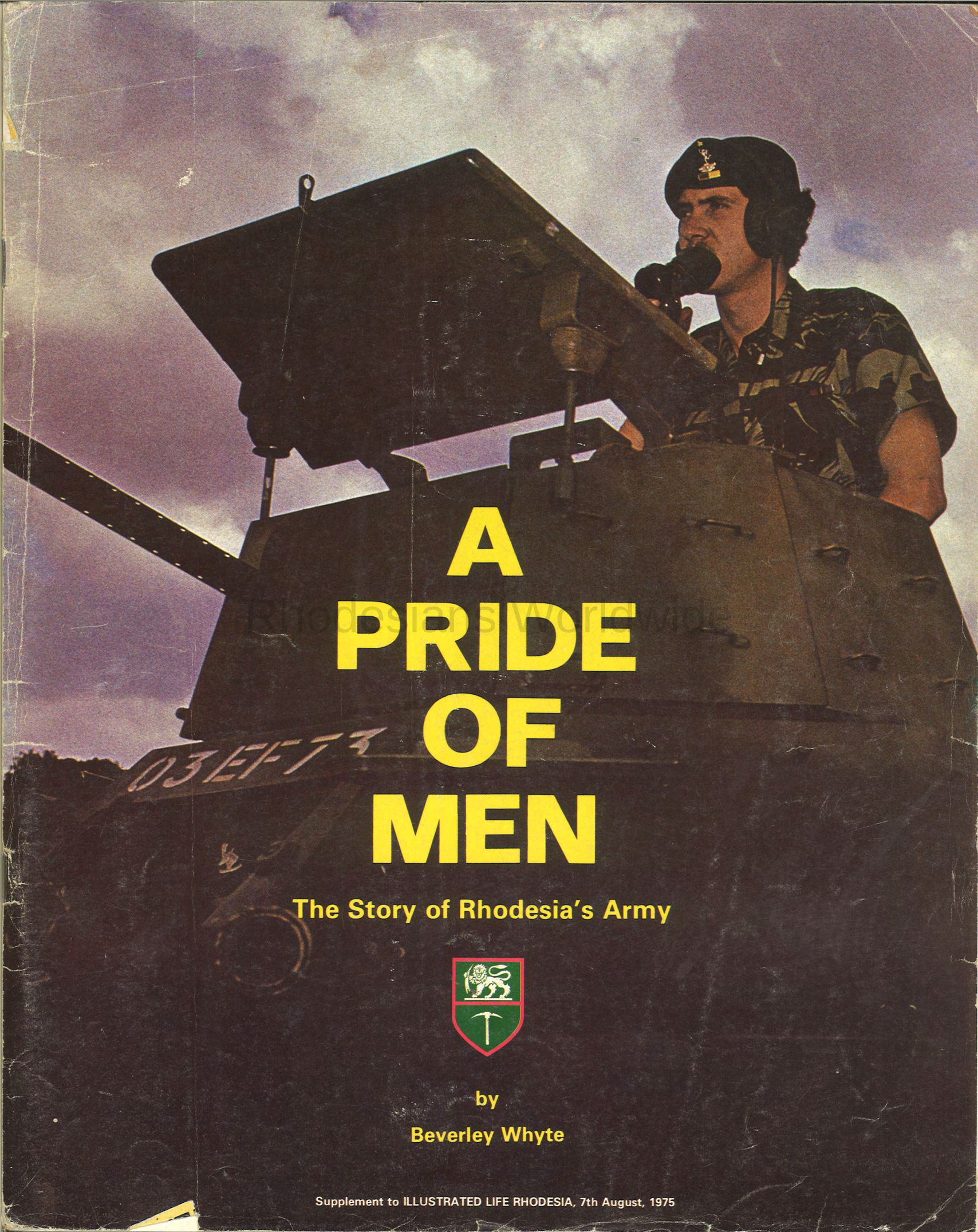

A PRIDE OF MEN

The Story of Rhodesia's Army

by

Beverley Whyte

Supplement to ILLUSTRATED LIFE RHODESIA, 7th August, 1975

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A PRIDE OF MEN

The Story of Rhodesia's Army

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Some not so well-known abbreviations occur throughout this supplement. They are:

WO 1	Warrant Officer Class 1
WO 2	Warrant Officer Class 2
BM	Brigade Major
CPO	Chief Provisioning Officer
Col AQ	Colonel Administration
Col G	Colonel General Staff
G (branch)	General Staff branch
A (branch)	Adjutant General's branch
Q (branch)	Quartermaster General's branch
1/2/3/4 (Indep)	Coy RR: 1/2/3/4 (Independent) Company, The Rhodesia Regiment
GSO 1/2/3	General Staff Officer, Grade 1/2/3

A PRIDE OF MEN is written by Beverley Whyte and published for The Rhodesian Army by The Graham Publishing Company (Pvt.) Ltd. as a supplement to ILLUSTRATED LIFE RHODESIA, in association with the Public Relations and Photographic Sections of The Rhodesian Army.

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Foreword

by

The

Commander

of

the Rhodesian Army

Lieutenant General G. P. Walls, OLM, MBE.

IN these days the Rhodesian public is probably more closely connected with its Army than ever before in our country's history. There can be few families who do not have more than a passing interest in the Army by virtue of friends or relatives who are serving in some capacity, in the Regular service, Territorial force or Reserve, on National Service or "Dads" Army.

However, it is doubtful if many people are fully conversant with the widely varied aspects and requirements of Army life, and it is to this end that "A Pride of Men" has been conceived.

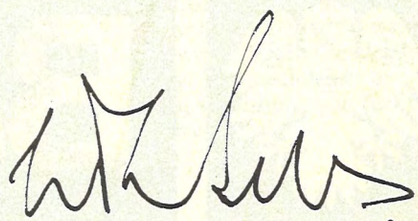
In the following pages you will see that the Army is comprised of many jobs within the embracing whole – and each of these jobs is equally important in its own way as any other.

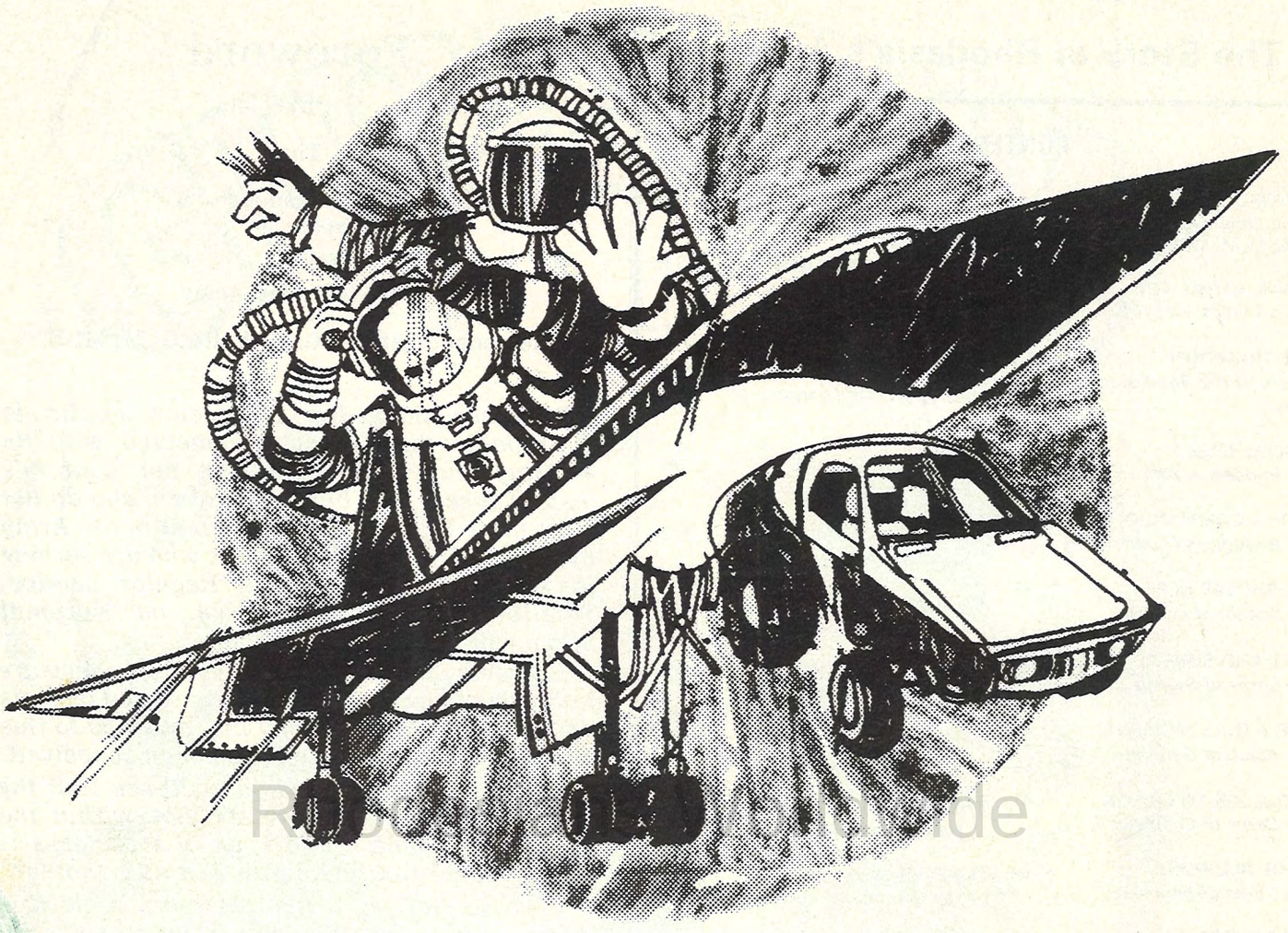
"The soldier" is a fighting man, a clerk, a doctor, a teacher, a mechanic, an attorney – a specialist in any one of a score of professions – but withal still a soldier. And as a soldier, he is a man, a human being with a hierarchy of needs.

The Army is far from the impersonal organisation it is sometimes considered to be, and this point, I feel sure, is well illustrated here.

I believe you will read the articles with interest and share my own pride in the men who continue to uphold the fine traditions of their forebears.

G. P. WALLS
Lt Genl





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The Commander of the Rhodesian Army

Lt Genl G.P. Walls, OLM, MBE, in relaxed mood. This photograph was taken during one of his tours of the operational area. Since becoming Army Commander, he has made a practice of visiting troops in the field as often as possible.

Photograph by courtesy of The Rhodesia Herald

THE MAN AT THE TOP

Rhodesians Worldwide

Dynamic, totally dedicated to the job, and popular with his troops at all levels — that's Lieutenant General Peter Walls, Commander of the Army

AN ARMY is only as good as its leader. That's why, I venture to suggest, the Rhodesian Army is a second-to-none fighting force of enthusiastic professionals.

The man at the top was just 46 when he was appointed Army Commander, and thus there's never been any pomposity, any trace of fuddy-duddy rigidity in outlook.

Dynamic, totally dedicated to the job, Lt Genl G. P. (Peter) Walls, OLM, MBE, Commander of the Army, is popular with his troops at all levels, which is the greatest accolade any commander could hope for.

"He's a fine soldier," said one corporal to me.

His prime concern

"You feel you can chat to him about almost anything over a beer, when he visits you out in the sticks," a subaltern remarked.

And a major had this comment: "We all know that the Army is his prime concern, and that he'll press for its best interests without fear or favour."

What of the human being behind the gongs and red gorgets? He was born in Salisbury, in the old "paper house" nursing home. His father was Lt Col R. W. (Reg) Walls, who had originally been a member of the Royal Naval Air Service, and fought in the First World War.

In 1920, he came out to Rhodesia to join the BSA Police, and when a portion of that force was hived off to start what became the Permanent Staff Corps (the embryo of what is our Army today) Reg Walls was one of that company.

At one stage Commanding Officer of the RAR, he was also acting Chief of Staff from time to time. (Happily, he lived to see his son Peter become Chief of Staff of the Rhodesian Army in September 1968 — he died in April 1969.)

Both Peter Walls and his younger brother Bill were educated at Plumtree. After being awarded his Higher School Certificate, the young Peter was faced with the choosing of a future career.

Says General Walls now: "I wanted to join the Navy, but Dad pointed out that a sailor had little home life. If I wanted a service career, he said, why didn't I consider the Army?

"I thought this over, and the idea appealed to me, but the Permanent Staff Corps was too small for two of us, so I decided to try for the British Army. After the wartime Selection Board, I stayed on in Britain — by then I was a 2nd lieutenant in the Black Watch — and did the Regular Commissions Board, which I passed.

A big blow

"In 1947, I was given by the regiment one of the four vacancies for regular officers in the Black Watch. I believe that granting this to me, a young Rhodesian, was a gesture of thanks for the service so many Rhodesians had given to the Black Watch during the war."

Though the young Lt Walls had at first been posted to Perth, when Highlander training centres amalgamated into the Highland Brigade Training Centre (which dealt with two and a half thousand men) he was appointed assistant adjutant there.

Then came a big blow: numerous surplus infantry officers, recently retired from the Indian Army, had to be absorbed into the British Army. New subalterns such as Lt Walls were told, with regret, that in order to make room for these very experienced infanteers in the infantry, the newcomers would have to go to other arms.

"This crystallised the feeling I had been half-conscious of for some time: that the British Army, and the British way of life, were alien to me. Had I been able to go on in the Black Watch, I might in time have accepted this lifestyle, but when I was faced with the decision of what to do next, I realised I didn't feel at home in Britain. I'm a Rhodesian born and bred — I believe I belong in Southern Africa. So I came back."

Upon his return, he investigated the possibility of a job in commerce or industry — "but I was late to be getting into such spheres. I was perfectly prepared to start at the bottom of the ladder, as long as the prospects were good . . . but there didn't seem much on offer at the time.

"Several people pointed out to me that as all my previous training and experience were for an Army career, it would be silly to throw the benefits of those years away.

"Then, just before the end of March, General Garlake sent a message to me through my father, to the effect that there was one vacancy left in the Army; and that also after March 31, 1948, previous

service would not count towards one's pension.

"So I joined — as a corporal, the rank at which all newcomers then had to begin. I duly sat the first-ever corporal to sergeant examination. I well remember it, because I fluked first in order of merit."

1949 saw Sgt Walls hoping for promotion to colour sergeant. Instead, he was thunderstruck to be told that he had been chosen as one in a group of seven to be commissioned — five of whom were middle-aged WOs or senior NCOs, with years of service behind them. The other youngster was Donald Campbell-Morrison.

Training wing

Prior to his commissioning, the then Sgt Walls had been on the staff of the Southern Rhodesia Training School. As a new lieutenant, he was posted to the RAR, and soon told to run a training wing, together with one Ben Harding (later captain quartermaster), and a Corporal Nkatazo Tumbare — who is now one of the RAR's two regimental sergeant-majors.

General Walls and RSM Tumbare have kept up their friendship ever since those days, and often get together at Army parties to reminisce over old times.

General Walls recalls that one of the most fascinating experiences at this stage of his career was his time in Somaliland.

"I got detached to 4 KAR in East Africa, to help with the evacuation of Somaliland when it was handed over to Italy. The CO sent me as officer in charge escorting a big convoy going up through Italian Somaliland to British Somaliland.

"IT was particularly interesting work because in the course of the return journey, we had to mount an attack on Shifta (brigands) in the area. They'd attacked a small guard on some wells, and taken them captive."

A party of Italians in a jeep warned the platoon of 16 to run for their lives, but the men were highly delighted to have a chance of getting to grips with the notorious Shifta. The attack was highly successful, and both prisoners and wells were freed.

During his stint in East Africa, the young Lt Walls, a crack shot, was nominated to shoot for the pot each day while his unit was on the move.

He says wryly: "There was this assumption that G. P. Walls would provide the meat . . . but pride goes before a fall. It was mortifying in the extreme when occasionally I had to report that there was no fresh meat for dinner that night! That brought me firmly back to earth."

He had not long been back with the RAR when the Southern Rhodesia Far East Volunteer Unit was mooted. Sir Godfrey Huggins, as he was then, had offered a token force of 100 Rhodesians to go to Korea.

The British Government recorded their gratitude, but said they would prefer to use the force as a squadron in the Malayan Scouts (Special Air Service) Regiment in Malaya.

Lt Walls was instructed to raise and train the unit with the help of Lt Donald Campbell-Morrison; and was told that a permanent OC would later be appointed. He himself was promoted to temporary captain.

It was accepted that a British Army officer, probably a major with extensive wartime experience, would subsequently take over, but in fact this never happened. A month after the unit had arrived in Malaya, Captain Walls was told that he had been raised to the rank of temporary major, and appointed squadron commander. He was only 24.

Did he have inner quakings about taking over such a responsible job at a very young age?

HE thinks back, then says: "I was certainly overawed at the challenge, and at the fact that the other chaps equivalent in rank to me there had rows of ribbons, and years of experience behind them.

"But I did have supreme confidence in the belief that my Rhodesians were potentially better than anyone else. By and large, they're used to being leaders, from an early age — and counter-insurgency depends greatly upon leadership, right down to the quality of leadership of a two-man patrol.

"There was also the point that at this time, counter-insurgency was a brand-new type of operation, and in that respect we all started out on an equal footing regardless of age and previous experience.

"But my couple of years in Malaya did change me, and I quote my old friend Andy Rawlins (now Maj Genl G. A. D. Rawlins) who said of me when I got back: "I can't believe you're the same chap. In just two years, you've grown years older in wisdom and maturity".

General Walls refused to talk about his Malayan experiences. "It all happened a quarter of a century ago, and I don't believe people want to hear about it now," he says firmly.

I disagree, however; I think that this period is of intense interest to Rhodesians in the light of the similar war we are today fighting against terrorists. The general's service in Malaya is also of historical note, militarily speaking, in that his unit, the Rhodesian Squadron Malayan Scouts (Special Air Service) marked the beginning of the SAS that is today such a vital part of the Rhodesian Army.

That first SAS unit fought superbly — Lt Col Michael Calvert ("Mad Mike" of Major Wingate's wartime Chindits in Burma) commented: "I have seen these Rhodesians at work, and am very much struck by them."

Their commander, the then Major Walls, was awarded the MBE for his work in Malaya, but he says: "It was definitely in recognition of the entire squadron's efforts."

IN 1972 I interviewed General Walls for a series of articles on the counter-insurgency campaign in Malaya, entitled "The Forgotten War", and published in *Illustrated Life Rhodesia*. I now quote sections from that interview:

"When we arrived in Singapore, we went straight up to Dusun Tua, about 16 miles out in the jungle from Kuala Lumpur, for our training. This consisted of jungle navigation, patrolling, practice in firing at point-blank range; using one's nose and ears much more than one normally does in urban life.

"During those years in Malaya, I think all of us found our senses becoming considerably sharpened. This reduces somewhat as time goes by, but to a certain extent, one never really loses it.

Outstanding memories

"My outstanding memories? . . . Approaching a suspected terrorist camp on a training op only to find three pythons one after another crossing our trail, and the British Army sergeant who was instructing us, firing several shots at each of them without achieving anything.

"Then one of the patrol, Franz Louwrens, moving forward, and with one stroke of his machete neatly despatching each of the pythons — and offering quietly to do the same to the sergeant, who had given away our presence to this camp, which we had been trying to stalk stealthily.

" . . . The time when we were trying to cross a swollen river on a raft, and were being fired upon from the other side by terrorists on a high bank. The three of us took off from the raft and dived under the water.

"While all this was going on, Trooper 'Father' O'Linn grabbed my hat as it floated downstream, and returned it to me later with a grave: 'You dropped your hat, sir.'

"Of course, we had to swim back to the other bank and stay there overnight. Then I remember lying awake all night, shivering with fear and apprehension, trying to work out how I could reasonably order someone else to lead the way on the second attempt to cross the river the next morning. In the event, we crossed without opposition — the terrorists had gone.

"As we were leaving the Belum Valley, four of us were ambushed only 70 yards after leaving D Squadron base. Two terrorists fired upon us from a high bank. They must have been lying up watching the base camp.

"Although, in effect, we were not properly alert, only just having left the base, when we charged up the bank at them, they took fright and scarpered."

General Walls took part in the first experiments ever of parachuting into the tall trees of primary jungle, and thus opened the way for a whole new operational technique.

HE recalled in 'The Forgotten War': "I remember vividly crashing down after one jump, when my parachute had stuck on a huge branch which looked safe — but as I prepared to abseil down, it broke and then fell on top of me. Luckily a kink in its shape fitted over me, so I wasn't injured.

"On the next jump, I landed on what appeared to be an extremely flimsy branch 130 ft up. I remember abseiling down saying 'Please God please God' all the way. In fact, seven Rhodesians tugging on the rope and rigging lines, couldn't move the parachute, or break the branch.

"During the final experimental jump into jungle, we simulated a rescue team parachuting into the spot where a plane had ostensibly crashed — to prove that the technique had possibilities other than those of a purely military aspect.

"After we had cut a landing zone, we called in a helicopter to evacuate the imaginary casualties from the 'air crash.' Just as the helicopter came in, it turned over on its side and shot 25 yards horizontally across the clearing, to crash. I was hit in the face, neck and chest by some little pellets.

"Subsequently, the experts maintained that these couldn't possibly have come from the helicopter. Either they were wrong and the pellets were, in fact, fragmented pieces — or a terrorist had crept up with a shotgun and home made ammunition and, taking advantage of the situation, let fly.

"Subsequently, we took part in a large op, in which 50 parachutists were dropped into the jungle and marshes in the Bukit Yong area. No casualties were incurred, and two terrorists were killed. This was the first occasion since the Second World War in which troops were

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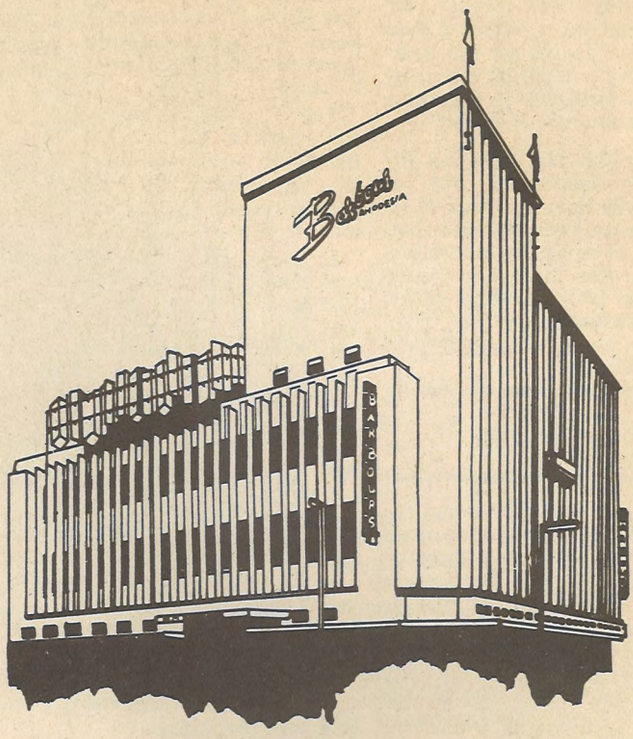

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The Commander of the Rhodesian Army

Left: Off duty: General Walls has an informal chat with RSM K. Tumbare, DMM, a friend of long standing.

Right: Two men at the top: General Walls, the Rhodesian Army Commander, and Air Marshal M. J. McLaren, Commander of the Rhodesian Air Force, make a joint visit to the operational area.

THE MAN AT THE TOP

deployed on operations by parachute into primary jungle.

"The strain told on most of us after a while. In the third month of an op, chaps who'd been the best of friends, got to the stage of begging for transfers to different troops, since they felt that if they bivvied together any longer, they'd slit one another's throats.

"I remember the last patrol of the last op before we were due to return home to Rhodesia ... and our finding fresh cuttings. I looked at Bruce Campling (now Col A. B. Campling) wondering if he would give me away if I pretended not to have seen these cuttings.

