and relatives serving overseas. The numbers involved were staggering. In November 1944 one firm sent off over a million parcels each containing an

average of 260 cigarettes.

The system came close to breakdown when kind-hearted ladies could not be persuaded that the special parcels used were for cigarettes only. Troops at the front were baffled, not to say disappointed, to receive Balaclava helmets, night shirts and even a tea-pot instead of the long awaited fags.

Today, 60 per cent of unit members smoke compared with a civilian young adult average of 40 per cent, statistics which suggest an increase on enlistment in the Army. Yet the World Health Organisation has just reported that 2½ million people a year die from tobacco related diseases.

**The things we said!**

"Today no high commander would willingly put an army into the field without seeing that his troops were assured of their cigarettes, even though he personally believed that smoking was ruinous to the health and that transporting tobacco was a misuse of the supply services."

SOLDIER June 1951

HANNAH GORDON

You're far from home.  
A crisis strikes your family.  
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# Life after CAT

## Challenger is winner with the men who crew it



THE withdrawal of BAOR from the Canadian Army Trophy gunnery competition may have caused considerable comment but it has also led to a thorough and objective review of British tank training methods.

The poor showing of Challenger last year has been seen as a spur to improvement, not an excuse for melancholia.

Whatever the arguments there are over the qualities of the fire control system, the men in the turret are out to make the best of it.

Veteran instructors from Hohne, BAOR's traditional gunnery base, are now visiting all regiments to sharpen up drills and techniques.

Brig Philip Sanders, Commander Armoured, 1st British Corps, who is responsible for improving RAC gunnery standards, said:

"They are the experts - some of them have been instructors for years, and when I've got a problem I turn to them for advice."

A new series of exercises has been devised which enables Commander Armoured to assess each crew and each troop by checking their ability to hit a certain number of targets with a given number of rounds in a set time.

"I select the range and the time bracket for a particular



Brig Philip Sanders

engagement," said Brig Sanders.

By studying the result of these exercises it is possible to compare the skills of squadrons and regiments.

"More important . . . we can determine whether we are meeting the capability of the equipment because we know from design criteria what, in theory, it is capable of achieving.

"We know from practice what we are achieving and that allows us to redesign our gunnery exercise - annually if need be - to bring up the standard . . ."

At the moment it is accepted that the standard is not high enough and the RAC would like to have more and better training equipment to raise it.

In particular Brig Sanders is

keen to obtain modern aids which can be fitted to each tank and enable crews to train on their vehicles as well as in the classroom gunnery training system.

In the meantime the BAOR staff are remaining in close touch with developments in the CAT field.

Clearly the RAC looks forward to the day when it can re-enter the competition but at the same time realises that as a formal marksmanship contest it has limitations.

Brig Sanders: "What CAT does not test and what we are particularly good at is the generalship and leadership which comes from experience.

"Most officers and senior officers have been in tanks for many, many years, and that is unquantifiable in the terms of any competition.

"CAT does not test protection levels, lethality of ammunition, or indeed night visibility or mobility, neither tactical agility nor operational ability.

"In all those parameters of design Challenger will hold its own with the best. It is in the quite specific areas of accuracy and rate of fire that we have problems to solve."

From the senior commanders to the men behind the Chobham armour and the gunner in the complexities of the turret, the RAC is putting

in a big effort to regain its own high shooting standards.

Basically, crews like Challenger. They have adapted well to it.

Brig Sanders (who has been working in armour for 25 years) said: "I was around at the introduction of Chieftain and frankly the introduction of Challenger has gone much better.

"It is quite remarkable how few mechanical problems there have been - its basic reliability is a credit to it."

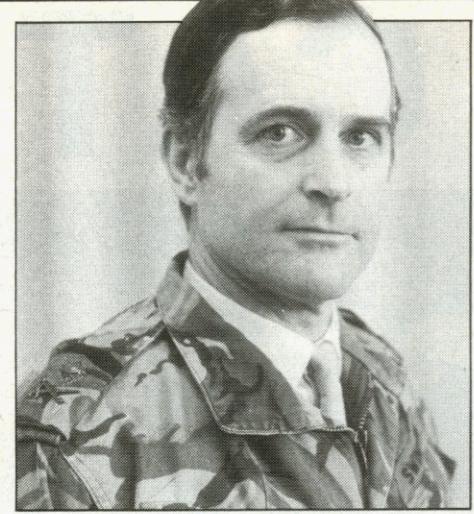
Proof of the soldiers' confidence in Challenger is the high morale which SOLDIER found in all the regiments visited. The troops were full of beans, incredibly so.

Brig Sanders has an explanation: "We're all Regular soldiers. We're not in the Army unless we want to be.

"The strength of the British Army and the RAC in particular - dare I say it - is the regimental system.

"You all belong to a family whether it be the QDG or 17/21 L or 2 RTR and, indeed if you go to the TA, the Royal Yeomanry or Queen's Own Yeomanry.

"The strength of the regiments is the relationships within them. That family spirit is a battle-winning factor . . . and that's not tested on CAT either."



Maj Gen Swinburn

## Challenger's speed gives generals pause for thought

A BRIGADIER on exercise in Germany became darkly suspicious about the strength of the opposition when he launched his Chieftain tanks in a third attack on an elusive enemy only to receive a report that once again they had run into a squadron of Challengers.

He'd tried a right hook, a left hook and a straight punch up the middle yet each time the Challengers – being tried in the field for about the first time – were in the way.

The brigadier remarked pointedly that he understood there was only one squadron of newcomers against him... and took some convincing it was true!

Challenger, manned on that occasion by

The Royal Hussars, had demonstrated one of its finest qualities – speed and agility.

"Because it is so much faster into action," said Maj Gen Richard Swinburn, Commander 1 Armoured Division, "you can deploy it much later so that you have much more chance of putting it in the right place."

"It gets there and, having done the job, you get it out of action and back into reserve much more quickly than was possible previously."

In the exercise involving The Royal Hussars the Challenger squadron was shuttling back and forth along a disused railway cutting, engaging the enemy and

disappearing.

"Previously the tank was the one vehicle whose movement brought tears to my eyes – it took so long – but with Challenger you have a vehicle which is as quick as a truck," said Maj Gen Swinburn.

At the tactical level this gave something very precious to a commander – the ability to hold his armour in concentrated reserve.

He can now deploy armoured regiments over very much greater distances than before and move his resources swiftly round the battlefield.

With Chieftain there is a completely different tempo – and it has been criticised for the amount of smoke emitted. The

object with the older tank is to settle in a fire position, await an approaching enemy, fire and move out.

One of the major advantages of Challenger is its very powerful reverse gear which enables it to withdraw at high speed.

"With Challenger you hold back, wait until the opposition is, say, coming up the valley in front of you, then race up to a fire position, crack him in the flank and move straight into reverse," said the general.

This should result in the enemy halting, calling in his artillery and putting down his infantry to look for an enemy who is no longer there. When he mounts up to

continue his advance it happens all over again.

"It's rather like a very agile boxer who keeps coming in and banging your nose before you can take a good swipe at him," said Maj Gen Swinburn.

Paradoxically the greatest advantage Challenger has over other tanks is the least obvious – its Chobham armour which enables it to take punishment without being put out of action.

"It is the thing that is least sexy – least obvious – in peacetime," said Maj Gen Swinburn. "When no one is shooting at you it is not a very sacred advantage, but it sure as hell is when it happens!"

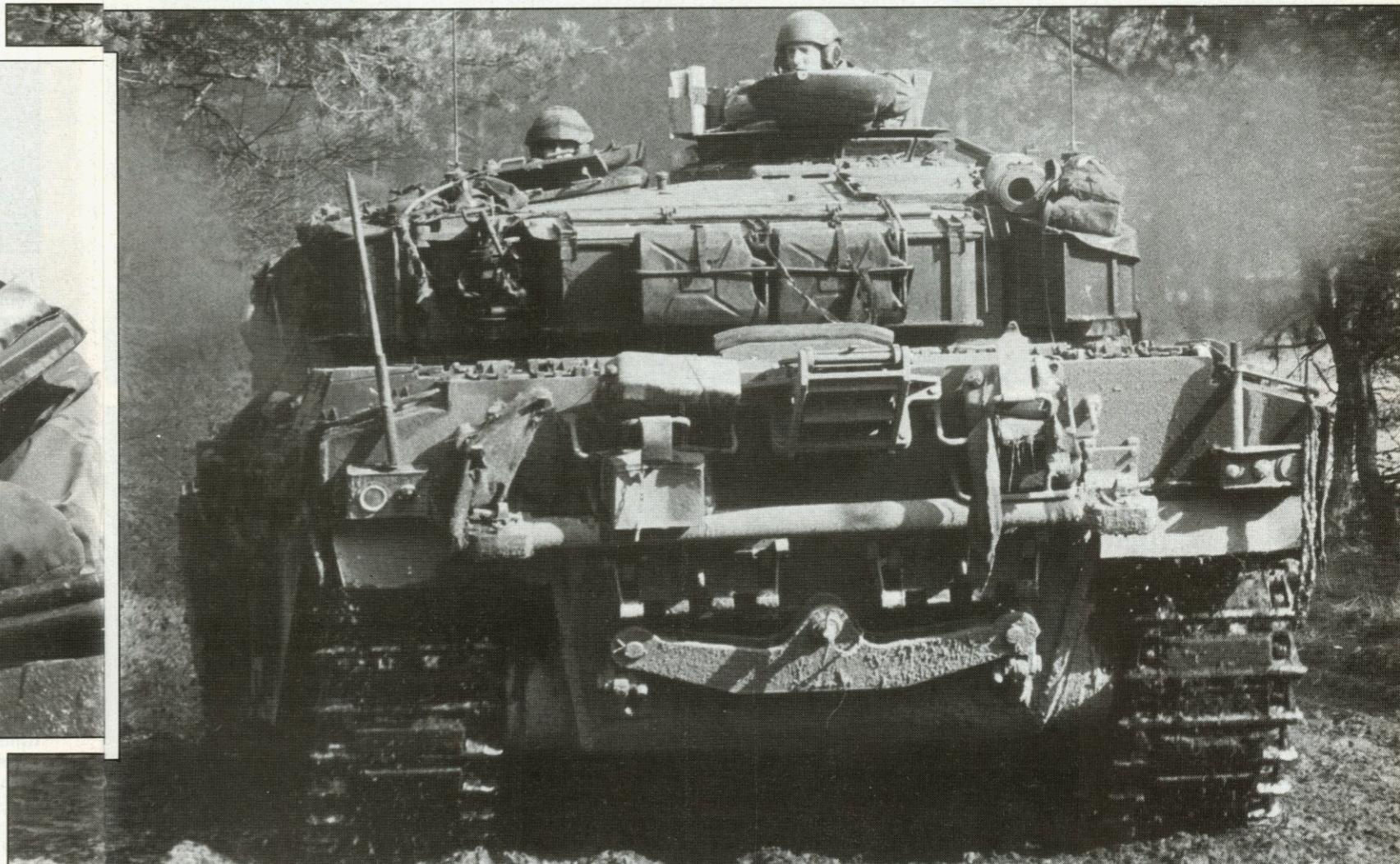
## A day in the life of a troop leader

In places, the barren wasteland of the Soltau training area is reminiscent of a First World War battlefield, but in the wooded areas SOLDIER visited elements of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment who with their Challenger tanks form one of the first lines of defence facing the border.



Above – Troop leader 2nd Lt James Anderson... time for a smile

Left – Challenger crewmen prepare a quick meal during a lull in the exercise



## Quick brew – then it's time for work . . .



THE ROLE of the regiment's tank commanders is a demanding one, requiring a high degree of expertise and professionalism; the troop leader's role is more demanding still, with three of the very lethal armoured fighting machines under his command.

Early each morning, 2nd Lt James Anderson, attends a briefing with the squadron leader to find out his tasks for the day.

A quick brew and then it's time to mount up and move to carry out the troop's role –

to defend bridge position, to attack, or any other task that might be set them.

The previous night, the troop had practised using the Thermal Observation Gunnery Sight (TOGS), part of the new equipment that upgrades Challenger and one that has revolutionised the battle tactics involved in modern tank warfare.

It's now becoming routine, during the hours of darkness, to go to "silent watch" – pull in to a position and observe the opposition's movements

through thermal sighting.

Normally at dusk the tanks would pull in to a hide and cam-up while the troop leader goes off for re-briefing, before resting for the night.

In battle, the troop leader stays with the tank unless it breaks down to an extent where it would be off the battlefield for more than a few hours. Then he would take over the

troop corporal's vehicle – that way he's always in a vehicle on the move.

All Lt Anderson's previous training was done on Chieftain, so when he arrived at the regiment he had to rethink totally the way he did things.

Rating Challenger very highly, he said: "Normally during a tactical withdrawal you'd have

● Turn to next page

# Troop sergeant rules supreme on the park

● From Page 25

to turn Chieftain round, exposing your rear which is the weakest point, and drive in the direction you wanted to go. With Challenger you have what is called 'high reverse' which you select and reverse back at a great rate of knots - very useful!"

Should the troop leader be knocked out, the troop would be taken over by the troop sergeant who would act as acting troop leader.

Sgt Tony Rickard, with 15 years tank experience, is such a man who would take over the role. He supervises the tanks when in camp and is 2ic of the troop when out in the field.

An ex-Chieftain man, he is still adapting to Challenger, rating its mobility and speed as better.

High reverse makes a lot of difference, he says. "Challenger put in to high reverse leaves the main armour facing the enemy - that's excellent!"

Back in barracks at Fallingbostel, Lt Duncan Bullivant spoke about life on the tank park, pointing out that on the park the troop leader's role is not so clearly defined.

"This is the troop sergeant's domain and here he runs the technical administration of the troop while my job is to oversee the morale and course training aspects of a soldier's career.

"On the tank park, I am very



Troop Sgt Kevin "Clutch Bolt" Dowe briefs a crewman during an exercise on Soltau

much a supernumerary - I'm just here to help among the troops, to work on my own vehicle and to provide light relief from time to time," he said.

It's not a troop leader's task to spend all his working life on the park. Normally two hours a day are spent there, while the rest of the time is taken up by administration, planning adventure training schemes and so on.

Said Lt Bullivant: "It's very much a case that in camp he

looks after the technical aspects but when out of the gate it becomes a tactical responsibility and the troop leader accepts full responsibility and reigns supreme and has full authority over the troop.

"So it's very much a partnership - I cannot emphasise that enough. A good partnership between leader and sergeant means you share the workload 50-50."

Nowadays, with new developments becoming far more technical, the equipment being brought in is beyond the grasp of new soldiers who need to be broken in and educated on it - no longer can a troop leader remain ignorant of the technical aspects of his troop administration.

Normally the squadron operates a good system - three of the troop leaders are 2nd or 1st lieutenants and another is commanded by a troop sergeant who has been promoted to SSgt to operate as another troop leader.

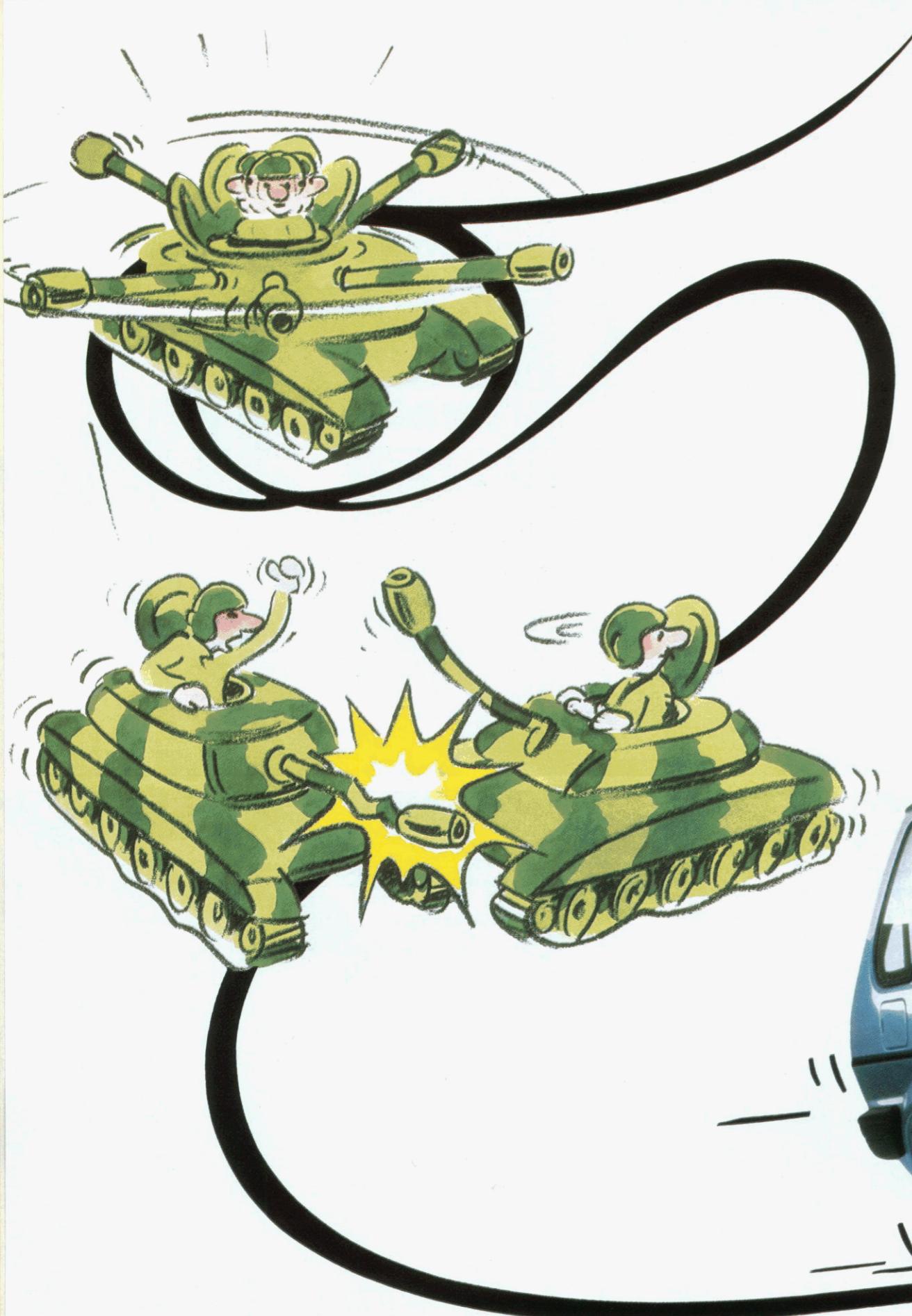
Lt Bullivant thought it "a good idea, as it keeps the young officers on their toes and creates a lot of competition. As a young officer you couldn't hope to compete with the depth of knowledge and experience of the SSgt troop leader and as such the element of competition is maintained and the experience is there to draw on if you ever need any advice."