"Of course, we followed them up, but luckily they turned out to be of no consequence. Had they led to anything, we would have had to postpone our departure for some while.

"My proudest moment? Moving down the Slim River, having been warned by radio that the terrorists knew that we were going out on that route and were waiting for us.

Military machine

"The way the men moved reflected their degree of training, teamwork, and state of preparedness. I felt part of a highly alert and skilled military machine.

"Then there was the time when we were moving as an entire squadron, and a small group of terrorists came upon us obliquely from our rear. We heard and saw them before they spotted us ... and there were 90 of us as opposed to four of them.

"The one we shot was an especially valuable catch — he was bodyguard to the local commander, and when he was killed, he had some of his boss's documents on him, which were a great help to us.

"Malaya was a valuable experience, in that we learnt the elementary principles of counter-insurgency warfare. General Putterill (then a major) had also been up to Kenya to study the anti-Mau-Mau campaign; and when we got back from Malaya, we held a series of rural training camps, adapting all we had jointly learnt to local conditions.

"How well our methods were adapted and improved upon has been illustrated by the successes of our young soldiers in recent years."

Upon his return to Rhodesia in 1953, he was posted to the RAR as OC, A Company. From there, he went back to Training School, initially as an instructor, first in the basic training wing, then in the tactical wing; but he subsequently rose to chief instructor.

There followed a spell in the Northern Rhodesia Regiment as company commander of D Company, at Tug Argan Barracks, Ndola. His next appointment was that of GSO 2 Training, at Army Headquarters, Salisbury; and then he was sent to Staff College in Camberley, England.

TWO Rhodesian officers per year were selected for the Staff College course, and the other student in 1960 was a young Major Rawlins — now Maj Genl G. A. D. Rawlins, the outgoing Chief of Staff of the Rhodesian Army.

General Walls says that to him the most absorbing facet of that year at Camberley was the opportunity it afforded of meeting members of other Commonwealth — and foreign — armies.

"We taught each other a lot, pooling our knowledge, especially as regards counter-insurgency methods. This was to stand us Rhodesians in good stead for the 1960s and 70s in our home country."

He was posted back to the NRR as second in command in 1961, just in time for what he terms the "sabre-rattling exercise" of Sir Roy Welensky's during his confrontation with the British Government.

"I was moved to Lusaka to be brigade major to Brigadier Grigg at this point, but I later returned to the NRR. Then HQ Copperbelt Area was formed, and I was appointed brigade major."

Upon his promotion to lieutenant colonel in 1962, he became adjutant general at Army HQ.

"I was there through the ghastly time of the dissolution of Federation. There were numerous personnel and administrative problems to be sorted out, and all of them complicated by the fact that no sooner did one have a working party decision to act upon, than it would be countermanded, within a matter of hours."

Great challenge

Out of the wreckage, though, the Rhodesian Army evolved. One of the many changes deemed necessary for the moulding of this new Army was the reorganisation of the 1st Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry, and the instituting of commandos in that regiment.

To his delight, the then Lt Col Walls was appointed CO of the regiment.

He says now: "I looked upon it as a great challenge: to take a battalion in which the morale at that time was not all that high — and a battalion about which there had been much criticism — and begin building it up.

"The important thing was to make the men feel that they were the elite, the pride of Rhodesia. I believe we succeeded in doing this, but I must stress that we could never have achieved it without the wonderful team I had there."

The RLI's new role had come into being at precisely the right time: within months of the creation of the commandos, the first terrorist atrocities and incursions began, and the regiment had a chance to show its teeth. The resultant prowess of its men was a source of great pride to the CO.

In 1967, he was posted to Army HQ as GSO 1 (General Staff Officer, Grade 1), but in the November he took command of 2 Brigade. Operation Cauldron, the biggest anti-terrorist endeavour at that stage seen in Rhodesia, broke in early 1968, and was followed in quick succession by more minor operations, such as Excess and Griffin.

"It was the best experience in my career," General Walls comments. "An exhilarating, exciting period. Again, I was lucky to have an excellent team — headed by Brigade Major A. N. O. (Derry) MacIntyre (now Brigadier-Designate MacIntyre), and for this reason, I was able to spend a lot of time in the field.

"I don't believe you can command an op successfully, unless your presence is constantly felt; but the only way a brigade commander can achieve this is through the support of an intelligent and efficient staff and first-rate communications.

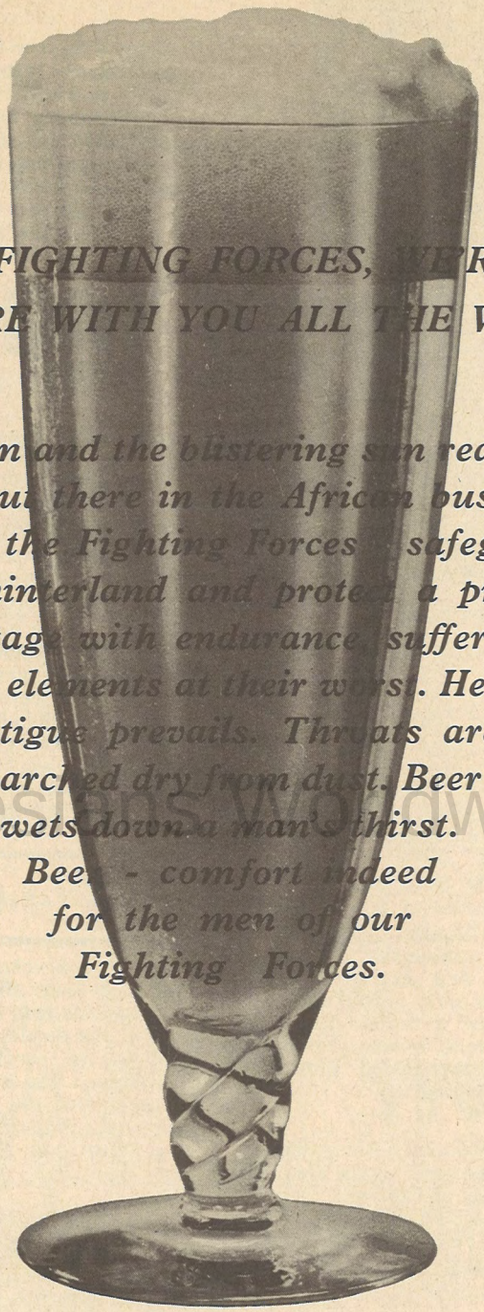
"BECAUSE I was in perpetual touch with all relevant HQs and units, I was able often to stay with a commando headquarters or company headquarters overnight.

"But mostly it was a case of flying round the operational area in company with senior Police and Air Force officers — and I think the fact that we were seen together so much was also important.

"We did of course have Joint Operational Centres, at which each branch of the security forces was represented; but the sight of the upper echelons travelling around together had added impact.

"We were dubbed the Three Musketeers — though someone later altered this to the Three Must Get Beers."

General Walls was appointed chief of staff in September, 1968, at just 42. Initially he remained "a sort of souped-up brigadier with a special rate of pay — but later they regularised this and made the chief of staff up to major general, and the general officer commanding (nowadays known as the Army



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The Commander of the Rhodesian Army

On duty: General Walls presents Mrs E. C. Addams, the widow of Maj "Dumps" Addams, with her husband's Medal for Territorial and Reserve Service.

THE MAN AT THE TOP

Commander) to lieutenant general."

He began taking over as GOC in July 1972, when General Coster, the outgoing GOC, embarked on his farewell tours of all the units in the Rhodesian Army.

In the August of that year, Lt Genl G. P. Walls was officially appointed General Officer Commanding the Rhodesian Army. Operation Hurricane, which is still being waged at the time of writing, began in December 1972.

"It's been a great honour to have been at the head of the Army during the period in which it has been involved in the country's biggest military operation," he says.

Taxing job

"Being Army Commander is a pretty taxing job, but to have a challenge of this magnitude to tackle, makes it very worthwhile. I'll look back at the end of my tour of duty next year and be glad I had this job at this particular time — when the Army was really earning its keep, so to speak."

Does he enjoy the job?

"Yes," he says frankly; "I like being able to follow my own instincts, and command, rather than being inhibited by working for someone else. It was never consciously in my mind to get to the top, though.

"However, if you join the Army (or any other business) surely your ambition is to command at one level or another; and this was always my aim.

"Back in 1949, I hoped for nothing more than to get colour sergeant — and then to my utter surprise, found myself an officer again."

Since he took over as Army head, General Walls' speeches have been markedly outspoken, a far cry from the string of careful platitudes so often the content matter of a high-ranking officer's public address.

Detailed notes

Rhodesians have come to await his speeches with great interest as a result, knowing that invariably each will be forceful, hard-hitting where this is deserved, and candid.

He normally makes detailed notes beforehand, but so remarkable is his memory (as his officers in Army HQ will testify, sometimes ruefully) that he's able to speak virtually without referring to the paper in his hand.

He's been criticised by certain foreign newspapers for what they term the "political" subject matter of his speeches. An Army Commander, they maintain, should keep out of "politics".

I asked him for his comments on this, and he replied: "I have never made a 'political' speech. However, in modern-day African affairs, the political and military scenes overlap so much and psychological action is so important a part of the military effort that a commander is bound to get involved to a limited extent in politics.

"My warnings of the psychological wedge about to be driven between South Africa and Rhodesia, and about Rhodesia never having been in a more serious position, reflected my concern as a military commander.

"A subsequent speech in which I

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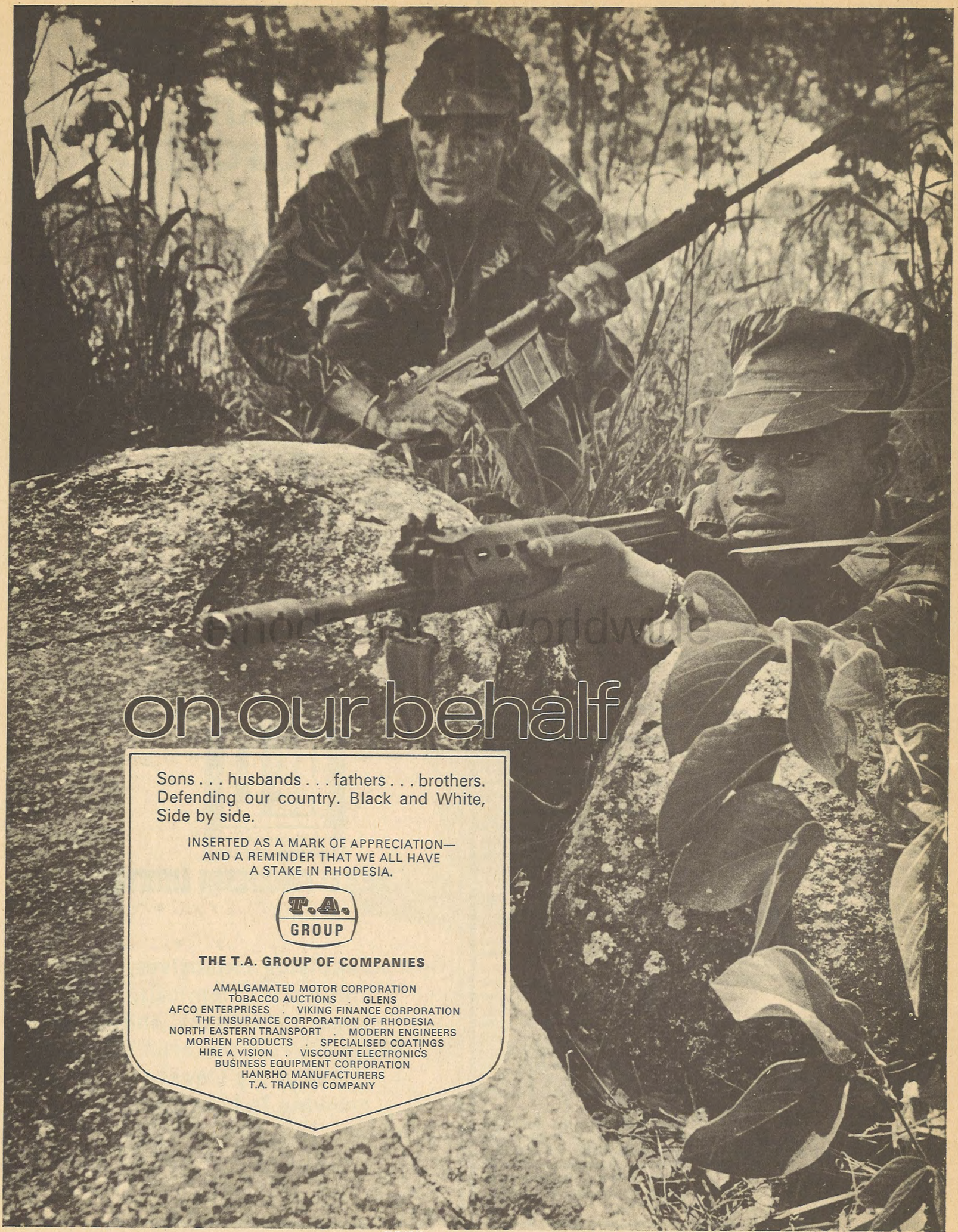

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The Commander of the Rhodesian Army

THE MAN AT THE TOP

tried to sum up the detente picture at that time from the point of view of a simple soldier was a deliberate and carefully thought out contribution which I am satisfied had the desired effect.

"It played some part in motivating various political moves which resulted in steps being taken against our terrorists in countries to the north of us.

"Rightly or wrongly, therefore, I believe that my speech helped score a significant military victory without the loss of a single one of my soldiers — and at the same time did Rhodesia no harm politically."

In private life, General Walls is a proud and devoted father, and one who has always involved himself closely with the upbringing of his family.

(When his son was a baby of three months, Mrs Walls had to go into hospital for a short while. Father took over without a murmur, changing the nappies and administering the bottles from 4.30 pm each afternoon onwards, and running a training course for officers during the day, with the assistance of one sergeant.)

Sporting arena

His four children have shone both academically and in the sporting arena, and it has to be a very important military commitment indeed that keeps the general away from the rugby field when George is playing for the Midlands under 20s; or from a ringside seat at a swimming pool where Valerie is about to break a new record.

George is 21, and has just completed his National Service. He has the Walls sense of humour in full measure, and so was well able to cope with all the ribbing about Dad during his Army stint. He's played for Rhodesia in the under-19 water polo team, and in the Rhodesian B team.

MARY, aged 19, was head girl of Oriel Girls' School, and also did well at sport. After completing a year's course at the Cape Technical College for Advanced Education, she returned to Rhodesia and now has a post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Paddy, 18, excelled herself by earning four distinctions at M level, and has represented her school at hockey. She is now engrossed in a banking career.

At 16, Valerie is the baby of the family, but in the realm of sport, she's notched up some very adult achievements. She's swum in two tests for Rhodesia against South Africa, and won the South African 200 metres women's free style title at the South African Championships. On various occasions, she's held Rhodesian records.

Their father has always been a keen sportsman himself. He won colours for rugby, athletics and water polo at Plumtree, and played for Scottish Services at rugby during his Black Watch days.

His Army commitments abroad, however, restricted his sporting activities as a young man. Nowadays his favourite pastime is social tennis, and full support of rugby, boxing and water polo.

Christmas visit

As previously mentioned, he did his parachute training in Malaya, but then because of career commitments, had to let it lapse until, as he says, "I was talked into doing a jump by the RLI Free Fall Club, in 1967. I succeeded in bending a parade ground lamp shade with my canopy!"

SINCE then, the general has kept up his parachuting, and on Christmas Day in 1973, he parachuted into Mozambique to visit troops in a remote spot.

(His Christmas visits have become a regular event; he never spends the festive season at home, but tours around the operational area, "hitching lifts in helicopters" and visiting every possible unit, so that the boys stuck on the border at a time when they especially long to be with their families, know that the Very Top Brass is appreciating their efforts.)

Recently he parachuted with the SAS into Gatooma for the Cotton Festival, making a perfect landing at the Showgrounds.

There's the idea in some quarters that an Army Commander is a Delphic Oracle on a lofty pinnacle, seldom seen, sometimes heard, but regarded with the utmost awe, whereas the Chief of Staff, as high priest, is the man of action.

General Walls disagrees with this concept. When he took over as Army Commander, he was determined to continue keeping in close personal contact with his men, wherever they were.

He's no remote figurehead, reserved only for dealings with the cabinet, but is still deeply involved with the day to day machinery of the Army he loves so well.

When one of his daughters was a little girl at primary school, she had to produce an essay on her father. She wrote: "My Dad can't even keep a job; he keeps getting moved from place to place."

Rhodesia has cause to be grateful for those moves, which served to put the right man in the right job at, in the national context, a crucial time. ●

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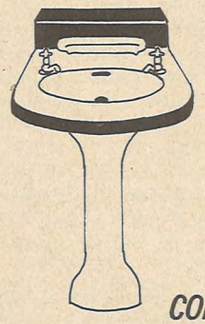

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Right: The magnificent few: centre, seated, is Capt F. C. Selous, the Pioneer Corps' intelligence officer. On his left is Maj Frank Johnson, officer commanding, and who was responsible for the recruiting of the 200.

A PROUD HISTORY

Within the space of 85 years, the Rhodesian Army has undergone many changes, but the spirit of courage and perseverance has remained, and lives on

Rhodesians Worldwide

THE beginnings of the Rhodesian Army in truth go back to October 29, 1889 — for on that day, Royal Charter was granted by Queen Victoria, sanctifying the Matabeleland ventures of Cecil John Rhodes.

These activities were to be administered by Rhodes' newly formed British South Africa Company.

A section of the Charter authorised the BSA Company to raise a police force for the maintenance of law and order in any territories it might subsequently control.

Exclusive charge

Initially, however, it was thought that the assistance of the Bechuanaland Border Police would suffice, should trouble arise with the tricky-tempered Matabele King, Lobengula, who had given Rhodes "exclusive charge over all metals and minerals" in his kingdom in exchange for 1 000 Martini-Henry rifles, 100 000 cartridges, and £100 a month.

Rhodes in fact intended to occupy the Mashonaland area of Lobengula's realm, as part of his plan to extend British influence throughout Africa, from Cape Town to Cairo.

He had been told that a minimum of 2 500 men was necessary if such an occupation was to succeed, and this agitated him greatly, since the cost of a force of this size would consume most of the company's capital at one fell swoop.

One December morning, deep in depression, he was breakfasting at the Kimberley Club. To the astonishment of his table companion, a 23-year-old by the name of Frank Johnson, he suddenly launched into a lengthy and impassioned dissertation about his Mashonaland scheme, bemoaning the fact that 2 500 men seemed to be required in order to implement it.

Johnson said casually that, in his opinion, 250 men would be ample for such a task. Now alight with enthusiasm, Rhodes asked him to draw up an estimate of what such a force would cost.

Johnson sat down and complied — and came up with the figure of £87 500. Rhodes thereupon offered him the job of organising the Pioneer Column.

In recruiting his Pioneer Corps, Johnson attempted to select a comprehensive cross-section that would prove a sound foundation for the new community, and ensured that every type of tradesman and artisan was represented: a sort of human Noah's Ark.

The High Commissioner in Cape Town directed that the corps should be accompanied by a military force to protect it and maintain communications with the south. This force would also preserve law and order after occupation.

The official birth of Fort Salisbury included the hoisting of the Union Jack — by Lt E. G. Tyndale-Biscoe, on a hastily-made msasa pole — the offering of prayers, three cheers for the Queen and for the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, and the firing of a salute from the two field guns which had been dragged all the way from Mafeking.

Wet season

The Pioneers were discharged on September 30 and began building their town. Within three months the fort had been completed, and two rows of pole-and-dagga huts had been erected.

That first year in Rhodesia was a grim one: the wet season was excessively heavy and all the major rivers flooded. This virtually severed communications with the south.

Food and medical supplies were drastically short, and for five bleak months the Pioneers existed on pumpkin, rice, boiled split peas and dry ships' biscuits. Malaria, and its deadly consequence, blackwater fever, were rife, and burials became a relatively commonplace occurrence.

In 1891 a volunteer force was raised named the Mashonaland Horse and consisting of 500 men, of whom 200 were mounted.

This was to be absorbed into the Salisbury Horse in the Matabele War of 1893 — which broke out after repeated and violent raids over the Mashonaland border by Lobengula's impis.

Dr Jameson eventually summoned the indunas to an indaba, and told them that if they were not over the border by sundown, he would be forced to chase them out.

When this command was disobeyed by a particularly belligerent detachment, who dallied to sack a kraal, a skirmish with a white patrol ensued, and Jameson decided that the time had come to annexe Matabeleland.

700 mounted volunteers crossed into Lobengula's territory, and were joined on the southern front by members of the Bechuanaland Border Police. The Matabele were soundly thrashed in two consecutive battles, one at the Shangani River, and one at Imbembesi; and Dr Jameson's Column entered Lobengula's smoking and deserted kraal of Gubulawayo on November 4, 1893.

In view of the size of Rhodesia's white population, it is of note that three Victoria Crosses, Britain's highest military award for bravery, were won between 1893 and 1897.

Left: Rhodesians from Salisbury and District take a breather after a run over a battle practice course somewhere in Britain. By 1944, 2 313 Rhodesians were on active service outside the country.
Below: 1 RAR returns to Rhodesia. It was a triumphal homecoming: the battalion had acquitted itself with great honour at the battle of Tanlwe Chaung in Burma, on April 26th, 1945.

Rhodesians Worldwide

There was stalwart support, too, from many Africans for the white cause: among the tribes that supported the settlers were those of the Victoria district; Gambo's Matabele; and the people of Umtasa, who was the most powerful chief in Manicaland.

1896 had marked the reorganisation of the police: the Mashonaland Mounted Police and the Matabeleland Mounted Police amalgamated in effect to become the British South Africa Police.

Influx of immigrants

But with an influx of immigrants towards the end of the 19th century, it became obvious that the police strength was inadequate, and in 1898 the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers came into being.

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the British South Africa Police and the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers served with a column which had advanced from Bulawayo to help in the relief of Mafeking; and which included a new unit raised specifically, and named the Rhodesia Regiment. It played a sterling part indeed in the relief of Mafeking.

The British moved into Mafeking on May 17, 1900, by which time the town had been invested for seven months. In his report, Baden-Powell commented: "The whole operation of the two relief columns was exceedingly well conceived and carried out."

Within those columns, Rhodesians had indeed served their Queen well.

As a gesture of appreciation, on October 5, 1904, the King's Colours were presented to the British South Africa Police and to the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers at Mafeking, by Lord Milner. The following year, the people of Bulawayo presented a regimental colour to the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers.

The 1st and 2nd Rhodesia Regiments were raised respectively on September 13th and 21st, 1914 (the original Rhodesia Regiment having been disbanded in late 1900); and with the Rhodesia Native Regiment and the BSA Police, fought gallantly against the Germans in South West and East Africa, and in France.

After only 17 months of the First World War, no less than 64 per cent of Rhodesia's available manpower was on active service outside the country.

The battle honour of the Rhodesia Native Regiment was "East Africa 1916-18" — and was later transferred to 1 RAR. The Rhodesia Regiments were given the following battle honours for their service: "Great War 1914-18"; "South West Africa 1914-15" and "Kiliminjaro, Beho Beho and East Africa 1915-17."

In 1920 the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers were disbanded, but rifle companies were retained in each of Rhodesia's main towns. A Defence Act promulgated in 1926 (and coming into effect in January, 1927) made provision for a Permanent Force and a Territorial Force.

Outbreak of war

The HQ instructional and administrative staff for the Defence Force was the embryo of the Permanent Staff Corps.

The late 1920s and 1930s witnessed various developments as regards the Rhodesia Regiment, but little was done to enlarge the Permanent Staff Corps at this time; when it was increased in 1939, it totalled 47 — 22 officers and 25 other ranks.

The outbreak of the Second World War precipitated the separation of the military forces from the police, and the introduction of full-time conscription.

The full-time units formed were the Southern Rhodesia Reconnaissance Unit (later to become an Armoured Car Regiment), the Light Battery (subsequently affiliated to the Royal Regiment of Artillery), the Southern Rhodesia Medical Corps and the Signal Company.

Later, the 1st Battalion The Rhodesia African Rifles, and the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Services, were raised.

In 1941 the Southern Rhodesia Supply Corps was formed, a Coloured Motor Transport Depot opened, a Leader Training School established in Gwelo, and an Armoured Fighting Vehicle School in Umtali set up. Towards the end of 1941, the Southern Rhodesia Military and Air Force Police was formed.

1942 saw the inception of the Southern Rhodesia Works Company of Engineers — in 1944 the Southern Rhodesia Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed.

By 1944, 2 313 Rhodesians were on active service outside the country; 4 568 served within its borders. Rhodesia supplied more troops per head of its population to the British war effort than did any other country in the Empire.

Peace saw many changes, the chief being the transition of the Southern Rhodesia Permanent Staff Corps to the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps. Defence HQ moved to King George VI Barracks.

Within the space of 85 years, the Rhodesian Army has undergone many changes, but the spirit of courage and perseverance has remained, and lives on. ●

Rhodesians Worldwide

Tender moments in the Forces.

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THE ARMY MUSEUM

ANY institution that has pride in its achievements gives thought to preserving tokens of these for posterity; and thus it was that the Rhodesian Army began its Military Museum — initially as a smallish collection housed at the School of Infantry, but now an impressive entity in its own building (part of the Midlands Museum, Gwelo) and containing a comprehensive array of military memorabilia.

No one can quite remember when the concept of such a museum was first mooted, but most are agreed upon the fact that the first person to make the suggestion was Maj Gen G. A. D. (Andy) Rawlins — who has an abiding interest in military traditions and insignia.

When he was commandant of the School of Infantry in Gwelo, in the early 1960s, Genl Rawlins — a lieutenant colonel then — voiced the opinion that the Rhodesian Army should start its own museum.

IT BEGAN, in the main, as a point of interest for instructors at the school, but enthusiasm gathered force, and a goodly number of weapons — chiefly illustrating the gamut of small arms — were soon collected.

Maj R. J. (Bob) Davie — now recognised as an expert in this field — was appointed museum officer in November, 1966.

Weapons collection

He recalls that Lt Col Leon Jacobs (then a captain) started to form the nucleus of an excellent weapons collection when he was serving in Regimental Wing. This collection was housed in Regimental Wing. In 1964, Genl Rawlins convened a meeting to discuss the formation of a proper, small arms museum. This museum was set up in what is now the reference library.

WO1 Hemsley and WO2 Fitzgerald did sterling work preparing the weapons for display. Unfortunately, this small, but excellent museum was closed down within a few years — "the weapons being kept in the armoury in the quartermaster's store", says Maj Davie.

"Early in 1967 I re-opened the museum in what is now part of HQ Group — it had been an old vehicle workshop — and had a great deal of assistance from PWD at that time.

"Mr Whincup, the carpenter at the School of Infantry has been immensely helpful throughout. Sgt Maj Blackshaw, who was an armourer sergeant then, also helped a great deal.

"I began scrounging all kinds of military exhibits; not only weapons, but documents, maps, photographs . . . I wrote letters to every district and provincial commissioner, and to all MOTH clubs — and buttonholed each visitor to the School of Infantry.

"It began to snowball into what has eventually become a fairly large collection, in our context.

"Retired colonels would send us cardboard boxes full of donations; we had a lot of help internally too, from Army HQ and Services Corps, in that whenever a weapon went out of date, they'd send us a sample — the same with badges and uniforms."

I have browsed through this most fascinating museum, its contents ranging from faded letters penned in the thick of the Matabele and Mashona Rebellions, to captured (and bloodstained) contemporary terrorist weapons and uniforms.

Loving care

What are the highlights, though, for the man who built it all up with such loving and meticulous care?

Maj Davie has to think about this one. Clearly, like a parent with a lot of children, each has a special place in his affections.

But he eventually names as his especial favourites, a Maxim gun — "presented to the museum by a police inspector who collected weapons; and the rifle belonging to an Arab slave trader who operated between British and French Somaliland before and after the First World War. He (the trader) was finally defeated in 1920; and the rifle came to us from 1 KAR.

"As regards the documents, I particularly like the map of Russia drawn on a sheet by a German prisoner of war."

RHODESIAN involvement in the Malayan anti-terrorist campaign is well represented, mainly through donations from Genl Rawlins and Col Parker.

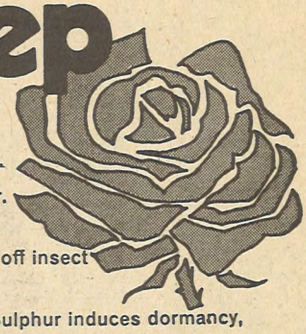
Today, Bob Davie, (though still the Army Museum officer) is rather like a father who has handed his family over for adoption, but still enjoys seeing them as often as possible and doing what he can materially to help.

Mr W. S. Rees, keeper of the Midlands Museum, is the official guardian of the Army Museum nowadays — "and a great asset to the Midlands Museum as a whole," says Maj Davie.

The RAR and RLI each have their own excellent regimental museum collections, of particular interest to people currently or formerly belonging to or connected with those regiments.

But if you want an all-round view, impeccably presented, of Rhodesian military history, go to Gwelo, and the Army Museum — it's well worth the trip. ●

A kiss to put a rose to sleep



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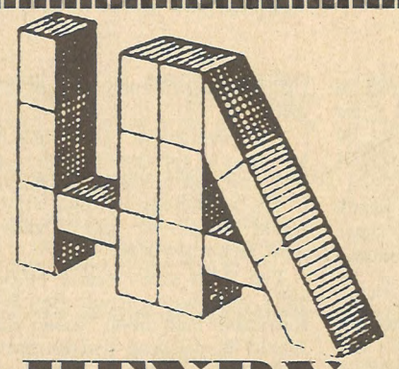

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Rhodesiana Worldwide

The Rhodesian African Rifles

Right: The RAR have a long tradition of jungle warfare; they fought with distinction in the dense jungles and tangled waterways of Burma during the Second World War, and in Malaya during the 1950s. The veterans who returned passed on valuable know-how to the battalion.

AN ELITE GROUP OF FIGHTI

"This is a regiment above faction, tribe or politics, to whom the country owes an incalculable debt for their dedication and bravery." — Lt Genl Walls, speaking about the men of the Rhodesian African Rifles

Rhodesia Worldwide

THERE'S something special about the RAR. I should know — I was privileged to be an RAR wife for eight months, and it was an unforgettable experience.

The RAR men don't talk much about their achievements, but their record is a proud one indeed, stretching from the routing of the Japanese at Tanlwe Chaung (described by the divisional commander then as a "fine action . . . the result will bring a real victory in the battle of Taungup") to the battalion's activities in the present anti-terrorist war, resulting in 1 RAR notching up 400 terrorist eliminations since 1966.

Terrorist hierarchy

In the past eight months, the battalion has been moved five times — on all but one occasion after clearing up completely the terrorist-infested area they were allotted to tackle. In one district, two contacts were all it took for 1 RAR to wipe out almost the whole of the local terrorist hierarchy.

Speaking at the unveiling of a plaque on the site of the regiment's first barracks on the Borrowdale Road, Salisbury, Lt Gen G. P. Walls, the Army Commander, commented on the fact that the regiment had figured prominently in operational awards.

For instance, it contains a Member of the Order of the Legion of Merit, six holders of the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia, and five Defence Medals for Meritorious Service, among others.

The RAR story really begins in 1939, although a Rhodesian Native Regiment had been raised during World War I, and had fought with distinction against von Lettow-Vorbeck in German East Africa.

But that was supposed to be the war to end all wars; and peacetime accordingly saw the regiment being disbanded. A platoon of askaris was assimilated into the BSA Police.

But with the outbreak of hostilities once again between Germany and Britain in 1939, it was realised that the resurrection of an African regiment in Rhodesia would be an important contribution to the war effort.

(Just how important it would prove to be, five years later in Burma, few could have guessed on that day in June 1940, when the regiment was raised — its first African non-commissioned officers being drawn from the nucleus hitherto contained within the BSAP.)

Its first CO was Major — later Lt Col — F. J. Wane, a First World War veteran, who had retired from the Native Department, and settled down on his farm in the Umvukwes.

When the concept of the RAR was mooted, he was approached by Defence HQ and offered command of the new African battalion. He accepted, little realising how uphill the ensuing road was going to prove.

Nicknames for officers

But enthusiasm is an unguent when it comes to withstanding hardships; and by mid-July 1941, two full companies had been recruited, and were in training.

It's common practice in the RAR for the soldiers, amongst themselves, to bestow nicknames upon their officers — though always apt, these can sometimes be none too complimentary; but Col Wane's was "Msoro-we-gomo" meaning "the top of the mountain", and indicating the immense respect and admiration he commanded.

RAR soldiers of that time were a very different proposition to the sophisticated and well-educated men one encounters nowadays when speaking at random to the regiment's troops. Many of that first intake had come straight from remote villages to join the regiment, and were somewhat naive, to say the least.

Very few had ever seen any of the trappings of civilization, such as motor vehicles and trains; and so imbued were they with tribal tradition that they were amazed to find that a warrior, feted as he was within the tribal structure, held a rather more mundane position in urban life and was not automatically entitled to other people's livestock, women and whatever other goodies took his fancy.

Once trained, the men of the new regiment hungered for battle; but — partly because of the RAR's valuable function in preserving internal security — it was to be a whole frustrating year before any move out of Rhodesia was made . . . and that only to collect Italian prisoners-of-war from Durban and escort them to internment camps in Rhodesia.

During this expedition, the troops were so impressed by the banana plantations of Natal that they made up the song which was later to be orchestrated and declared the regimental march: *Sweet Bananas*.

In 1943, Brig W. A. Dimoline of the 28th (East African) Independent Infantry Brigade expressed a wish to have the RAR in his command.

When the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Evelyn Baring, informed the troops of this, he only got as far as " . . . you are about to leave Southern Rhodesia to fight

Right: African troops are at their best operating in the bush veld. Because of their traditional way of life, they're well equipped to walk for long distances. The soldier in the photograph is Cpl Mucharunga.

Below: The RAR on parade. Tanlwe Chaung Day, celebrated on April 26th and commemorating the regiment's first signal victory, is the regimental birthday.

NG MEN

Rhodesians Worldwide

for the King, who needs every loyal citizen to help to win the war . . ." before wild cheering broke out, and the rest of his speech was totally drowned in the general and vocal jubilation.

The regiment underwent training in East Africa, and on September 5th, 1944, they set sail for Ceylon, enthralled by the ship and the wonders of the surrounding sea.

After a month's acclimatisation and training in Ceylon, the battalion was deemed ready for service in Burma, and under the command of Lt Col G. W. H. Goode, it set sail again, arriving in Chittagong, Burma, in December 1944.

Its first set-piece action, the major contact at Tanlwe Chaung, was tackled with such distinction that the 26th April, Tanlwe Chaung Day, became the regimental birthday.

Soldier's nightmare

Briefly, the problem that confronted the Allied Forces was the budging of the Japanese from two strategic points in the Arakan. The terrain was a soldier's nightmare: dense tangled vegetation, immensely steep, knife-edged hills riddled with waterways, or "chaungs".

The 22nd Brigade, with the King's African Rifles in the lead, and the Rhodesian African Rifles in the rear, set forth to clear the important Taungup-Prome road.

In just over four days, the East African group covered 40 miles of thickly vegetated jungle, bristling with the enemy, who booby-trapped many of the paths with grenades and mines, and were given to launching "jitter-party" attacks at night.

Upon reaching their destination — the Taungup Chaung — the East Africans found that the Japanese were sitting tight on a number of strategic, rugged hills. It was decided to secure two of these, Bergner and Valerie, by frontal assault, and this task was given to the RAR.

The assault had to be made along a single narrow track, and as soon as 13 platoon, with a section from 4 platoon, moved along this path, the Japanese opened up with a medium machine gun and several light machine guns.

At one point along the track, a large tree had been felled, its branches pointing towards the Rhodesians. The platoon commander, was wounded at this stage by a treetop sniper, but the company commander, Maj Stan Morris, immediately took his place, leading the troops around the tree, and the RAR charged into the fray. After a brisk and deadly exchange, they routed the enemy, and took Valerie.

"A" Company, supported from the air by artillery, stormed up Bergner, bellowing their war cry: "Ngadhla-DHZI! Mamo! Ngadhla-DHZI!" They caught the Japanese unprotected on the other side of the hill.

Shooting from the hip, they chased the enemy down the slope, and though the Japanese returned fire briefly, they soon fled towards the valley and river.

Died in action

However, TC Day was not without its sadness for the battalion. Seven men died in action; one officer and 22 African soldiers were wounded. And throughout the night, into the 27th, the Japanese shelling and mortaring was so intensive that four more soldiers were killed, and nine wounded. Altogether the RAR lost 32 men during its Burma campaign. 72 were wounded.

Sgt Maj Josi is the only serving member in the RAR today who was at Tanlwe Chaung. He's a young-looking 49, who joined the regiment in 1942.

Nearing retiral age now, this stalwart soldier says that he will be sad to leave the Rhodesian Army, which he has served faithfully for 33 years.

The weapons used by the RAR today are more sophisticated than those employed at Tanlwe Chaung, and the average black soldier is perhaps more articulate and urbane than his counterpart of 30 years back, but otherwise, little has changed in the RAR.

The essential qualities of loyalty, dedication, unfaltering courage and esprit de corps are as strong as ever.

The present CO, Lt Col F. G. D. (David) Heppenstall, MLM, can vouch for this — after a total of 13 years in the regiment, he knows his men well.

Maj E. M. (Eric) Sobey, who has recently embarked upon his third period with the RAR, also remarks upon the good nature of the African soldiers: "Operational work never gets them down. Provided they know they can get back to their kraals every two months or so, they're always cheerful.

"Their chief attribute is extreme willingness to work hard at all times. Their forte is operating in the bush where, because of their natural way of life, difficulties which might hinder a European, don't bother an African soldier.

"Their type of fitness differs from that of a white soldier, probably because of their traditional diet and environment from childhood.

"For instance, although as regards PT, the European is superior, when it comes to walking for long distances, the African soldier ex-

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The Rhodesian African Rifles

Left: In readiness during a patrol. "They're professionals, all of them," says the present CO of 1 RAR, "and their cheerfulness never wavers." The soldier here is Pvt Thomas.

AN ELITE GROUP OF FIGHTING MEN

cels. Thus, they're ideally suited to counter-insurgency work.

"In general, the African soldier looks upon his European OC as his father. Whatever problems he may have will be brought to you — and when, in an operational area, the workload is heavy, this can prove to be an additional burden for the officer to bear.

"But it's a very important part of one's work as an officer in the RAR. One must be ready to be the consoler, the adviser, at all times.

"Now I'm OC HQ Company; this job entails much administrative work, which is very challenging under present circumstances. I have the task of sorting out problems back at camp (Methuen Barracks, Bulawayo) — currently aggravated by the fact that we're in the process of forming 2 RAR, and 230 men are undergoing training, under the supervision of depot training officer, Maj John Templer."

Col Heppenstall told me that the concept of 2 RAR was agreed to some time back. Recruitment has never been a problem with 1 RAR, to put it mildly: the announcement that the battalion is seeking new recruits has inevitably resulted in a horde of hopefuls descending upon Methuen for the selection course.

Rifle company

"Often 100 per cent more than we require," says Col Heppenstall, "and sometimes more than that percentage. I can recall one occasion when we required 100 recruits, and 500 applied."

The first 230 of 2 RAR passed out on June 27th this year and a rifle company will be formed next January. All NCOs in the new battalion will be seasoned soldiers, drawn from 1 RAR.

What do the men themselves think about life in the RAR?

I spoke to CSM Obert, DMM, who told me: "I joined the Army when I was 20 years old, in 1953. My uncle is a soldier, and I knew if I joined the Army, I would be all right.

"I enjoy the work very much, and also it is very good to have everything free — uniforms, rations (our wives, too, get free rations while we are away on active service); medical attention, and schooling for our children.

"The most exciting contact I have been involved in happened during Operation Nickel. It was 5 pm and we were at a base camp. The terrs came to attack us.

Bone shattered

"Two came first, in RAR uniforms. They greeted me in Zulu, then one cocked his rifle. They dived down and fired. I picked up my rifle and fired — then I saw six more terrs approaching . . . eventually there were 32 of them.

"The contact lasted an hour. I was wounded in the arm. The bone was shattered, and I was 'casevacced' and spent two months in hospital, then two months convalescing, before I was able to join my company again.

"These terrs are bad men. I have seen tribesmen who have been beaten to death by them. I also saw the woman whose lip they tore off with pliers. It is very bad what they are doing to their own people."

Maj T. H. (Terry) Hammond told me later: "In fact, CSM Obert played an outstanding part in that contact." (He was later awarded the DMM.)

Praise too must go to the white members of the RAR: the company commanders, captains and subalterns whose general quality has been recognised by their troops to the extent that the men would follow these leaders into Dante's Inferno itself, to wage war.

And Africans are shrewd judges

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The Rhodesian African Rifles

Left: Mortar practice. Black and white fight side by side; the officer in this photograph is a member of 1 RAR, but on occasion, RAR and RLI troops do serve together.

AN ELITE GROUP OF FIGHTING MEN

of character. Let it be said that the white officers of the RAR are a special breed of men indeed.

Maj Hammond is a prime example. He, like Maj Sobey, has had extensive RAR experience, and has been company commander of "E" Company (the Champion Company emerging from the TC Week sports this year) since September 1973.

He says of the RAR: "It's unique that this is in essence an old colonial regiment, but with loyal African soldiers whose attributes are remarkable. In fighting the terrorists they are, of course, fighting their own kind, and that shows a great deal of dedication to the Rhodesian Army — and bravery.

"Yet once back in the townships, they're able to go out and about, mixing socially with civilian Africans . . . this says much for their total impartiality, which of course is the mark of a good soldier. I wonder how many Europeans would shape up as well under similar circumstances.

Obnoxious vermin

The RAR African soldier feels real loathing for the terrorist who is not, to him, a mere enemy, but obnoxious vermin, to be destroyed at all costs.

He has seen innocent African villagers tortured, beaten and bayoneted to death by terrorists, just for the sake of intimidation; he has seen little girls and pregnant women from remote African villages raped and mutilated.

He knows that the only way for this bestial violence and slaughter to be eradicated is for the Rhodesian Army to eliminate the entire foul pack.

And thus he is totally dedicated to the cause. Loyalty to white officers has been manifested on countless occasions, but just one instance was the occasion on which an African lance corporal, under heavy fire from terrorists, carried a wounded European policeman to safety.

Placid temperament

Lt Martin Wake says that the average African's placid temperament lends itself well to the endless hours of surveillance, patrolling, or lying in ambush positions, all of which are so intrinsic a part of COIN work.

RSM Stephen Machado, who fought with the RAR in Burma, once wrote in an article: "Since the birth of the regiment . . . I have done what I could to teach these men of the Rhodesian African Rifles. I have seen the glorious results of that teaching of mine and of the officers of the regiment."

The ultimate paragraph of his article contains the words: "Ishe Komborera Africa" . . . God Save Africa.

While there is a regiment such as the RAR, where black and white fight side by side, there is hope indeed for this continent of ours. ●

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The Rhodesian Light Infantry

Right: Support Group men leap into the fray, rifles at the ready. It takes just one and a half minutes to alert them, from the time the summoning hooter is blown, to the moment that the lorries start moving, taking them to waiting helicopters.

THE INCREDIBLES

The men of the Rhodesian Light Infantry work hard and play hard. To date the regiment's 1 Commando has had the highest number of kills of any sub-unit in the Army

Rhodesians Worldwide

THEY have been called The Saints and The Incredibles; and at their 1975 regimental birthday celebrations, the Army Commander, Lt Genl G. P. Walls, OLM, MBE, said candidly: "Thank God for the RLI."

But I think their true spirit and essential joie de vivre can best be summed up in the words of Commando Commander Maj R. E. H. (Dick) Lockley, who, when I asked him what he would remember about the RLI once he had moved on from that regiment, replied: "The good humour of the men; their cheerful willingness to undertake any task; and their determination and enthusiasm to close with the enemy when contact is imminent."

Charming a crow

The RLI work hard and play hard. Everything is done with dynamism and panache, be it forging into the fray, or, to employ the regimental patois, charming a crow (which means, in case you hadn't guessed, paying court to a young lady).

I was interested to hear what their colleagues in other units had to say about them.

Recently two sticks from 2 Independent Company, the Rhodesia Regiment, were attached to 1 Commando, 1 RLI, for a short period. As they were leaving, their OC took 1 Commando's second in command, Lt David Scott-Donelan, aside, and said: "I'd like to thank you and your men for treating us so well.

"I'll admit that when we first heard we'd be joining you, we were apprehensive. But we greatly enjoyed being with you ... in fact, you're a bunch of gentlemen."

And after an RAR company worked with 1 Commando, the RAR company's OC wrote a letter of appreciation to his opposite number in the RLI, saying: "Your men have, without exception, got on extremely well with my soldiers, and have been cheerful, willing and hardworking. It has been a pleasure working with them."

The regiment is a young one, both in history and in current personnel (its CO, Lt Col David Parker, is only 38 and the commando commanders are all in their early thirties.)

In 1961 the 1st Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry was formed. But in 1964 after the break-up of Federation, it was reorganised on commando lines, just in time to swing into action a few months later when the first terrorist incursions began.

In the 10 years that followed, the regiment has played a leading and brilliant part in all major anti-terrorist operations, from Cauldron to Hurricane.

I decided to sample life in the RLI at first-hand, so I attached myself for 24 hours to 1 Commando which has been constantly involved in the present Operation Hurricane — and has had the highest number of kills of any sub-unit in the Rhodesian Army.

Good example

Its commander at the time of writing, Maj Dick Lockley, is a good example of the impeccably trained young officer of high calibre prevalent in the Rhodesian Army today. Born in Bulawayo, and educated at Grey High School, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, he has been in this Army for 15 years.

My day with 1 Commando transpired to be a fairly typical one. This is how it went:

6 am: The guard wakes up those in camp. (Normally, a very small proportion of the commando remains in camp on stand-by and reserve.) There's much yawning and a little groaning, for despite their stand-by circumstances, they've learnt, like most soldiers, to sleep soundly while the opportunity avails itself.

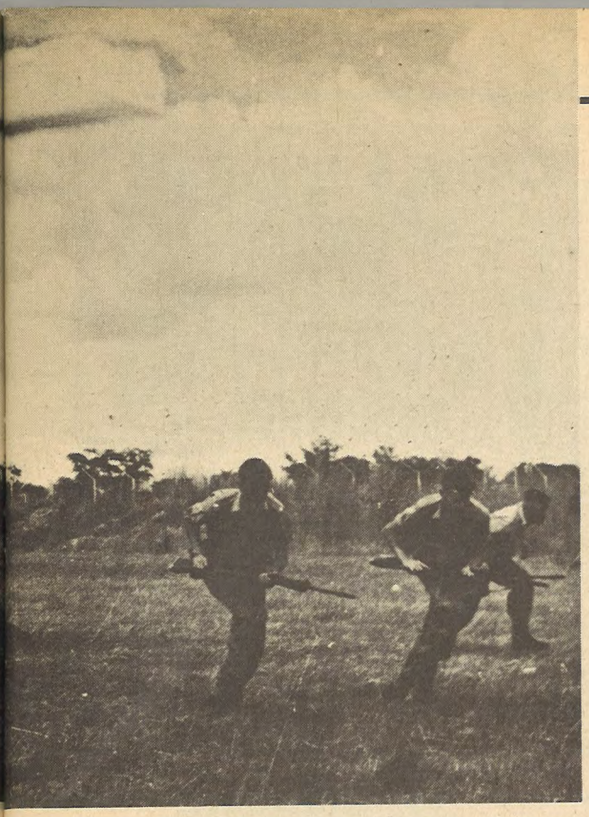
Should there be a call-out during the night, one shout would wake them all, and they would be instantly alert and efficient — but on peaceful evenings, it's a case of heads merely touching pillows before oblivion descends until the dawn of the next day.