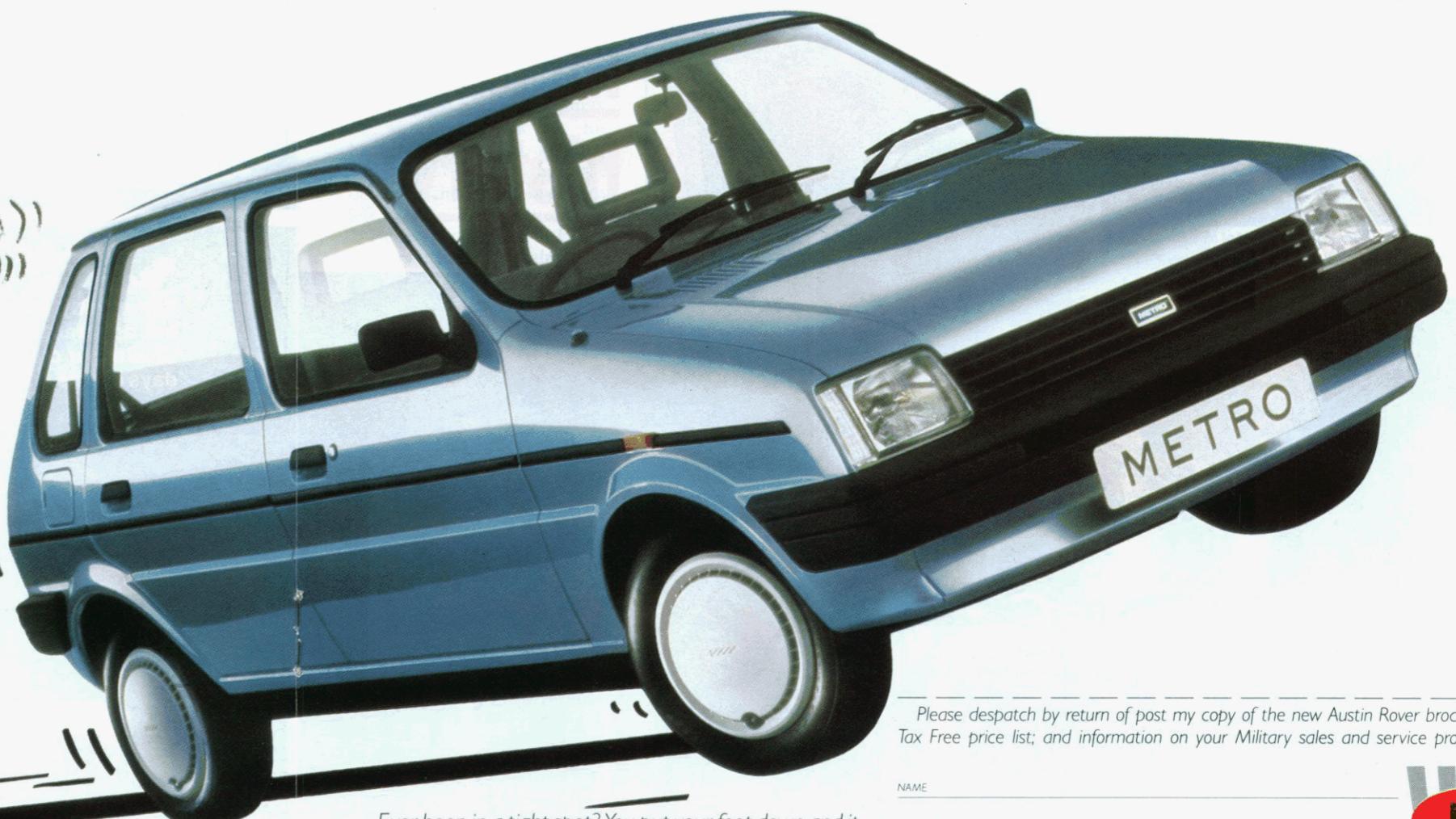
Lt Duncan Bullivant discusses technical administration with Cpl Budgie Horton, his troop corporal



Some fairly individual forms of dress are apparent in this picture of 2 RTR Challenger crewmen chewing over the day's events



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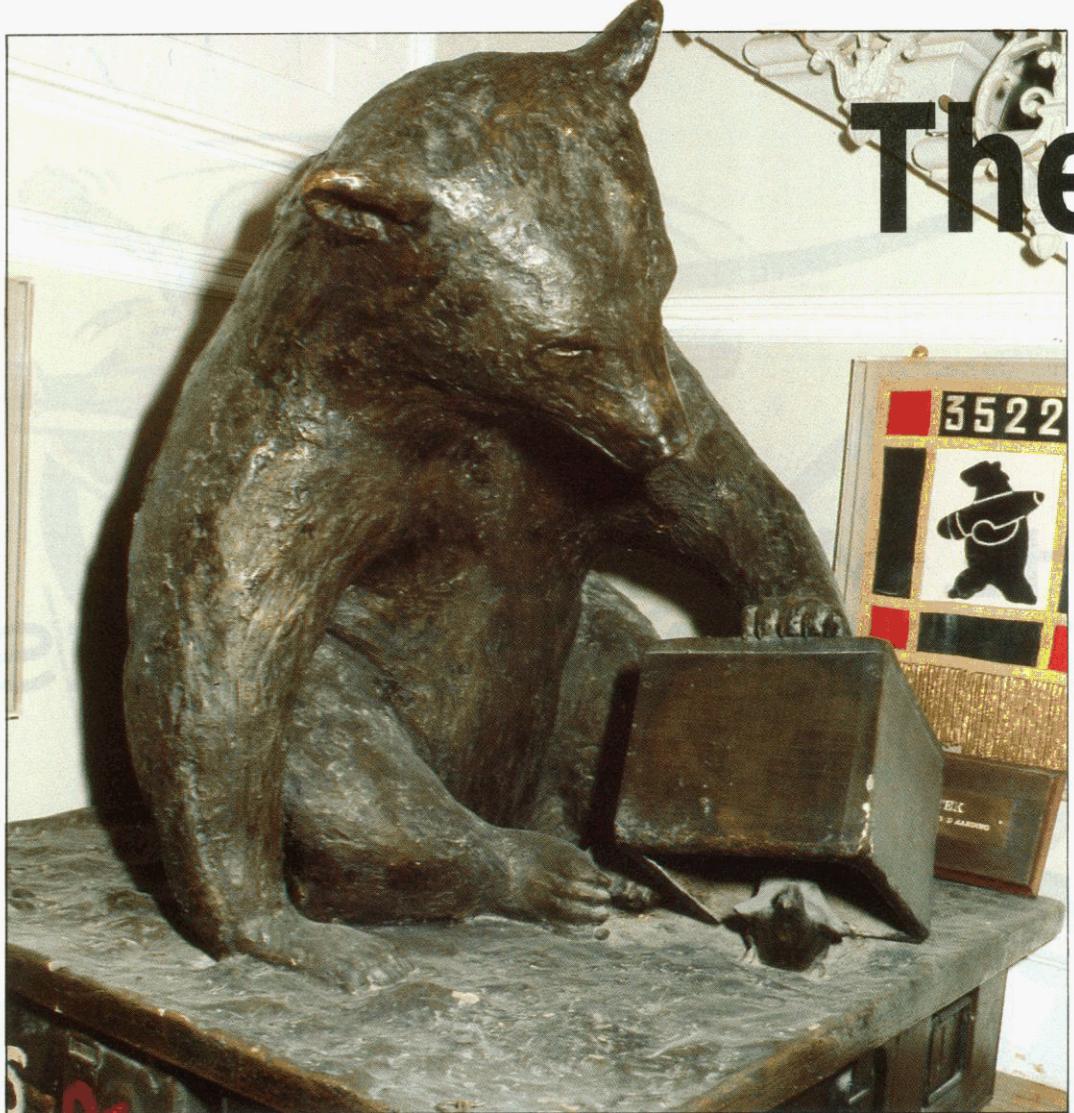
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# The bear who carried ammo at Monte Cassino

## Polish museum tribute to proud military history

Above - A model of Wojtek, bear mascot of a Polish artillery support unit  
Below - The era of the dashing hussar is brought to life at the museum

Pictures: Mike Perring



WOJTEK the bear was a crowd puller. Traffic jams built up when he performed acrobatics on the back of a crane behind the front line, writes Mervyn Wynne Jones.

Picked up as a cub in early 1942 by Polish soldiers released from Russian captivity to join the Allied war effort, Wojtek became the mascot of the 22nd Artillery Supply Company, 2nd Polish Corps.

Tall as a man and immensely strong, he developed a taste for beer and wine which he drank straight from the bottle.

When the bottle was empty he would sit back on his haunches and peer into it, first with one eye and then the other, to check that none was left.

He secured a place in Polish military legend by helping to unload heavy artillery shells and ammunition boxes during the battle for Monte Cassino in 1944.

The 22nd Artillery Supply Company later adopted the symbol of a bear carrying a shell as their official badge.

A model of Wojtek now stands in the lobby of the Polish Sikorski Museum at Princes Gate, London - four doors along from the Iranian embassy which the SAS stormed during the hostage crisis of 1980.

Crammed with memorabilia spanning more than three centuries, the museum keeps alive the proud military past of a small nation forever drawn into the conflicts of her neighbours.

The museum was set up after the war when it became clear that many Polish ex-Servicemen and civilians could not, or did not want to, return to their Soviet dominated homeland.

Today, the archive, artifact and research sections of the combined Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum are a mecca for expatriate Poles and their descendants.

The premises are named after General Wladyslaw

campaign, the then 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars came under command of the Polish 2nd Corps.

In honour of this, they were given the right to wear the 2nd Division's mermaid badge which can still be seen on the left sleeve of The Queen's Own Hussars number two khaki dress.

Bullet ridden helmets and standards occupy cases alongside others full of a fine selection of Napoleonic czapkas, the characteristic four cornered head gear which was worn by Polish lancers of the period.

Going back further, there is a collection of armour worn by heavy cavalry units of the 17th century.

The largest item in the museum is a richly decorated tent - the operational headquarters of a Turkish Ottoman commander - captured by Polish forces during the Battle of Chocim in 1621.

Museum curator Ryszard Dembinski said: "This building contains our military heritage and all that we are proud of.

"It is vitally important to all Poles, like myself, who have been unable to return home and to our children and grandchildren who want to know something of their past."



Curator Ryszard Dembinski with a Polish cavalry sabre found in a German tank knocked out in the Western Desert in 1943. Captured during the German invasion of Poland at the outbreak of the Second World War, the sabre was, by coincidence, repatriated by Poles during the North African campaign

of Scotland briefly during the war.

Among the many links with the British Army recorded in the museum is one that lives on today with The Queen's Own Hussars. During the Italian

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On August 16, 1974, a ceasefire was declared between the Greek National Guard and Turkish invasion forces on war-torn Cyprus. The Turks had landed in the north a month earlier and, after heavy fighting, had captured 40 per cent of the island including half its capital, Nicosia. A buffer zone known as the Green Line was established by the United Nations to keep the two sides apart. Fourteen years on, little has changed. In a climate of confrontation the United Nations remains to prevent everyday incidents escalating into full-blown conflict.



Observation posts in town and country. Above, Ptes Martin Eccles (left) and Roy Glendinning keep watch over the Green Line into the Turkish held Kyrenia Mountains in the background. Right, the battle scarred British OP callsign Bravo 20 on the outskirts of Nicosia

# A FORCE FOR PEACE

PLASTER and concrete pock marked by bullet and shrapnel, the observation post known as Bravo 20 stands sentinel amid an array of Greek and Turkish flags on the outskirts of Nicosia.

Opposing sides stare each other out across the rooftops as the British infantrymen manning the post help maintain an uneasy peace.

The post occupies the shell of an imposing house in what used to be a fashionable district of the city before it was caught up in the fierce street fighting of 1974.

It is one of many such observation posts – some purpose-built, others erected on top of water towers – along the 30 kilometre British sector.

They are currently manned by men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who have two companies on the Green Line based in what were once a school and a factory producing wooden fruit boxes.

Lt Philip Vaughan told SOLDIER: "The situation does seem slightly unreal because the incidents that spark off

problems are so minor and inconsequential in the normal run of things."

Stone throwing, the taking of photographs, shouted abuse and pointing of weapons are typical items in the daily catalogue of provocation.

Even the return of footballs kicked into the buffer zone by members of the Greek National Guard is part of the job!



**Words: Mervyn Wynne Jones**

**Pictures:**

**Mike Weston**

The constant round of patrol and observation duties can prove monotonous and opportunities for adventurous training and trips to the north are welcome.

While half the battalion mans the British sector of the UN buffer zone, the other is at Dhekelia to protect the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. They turn round after three months to ring the changes.

# Life Guards do a spot of high profile Ferreting

STRAY goatherds and their flocks are a potential touchpaper as they wander into the buffer zone in stoic defiance of the political barriers imposed upon their traditional way of life.

Keeping them out of harm's way - minefields abound - and indicating the restrictions they face is just one of the many varied and unusual tasks undertaken daily by men of The Life Guards.

Providing armoured reconnaissance support to United Nations forces along the Green Line, the squadron is divided into five troops attached to the British, Danish, Canadian and Austrian sectors.

The fifth patrols the zone - just a street's width in places - through the divided city of Nicosia where there are more incidents in one week than in a month elsewhere along the 180 kilometre border.

Each troop has four venerable scout cars - 30-year-old Ferrets - and spends three weeks on rota at each of the sectors throughout their six months tour.

Tasked by the local sector commanders, the troops patrol at frequent, but random, intervals along the Line to display their presence within the zone.

It is their job to ensure that there are no infringements of the status quo, be it the construction of new defences and obstacles or the raising of national flags forward of the ceasefire line.

"It really is a bizarre situation," said Capt Christopher Ley. "The lads are out on patrol every day proving to the Greeks and Turks that they are there and that they are watching them. Any infringements are logged minutely and dealt with."

"As part of 5 Airborne

Brigade back at Windsor, we are trained to fight covertly and tactically. Here, all of a sudden, we are having to mount high profile operations and to patrol with headlights on."

The squadron is pleased with the posting, the chance of some sunshine and the variety it offers - though the transition from Scorpion to Ferret took some getting used to.

LCpl of Horse Martin Coles was a convert: "These Ferrets are quite powerful, very good at hill climbing, can take a bit of knocking around and - apart from their tendency to roll in wet weather - are ideal for the job," he said.

He was speaking at Skouriotissa, headquarters of the Danish sector in the mineral rich mountainous region to the west of the buffer zone.

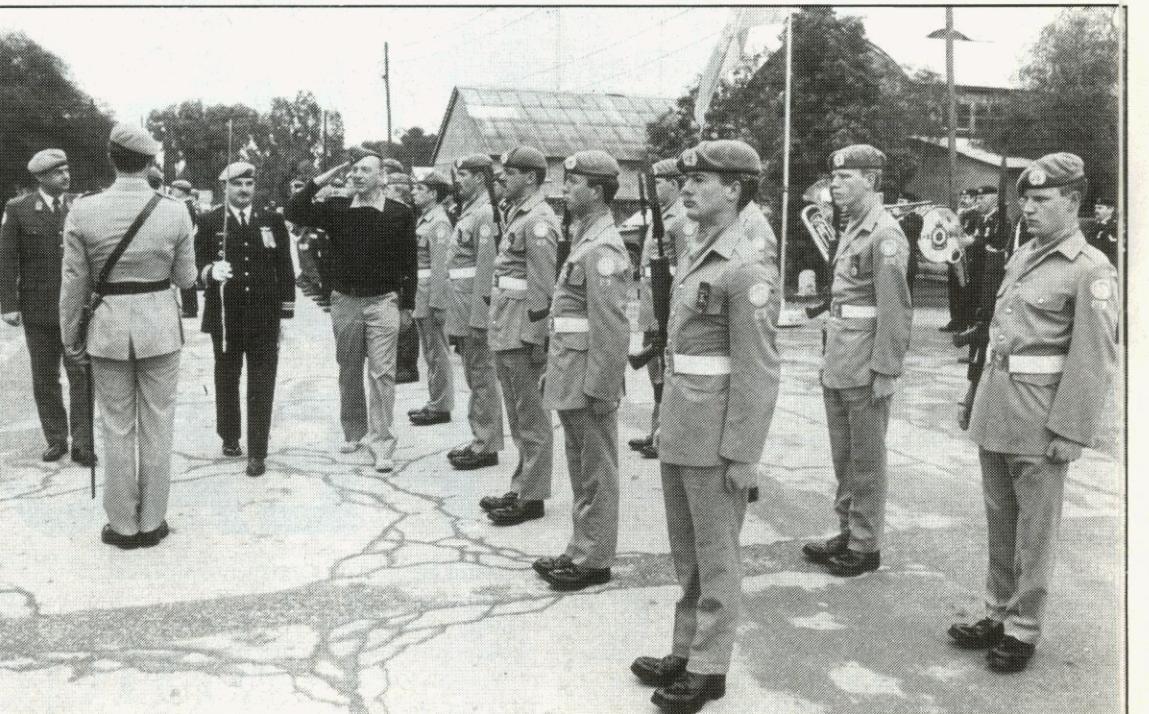
"It is too hilly for us in the far west," said troop commander 2nd Lt Alexander Maddan, "but we patrol the dead ground in between the Danish observation posts in the rest of the sector.