As soon as everyone is compos mentis, this minor segment of the commando not immediately on stand-by goes for a mile and a half's run — officers too. (There are no different rules for different people in the RLI).

7 am: They're back in camp, showering and shaving, and then descending upon their breakfast (scrambled egg, bacon, hash, and as much tea or coffee and bread as anyone cares to consume) like a horde of famished locusts laying waste a mealie field.

After breakfast comes muster, and the detailing of general camp duties. A general flurry of tidying up and cleaning ensues.

9 am: Those on stand-by for the day remain in camp, but the others, a much larger proportion, go out for the morning on training. This includes bushcraft such as game-snaring, and the basics of tracking — though selected members of



Right: All Support Group members are qualified mortarmen. Regular batches are sent to the School of Infantry; these men then return as instructors to tutor the rest of the group.

Rhodesians Worldwide

each RLI commando are regularly sent on special tracking courses.

1 pm: Lunchtime. Today it's roast beef, with masses of mashed potato, vegetables, and all the trimmings.

1.30 pm: For those left behind in camp, a long hot afternoon yawns ahead. Some of the troopies begin a volleyball game; others have a go at the newly acquired swingball set.

Some of the officers and NCOs treat me to a sort of mini-Olympiad, demonstrating RLI games.

One is the Mashonaland Slalom. This entails racing in and out of the poles on the verandah of the camp hut, all the way along to the end, where a big tree must be touched, the object being to complete the slalom course — without barging into any of the poles — in the shortest possible time.

Steaming afternoon

Two teams are formed, the "blue jobs" (helicopter pilots on standby) versus the "brown jobs". It seems to me a loopy way of spending a steaming afternoon, but these are not chaps to loll around.

Next comes Bezant. It is explained to me gravely that this is an example of the close attention the RLI gives to cultural matters; that Bezant is in fact a game dating back to the Phoenicians, when it was known as Byzantium — this fascinating fact having been unearthed by blue-stocking RLI researchers.

I nod gravely back; and we proceed to the Bezant field nearby.

The technicalities are complex, and the source of much intense discussion. Finally the pitch is marked out, consisting of a circle drawn in the dust, and an empty tin can positioned some metres away.

A wooden club is placed in the middle of the circle, and each player has to whirl himself around this, bent over so that his forehead touches the club butt.

He must complete eight fast circles, everyone counting; then leap up, club in hand, race towards the tin and attempt to strike it as far as he can.

In fact of course, he is so dizzy that he invariably lumbers off wildly, club swinging, in the opposite direction, like an elephant stoned on marulas, or sometimes collapses altogether in a gyrating heap.

2.15 pm: The Bezant tournament comes to an end, the players wild-eyed and dust-caked, and me having laughed to much that the mascara is running down my cheeks.

The OC arrives back from a trip away from camp, very immaculate in beret, sunglasses etcetera, and stands on a rock surveying us somewhat coolly, I think.

2.30 pm: Some excitement, which I am aware of, but am only told of much later. A few days back, a 1 Commando patrol discovered a disused terrorist camp, and through what Maj Lockley describes as "intuition and assessment", decided to check the area thoroughly.

Tense atmosphere

Now they've struck oil, in the shape of two terrorists sitting on a boulder. The 1 Commando patrol calls upon the terrorists to surrender, whereupon they promptly open fire.

The RLI men return the fire, and both terrorists are killed. A third terrorist is is then discovered hiding under a rock, and is captured.

There's a tense atmosphere of expectancy back at the camp, but for the reserve men, it's a case of waiting it out, and drinking tea when in fact they're itching to be out there in the thick of it.

However, it'll be their turn tomorrow — duties are allocated by means of a strict roster system.

Should there be a general call-out, so compact is the camp that a single shout would serve to alert everyone. They'd be kitted out and ready to go by the time the helicopters are at the take-off stage: about two and a half minutes.

5 pm: Time for a shower and clean-up. Soon the bar will be open. There's no hard tack, merely because it's difficult to keep track of liquor which has to be doled out by the tot, and regimental accounting is scrupulous.

But everyone can have as much beer as he wants, in the evenings. This is never abused, Lt Scott-Donelan tells me, and thus no limits have ever had to be imposed.

5.40 pm: A helicopter arrives with the captured terrorist. He is immediately handed over to the Special Branch for interrogation.

As soon as possible, they will give Maj Lockley a preliminary debriefing, and on this initial report he'll commence planning for an operation — subject, of course, to the results of further interrogation of the terrorist.

This could comprise putting in a long-term ambush on a known terrorist contact.

6.15 pm: Dinner — curry and rice tonight. Lt Scott-Donelan takes me to one of the tents to interview the troopies.

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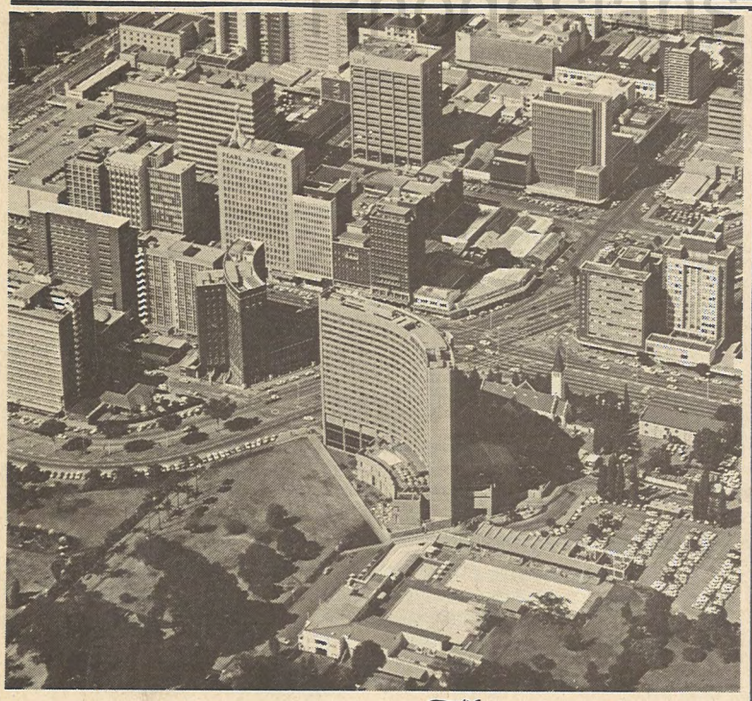

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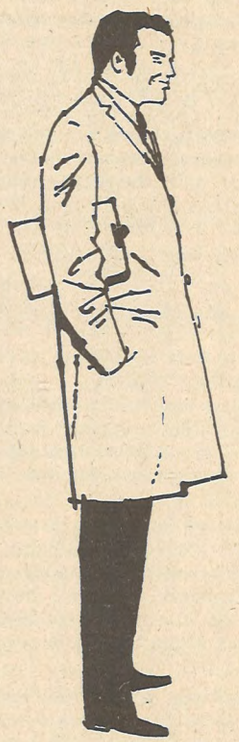

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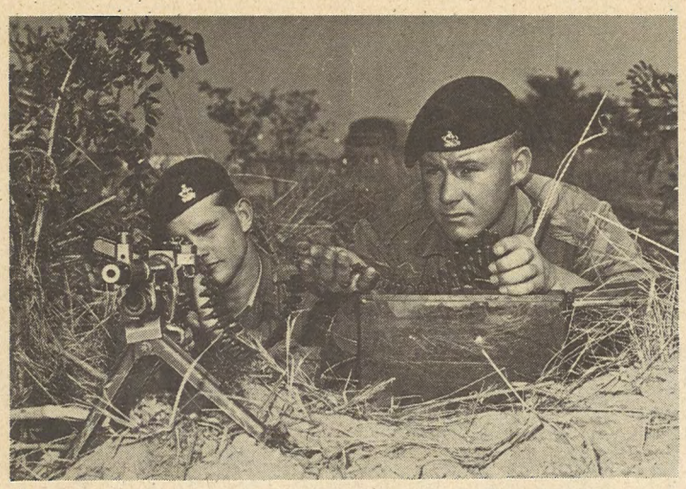

Young Rhodesians at war. "Incredibly . . . you have no fear at all, and methodically follow what you've been taught," comments one new RLI soldier of a contact.

THE INCREDIBLES

vicemen, Troopers Michael Hislop and Mark Tatham, who are being released on the morrow to return to the "bright lights."

Michael, an electrician in civilian life, gestures at the surrounding panorama of sunset, shining water and impala grazing on a nearby plain, and says: "For me, it's certainly been worth it, especially coming to a place like this."

Mark comments that he's had such a good time that he's tempted to join the regular Army.

I then speak to a regular soldier, Tpr John Wilkinson. Just 18, John joined the RLI in November, 1973, and has until recently been chafing at the bit because of the rules restricting under-18-year-olds to sedentary, non-operational duties.

Now, though, he's off the leash and delighted about it. He says he loves bush life, and has appreciated the opportunity to see Rhodesia during his travels with the RLI.

Worthwhile experience

Later I speak to another National Serviceman, Tpr David Gunns, aged 18. At the time of writing, he'd been in the RLI for eight months. He specifically applied to join the regiment.

"I knew that by going to the RLI, I'd learn what the Army was all about, and thus make my National Service a worthwhile experience," he says. "It's certainly turned out to be so. I enjoy the bush and the fact that in a commando you never know what's going to happen next."

Sgt Peter White is 23, and has been three and a half years in the RLI, which he joined because he was looking for adventure — "and I've found it," he says.

That's the understatement of the year. He himself accounted for six terrorists in a three-day follow-up after a land-mine incident.

The security forces began tracking the terrorists, who ignored calls to surrender and opened fire. In the subsequent contact and pursuit, at one stage Sgt White, an expert tracker, was alone, and suddenly found himself confronted by two terrorists.

Mining degree

Suffice to say he's here to tell the tale (albeit reluctantly — like most RLI men, he obviously flinches from the thought of talking about himself) and says that although he has a mining degree — and could therefore make his way well in civvie street — "I can't see myself leaving the Army. I'm too involved with it now; it's my life."

7 pm: One of the lads brings out a guitar, and everybody gathers round for a singsong.

There's no specified bedtime; like everything else for those on stand-by, that's a personal decision — but the camp is usually quiet by 9 pm.

There'll be little sleep for the OC or for the other officers and senior NCOs tonight, though. At 9.30 pm the Special Branch officer returns to Maj Lockley with a more detailed debriefing, necessitating adjustments in his schedule for the next day.

Planning and orders will thus be issued late into the night, for the first-light move of ambush parties.

Laughter and fun there may be during 24 hours with an RLI commando, but the paramount concern and desire of them all, from trooper to major, is to see that they contribute their best to the war being won.

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An on-the-spot tactics pep talk. Indicating a point of interest is Lt David Scott-Donelan, second in command of 1 Commando when I was there.

THE SUPPORT GROUP

They're poised and ready to go into action at a moment's notice

THE 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry is split into four: there are three commandos, and a support group. Though the support group in many ways functions as a commando, it's rather more specialised, concentrating on mortars, reconnaissance and tracking.

I visited Support Group while it was doing Fire Force duties — that is, on immediate stand-by ready to race out and lend a hand wherever necessary — and talked to its acting OC, Lt Peter Farndell.

Lt Farndell was originally in the Corps of Military Police, but after completing an officers' selection course, he applied to join the RLI, and has now been in the regiment for two years.

"In time of classical war, we act in a support role using, in the main, our mortars," he told me. "Therefore all of us have to be qualified mortarmen, and this is achieved by sending members on courses to the School of Infantry to qualify.

Retraining periods

"These men then return as instructors to tutor the others in our sub-unit. During our retraining periods, we also carry out mortar instruction.

"Despite this aspect, we are of course basically infanteers, and in the current war we operate as a commando. Therefore today we could be engaged in mortar work, yet tomorrow going out on a normal patrol. Support Group thus fulfils a dual role and is entirely flexible."

On the day that I visited Support Group, they were on stand-by, as Fire Force — in constant readiness for a call. Kit was packed in the trucks, but as regards personal supplies, each man would carry three days' rations, should Support Group be summoned.

What sort of calls do they get?

Control from the air

Lt Farndell gave me an example: "We could get a call from the JOC asking us to go to a certain spot where terrorists were known to be or where a contact was actually in progress, and X number of sticks of men were required. I would control the operation from the air.

"After a contact, mopping up has to be done by Fire Force; also any follow-up action. Then Fire Force returns to base to await the next call-out.

"We've been very busy recently; there were four calls the other day. Some of these, of course, transpire to be false alarms, but we respond to each one."

Talking of false alarms, I wanted to see how swiftly Support Group could be mobilised. Some of the men were whiling the waiting hours away by playing volleyball (though kini cricket — a game of mini cricket played with a baseball bat — is also popular). Others were lying on their stretchers reading.

Lt Farndell pressed a button and a raucous hooter blared. Instant frenetic action: the stand-by pilots scrambled to the nearby helicopters; the volleyball game broke up

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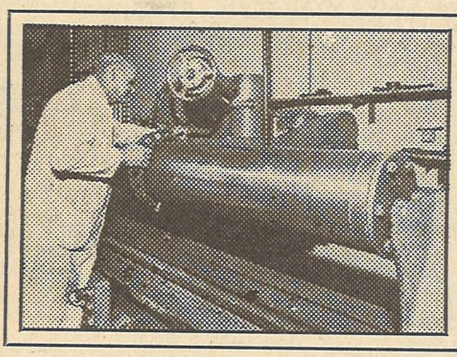

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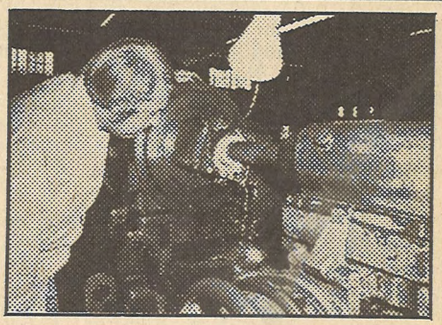

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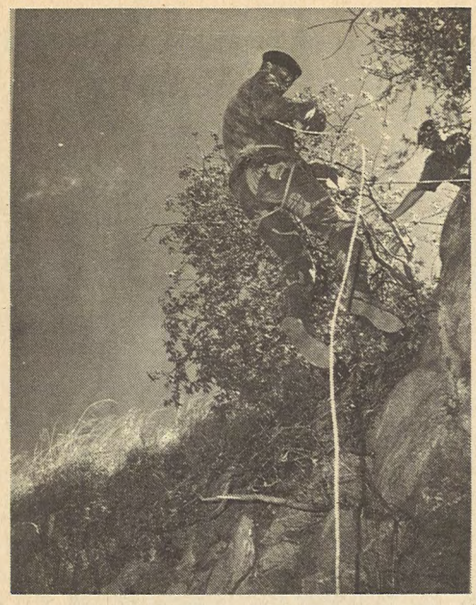
The Rhodesian Light Infantry



Left: The RLI troopie represents the cream of the crop. Standards are high, and as regards National Servicemen, an RLI selection team travels to Depot RR Llewellin Barracks, to hand-pick their quota. Abseiling is just one of the skills learnt.

THE SUPPORT GROUP

abruptly as its erstwhile players leapt for their webbing.

Then they ran to the waiting lorries, doing up buttons and cramming on hats as they went — a few half-finished Cokes were taken along too, to be swigged on the way to the airfield.

As the lorries were about to rumble off, Lt Farndell beckoned them back: there was "no sweat", as the Army phrase goes ... the female journalist had just been making a pest of herself.

(But she was vastly impressed, though — it had taken just one and a half minutes from the time that Lt Farndell pressed that button, until the lorries started moving, to assemble the men.)

I was struck by the motley garb. Everyone wore at least one piece of camouflage clothing, but the variations on that theme were many and remarkable.

Matter of choice

I asked Lt Farndell about uniform regulations, and he told me: "Gear is left to the soldier himself. He's got to carry all the basic equipment of course — so many magazines, etcetera. But the rations he selects himself, as long as he has sufficient to last him for a minimum of three days — and clothing too is a matter of personal choice for the most part."

The RLI feel that the more comfortable a man is, the better he fights. Long tight denim trousers may look smart, but when you're charging into a contact in a 38 deg C climate, PT shorts are infinitely preferable and more practical.

Some soldiers wear shirts, others stick to singlets; shoes range from veldskoens to tackies, and socks are generally as rare a sight as velvet smoking jackets in that neck of the woods.

Part of the work that currently occupies the Fire Force stems from land mine incidents. When a vehicle has hit a mine, the message is radioed through as soon as possible to Fire Force, who collect engineers with mine detectors, and a medic in case of casualties at the scene, then hasten to the spot.

Rotation for all

The trackers follow any spoor and sometimes this will lead to a contact, and the capture of the terrorists responsible for laying the mine.

I asked Sgt Maj Philip Payne if the men enjoyed Fire Force work — which comes around every four to five months.

"They love it," he said emphatically. "Those having to stay behind as reserves often beg to come along. But we rotate them all — except for the medic, caterer and mechanic, of course — and so everyone gets a frequent turn to go out."

Lt Farndell added: "We actually cover two Fire Force areas. Where there is a pre-arranged large-scale attack, Fire Force will be the main assault group, so you're guaranteed action."

An integral part of each day is the arrival of ill or injured African villagers, seeking medical attention. Usually this is confined to minor ailments, but whatever the problem, Fire Force will attempt to help out.

Sgt Mike Kerr told me of a recent incident wherein terrorists poured paraffin over a villager and set him alight. Support Group arrived at

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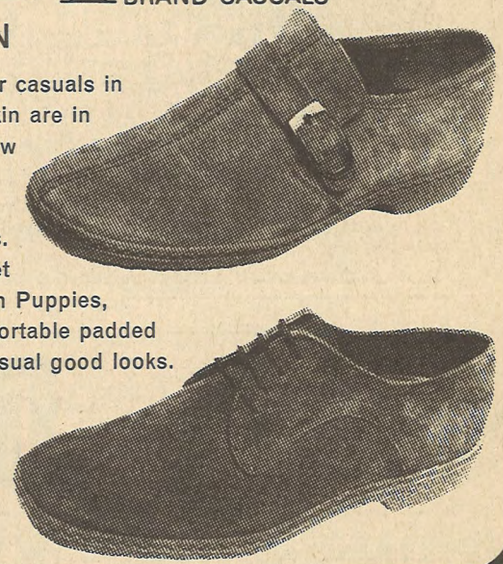

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Left: Their hunting ground is a rugged one, peppered with crags and gorges, riddled with waterways. Here, the RLI prepare to land.

THE SUPPORT GROUP

the village, and the terrorists promptly fled, leaving the man to burn.

Support Group men immediately extinguished the flames, administered first aid, and summoned a helicopter to fly the victim to base. There he received detailed medical attention, and when I arrived to interview Support Group several weeks later, he was walking about, albeit heavily bandaged, very conscious of the fact that he owes his life to the RLI.

Support Group are only too happy to help people, because it cuts both ways — they're extremely grateful for all that the Border Patrol Welfare Fund, the Rotary Anns, and the general public have done for them and for the RLI as a whole.

Feature film

Troops' "comforts" from these sources range from deep-freezes to bell-jars of piccalilli, but each item is much appreciated, be it large or small.

As regards entertainment while they wait, they have a good supply of books and magazines and games equipment, and at the camp I visited, a feature film was shown two evenings a week.

A portion of every dutiful husband's / son's /boyfriend's leisure time must of course be devoted to writing home. Men aren't always the most imaginative of scribes, and thus it was that an RLI think-tank came up with a cyclostyled pro-forma, which goes like this (inapplicable portion to be deleted by sender):

Dear Mary / Jane / Betty / Joan / Jill / current crow / housekeeper; I hope you are fine / not feeling depressed / longing for me to come home / maintaining a favourable bank balance.

WEATHER

The weather is bright and shining / raining cats and dogs / overcast / cold / warm / stinking hot / fine and splendid.

MORALE

Thanks for the letter / goodies box / when are you going to get around to writing? / baking?/ The last goodies box was good / fair / poor / pathetic / haven't received it. Your last letter was too long / too short / interesting / boring / not enough on the sports page / still waiting for it.

DOMESTIC

I hope you are looking after my car / cars / landrover / bicycle / lawnmower and are complying with the following points: checking the tyres / oil / water / cleaning it every day.

FINANCE

(Policy Statement.) Spending is our main concern. To this end I hope you are complying with the family / shared budget and not exceeding approved expenditure. Have you paid the following? Mess bill (no winges); HP; wages; other domestic accounts; your private clothing account must be a last priority.

ANIMALS

Have you bathed / de-ticked the following: dog / cat / fish.

BRATS

Please give the brat / brats / and future brats my love and ensure that: they are regimentally disciplined; their noses are cleaned; their nappies are starched. Hope all single ladies are still in perfect health; if not, take the big bottle twice daily.

SOCIAL SCENE

As per normal, I am behaving immaculately, but am finding it difficult to keep up with the hectic social scene. I hope that you: have locked yourself up at home / are not drinking on my mess bill / are watching TV and going to bed every night at eight o'clock / for the single ladies — leading a nun-like existence.

Hope to hear from you soon,
Love / yours sincerely /
regards / yours faithfully,
John / Jim / Tim / Mike / Dick
/ Sam / Harry / Tom . . . etc.
etc.

The RLI's rest and retraining periods fall this way: out for a month, back for 20-days rest and retraining. Yet though there's no place like home, as the song goes, you'll see a lot of cheerful faces on the day that the lorries roll back to the "sticks".

For Support Group, as with the rest of the RLI, the job that's waiting to be done is an eminently stimulating and satisfying one. ●

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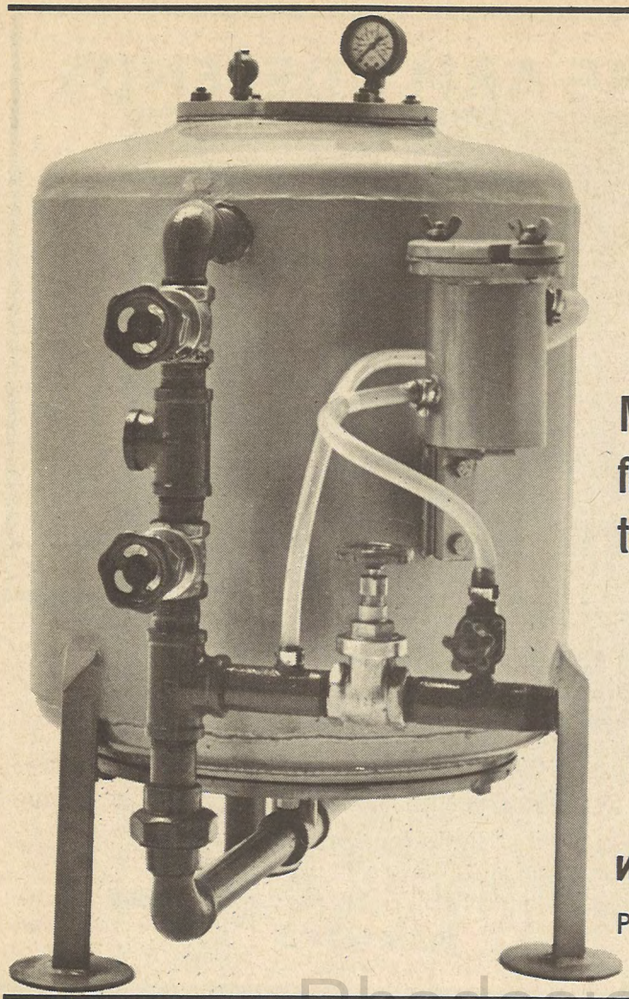

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The School of Infantry

Right: A word of advice from instructor to pupil during a course run by Regimental Wing at the School of Infantry.

IT'S NO PUSHOVER AT THIS SCHOOL

Courage, determination, initiative and integrity ... these are just some of the qualities that the staff of the School of Infantry look for in a new recruit. When they find them, they take that recruit and mould him into a leader

"THE School of Infantry is basically the maternity home of the Rhodesian Army," says the commandant at the time of writing, Lt Col T. M. (Tom) Davidson.

"Whilst we may not actually train each one of its members, all officers and instructors in the Army, involved in training, have at one stage passed through here."

He says of his job: "I think this is one of the finest commands one can have. You're relatively independent here; and you don't suffer from some of the frustrations that other officers in the Army experience, in that you can see the fruits of your work all the time, especially with regard to the cadets as each course progresses.

"We have at the School of Infantry the cream of officers and NCOs in the Rhodesian Army — I can get most people that I want. The calibre of these men under my command makes working here very pleasant."

COL Davidson is the ideal commandant of an institution where many students are in their early twenties. The communication gap might loom large indeed were a crusty colonel of the old school at the top.

Col Davidson (who at 34 was one of the youngest men to date in the Rhodesian Army to become a lieutenant colonel — and that was just three years ago) is no Colonel Blimp.

He enjoys contemporary music and modern clothes — in fact, he is legendary as the first officer in the Army to appear in the mess wearing a coloured shirt. Those were the days when everyone entering those hallowed precincts was clad in a sort of civilian uniform of white shirt, dark suit and regimental tie.

He leaves the School of Infantry in August, 1975, when, as a full colonel, he will be appointed deputy commander 2 Brigade, and director of projects.

I asked his successor-to-be, Maj George Lloyd, for some biographical notes, and he wrote: "Born in Bethlehem, not under a shining star, but in the shadow of the Drakensburg in the Orange Free State.

"Educated in the Transvaal where I was kicked out of kindergarten for not shaving. Joined the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Staff Corps in 1956. Commissioned after attending the first cadet course held at the School of Infantry in 1959."

Platoon commanders

What are the aims of the School of Infantry?

Col Davidson puts them this way: "To prepare and conduct training courses for officers and other ranks of the regular Army, Territorial Force and Reserve, as directed by Army HQ; to train officer cadets to fit them for service as regimental officers in the regular Army.

"To train selected National Servicemen to fit them for service as platoon commanders, or NCOs in an independent company; to keep abreast of the latest doctrine within the Army, thus ensuring that tactical training dissemination on courses is consistent with the roles of the Army; to evaluate and report on new methods, ideas and equipment as directed by Army HQ from time to time."

Headquarters, School of Infantry (which, with the commandant and his staff, includes Services Corps, Signals, Education, Military Police, Medical Corps and Engineers personnel) is split into three wings: tactical, cadet and regimental.

Let us examine each one of these in turn. Tactical wing, whose OC is Maj P. J. E. (Pat) Hill, provides tactical courses for Army members ranging from lance corporals to majors.

COURSES involve both classical warfare and counter-insurgency, or COIN, taught in theory as separate entities for the most part, though Col Davidson says they are interrelated.

"We tend in this country to split the two only because COIN is the immediate problem, whereas classical warfare is the long-term threat.

"However, on our company commanders' course, for example, our aim is to give officers sound training up to battle group level, in classical warfare — and we revise COIN and internal security operations up to unit level. The entire course lasts 10 weeks, of which seven are spent concentrating on classical warfare."

Cadet wing, whose OC is Maj M. F. (Mick) McKenna, copes with regular officer cadet courses, and National Service leadership training courses.

Maj McKenna comments: "The most important of these is the training of the young regular cadet — the man who will become a regular officer in the Army of the future. To this end, we run a 54-week course which covers a very broad spectrum of military knowledge.

"The regular cadet courses include instruction in tactics, artillery, combat engineering, armour, organisations, administration, staff duties, a support weapons course including instruction on mortars and machine guns; military law, map reading, pay and accounting, military history, drill, PT, current affairs and English — modern youths appear to have certain difficulties in writing grammatically, and the tendency seems to be towards phonetic spelling. We attempt to put this right.

"Then there are the specialisation periods: two weeks at the School of Signals, two weeks on a driving and maintenance course, and so on."

WHEN I visited the School of Infantry, the current batch of cadets was about to set off on the self-reliance and bush familiarisation course, which lasts a fortnight.

"We concentrate on the skills required for the position of an infantry platoon commander," says Maj McKenna. "But of course, the chaps get a good fundamental grounding in other aspects of Army work — artillery is just one instance.

"We modify the course to some extent every year, in order to keep right up-to-date."

Why the inclusion, in such a tight schedule, of the more esoteric subjects such as military history?

"There are tremendous lessons to be learnt here," Maj McKenna

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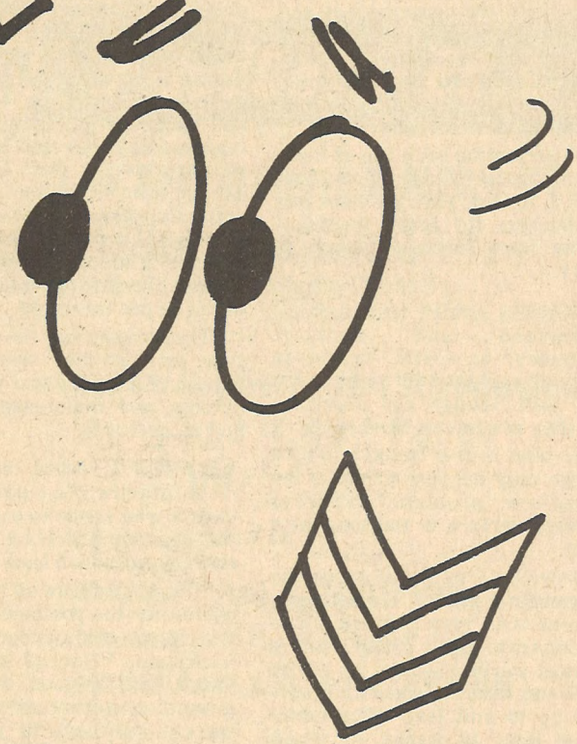

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The School of Infantry

Left: Lt Col T. M. Davidson at a passing-out parade at the School of Infantry. From this moment onwards, these young officer cadets will be fully fledged officers.

IT'S NO PUSHOVER AT THIS SCHOOL

replies. "The old adage of history repeating itself is very true."

Like all officers and instructors at the school, Maj McKenna has served for lengthy periods in the operational areas during his Army career, so he is talking from experience and not from mere theoretical knowledge.

He says: "I can't think of anyone here who hasn't been right up at the sharp end. This gives you the advantage of having practised what you are now preaching, and thus you do so with confidence and authority."

OF his young charges, he comments: "We ask a hell of a lot of them . . . but we get a lot in return. We set a high standard, because of the sort of war we are fighting.

"A few weeks after leaving here, a young officer could find himself 50 miles from his nearest superior, so we've got to be sure that he is totally equipped to cope with any situation. The Rhodesian Army will be placing a lot of men's lives in his hands."

All cadets take an initial turn living in barrack rooms — "it's good for team spirit," Maj McKenna remarks — but later, regular cadets progress to what is known as the "hotel," wherein each cadet has his own comfortable bedsitter.

The regular cadets' mess is an attractive living-room and bar, complete with fireplace, easy chairs, TV and stereo. This is their own lair, which officers enter only on invitation.

The National Servicemen's mess, which has just been completed, is even more of a showpiece: I peeped under the dust covers and saw furniture which would grace the most elegant of private living-rooms.

(In fact, all personnel at the school have impressive messes: the African WOs' and sergeants' mess, as just one example, has a cocktail bar and stereo set as well as a TV room — and outside, a vine covered patio, complete with ping-pong table and garden chairs, for relaxing on warm evenings.

There are two grades of African married quarters for school personnel: newly-weds move into thatched rondavels with electricity, and containing a Handigas stove. After a spell there, they are entitled to one of the two-bedroomed houses, each of which has its own piece of garden.

Sporting facilities for white and black personnel alike are excellent and varied throughout: rugby, football, squash, tennis and swimming are available. The School of Infantry normally fields a fine rugby team which travels far and wide.

But back to cadet wing, and to the National Service leadership training course — which is not exclusively an officer training course.

This is how it works: every six to eight weeks, when the Registrar of Defence Manpower calls up an intake, the resultant crowd assembled at Depot 1 RR, Llewellin Barracks, are given information concerning the leadership training course. Volunteers for this are called for.

The selection board is usually chaired by Lt Col Hugh Rowley, CO Depot 1 RR; and a School of Infantry team sits upon it to choose its group.

SAYS Maj McKenna: "I should stress that we're looking for POTENTIAL leadership — it doesn't need to be fully developed as yet. Courage, determination, a practical bent, initiative, integrity (both towards others and himself,) a sense of responsibility . . . these are the qualities we want in a candidate.

"We are not looking for supermen, just good guys who can be relied upon to get on with a sound job of work."

Psychiatrists aren't included on the selection board — "no one can choose an officer like another officer," Maj McKenna believes.

The first six weeks of the National Service leadership training course is spent versing the men in basic soldiering.

The second phase concentrates on developing leadership potential.

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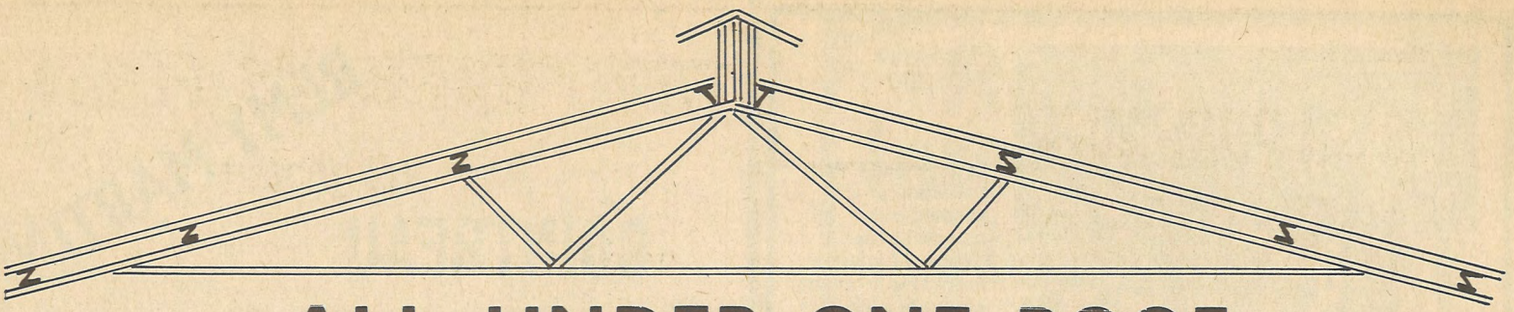

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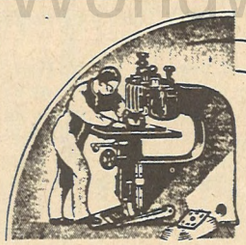

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The School of Infantry

IT'S NO PUSHOVER AT THIS SCHOOL

During the third phase, the men are trained to be leaders at platoon level, in a COIN setting. The entire course spans 19 weeks.

Rank decisions are made towards the end of the course — "though of course, we formulate our own ideas as time goes on." Whether a trainee becomes a second lieutenant, a sergeant or a corporal, depends upon his overall performance during those five months.

The new leaders rejoin their intake at depot, in command appointments, and move off to an independent company.

I was driven around the school grounds by Col Davidson, who pointed out various features to me: the assault course; the rifle ranges — a 12-target, 1 000-yard range and a 30-yard range for 9 mm weapons; grenade bays (all of which add up to complete infantry facilities for weapon training — even mortar practice can be carried out in full); a simulated helicopter; a comprehensive library; lecture rooms; a huge indoor drill shed nearly completed; the sports fields; and a sandpit which at first struck me as incongruous until Col Davidson explained that here "sand models" are demonstrated, the sand providing a more flexible medium for some tactical displays and lessons than would a cloth model.

Then it was on to regimental wing, whose OC is Maj R. J. (Bob) Davie, and which runs instructors' courses for Regular, National Service and Territorial Force officers, and European and African soldiers (the latter mostly from the RAR) on drill, weapons and mortars; and Territorial Force squad drill and section weapons instruction courses.

MAJ Davie says: "The only officers' course we run is the young officers' weapons course. A young subaltern does a year in his unit, then comes to us for the officers' weapons course.

"As regards European and African soldiers' courses, the syllabi are the same, apart from minor variations in content. Overall, though, the progression in an instructor's career is the same for African and European soldiers.

"The idea is that any trained soldier — from trooper to sergeant — may be selected to attend squad drill and section weapons instructors' courses, which are designed to produce an instructor competent to train recruits."

The European squad drill and section weapons instructors' courses are attended for the most part by regular soldiers and National Servicemen, though the occasional Territorial Force battalion member may sometimes be amongst the group.

Once a student has passed the appropriate phase of the basic course, he can attend the advanced courses. He has to pass the squad drill phase to become eligible to attend the ceremonial drill instructors' course.

Having passed the section weapons instructors' phase, he can attend the platoon weapons instructors' course and the mortar instructors' course.

Another course is the methods of instruction course: a leader may possess much military knowledge, but he needs to know how to put it across to his men. Points in this course include the correct way to put a question; how to prepare lessons in terms of length of time and content; how to categorise content into what pupils must/should/could know.

AS with the rest of the School of Infantry, regimental wing's techniques and syllabus are under constant self-appraisal for anachronisms, so that these can be instantly eradicated from lessons — in the military context, what is today a satisfactory weapon or technique can tomorrow become outmoded.

Said Maj Davie: "Napoleon said, 'you can do anything with bayonets except sit on them.' Accordingly, if you have enough good instructors, you can achieve anything; without them, you can do nothing. Our soldiers use their weapons to kill, and we train them to win.

"So first-class regular instructors are vital, and to this end we are constantly working to build up an elite group of instructors.

"In recent years, we have been training National Servicemen instructors with the intention of creating a cadre of top-grade Territorial Force instructors — and they have attained high standards, so far.

"Through them we will be able to call up large numbers of reinforcements, when necessary, and train these men to be good soldiers within a fairly short space of time."

Visiting the School of Infantry is an inspiring experience. Examine the institution in detail, and you realise why it is that Rhodesia's Army is of such a high calibre.

"We train them to win," as Maj Davie puts it; of the school those five words say it all. ●

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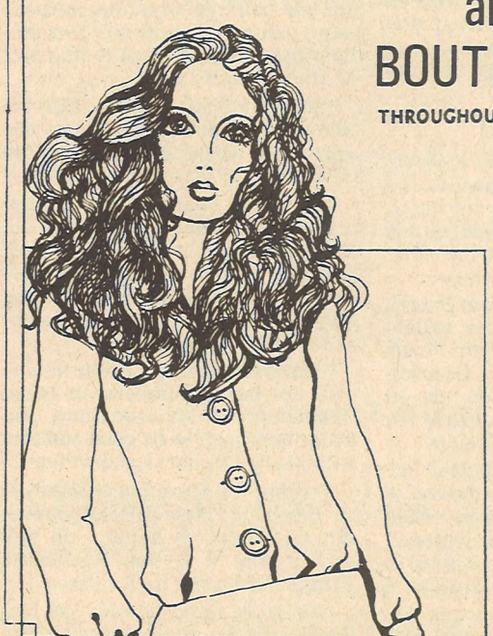

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The Rhodesian Corps of Signals

Left: A Signals post in the operational area. The corps is multi-racial; African signallers are an integral part of it, and one of the most remarkable aspects of this unit is the esprit de corps and happy atmosphere.

'SWIFT AND SURE' IS THEIR MOTTO

Communications are a vital part of the modern-day army. The Corps of Signals sees to it that units in the field get the best possible service

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THAT was the cost of a complete Signals station in 1797. This particular version, known as the radiated telegraph, was the brainchild of the Chaplain General of the British Army, the Rev John Gamble (formerly a mathematics don at Pembroke College, Cambridge).

Brushing aside his master's stipulation that it was more blessed to give than to receive, he sold his invention to the Army.

Common pivot

Its five arms radiated from a common pivot. Only the two horizontal positions and the three others at 45 in the upper quadrant were used. More mobile than its forerunner — oddly enough, also created by a gentleman of the cloth, the Archdeacon of Man — it was used with success during the Peninsular Wars, and also on a line from London to the East Coast.

Gamble subsequently improved upon his first version, evolving a six-arm rope and pulley machine which was ideal for ship-to-ship use.

In the hope of seducing the Lords of the Admiralty into going overboard as regards this magnificent machine, he erected a sample on one of the towers of Westminster Abbey, where those august gentlemen could not fail to see it each time they crossed Whitehall . . . but they remained singularly uninterested.

Nowadays, of course, no branch of any Armed Service would be without a strong Signals unit, and the Director of the Rhodesian Corps of Signals, Lt Col A. H. G. (Gordon) Munro, comments: "Signal communications are the chief medium by which military commanders exercise command and control.

"Communications are an essential function of command, and form an important part of the fighting resources at the disposal of commanders. It follows that, in the main, tactical communications will follow the chain of command.

"Modern warfare relies on increasingly sophisticated signal equipment at all levels in the battlefield. In addition, the employment of small groups of all arms operating over greatly increased distances emphasizes the increased importance of signal communications to commanders.

"If the standard of operation, maintenance and security of these communications is not of the highest order, the enemy will be materially helped to win the battle, and our commanders will be restricted in their full use of their men and weapons.

"Commanders and staffs must therefore use communications to the maximum advantage as they do their other fighting resources. It's the responsibility of signal commanders to advise on how this can best be achieved."

Technical supervision

South African born Col Munro himself has been in Signals throughout seven-eighths of his Army career.

He joined the Rhodesia/Nyasaland Staff Corps as a sergeant, in the Signals branch, and when the Rhodesian Corps of Signals was formed at the break-up of the Federation, Gordon Munro was squadron commander. He was appointed Director of Signals in December 1973.

The main roles of the corps can be summed up this way: the coordination and provision of communications (radio, radio teleprinter, line and signal dispatch service — SDS) down to unit HQ level; technical supervision of all Army signal communications; repair of all signals equipment used by all arms; advice and help in training signallers of all arms and services. The corps has many subsidiary roles, too numerous to detail.

The Signals Directorate is situated at Army HQ, Salisbury, as is the Army Communications Centre and there are signal squadrons serving throughout the Army. An essential section of the corps is the School of Signals, at Bulawayo's Brady Barracks.

I visited the school and talked to the commandant, Maj D. K. (Kim) Christianson, who told me: "There's an HQ block which houses myself, my adjutant, European and African RSMs, and an orderly room sergeant.

"Then there are the Q stores and mechanical transport section. The training portion of the school comprises three wings: the National Service wing, the Communications and Tactics wing, and the Technical Wing.

"The National Service wing is responsible for training National Servicemen after their first phase at Depot RR, as corps and regimental signallers — they are then posted to various signal squadrons and independent companies. The training they do here varies between eight weeks (for regimental signallers) and 13 weeks (for corps signallers).

"The Communications and Tactics wing is basically responsible for training all regular signallers as operators. Our task is fundamentally to train corps signallers — this includes officers both TF and regu-

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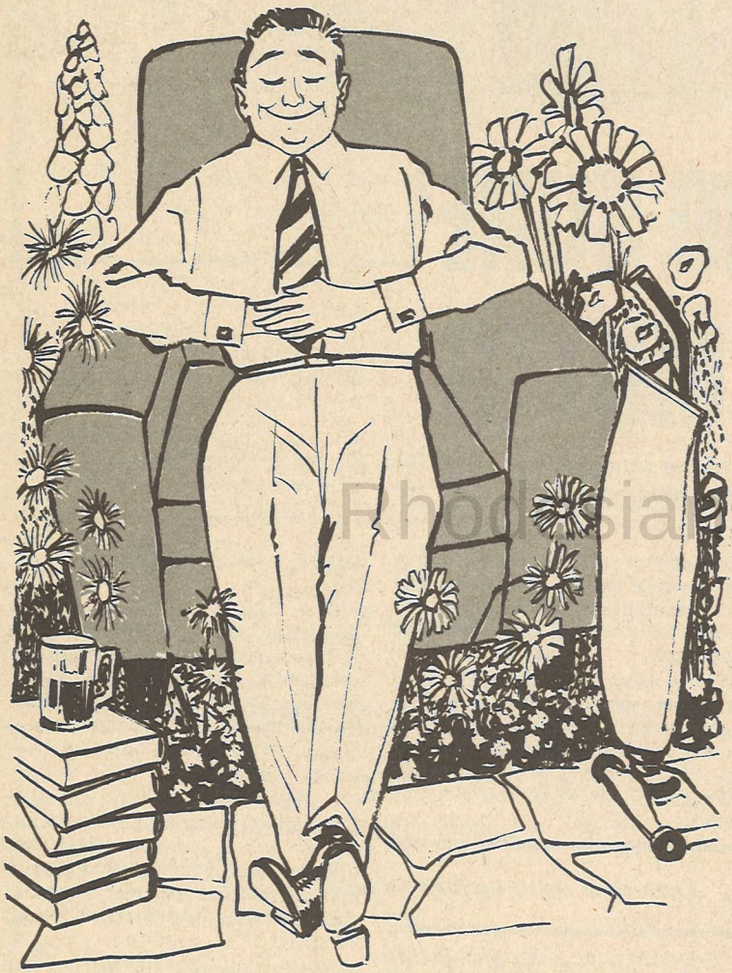

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The Rhodesian Corps of Signals

Right: The Rhodesian Corps of Signals possesses an impressive array of sophisticated equipment. Its highly qualified technicians are trained both at the School of Signals and at Polytechnics.

Rhodesians Worldwide

'SWIFT AND SURE' IS THEIR MOTTO

lar — but because of anti-terrorist operations in recent years, we've also taken on the job of training regular regimental signallers, which include men from the RAR, RLI and SAS, for instance.

"Furthermore, we run regimental duties courses which include basic drill and weapon training.

"The Technical Wing copes with the technical training of corps signallers, and is exclusively for regular soldiers. The most important course here is a 15-month radio technician's course — the longest course presently run in the Rhodesian Army, I believe.

"Upon completion of this course, a signaller becomes a qualified radio technician."

The Technical Wing also provides basic courses in telegraph techniques of shorter duration, and a variety of technical upgrading courses.

Radio and telegraph technician training isn't the whole signals story, of course: the trades of fitter and electrician come into it too.

Testing equipment

Regular officer cadets from the School of Infantry come to the School of Signals for a two-week course in radio and operating procedures.

Another important task of the School of Signals is the testing of any pieces of equipment with an electronic bias, acquired by the Rhodesian Army.

1974 was a peak year for the School of Signals: 620 students passed through it. At any one time the school may well be running up to eight courses simultaneously, with as many as 160 members under training. Nonetheless, students receive virtually individual attention as with any other military school — "we make sure people learn," says Maj Christianson.

The Rhodesian Corps of Signals is mounting a pilot scheme at present for the training of African soldiers as technical assistants; eventually, it is hoped, they will undertake the appropriate trade tests.

The corps motto is "Certa Cito" — meaning "Swift and Sure." "We try to live up to this," says Col. Munro.