"Your mind boggles at the situation sometimes, especially when you find yourself guiding a shepherd and his flock out of the buffer zone.

"That is certainly a job that takes more patience than skill, but sorting out farming problems takes up a surprising amount of time.

"The Greeks farm right up to the patrol track in the middle of the buffer zone but the Turks prefer to keep their farmers back so that they have a clearer field of fire across the Line.

"We try and warn them about the minefields but some simply wander in with their animals and take their chances."



Members of 1 KOB don their blue berets while forming part of an honour guard to greet General P D Manson, Chief of the Canadian Defence Staff, who was paying a visit to the United Nations forces on Cyprus during his tour of the Middle East



**CYPRUS**  
Life Guards on patrol in the mineral rich mountains to the west of the Green Line. From left to right are LCpl Warren Douglas, LCpl of Horse Martin Coles, Tpr James Parkinson and Tpr John Irwin

## RCT keeps the supply line open

REFUGEES fled in droves from one zone to the other after the 1974 conflict but several pockets of people who refused to leave their homes were left surrounded by Cypriots of a different political persuasion.

These communities, particularly the Greek ones in the Turkish dominated northern region, are replenished and given assistance every week by the United Nations.

Convoys of lorries driven by British Army RCT personnel take supplies north and sometimes help move entire families - including their livestock - south to join their compatriots.

The drivers are drawn from the predominantly British UN Support Regiment which provides most of the back-up for UN forces along the Green Line.

The Support Regiment includes a former RCT squadron from the UK which turns round every six months, and trickle posted REME, R Sigs, RAOC, RE, ACC, RAPC and RAMC.

The Army Air Corps also operates four Alouette helicopters which are due to be replaced at the end of the year by Gazelles.

## KOB honours its fallen

Soldiers of 1 KOB laid wreaths at the headstones of members of the Kings Own Royal Regiment lying in the British military cemetery near the Eastern Company base in the British sector. Pictured honouring past members of his regiment is Pte Terry Stephenson

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# Marches of genius

## MASTERS OF THE MARCH Vol 2

Band of the Argyll and Sutherland

Highlanders

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Bandmaster K G Lamb

DR2

THE second volume in this ongoing series devoted to British march composers makes due obeisance to the greatest, Kenneth J Alford, after whom the rest of us appear as talented note spinners by comparison.

Genius, for even so minor an art as march writing, is as distinguishable from mere talent as it is in opera, symphony, or any of the other arts. The band of the Argylls was the only possible choice for this programme, for both Kenneth Alford and Jimmy Howe (the other composer included here) started life as bandmasters of the regiment, in 1908 and 1949 respectively.

Alford was later appointed to the Royal Marines and Howe to the Scots Guards, thus keeping a continuous contact with Scottish regiments which began with the Royal Scots.

Alford first, although there is little left to say about him or his great marches. Here are some of his least known examples, and I can only wish my own



KENNETH ALFORD

were as "least known" as these. What fame would be mine. They are *Holyrood*, *The Mad Major*, *Dunedin*, *Old Panama*, *Cavalry of the Clouds*, *The Vanished Army*, and that wonderfully assembled medley of his own marches under the title *Colonel Bogey on Parade*, which deftly

displays his homogeneity of style and contrapuntal skills.

For a sassenach, though only just, Jimmy Howe's Scottish career is apparent from the titles he chose, or were more or less forced upon him by the "exigencies of the Service". We all have to write marches for special occasions, and *Fairfield*, dedicated to the Fairfield Halls of Croydon, *Pride of Princes Street*, *The Civic*, *Balmoral Castle*, *Pentland Hills*, his best known march, and *Glasgow Fair* all had, no doubt, origins in necessity.

The Scottish titles all include well known tunes to justify themselves, put together with great professionalism and verve. He and I both were involved in POW camp orchestras, and I now found he also wrote a *Stalag March* while incarcerated. In it he uses that evocative German soldiers' song, *Ein Heller und ein Batzen*, which we so often heard them singing outside the camp walls.

To round off this attractive disc is his lively offering to the sporting world, *The Corner Flag*, complete with referee's whistle.

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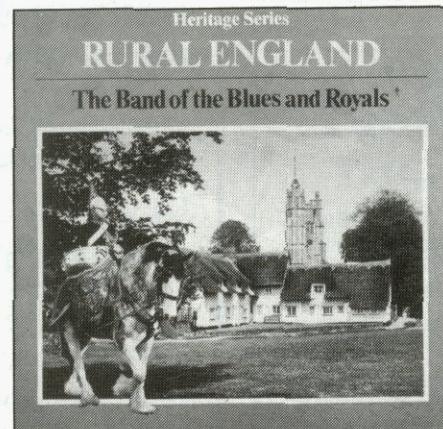
MM 0636

HERE is a fine example of the difference I have mentioned twice recently between titles of Scottish and English folk music; the one not averse to airing its domestic and personal peculiarities (*Oh Hag, You Killed Me*) and the other all pastoral and romantic, as here.

In a non-stop medley on side one, all nicely put together by Roger Tomlinson, the band gets through 21 famous tunes, mostly traditional, without skimping on any of them.

In fact a few inserted little harmonic quirks add greatly to the feast, and the whole thing arrives just at the time when a young (and 70-year-old) man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of Lasses and Lads (well . . .), the Month of Maying, The Lass of Richmond Hill, and the Lassie from Lancashire, all to be wheedled (hopefully) on to Ilkla Moor, Among the Rushes O', or alongside Old Father Thames, preferably without her big brother Billy Boy.

Side two has nine arrangements of more folk or folksy music arranged by Trevor



Sharpe, Gordon Harrison who was killed in the tragic RAF coach accident in 1985, myself, and my old friend the American composer (male) Clare Grundman.

This programme is a real nostalgic wallow, especially for those of us whose blood finds it harder and harder to react to all these crocuses and daffodils, burgeoning buds, and tit-willowing willows. If it's a springtime lift you need then go no further.

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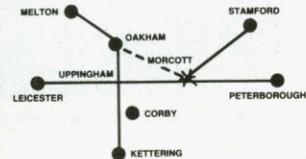
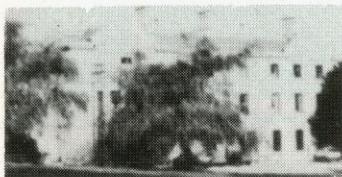
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# CYPRIOT ON THE SOMME

**RIFLEMAN** Michael Efthiyvolous knew just how far to duck when he heard a shell coming his way on the Western Front.

Each had a distinctive shriek and the young Cypriot – already a battle-hardened veteran of 17 – could tell where it was likely to land.

At his home in Nicosia, Mr Efthiyvolous – now 90 – recalled that the skills of survival were self taught and quickly learnt in such harsh conditions.