The corps is sponsored by G Branch, but in civilian terms, its fairy godmother is the Municipality of Hartley, which had adopted the corps.

This all began when Salisbury and Bulawayo signallers were striving to get together at some convenient shooting range in order to practise jointly, so that a signals team might be selected for the Army Weapons meeting.

COL Munro recounts: "The only available range within reasonable distance was the rifle range of Hartley, controlled by the member in charge of Hartley Police. We obtained permission, and went down there to practise two years in succession, and thus got to know well the people in and around Hartley.

"Police Reserve members would arrange matches; we'd be invited back to private homes, and gradually close ties were formed between the Corps of Signals and Hartley.

"Because the townspeople had been so good to us, we arranged for the Signals band to go down there in June, 1972, and we laid on a retreat ceremony. The director of signals at that time, Lt Col N. I. Orsmond, was away, but he asked me to represent him.

"Hartley was then in the process of becoming a Municipality. Before his installation, the first mayor wrote to Army HQ, asking if the town could adopt a signal squadron.

"We thanked him, but suggested instead that the corps itself, rather than a single squadron, might be adopted. He replied that Hartley would be delighted to do so, and the formal adoption ceremony was part of the general celebrations when Hartley became a Municipality in 1974".

Reciprocal visits

Since then, there have been a number of reciprocal visits; and Hartley has been most generous to the corps, donating a goodly sum, part of which has gone to Signals Welfare, and part to the Signals Wives' Association, chaired at the time of writing by the director's wife, Mrs Mona Munro, and formed firstly to cater for the needs of signals wives, and secondly to send "glory bags" from time to time to those signallers on active service.

The Rhodesian Corps of Signals' badge, depicting a replica of Mercury, the Roman God, sculpted by Giovanni de Bologna (but surmounted by a Zimbabwe bird, detached) is a significant one.

Although the wing-footed figure — "Swift and Sure" — is that of Mercury, he was an adaptation of Hermes, the Greek God, named as God of Athletics and of Fertility. He was given his winged shoes by Perseus in return for a favour — Hermes being a philanthropic sort of a chap.

His major role became that of Messenger of the Gods, and he became recognised by mortals as the patron of travellers. Despite this hectic schedule, he also found time to invent astronomy, mathematics and the alphabet — and to pursue with enthusiasm the fair sex, one result of this particular activity being his siring of that original juvenile delinquent, Pan.

The Rhodesian Corps of Signals Officers' Handbook, in relating the legend of Hermes, concludes: "He was not afraid of taking on more than his share of help and could be relied upon to make that extra effort which makes the difference between a good job and an excellent one. Altogether an appropriate person for us in the Rhodesian Corps of Signals to wear as our emblem."

HERMES' magical lyre (for he it was who discovered the sound of music) was so coveted by Apollo that he coaxed Hermes into exchanging it for a wooden staff, which was reputed to be able to produce concord out of strife.

(To demonstrate this, the staff was placed between two warring snakes, who promptly entwined themselves around it in eternal friendship.)

This, too, is a good symbol of a factor which is inherent in the Rhodesian Corps of Signals. Maj Christianson remarked on the fact that because of the fascinating nature of the work, it is seldom that transfers to other corps are sought.

Perhaps the reasons for this go somewhat deeper, though; Col Munro puts it this way: "Speaking in general terms, the esprit de corps in Signals is very high, and the envy of a lot of others. All members are intensely loyal to the corps and to its aim."

And as a signals wife myself, I can heartily endorse that. ●

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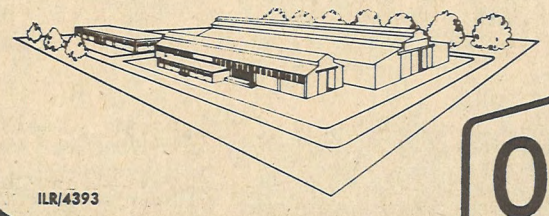

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AG's
(Adjutant General's)
Branch

Left: The Adjutant General, Lt Col John Thompson. This photograph was taken during a final parade at Depot RR, when he was commanding officer there.

Rhodesiana Collection

NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN THIS JOB

One of the busiest men in the Army — that's the Adjutant General

"THE Adjutant General," my soldier husband told me, "is one of the busiest men in the Rhodesian Army."

When I interviewed Lt Col J. L. (John) Thompson, I discovered just how very true that is. The colonel likens A Branch, his realm, to the heart of the Army.

In that case, he can be likened to a cardio-thoracic surgeon, ready to step in swiftly with cool efficiency and precision, easing blockages, making excisions or grafting on where necessary; transplanting new vigorous life where the old equivalent needs replacing; and generally reducing blood pressure (at whatever cost to his own!)

Early interest

Col Thompson was bitten by the Army bug when he was still at school — Plumtree, which at that time had a flourishing cadet corps.

"I'd had a leaning towards the Army right from early childhood, since my father was a member of the Southern Rhodesian Staff Corps," he says. "During my schooldays, I took a keen interest in the cadets, and ended up by being one of the school's three 2nd lieutenants.

However, the young John Thompson's father was against him taking up a military career — and so after school he joined the Irrigation Department.

But after 15 months of this existence, he had to conclude that he was not in the right profession, and so in May, 1952, he joined the Army.

He spent two years in Malaya with the RAR, and later on he had several years as adjutant with the RLI.

He took up his present post at Army HQ, Salisbury, in May 1974; and says of it: "This is probably one of the most interesting jobs in the Army."

His department covers a wide panorama indeed, and he has a comparatively large staff at his disposal. His three majors each run separate sections, supervised overall, of course, by Col Thompson himself.

Let's look at manpower first: this is responsible for promotions and appointments for the entire Army, both regular and territorial; and all administrative matters relating to personnel.

It copes with conditions of service; attachments to and from other armies, officers' selection boards; confidential reports; discharges; resignations and retirements; transfers and postings; the publication of all orders and instructions of an administrative nature.

THE staff in this section alone consists of the major, a lieutenant, a WO1, a WO2, and a senior lady clerk.

Then there's the personal services section, which deals with all matters pertaining to the personal side of administration. These include all annual reports, audits, boards of enquiry, every matter of a ceremonial nature, archives, the control of the central registry, the administration of all civilians employed at Army HQ, policy matters regarding the medical directorate, the army bands, the corps of chaplains, etcetera; discipline, including district and general courts martial; policy regarding dress (uniforms, that is); honours and awards; policy regarding messes and canteens; insurance; visits, both internal and those involving civilians; welfare; publicity and public relations; complaints of any kind against the Army, and the publication of orders and instructions appertaining to personal aspects.

This major's staff consists of a captain, a WO2 and a lady clerk.

Last but not at all least, there's the planning section. The major in charge of this deals with all aspects of administrative planning, including career planning, officers' promotion policy; the revision and updating of regulations, and proposals for changes to conditions of service.

Now a brief look at the public relations segment of Col Thompson's many-splendoured umbrella: the adjutant general can be compared with the managing director of a large advertising agency.

Public relations

He commands the public relations department, ably managed by Rhodesian Army PRO Capt Geoffrey Bond, photographs being supplied by the official Army photographer, Peter Eaton. An essential part of this section is recruitment, under the energetic leadership of Maj Nick Lamprecht.

Col Thompson's A branch acts as sponsor for the A Services and Corps, such as the Rhodesian Army Medical Corps, the Rhodesia Corps of Military Police, the Rhodesian Army Pay Corps, the Rhodesian Army Education Corps, the Corps of Chaplains, and Legal Services.

It's up to Col Thompson to sort out any matter from a policy point of view regarding these corps, passing on his findings and recommendations through the Chief of Staff to the Army Commander.

What's a typical day in the life of an adjutant general? Col Thompson says wryly that the only typical element is the fact that he's bombarded from the moment he walks down the corridor towards his office.

"It would be nice to arrive at work, get into one's office, collect one's thoughts, and plan the day. My biggest problem, though, is the fact that there are generally three or four people standing outside my door, waiting to see me . . . people who require instant answers to their problems.

"The other bugbear is that in HQ there are a good many conferences! It's not unusual to have three or four a day, and this all takes time."

AN example of one such conference would be the discussion of policy formation as regards some point. Col Thompson would call in the directors of the relevant corps, and unit commanders, and the resultant thrashing out might well occupy most of one morning.

Two burdens have, however, been lifted from the shoulders of the adjutant general in recent times: the drafting of regulations and amendments to regulations, once the responsibility of the adjutant general is now dealt with by the director of legal services (who also advises the adjutant general on boards of enquiry, courts martial, and all proceedings of a legal nature); and the manpower side of personnel has been taken over by Army pay and records.

Nonetheless, A Branch's sphere of influence is still a vast one: the heart of the Army indeed — but thanks to the skill of the chief surgeon and his hard-working staff, the body's alive and well. ●

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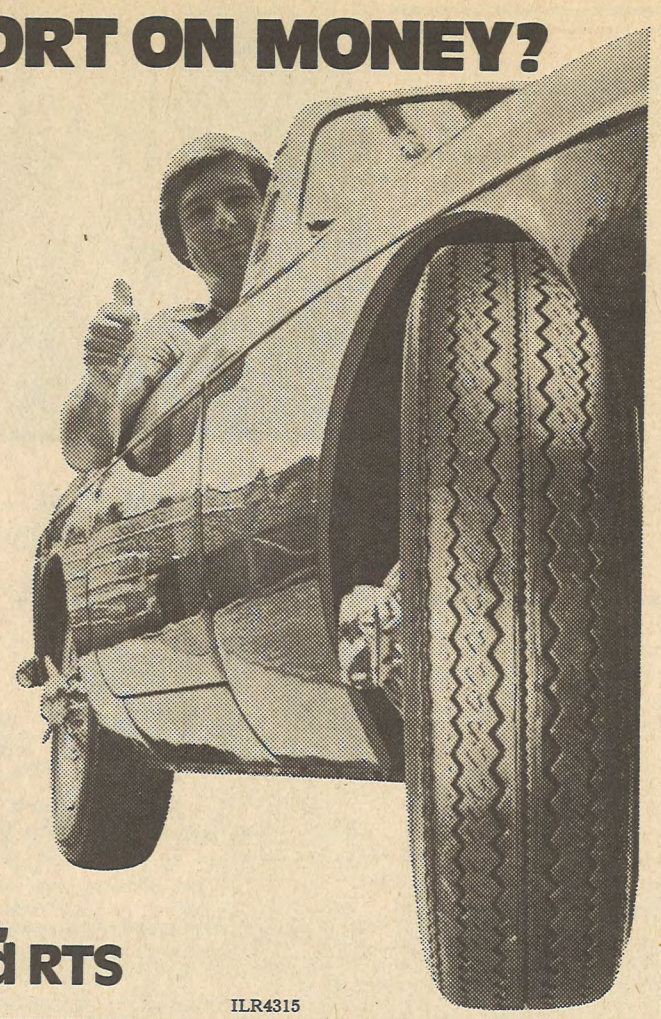

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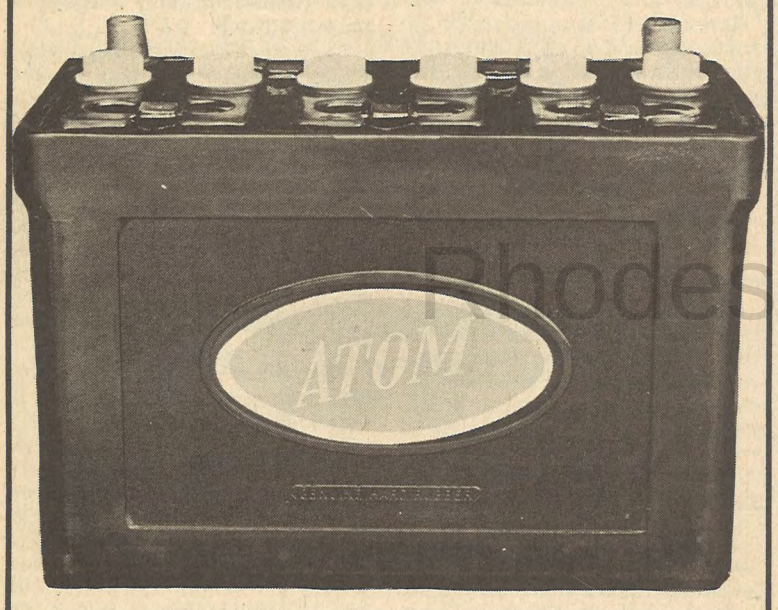

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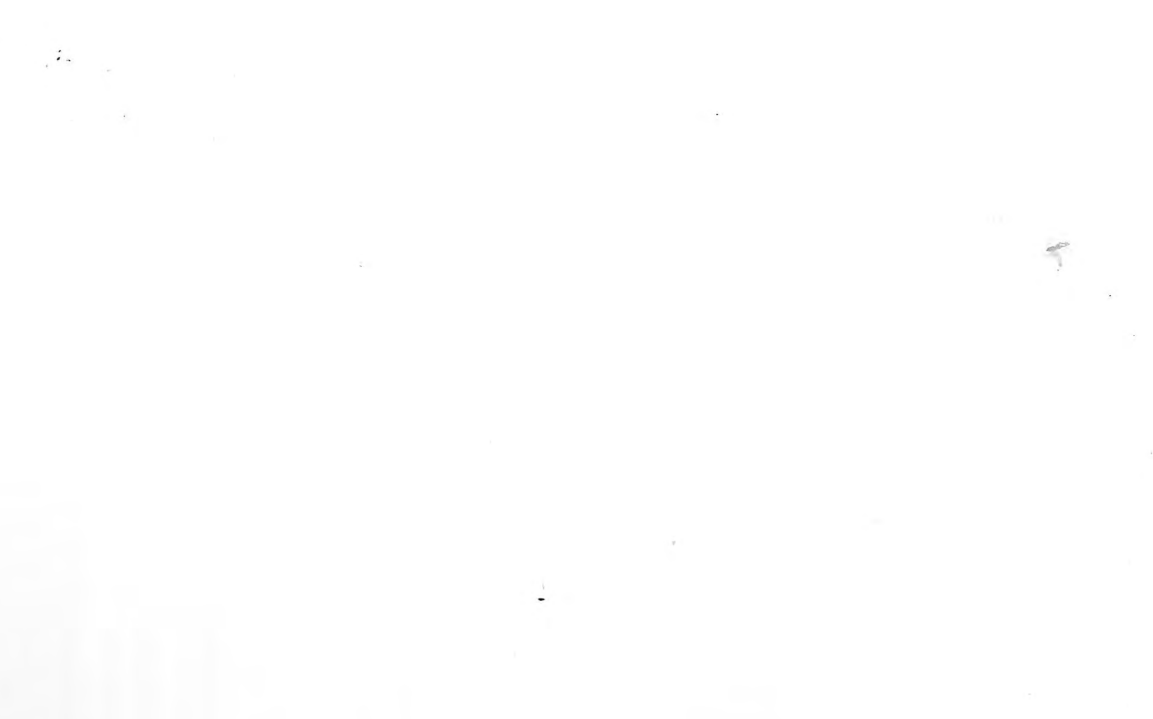

Right: Regular training is a vital part of the artillery's peacetime routine. The men spend much time on operations and exercises out of camp.

THE POWERFUL DETERRENT

Strong arm in time of classical war — that's the Artillery Regiment

I RECENTLY met a 72-year-old member of the Artillery Regiment of the Rhodesian Army: though not in actual service, the oldtimer could swing into efficient action at any moment if required, and such is the spit and polish that the sands of time, let alone the mud of Ladysmith or the Somme, haven't left their mark.

Before you start wondering whether the artillery chaps are setting up press-ganging traps outside the Senior Citizens' Club, let me hasten to reveal the identity of the septuagenerian — it's the 13-pounder which belongs to the Artillery Association and stands on proud and gleaming guard outside the unit's headquarters at Cranborne Barracks, Salisbury.

It sums up what artillery is all about: the powerful deterrent that every self-respecting Army maintains, to act as its strong arm in time of classical war.

Rugged terrain

Present anti-terrorist warfare such as the Rhodesian Army is currently waging is generally fought out in rugged terrain amid thick bush veld, and thus doesn't often afford the Artillery Regiment all that much scope — though the unit has on a number of occasions during the past nine years played a vital and honourable part in contacts.

Maj Ian Pullar, OC Depot Rhodesian Artillery, and Training Officer 1 Field Regiment, wears two hats, as the Army expression has it, because there are two artillery units: Depot Artillery, which deals with the training of National Servicemen; and 1 Field Regt, which is a Territorial Force unit.

Maj Pullar joined the Federal Army in 1961 and served in the King's African Rifles in what was then Northern Rhodesia. Upon the break-up of Federation, he joined the Rhodesian Army and was posted to the School of Infantry as a mortar instructor.

There followed three years also on mortars in the RLI which is still his parent unit. He thereafter attended a number of artillery courses, finally qualifying as a gunnery instructor. He's been in his present post for two years now, and is genuinely enthusiastic about his sphere of work.

"I enjoy it very much," he says. "It's different from infantry work, though many people don't seem to realise that. You can't just pluck someone out of infantry and make him an instant gunner. It takes a number of years for him to become proficient."

Depot receives its regular batches of National Servicemen as soon as they have completed their first phase at Llewellin Barracks — "then they come to us and start their training as artillerymen, and spend the rest of their National Service period with us.

"It's an interesting and varied course, I think, covering subjects such as gun drill, signals, map reading, survey and counter-insurgency from the infantry point of view; tactics and driving.

"During the counter-insurgency portion of the training programme, they work as infanteers; they leave their guns behind and go out to the bush to operate purely as infantry for one to two months. The Territorial Force, 1 Field Regiment, also operates as an infantry unit."

How does survey come into it?

Gun positions

Maj Pullar explains: "The survey course entails getting the exact grid reference of gun positions, and putting guns on to a common grid. It's a fairly specialised business."

Artillery bristle at any suggestion that they spend most of their time polishing up 25-pounders at depot.

"We spend a lot of time on operations and exercises out of camp," says Maj Pullar, "almost as much time in the bush, in fact, as does a regular unit. We've just had a very good training camp. We called up 300 and took them on an exercise in the Buhera district."

Maj Pullar showed me round the training hangars, and we stopped to watch a group of National Servicemen being taught basic drills, positions in action, and the names of different parts of a 25-pounder (which weighs 4 000 lb, by the way.)

This weapon is now known more fashionably as an 88mm, which title refers to its calibre. Though dating back to the Second World War, it's still a stalwart standby in many large armies — "accurate and reliable," comments Maj Pullar.

"This is another advantage of being in artillery; the basic principles apply to all guns, so a man trained by us here could subsequently join an artillery unit anywhere else in the world and still be conversant with the equipment and procedures there, after only a short reorientation."

Southern Rhodesian artillerymen fought with distinction as a Rhodesian battery during the 1939-45 war, in North Africa and Italy. Though disbanded during the early part of Federation, a core remained in the form of a voluntary Governor-General's saluting troop.

An artillery unit as such was reformed just before the dissolution of Federation. Depot Rhodesian Artillery came into being seven years ago.

As is often the case in a smallish unit, there's a strong esprit de corps, and a tangible example of this is the attractive gunners' canteen created by the men themselves with minimum expense and maximum ingenuity — the bar surrounds, for instance, are made from old packing crate wood planed down and varnished, and now looking surprisingly like knotty pine.

And though ear drums are protected most carefully on duty (no man without ear defenders on is permitted to fire a gun) it's a different story after 4.30 pm when the magnificent canteen stereo, also paid for by the unit, pounds into life. ●

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ILR/4501

The Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains

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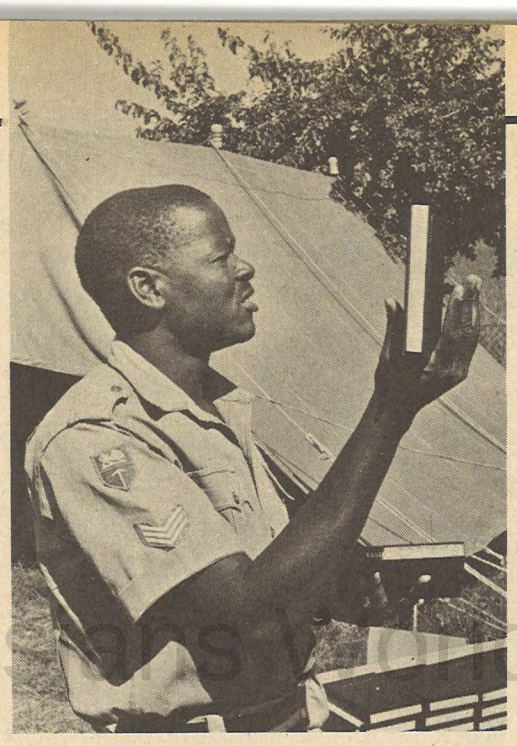
The Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains



Right: Shona Bibles were recently presented to the RAR. Here, an African catechist, Sgt Tiri Varomba, talks to RAR troops about the gifts.

Below: Maj the Rev John Fall celebrates Holy Communion somewhere out in "the sticks." He frequently visits remote call signs, not only to hold church services, but also to chat informally with the troops.

THEY PROVIDE A SHOULDER TO CRY ON

Many servicemen with domestic or financial difficulties find it of great benefit to talk things over with the chaplain. For "Padre," as he is affectionately known, will always lend a sympathetic ear

ONE of Padre John Fall's favourite cartoons is the Andy Capp one in which the nefarious Andy is ambling down the road and bumps into the vicar.

"I know it's none of my business, Mr Capp, but . . ." says the vicar, and then launches into a reproachful detailing of Andy's iniquities. Andy listens, poker-faced. "You're partly right, vicar," he says eventually — and then, as he's disappearing round the corner — "it IS none of your business."

Maj The Rev John Fall isn't that sort of vicar, happily for the Rhodesian Army — and neither is his colleague, Lt Col the Rev Norman Wood. Both are intelligent, sensitive men with the two extra ingredients which matter so much (yet often lacking) in gentlemen of the cloth: Kipling's "common touch"; and a good sense of humour.

Lovelorn troopie

In short, they are entirely approachable: I'd bet my bottom dollar that anyone in trouble, from a lovelorn troopie to a melancholy menopausal colonel's lady, would find solace, good advice — and possibly even pause for a gentle, therapeutic laugh at themselves after a chat with the "padres."

For this is a large and very important portion of their job — welfare.

The Army has its material welfare section which sees that the boys on the border are well supplied with goodies and comforts, ranging from free cigarettes and sweets to deep freezes and ping-pong tables. But man does not live by Peter Stuyvesant alone; and in a community beset by continual stresses, both emotional and physical, there's a definite and perpetual need for counselling.

This is where the chaplains step in, and amazing and technicoloured indeed are the variety of problems dumped into their capable hands.

"A chaplain's an impartial observer," Padre Fall explains. "Though a man, he's also a priest, and concerned for the welfare of all parties.

"Because he's a minister of religion, he can keep his trap shut when necessary, whereas a regimental officer might in some respects be obliged to pass on certain information to his superior officer.

"The chaplain has right of access to any member of the Army, from the general downwards. He's permitted by his terms of reference to take immediate action — for instance, should he deem it necessary to initiate a conversation with the Army Commander or Chief of Staff, he can do so without going through any intermediaries. He also knows his way around the Army, and can often get things done with minimal delay."

Parish priesthood

John Fall came out to Africa in 1949 to join the BSA Police, and served in that force until the mid 1960s when, as he puts it, "it became born in me that there was a job that required doing and was worth doing . . . so I went and did it (with the bishop's concurrence, of course!)"

After three years at St Paul's theological college in Grahamstown, he became a deacon and served title in the Lomagundi district, Rhodesia. There followed the usual pattern of parish priesthood, until he joined the Rhodesian Army in 1969 as a chaplain.