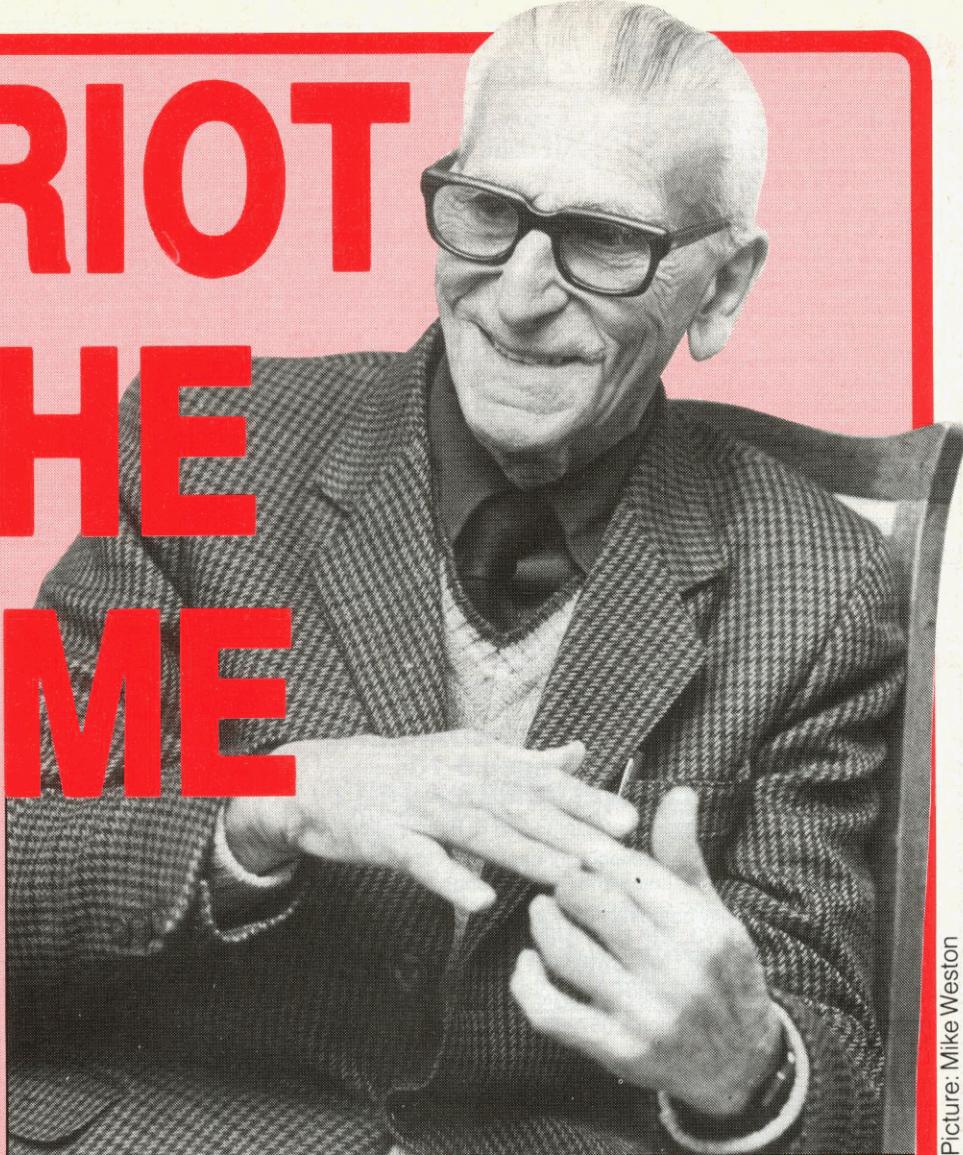
"We lived in constant danger and knew it," he said, "but at the same time we were learning how to survive."

A desk clerk with a Limassol shipping company when war broke out in 1914, he answered his Prime Minister's call to arms against Germany two years later.

Working his passage aboard ship to Marseilles, he caught a train to London where he took the King's shilling and joined the Rifle Brigade.

He astounded his instructors with his shooting accuracy – and bemused them with the spelling of his name – and on completion of basic training was thrust into the maelstrom that was the Somme.

Surviving skirmishes, attacks, patrols into no-man's land and the highly dangerous practise of manning information gathering "listening" trenches well forward of the front line, Mr Efthiyvolous



Mr Michael Efthiyvolous: a wealth of memories from two world wars

## But Michael's name bemused his British Army instructors!

was still under-age.

His father tried in vain to make him leave the Army but despite being sent back to England the young Efthiyvolous insisted on sitting out the four months until his 18th birthday so that he could make his way back to the front.

Having survived the carnage of the Somme and Ypres, his luck ran out in 1918 when he succumbed to a mustard gas attack.

He recovered in Amiens where he learnt that he was to be mentioned in dispatches. However, the order was not passed on to the appropriate authority – probably because of the rate at which officers

were being killed and wounded – and his gallantry was never officially recorded.

He returned to Cyprus early in 1919, taking with him one of the first cars ever seen on the island.

His association with the British war effort did not end there and in 1940 he adopted British citizenship to enable him to take a Commission with the Cyprus Regiment.

He served in Egypt and within months was fighting Italian and German forces in Greece where he was captured.

Imprisoned in a series of camps, he eventually found himself in the same one as legless air ace Douglas Bader with whom

he became a close friend.

"He was a fine man and we used to gamble to pass the time. We also dug escape tunnels but were never successful. The Germans could hear us but could not find us, but the River Fulda burst its banks and flooded our tunnel," said Mr Efthiyvolous.

He remained a prisoner until his liberation by an American armoured column in March 1945 but has no regrets about the four years behind bars and wire.

"I joined the Army in the first war to do a job and I was determined to finish it properly during the second," said Mr Efthiyvolous.

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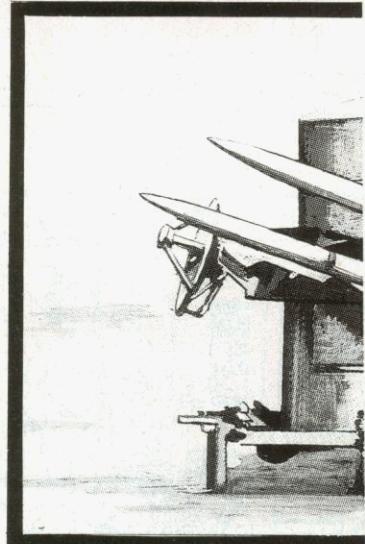
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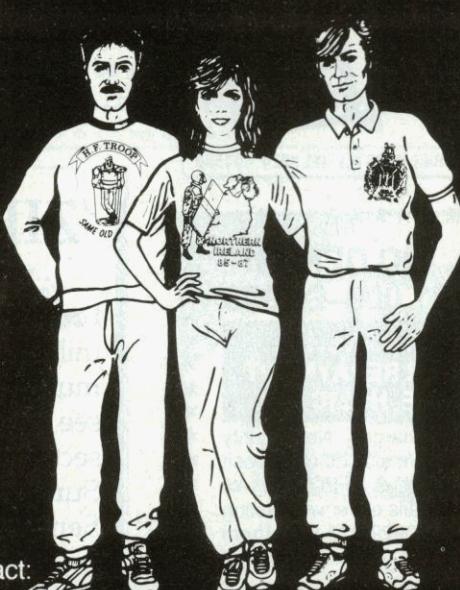
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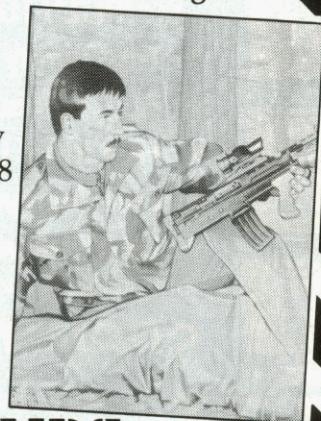