"There's only one occasion when an Army chaplain isn't regarded as a necessary nuisance," he says "and that's when there's a casualty or fatality. It's our job to inform the next-of-kin, and I can tell you that this doesn't get any easier with practice."

As a general rule, unless circumstances urgently dictate otherwise, if the accident has taken place in the middle of the night, the chaplain waits until early the next morning before breaking the news.

Of course where true fatalities are concerned, it's never just a case of breaking the news, then promptly driving off. Sometimes the chaplain will have to spend all morning with a bereaved family — such as the time that Padre Fall had to make this sad visit to the wife of a Territorial Force soldier who had been killed on duty.

She lived in rather an isolated spot, and her only neighbours were away. Padre Fall tried without success to reach her parents on the telephone.

He could hardly leave her alone in her distress, with just a puzzled toddler for company, so he waited there with her until — three hours later — he finally managed to contact her family.

Fortunately, this unhappy duty doesn't occur all that often. Nonetheless, the greater part of a chaplain's working week is taken up with welfare problems of some sort.

Officially, one of the duties of any officer in the Army is to look to the welfare of his men, but when he's new to the unit, or where,

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Rhodesians Worldwide

The Rhodesian Corp

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The Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains

THEY PROVIDE A SHOULDER TO CRY ON

perhaps, personality incompatibilities exist, sometimes there's hesitancy on the part of a man in trouble to confide in his OC.

Whereas, once he's met the chaplain and got to know him, "Padre" seems the obvious wailing-wall.

As Padre Fall says: "The longer I stay in the Army, the better I become known, and the more readily men will want to confide in me. So I go around drinking people's tea and wasting their time, but there's a reason for this: to build up a degree of confidence in me.

"Let's face it, most men owe no church allegiance, and know no clergymen personally, so there isn't usually any question of having a parish priest to go to.

"PART of my job in the Army is to perform baptisms, weddings and funerals as any parish priest does — but with no strings attached. Nobody feels any obligation to me, because I'm paid by the Government.

"Of course, it's a different situation entirely in the forward areas — that's the raison d'être for an Army chaplain."

Padre Fall makes at least one trip, sometimes two or three per month, to the operational area, spending up to 10 days touring around. He'll visit not only unit headquarters but numerous small call signs.

A few prayers

"Say I pitch up in the afternoon — well, first I'll have a cup of tea with the OC, then ask the senior NCO to call the chaps around for a natter and a few prayers.

"I'll tell them that I intend to hold a Holy Communion Service the next morning, and that anyone who would like to partake of it, provided that this is not going against his conscience as regards his own religious beliefs, will be most welcome."

The Rhodesian Army chaplaincy is non-denominational. Padre Fall himself is an Anglican; Padre Wood a Baptist but both minister to people of all denominations.

Though around 45 per cent of Rhodesian Army members are nominally Anglicans, for the sake of the sensibilities of the other 55 per cent (12 per cent Roman Catholic, 10 per cent Dutch Reformed, 33 per cent other religions) Padre Fall is careful never to plug Anglicanism.

"Part of the job of any clergyman is to evangelise . . . but not to go around pinching other people's sheep."

There's an old rhyme that goes this way: "Higamous hogamous, woman's monogamous. Hogamous, higamous, man is polygamous" — and when men are away from home for weeks at a time, the sad truth is that some will be tempted to stray from the marital straight and narrow.

When Padre Fall with the all-seeing eyes visits a small community and witnesses evidence of certain frolics after hours, does he drop a word in the culprits' ears?

Management course

He shakes his head. "You know, I took a course in business management recently. I found the communications section the most fascinating. It's the responsibility of the originator/sender of a message to ensure that the reaction of the recipient is congruent with his intention.

"Thus, it's all very well to say that it's the responsibility of a priest to preach in season and out of season, but if you're merely making people sick of you, you're not achieving congruence."

OF course, the chaplain's welfare work doesn't concern itself solely with the menfolk in the Army; in fact, Padre Fall says that he wishes more uptight wives would come to him for a chat when they get that stop-the-world-I-want-to-get-off feeling.

"I'm not a surrogate husband — perish the thought! — but I'm a shoulder to cry on, and I want to be used that way. Too often a military wife left on her own for weeks on end builds up emotional stress and resentment.

"There she is, coping alone with the kids, household responsibilities, financial worries, and sometimes also a job of her own.

"When the old man comes home, she's tempted to take it all out on him . . . and when the only thing he has on his mind is to be lovey-dovey, she gets even more angry because he's not interested in hearing about her troubles.

"That's when a quarrel starts. I'd like these wives to ring me up and pour it all out to me instead. That way, they'd be able to greet their husbands with a smile."

John Fall says, with that deadpan expression you recognise with delight once you know the man: "Our family motto is 'Falls rush in where angels fear to tread'."

In truth, this particular "God-botherer" treads very carefully, gently and wisely. He and his colleague are an indispensable part of the Rhodesian Army. ●

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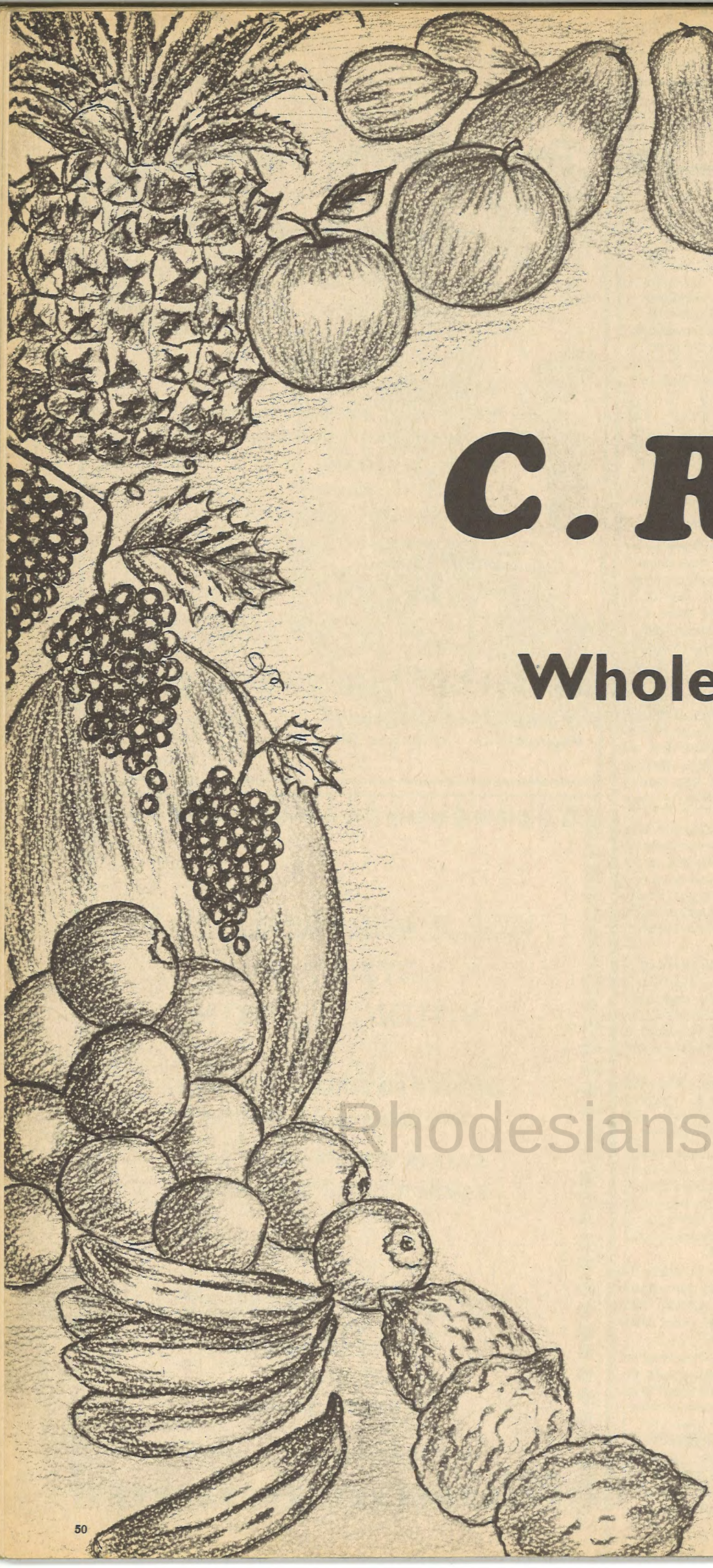

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Rhodesians Worldwide

The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

Right: Engine
in the opera
searching

"WHAT is a s
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The feature begins wit
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FE RHODESIA, 7th August, 1975

The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

Rhodesia Worldwide

Right: Engineers at work in the operational area, searching for terrorist mines.

MEN OF ALL WORK

Building bridges and destroying them, laying mines and lifting them: in other words, keeping troops on the move and doing everything possible to hold up the movement of the enemy . . . this is the function of that highly-skilled technician — the sapper

"WHAT is a sapper?" I asked Lt Col Michael Pelham, the Director of the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers.

In reply, he showed me an article which he had just written for the Rhodesian Army magazine, *Assegai*.

The feature begins with Dryden's description of a sapper: "This versatile genius is, not one but all mankind's epitome, condensing the whole system of military engineering and all that is useful and practical under one jacket.

"He is the man of all work of the army and public — astronomer, geologist, surveyor, draughtsman, artist, architect, traveller, explorer, antiquary, mechanic, diver, soldier and sailor; ready to do anything or go anywhere; in short, he is a SAPPER."

Deep affection

What of the present director himself?

At 34, he's the youngest lieutenant colonel currently serving in the Rhodesian Army, but he has a wealth of experience as regards both military engineering and infantry work — and a deep affection for and pride in the corps he leads.

Born in Cape Town, he was educated at St George's College, Salisbury.

"I had no idea that I would join the Army until I did my National Service," he says. "I went into the Army with the first National Service intake into engineers."

He knew instantly that he had found his niche; and in 1961 he signed up as a regular soldier.

Col Pelham says of his profession: "Whatever anyone else in the Army can't do, we sappers do!

"It boils down to this: The engineer is responsible for providing mobility as regards our troops, and doing everything possible to impair the mobility of the enemy. We have an additional role: that of works."

Mine laying and lifting, demolitions, all aspects of explosives, the laying and lifting of booby traps, the disarming of parcel bombs, the supplying of water to troops in the field, the operation of all boats belonging to the Rhodesian Army, dog handling, the construction of roads and airfields, erections of diverse obstacles, including fencing and anti-tank obstacles, the construction of field defences . . . these are but a small part of the corps' brief.

"Major trench works too — if an HQ wanted to go underground, we'd dig it in. We're responsible for major items of plant, such as bulldozers and graders; for field machines, and aerial ropeways, which can be likened to ski-lifts."

Despite this specialisation, the military engineer starts his Army career as an infanteer. He does his four-month stint at the RLI, and should he be deemed eligible, he's then sent to the School of Military Engineering at Brady Barracks, where he completes a 10-week course.

"This is very basic," Col Pelham remarks. "Then he's posted to a unit. At some stage, depending upon the progress he's made, he's returned to the School of Military Engineering, where he undergoes a four-month course, known as the Class 2 Course.

Individual tuition

"Completion of this qualifies him to take charge of an engineering detachment in the field. (He's by then qualified to staff sergeant level.)"

The corps hopes that the most advanced course of all, Class 1, will soon be implemented. This will be of six months' duration, and only a dozen students at a time will be catered for, as the complexity of the work is such that individual tuition is essential.

Another ambition is to enter Africans for Class 2 courses. Up until now, Africans accepted into the corps first completed the normal recruits' course at Depot ASC, Inkomo, then underwent a three-month basic course in engineering.

Col Pelham hopes that by the end of 1975, the first African Class 2 Course will be in progress, and that ultimately the majority of his African engineers will be as fully qualified as their white colleagues.

The School of Engineering also supplies infanteers with a basic training in engineering: for instance, regular officer cadets attend the school for a fortnight in order to learn the fundamentals of military engineering. Similarly, National Service officer cadets do a two-day crash course there.

Col Pelham's chief desire is to compartmentalise the corps: "I'd like to divorce the artisan section from the portion which supplies combat engineering support in the field.

"At the moment, we have the situation in which a carpenter, for example, might be busy working on some item at HQ, when he's summoned by his OC, told to pack his bags and move off immediately to the operational area to lift mines. This doesn't make for the most efficient use of manpower.

"Mind you, it's essential that any engineer can fill any post and tackle any job. Our motto, 'Ubique' — 'Everywhere' — puts it in a nutshell."

The corps is in the happy position of not having to search for recruits — in fact, there's a waiting list of Europeans wishing to join the corps.

Col Pelham subscribes this interest to the absorbing nature of the work, and also to the fact that

Since the beginning Bulawayo has honoured brave men . . .

For more than 80 years Rhodesians have proved to be a brave nation and during this time the City of Bulawayo has been proud to honour those of all races who fought or fell whilst serving their country.

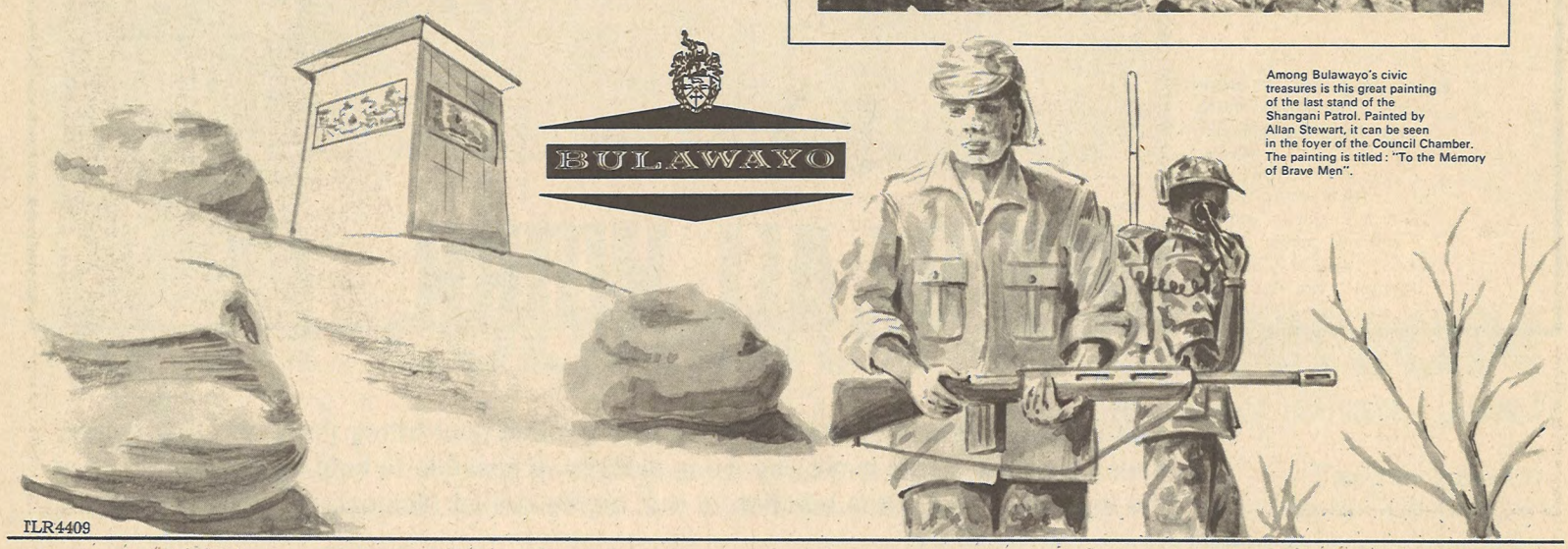
In Main Street you will find the Garden of Remembrance honouring all Rhodesians who died in the two world wars, and more recently in the fight against terrorism. Close by is the memorial to the Matabele Rebellion of 1896.

The Allan Wilson Memorial near Rhodes Grave at Worlds View" in the Matopos is world famous — as is the picture of the Shangani Patrol in the City Hall.

Today men of all races in Matabeleland are high on the list of brave servicemen who fight defending their common land against the terror on our borders.

Brave Rhodesians — whatever your race — we salute you!

Among Bulawayo's civic treasures is this great painting of the last stand of the Shangani Patrol. Painted by Allan Stewart, it can be seen in the foyer of the Council Chamber. The painting is titled: "To the Memory of Brave Men".



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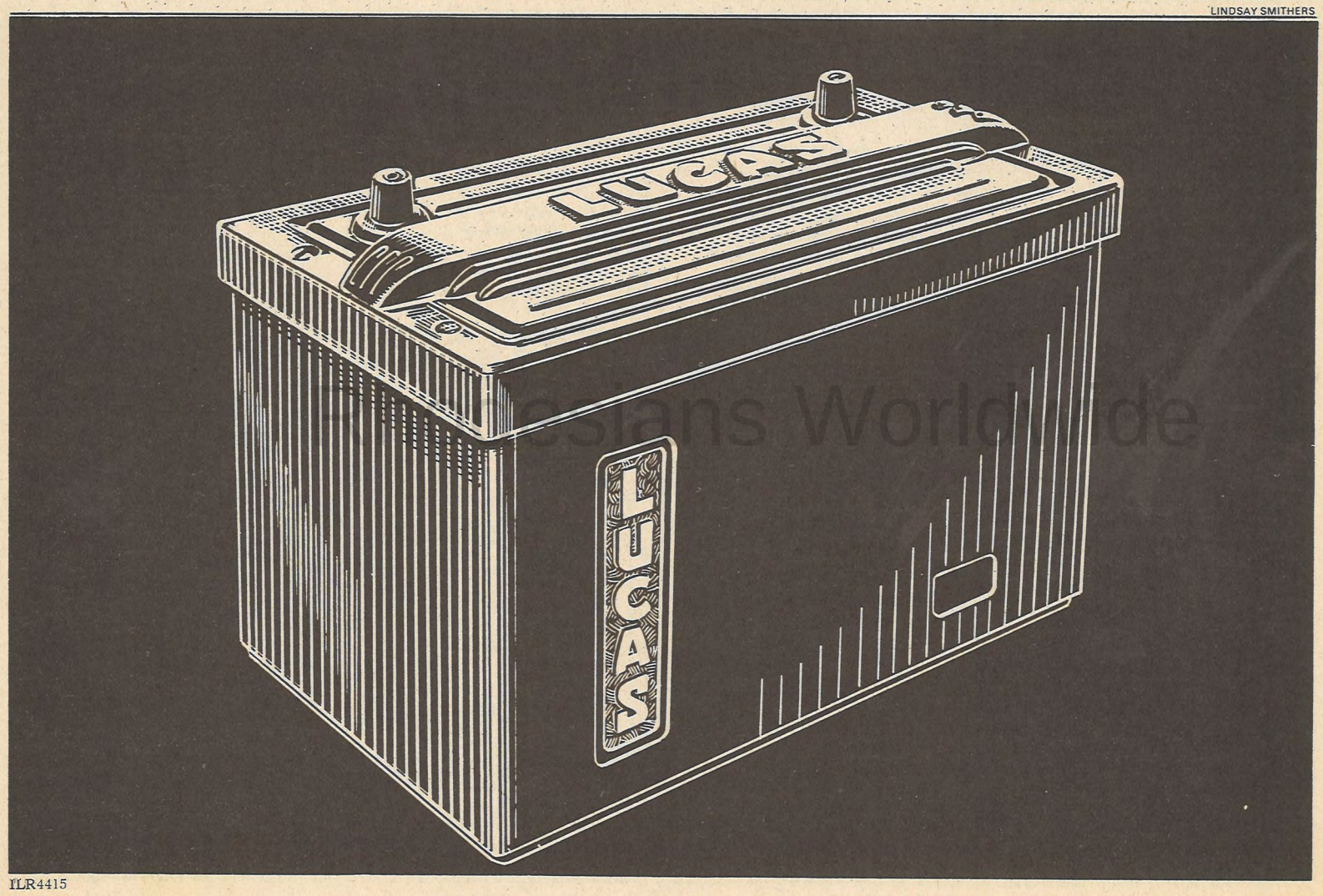

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The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

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selected trainees are Rhodesian Army's ex Polytechnic and put thr prenticeship there.

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Engines for b

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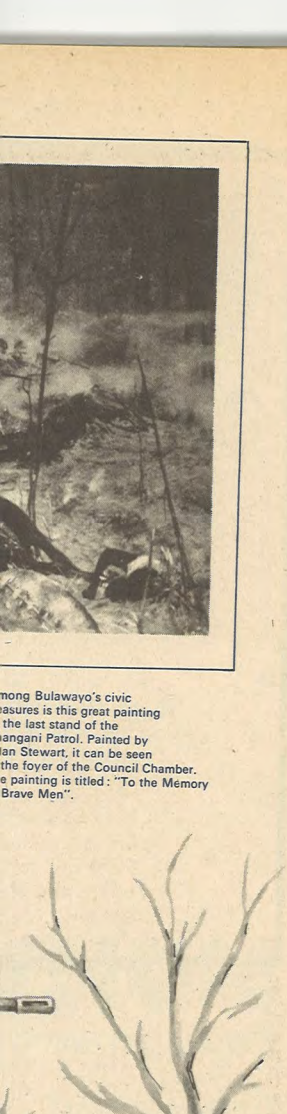

HODESIA, 7th August, 1975

The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

Right: Sappers out in "the sticks." Here, an aerial ropeway is being operated. Despite his specialist job, the military engineer starts his Army career as an infanteer, and only after a stint with the RLI is he posted to the School of Military Engineering.

Below: Welding in the workshops; this is just one facet of the work of the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers, whose main responsibility is providing mobility for the fighting soldier, and impairing the enemy's mobility.

Rhodesians Worldwide

MEN OF ALL WORK

selected trainees are sent, at the Rhodesian Army's expense, to a Polytechnic and put through an apprenticeship there.

Should a qualified engineer ultimately decide to leave the Army, he thus has a recognised civilian trade at his fingertips.

It's patent that Col Pelham enjoys his job to the full. What's the main appeal of sappering?

"The challenge," he says. "There's always something different, and every problem requires a new approach, and thus initiative. This is true for all engineers, but it's particularly so in my job. This morning for instance, I attended a meeting concerning precautions to be taken against landmines.

"Then I had some problems to sort out pertaining to roads in the operational area. Now I'm engaged in research concerning boats.

Engines for boats

"Should the Rhodesian Army require a new boat, it's up to me to determine what sort of engines the craft should be fitted with, how many men it could conceivably carry, how the interior lay-out should be, and so on. I consult with naval architects, and together we modify the basic design.

"As an engineer, you can retain your individuality. Sometimes, you work entirely alone. I remember one instance of this, during my SAS days.

"I was the only engineer in the unit, and I had to go into a particular area which was relatively inaccessible, and build three bridges there within a short space of time. The only labour I could get hold of consisted of local tribesmen supplied by the district commissioner."

Totally untutored and primitive though his assistants were, Mike Pelham duly completed those bridges within the deadline.

The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers have got one captured terrorist to their credit: this happened during Operation Mansion a few years back.

Col Pelham recalls: "The area had been swept. We and some Special Branch officials took a prisoner back to the district to look at a specific cave in an area that we suspected might be booby-trapped. When we got to the place, we found another terrorist hiding in the area, and captured him.

"We'd love to do an infantry role and get into the field like the artillery, but our commitments don't permit this."

However, the engineers have more than their fair share of hair-raising moments. Consider the time that it was reported that a bomb had been placed in a certain letter box. Col Pelham was called out by the police to deal with the matter.

There was prolonged difficulty in tracing the keys to the box — "and the suspense of waiting and wondering what was going on in that box was terrible," he says frankly.

"Actually, when we finally managed to open the box, we found a parcel of clothes inside — it had all been a hoax. But every report of this nature has to be dealt with as if it were the real thing.

"No engineer ever remains on bomb disposal work for longer than six months at a time — the strain is too great."