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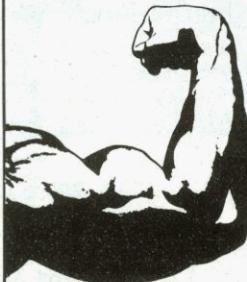
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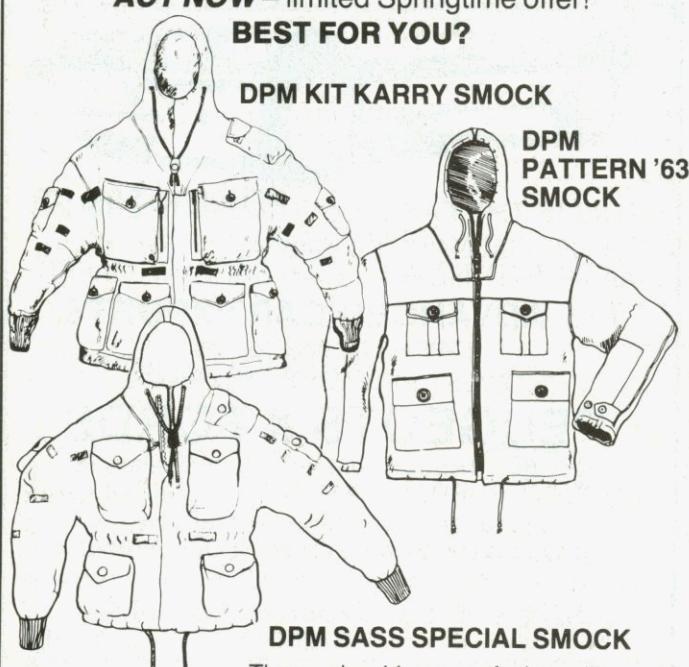
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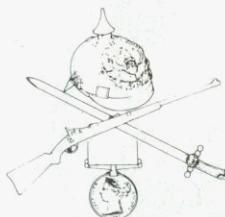
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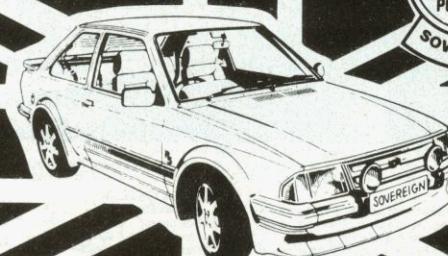
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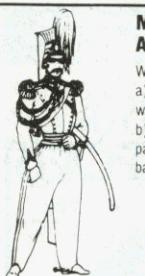
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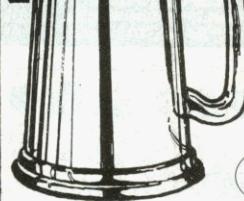
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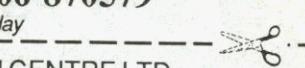
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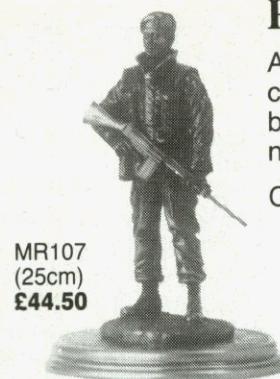
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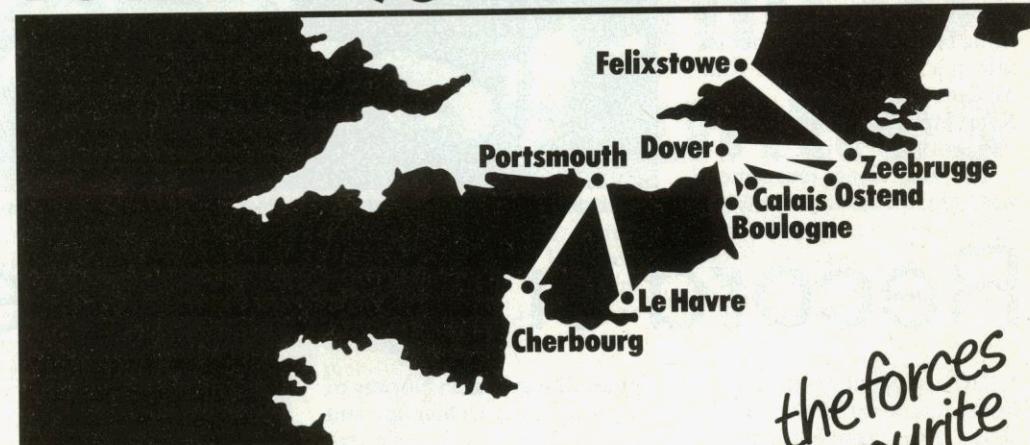
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## AIRMEN TRIUMPH ON PISTE

AFTER a run of 18 successive victories, the Army surrendered their grip on the British Army, Navy and Air Force Ski Challenge Cup to the RAF at Meribel. For the RAF it was their first victory in the competition whereas for the Army it was only their second defeat, their last defeat being to the Royal Navy 19 years ago.

The result was that much more disappointing as it was witnessed by the new patron of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association, the Duchess of York.

Although 1987 individual champion 2nd Lt William Taunton Burnett was no longer available this did not hamper the Army in the grand slalom. Cpl Craig Bonnington RAF was the fastest British competitor but the Army, led by Dvr Richie Lock and Cpl Ian Dryden, packed well to win the team event.

In the international event, the Italian Alpini dominated both individual and team competitions.

Because of forecast bad weather, the men's slalom race

was brought forward to be the second event.

Mindful of the RAF's relative strength in the slalom the Army were not disappointed to see the RAF team narrowly finishing ahead of them, reducing the deficit to 27 racing points.

Although LCpl Anita Burns led the Army to a resounding victory in the women's slalom they could not quite redress the commanding lead of the WRNS who thus won the women's team championship for the first time.

## Two titles for Alison

LT ALISON Parsons is the Army women's individual table tennis champion. She won the title at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot by beating Musn Hilary Greig in the final.

The championships were contested by 27 players. Lt Parsons teamed up with LCpl Anita Heath to take the doubles title in a final against Cpl Kate McCann and Hilary Greig. Kate McCann won the plate competition.

The inter-zone tournament was won by London/Eastern.



Picture: Mike Perrin

Lt Alison Parsons (right) and LCpl Anita Heath team up to win the Army women's table tennis doubles

## Record entry at Aviemore

MORE competitors than ever before turned up for the UKLF alpine ski championships in Aviemore, making it the biggest alpine event in the UK.

About 440 Servicemen and women competed in the six day downhill event.

The open team championship was won by the RMA Sandhurst A team and the open individual championship by Officer Cadet C Shackleton of Heriot Watt UOTC.

Seven out of the eight members of the 1 Wessex team - the only TA infantry battalion to enter - were volunteer soldiers and had to negotiate time off for the championships.

Four youngsters from AAC Harrogate - Andrew George, Simon James, Ian Barnett and Michael Ward - took up Nordic skiing six months ago,

joined 22 Sig Regt in Norway to improve their technique, and improved enough to win the 10km open race in the Army Nordic championships, with Ward coming in first, Barnett third, James fifth and George eighth.

### Alpine results

Open team champions, RMAS: open individual champion, OCdt Shackleton (EHUOTC); Open special slalom, WO2 Townsley (AAC Harrogate).

Regular Army individual champion, OCdt Olin (RMAS); women's Services individual champion, WO Cdt McQuoid (Liverpool UOTC); Army junior champion, JSig Miller (11 Sig Regt); women's team champions, CAD Kineton; Regular women's individual, Lt Collier-Jackson (42 Svy Engr Gp); infantry champions, JIB Oulton.

### Nordic results

Winners were: 5km youths, Jldr Barnett (AAC Harrogate); 10km youths, Jldr Ward (AAC Harrogate); 5km women, Cpl Howes; 10km women, Cpl Howes; 15km men, Cpl Buckingham (3 RTR); 10km men's team, AAC Harrogate; 15km men's team, 3 RGJ; overall men's open winner, Cpl MacIvor (2 Inf Div Tpt Regt); 4 x 10km men's relay, 3 RGJ.



WCpl Bertina Howes (centre), pictured with Army women's Nordic ski and 2nd Lt Tanya Collier-Jackson, won both the 5km and 10km races surrounding Balmoral Castle. Bertina joined the WRAC team as a

## Broken ski so costly to Tim

A series of exceptional RAF performances in the downhill, again led by Cpl Bonnington, put such pressure on the Army team that they did not ski to their potential from the moment that Army champion LCpl Geordie Crawford missed a gate and was disqualified.

Although Cpl Ian Dryden took some consolation in securing a fine third place in the individual championship the RAF achieved a commanding team win to give them an overall 75 racing points win over the Army.

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Murphy and Sykes held on to finish nearly six minutes ahead of the unlucky sappers.

Maj Tony Flood (4 ADSR) and SSI Tony Martin (4/7 DG) were first home in the veteran category.

But there was consolation for Bomberg and Matuszewski in the form of the open team prize, with Murphy and Sykes winning the unit category.

The cross country course circled St Andreasberg and the event is designed to complement the popular Harz summer marathon.



Picture: SSgt Steve Slater

### 7RHA in command

POOR weather made the going even tougher for the 40 cross country skiers from British Forces Germany who took part in the first ever Hartz winter marathon, an 81km two-man team race devised by Maj Alan Withers, commandant of the Army Mountain Training Centre at Silberhütte.

In the open class LCpl Tim Bomberg of 35 Engr Regt and Cpl Matt Matuszewski of 26 Engr Regt were well in the lead when Bomberg split a ski, allowing LCpl Pete Murphy and Dvr Mark Sykes of 3 ADTR to get their noses in front.

Murphy and Sykes held on to finish nearly six minutes ahead of the unlucky sappers.

Maj Tony Flood (4 ADSR) and SSI Tony Martin (4/7 DG) were first home in the veteran category.

But there was consolation for Bomberg and Matuszewski in the form of the open team prize, with Murphy and Sykes winning the unit category.

The seniors beat the Royal

Air Force 2-0 in the opening match and retained the title on the final day by trouncing an obdurate Navy team 6-1.

And to complete the Army's joy their youngsters also emerged as champions from the Under 21 tournament held concurrently.

Facing this very good Army side now is the biggest prize of all - a realistic tilt at the county championship. They start with a quarter final clash against international-studded Middlesex at Feltham, near Hounslow, knowing that they have never progressed beyond this point.

But Army hockey, thriving with the help of Royal Bank of Scotland sponsorship, has never been stronger. The Army includes four international players and will be mindful of a

6-1 victory over Middlesex in the build-up to the Inter-Services. Middlesex, however, are likely to be a different proposition when it comes to the prestigious county championships.

At Portsmouth the Army had to work extremely hard to break down the RAF challenge. Although generally on top they were constricted by tight marking, with the Army's influential skipper Capt Nick Gordon virtually shut out of the game by young SAC Sair Hussain.

Capt Alan Mears opened the scoring and Sgt Ian Jennings from a short corner completed it. Huge Army pressure in the second half was thwarted by a sterling performance by RAF goalkeeper Cpl Terry Kelly. Eight Army short corners went unrewarded and Kelly stood up bravely to several fierce shots.

Despite the 6-1 score, the victory over the Navy was also hard won. Only 2-1 up at half time, the Army eventually broke away in the heavy rain

and ran away with it in the final 15 minutes. Centre forward Spr Mark Hunnisett completed a hat trick.

Lt Peter Boxell (24 Army Education Centre), the Army's newest GB international, was judged player of the tournament.

At Under 21 level the Army started as underdogs against the RAF before earning an excellent 3-1 victory, the same margin by which they beat the hosts.

The Army UK major and minor finals were taking place as SOLDIER went to press, with 7 RHA meeting 45 Fd Regt RA and HQ 8 Inf Bde taking on POW Depot Lichfield.

At junior level, the Under 17½ competition was won by AAC Harrogate who beat PMC Arborfield 5-3 on penalty flicks, and the Over 17½ championship went to AAC Chepstow, who beat Harrogate 1-0 and drew 0-0 with PMC Arborfield. Harrogate and Arborfield also drew 0-0.

team colleagues Lt Joanne McAusland in the UKLF championships in the hills complete novice

## Powerful Army to tilt at the counties

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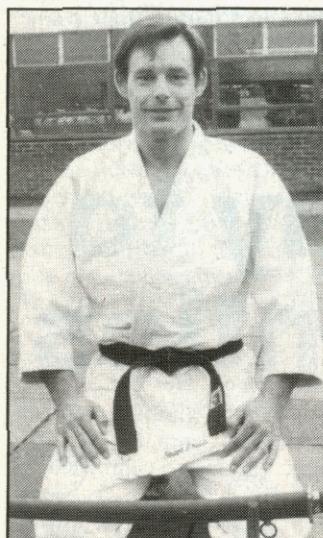
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# Stuart extends judo record

FORMER British judo champion Cpl Stuart Travis (HQ 23 Gp RPC) improved his already impressive record of honours at the Army individual championships at ASPT Aldershot.

Travis won both the under 95kg and over 71kg categories and increased his all time record to 25 Army titles. He has been unbeaten in his weight category in Army competitions for the past 15 years.

Cpl Travis, a former Olympic squadman and now coach to the 23 Gp RPC judo team, is also the current Inter-Services



Cpl Stuart Travis

champion at under 95kg and open categories.

He is obviously making his mark on the coaching scene, because his colleagues from 23 Gp RPC took five of the nine available categories at the Army individual championships, the most ever won by a single unit.

The winning Royal Pioneers included LCpl Lee and Ptes Blaylock and Martin. In addition, Pte Dorse and Cpl Hindmarsh won silver medals.

## Team title

SENIOR winners of the UKLF judo team championships held at ASPT Aldershot were 23 Gp RPC with 42 Syv Engr Gp second and the Guards Depot third. AAC ACC won the junior event, ahead of AAC Harrogate.



Two goal hero LCpl Guy Whittingham wrong foots an RAF defender during the Army's Constantinople Cup triumph at Uxbridge

Picture: Mike Perrin

# Cup of joy

## RAF 0 Army 4

THE Army regained the coveted Constantinople Cup with a convincing four goal win over the Royal Air Force at Uxbridge. And fittingly in their centenary year they did it in style without conceding a goal in the competition, having earlier beaten the Royal Navy 3-0, **writes Pat Massey**.

A tense, error-strewn opening was followed in the 16th minute by the Army's first goal when Cpl Mick Cheetham, R Signals, slipped his marker and squeezed a left foot shot between RAF 'keeper Cpl Neil Truman and the near post.

Cpl Chris Lomas was forced to punch clear as the RAF retaliated, while at the other end Cheetham and LCpl Guy Whittingham, REME, both went close to increasing the

Army lead before the interval.

Ten minutes into the second half chances went begging at both ends, Cpl Mark Browse of the RAF firing over the bar after a great move down the left, then LBdr Mark Carmichael, RA, had a header knocked off the line.

But on the hour the Army got their second vital goal when Cfn Shane Smith, REME, rounded Truman and laid the ball off for Whittingham to tap in.

With the Army now well in control Sgt Andy Edwards, R

Signals, Bde Clint Webbe, RA, and Cheetham all had chances before Whittingham scored his second and the Army's third when he broke out of defence and tucked the ball under the advancing 'keeper.

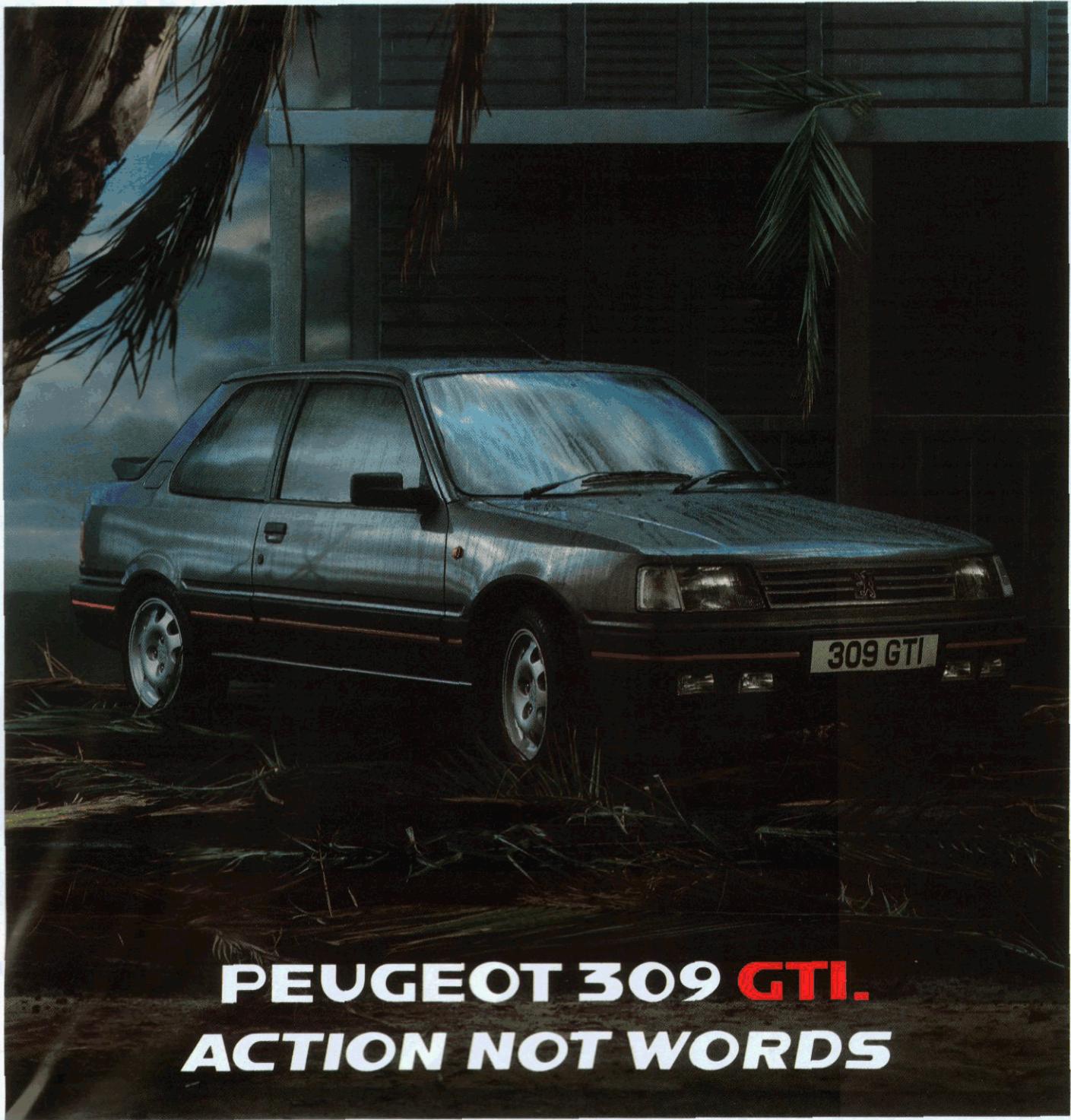
Cheetham scored his second to complete the rout when set up by Whittingham.

Such was the quality of the Army performance that Sgt Kevin Parkins, Carmichael, skipper Sgt Sandy Brown and Cheetham were all worthy of "man of the match" nominations.

## Glasby keeps SE on top

SOUTH East District won the Army inter-district small bore rifle match fired at SEME Bordon with 3 Armd Div, representing BAOR, finishing

second. Maj Alan Glasby, RAOC, representing South East District, was the highest individual scorer with 596 points out of a possible 600.



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Men of A Squadron, The Life Guards, take to their Ferret scout cars at Skouriotissa Camp in the Danish sector of the United Nations buffer zone, Cyprus. See story and more pictures in Pages 34-35

Picture: Mike Weston