Incident in Ndola

Clangers, in the engineering context, are usually monumental ones by virtue of the nature of the work.

Col Pelham will never forget a certain incident in Ndola during his time with the SAS.

He recalls: "The Ndola Barracks had been built as a new barracks for the Selous Scouts and the SAS to occupy. A range had been constructed, but after a number of months the soil subsidance and cracks in the walls were such that it was considered too dangerous to use.

"So the OC of the SAS called me in and said that he wished a portion of the wall to be demolished so that it could then be rebuilt.

"I did my calculations and planted the explosives. At 4.30 pm, I detonated it. There was a tremendous amount of dust, of course, and as it cleared, I got out of the trench, accompanied by a student from an advanced demolition course I'd been running.

"We had a look at the wall: it was a perfect job, I thought. Just the portion meant to be demolished had been destroyed. I was congratulating myself on this fantastic effort when the student tapped me on the shoulder and said quietly: 'Sir, there are no windows left in the barrack blocks.'

"I turned round, and could see right through five blocks. All the windows had been knocked out by the blast. Well, being a dutiful officer, I went straight to the OC's house and said to him: 'Sir, I have blown down the wall . . . but I'm afraid there's been quite a lot of damage to a portion of the barracks as a result.'

"He looked at me, and merely said: 'Give me a complete list of the total damage.' I duly supplied this and it read: '357 windows, 1 chandelier, 2 double garage doors, an asbestos roof.'

"He was sitting at his dining room table when he received this. He took one look at the list, turned it upside down, and said to his wife: 'Marge, please bring a crate of beer.'"

The impromptu party — or wake — somewhat sweetened the pill, for young Lt Pelham, of having to face the inevitable Board of Enquiry.

This is the sort of risk an en-

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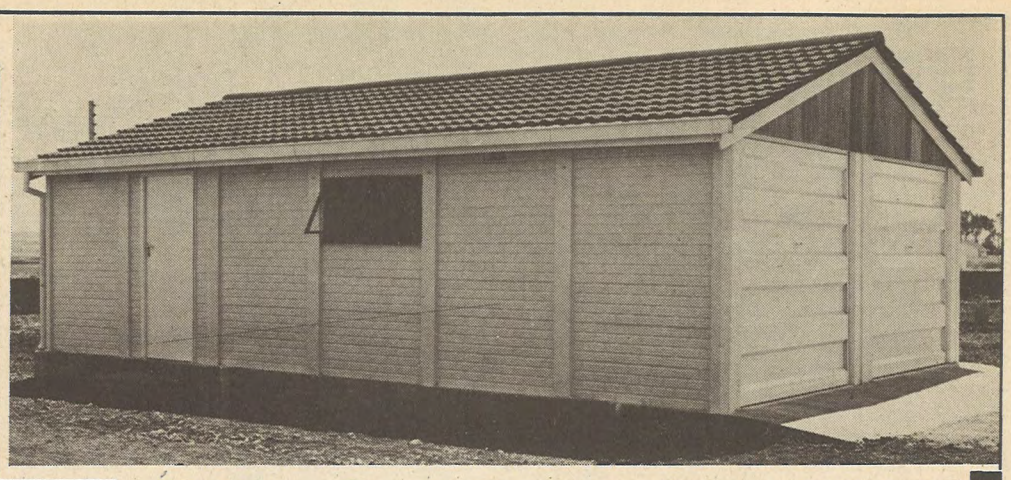

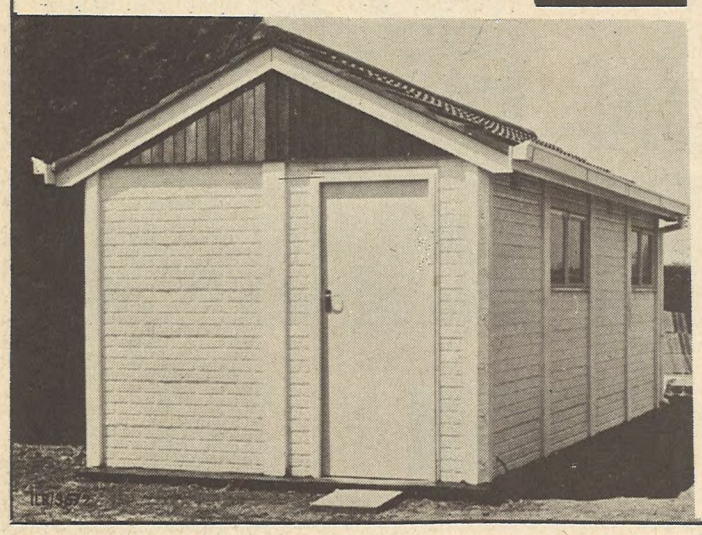

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Rhodesians worldwide

MEN OF A

gineer constantly runs; other side of the coin, quently the satisfaction lishing a job impeccab when that task requi calculation, there's an of achievement.

Col Pelham remembe brick chimney at a bri factory outside Bulaw had to be demolished. T was positioned between

THE MAPPI

MAPS of Rhodesia h long way since the tations of geogra as Claudius Ptolemy (A as Swift put it:

" . . . in Afric-maps
with savage pictures
gaps;
And o'er unhabitable
Place elephants for
towns."

The mapping and su of the Rhodesian Army comes under the umbr Rhodesian Corps of Eng a highly sophisticated small though the quar selves may seem, they vital cog in the Army m

I spoke to WO 1 J. G. tler, who's a well-know aeronautical, and milita his own right.

"Our prime job is t Army, Air Force and supplied with maps," told me. "Orders for various units are comin time."

Mr Eckard is respons issuing of maps, and la handed out 197 000 — th each one meticulously He generally receives a at a time from the General's office, and of of these have to be en the office's extensive system.

THE map issuing, h just one facet of t sphere of activities. Ja specialises in training away drawing of weap ments, vehicles and machinery which are th training purposes.

He showed me a c mortar bomb fuses wh just completed. The re actual drawing had ta fortnight, working on all and every day, but a more complex subject armoured car might wel month to complete.

Much research has to Mr Butler before so m ting pencil to paper. He library of his own at ho but the Army reference

The Rhodesia Regiment

Far left: A sticky part course at Depot, The Regiment. The first ph Service recruit training weeks, and concentra weapon training, para and physical fitness.

Left: Come on in, the Route runs and regula the assault course, pa phase's syllabus. All in Depot are ex RLI or SA field experience.

WHERE BOYS ARE TURNED INTO M

Once every six weeks a batch of raw recruits arrive at Llewellin Barracks, Bulawayo, to begin their period of National Service. Later they emerge as fully-fledged soldiers ready to do their bit for Rhodesia. How is this process accomplished? Lt Col Hugh Rowley, CO Depot, The Rhodesia Regiment, explains.

MUM: are you in a tizz because your little Johnnie is about to brave the unknown horrors of Army life for his National Service stint?

Relax. Soon you'll be receiving a letter from Lt Col H. St J. (Hugh) Rowley, Commanding Officer Depot, The Rhodesia Regiment, which should answer all your questions and put your mind at rest.

The letter describes every possible facet of that first five and a half months, from the actual training, to matters such as facilities for telephoning. There's also a typical week's menus sent along with the letter, and the Bill of Fare wouldn't disgrace a five-star hotel.

Try this for size (Tuesday's lunch): Cream of onion soup; roast mutton and mint sauce, or curried mutton, or grilled mutton chops; roast potatoes or yellow rice; cauliflower au gratin; garden peas; Bakewell tart or Eve's pudding and custard; coffee (bread, butter and jam as desired.)

Pork for lunch

Or Sunday's supper — after a whopping roast pork lunch with all the trimmings — Oxtail soup; braised steaks; beef olives; creamed potatoes; baked hubbard squash; curried beans; fresh apples; coffee.

The breakfasts are positively Edwardian: mealie meal porridge, then minute steak, fried egg and fried brinjal on Saturday, for example; and such mouth-waterers as grilled bacon and savoury omelette plus grilled tomato, or grilled bacon, sautéed kidney on toast and poached eggs, or savoury fish cake, scrambled egg on toast and sweetcorn, starring on other days of the week. So tuck-boxes are entirely unnecessary.

I spoke to Lt Col Rowley about life at depot. The role of Big Daddy to hundreds of raw rookies doesn't intimidate him in the least — in fact, he's finding the job to be one of the most interesting posts he's ever had.

Because he's a young man himself — 41 — and, to boot, a famous figure in Rhodesian sporting annals — his charges find it easy to approach him with their problems once the initial bewildered feeling that hits every overwhelmed recruit has worn off.

BORN in Salisbury and educated first at Prince Edward School and then at St Andrew's, Grahamstown, the young Hugh Rowley was always interested in an outdoor life.

His father was Lt Col E. H. Rowley of the BSA Police, and so he grew up in a paramilitary atmosphere, but chose the Army as his future career. He too was once a raw rookie, and he worked his way up the traditional ladder from private to corporal to sergeant before being commissioned, so he knows how it feels to be perched on that bottom rung.

He became a PT and drill instructor at the School of Infantry, but in 1957 was commissioned, and as a second lieutenant was posted to 1 KAR, in Zomba, Nyasaland.

"I spent two years there," he told me. "It was at the time of the disturbances in Nyasaland, and in fact my platoon was the first to kill anyone — this was during a 1 000-strong riot in Lilongwe, when, after warning the crowd through a loud-hailer, we had to shoot."

He was later transferred to Lusaka; and in 1959 posted to Inkomo, at the RAR training depot. After that there followed five years in the RLI, first as a captain and subsequently as a major, commanding 3 Commando during Operation Cauldron.

Rugby star

3 Commando acquitted itself most honourably — contact was made with the terrs within 24 hours of 3 Commando's arrival and 17 kills were notched up swiftly, though the final total was 46 — and Maj Rowley's fine leadership was recognised with the awarding of an MLM.

After this came a quieter period as training officer, 1st Battalion, 1 RR, at the Drill Hall, Salisbury; then two years as brigade major of 3 Brigade. He was posted to Gwelo as CO 10 RR, in which job he remained for a year; and then came his appointment as CO, Depot, the Rhodesia Regiment, at Llewellin Barracks.

He's one of Rhodesia's well-known rugby stars. He first played for Rhodesia in 1956, as fly-half; and until he retired from rugby (to the disappointment of many) in 1972 at the age of 38, he played for Rhodesia 17 times, all told.

A strong believer in the importance of sport — "it not only engenders fitness but builds up a team spirit" — he nonetheless emphasises that its presence in the Llewellin curriculum is merely part of the whole picture and not a dominant feature.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, training stops at 4.10 pm, and all recruits must participate in some form of unit sport. It's up to them to choose which sport, though; and there's a wide selection available — rugby, football, cricket, hockey, tennis, squash, swimming, basketball, golf, volleyball, badminton and riding.

In addition to the twice weekly periods, an entire afternoon per week is set aside for company sport.

These compulsory sports periods are of considerable therapeutic value. The new recruit, tense and a bit bewildered at first, finds he can unwind on the sports field, and thus face the following day with a fresher mind.

WHATdoes the training consist of?

Col Rowley explained it to me this way: "The first phase lasts eight weeks. Most of our chaps are 18 or 19, straight from school — though some have been to university.

"For the first one and a half days, they're flustered, confused; they've been through the pipeline of the normal intake process — documentation, medical/dental checks, kitting out, etcetera. It would be useless to talk to them right at the start; they wouldn't take it in at all. They're all walking around like stunned mullets.

"So we let them settle in, and then I give an opening address. I tell them what choices they have. For instance, 15-20 will go up for an OSB — Officers' Selection Board.

"I explain that academic brilliance is not of prime importance in this regard; that what the OSB will be looking for is all-round capability. Anyone is entitled to go up before the board — the only requirement is fluent
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Interests and h

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These are then sc
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Once the specialists
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While the first phas
basic drill, weapon

Far left: A sticky part of the assault course at Depot, The Rhodesia Regiment. The first phase of National Service recruit training lasts eight weeks, and concentrates on basic drill, weapon training, parades, discipline and physical fitness.

Left: Come on in, the water's fine! Route runs and regular PT are, with the assault course, part of the first phase's syllabus. All instructors at Depot are ex RLI or SAS men, with field experience.

Left: "The first phase is to toughen them up," says Lt Col Hugh Rowley, CO of Depot RR. "When they knuckle down to it, that's when they begin to enjoy Army life." Here, a feature of the assault course.

Rhodesians Worldwide

TURNED INTO MEN

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quirement is fluent English, although it is a very stiff test of their all-round ability.

"After the successful applicants have been siphoned off for officer training, 50 from the remainder will be chosen to go to the RLI/SAS. Thereafter the rest stay with the company at DRR for six to eight weeks. We then select future NCOs for more selected and individual training to continue at DRR LT Wing (Leader Training Wing).

At the end of the first eight weeks, specialist teams arrive at Llewellin to choose their quota of men for branches such as signals, engineers, artillery, armoured cars, pay corps, medical corps and services corps.

Interests and hobbies

Recently instituted at depot were the pro-formas designed to make the fitting of round pegs into round holes that much more efficient. Each recruit fills in such a pro-forma, noting down details of his job in civilian life, educational qualifications, other qualifications, interests and hobbies.

These are then scrutinised by depot staff, who can thus spot at a glance if a man is best suited, say, to signals work — and will then recommend him to the signals selection team.

Once the specialists have taken their pick, the remainder of recruits embark on the second phase of training, which lasts eight weeks.

While the first phase consists of basic drill, weapon training, parades and discipline generally — "concentrating too on building up physical fitness through PT, route runs and assault courses" — the second phase comprises advanced weapons training, map reading, tactics, signals voice procedure and exercises as regards both limited and classical warfare. The third phase, lasting four weeks, concentrates on counter-insurgency.

"Here, a lot of the time is spent in the bush, on exercises and in battle camp," says Col Rowley.

Then the fully-fledged soldiers having passed out are posted to independent companies, ready to do their bit for Rhodesia.

Col Rowley comments: "These National Service chaps get the best possible instruction. Nearly all our instructors here are ex-RLI or SAS men, with lots of experience in the field. We endeavour to see that they're returned to their units periodically, so that they can keep up with developments and the latest tactics being used."

UNIFORM apart, is the metamorphosis of civvie into soldier a marked one?

He says: "We get a tremendous amount of satisfaction in seeing the change. Young men arrive, immature, physically frail. A few weeks later, and they're broadening out, mentally as well as physically, because they're growing into men.

"We get a lot of letters from parents thanking us for the difference the Army has made to their sons. As for the recruits themselves, there's often an initial resentment.

"The first phase is meant to toughen them up; there are shine parades, and the emphasis is on discipline. Some of them kick against it at first, but they soon get over this and knuckle down — and that's when they begin to enjoy Army life. Quite a lot eventually choose to join the regular Army." Not all parents, alas, are cordial; there are invariably a sprinkling of pests, and these prove a continual headache to depot staff. However, these are very few.

New ruling

Recently Col Rowley rescinded the arrangement whereby families could visit (during the first eight weeks only) new recruits every weekend.

This had been getting entirely out of hand, with hundreds rolling up every Saturday and Sunday and crowding out the barracks, and when depot began to erect new buildings and demolish the old, the situation became untenable.

"Also," Col Rowley adds, "during his first eight weeks with us, the chap normally has to work over weekends. Most people took the new ruling very well, but one or two parents objected strongly.

"The first weekend after the ruling was brought out, we suspected that we might encounter a few problems. This transpired to be so, in the shape of one particular woman who arrived, demanding to see her son.

"When we explained that this was no longer possible during the first eight weeks of his training, she began shouting that Llewellin was a prison camp, and we were Fascist pigs.

"Eventually, when she grew hysterical, the duty officer called a major, who attempted to calm her down. She spat at him, then hurled an ashtray at him.

"After this had been going on for two hours, the major intimated that if she did not leave, he would be forced to summon the police. She then took off her shoe and flung it at him ... but at long last she did go, albeit spitting over her shoulder as she left."

This, happily, is an extreme case, and the vast majority of parents and other relations accepted the reasons for the new regulation. The men themselves, truth to tell, were relieved.

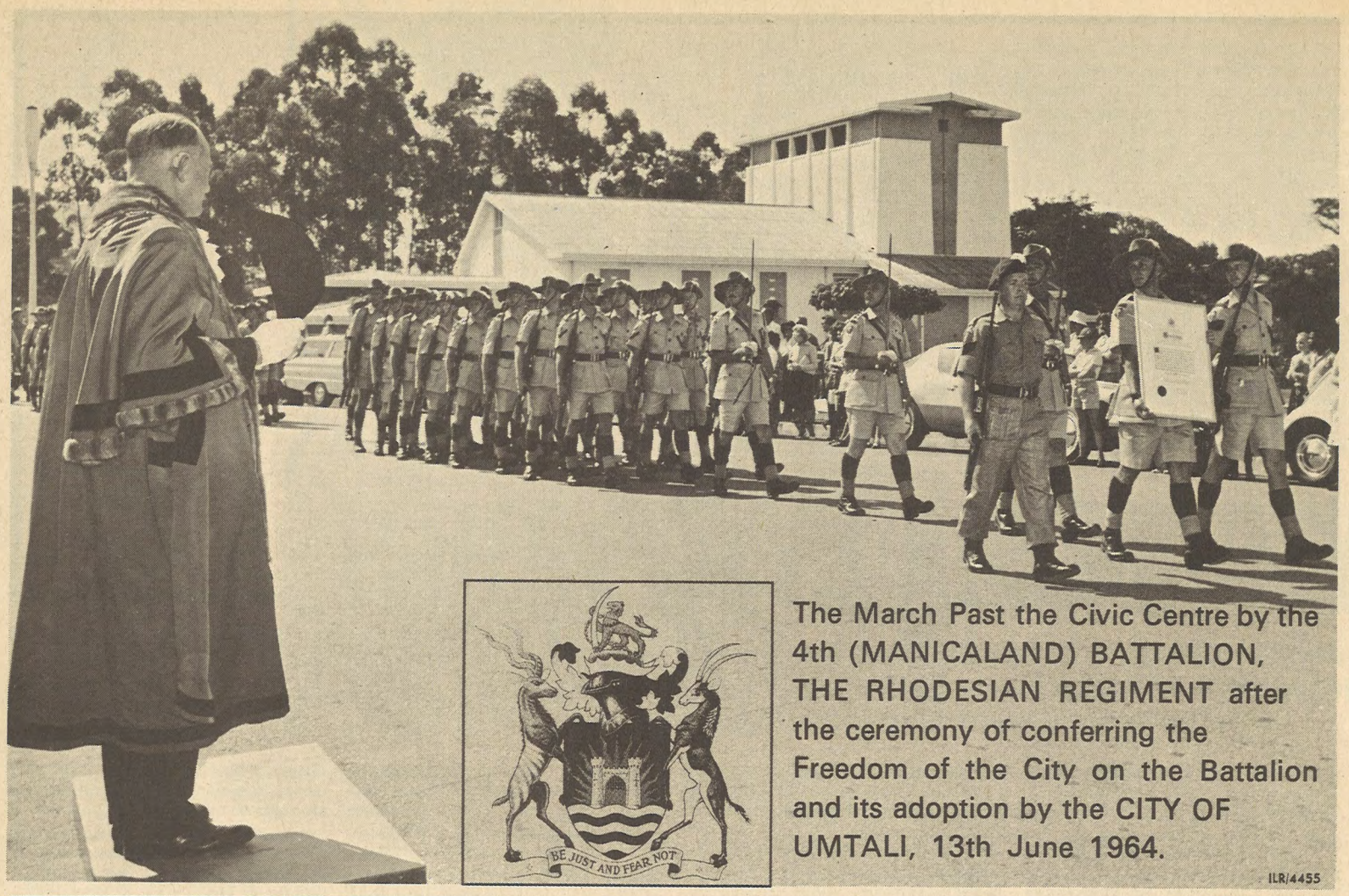
"We formed up every National Serviceman here," says Col Rowley, "and asked them all how they felt; 99 per cent thought it 'good kit' — they just didn't want mums around when they were in the midst of that first difficult phase."

DEPOT also runs a less intensified and not so strenuous training for medically downgraded men. These people are destined for sedentary clerical posts during their National Service, but they learn as much basic soldiering at Llewellin as they are physically able to cope with.

Llewellin is a small town in itself, and Col Rowley can be likened to the mayor — "postmaster too," he says with a grin.

Within his realm lie workshops, the Service Training School, Ordnance, and 180 married quarters, to name but a few of the components of the entire Llewellin scene.

It's up to him — and to his pretty wife Sue, who looks after the welfare of Llewellin wives — to see that it all ticks over smoothly and happily; and they both thoroughly enjoy the job. ●



The March Past the Civic Centre by the 4th (MANICALAND) BATTALION, THE RHODESIAN REGIMENT after the ceremony of conferring the Freedom of the City on the Battalion and its adoption by the CITY OF UMTALI, 13th June 1964.

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UNDERS

RHODESIA, 7th August, 1975

The Rhodesian Army Services Corps

Right: A spot of bother . . . this vehicle will eventually be returned to the Services Corps' workshops for extensive overhauling and repairs. Far right: Repairs to Army motor cycles are but a small part of the Services Corps' daily round of responsibilities.

Rhodesians Worldwide

YOU NAME IT —THEY'LL PROVIDE IT

The Services Corps are renowned for their versatility — food, clothing and equipment for the men in the field are just three of their many responsibilities.

NAPOLEON maintained that an army marched on its stomach, but Lt Col E. G. R. ("Skin") Turner, director of the Army Services Corps, has a bit more than the gastronomic needs of soldiers — though that's his pigeon too — on his busy hands.

A little about the director himself: born and bred in England, he joined the Royal Engineers in 1943, then was commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers a year later. Here he acquired his nickname, Skin, which he's never shed.

Why Skin? He doesn't know — "perhaps Turner is a corruption of Tanner. Anyway, I was told that I'd be known as 'Skin', and that was that."

His service in the British Army included a stint in the Far East, but by the mid-fifties, a spell in civvy street had disenchanted him with conditions and the general attitude of mind in England. He and his family emigrated to Rhodesia.

Catering experience

He joined the Rhodesian Army, and largely because of his catering experience in the English hotel trade, he went into the Services Corps, where he has remained ever since — becoming director of the corps in December 1969.

I asked Col Turner to define Services' responsibilities, and the answer took me aback:

"Really, Services provide nearly all the material requirements of the Army. We provide the man's clothing; his personal equipment such as webbing, helmet, unit equipment, binoculars and compass. We deal with arms and ammunition — the acquisition thereof, then maintenance and inspection.

"We provide the transport to take the man into battle. Where we supply vehicles to various corps and units, they generally provide the drivers themselves, but our own transport units have their complement of drivers.

"By the way, we have all races and many nationalities in Services — we're completely multi-racial, and fully representative of the Rhodesian population.

"AT our Services training school in Bulawayo, we teach and grade driving instructors and examiners, as well as teaching individuals to drive.

"Providing the Army with transport as we do, we then provide workshops to maintain and repair the vehicles. We have a vehicle inspectorate which ensures that all transport is being kept up to a reasonable standard.

"In a similar vein, we're responsible for the repairing of all arms and weapons, and we also have an armaments inspectorate. We repair and regularly inspect all binoculars, watches, sights for guns, etcetera."

Services furnish the Army with air re-supply stores sent forward.

"At our Services depot in Inkomo Garrison, we handle the basic training for all African recruits other than those in Infantry — that is, Africans destined for posts in Signals, Engineers, Military Police and so on — as well as for our own corps, of course.

"We provide the African tradesmen: drivers, shoemakers, clerks, orderlies, cooks . . . no candlestick makers as yet! Oh, and talking of cooks, we cope with the training of army cooks too."

An impressive list indeed, but I wanted to hear more about it in detail, so we kicked off with the soldier's overall badge of identity, his uniform.

Combat kit

Services have a dozen tailors, European, African and Asian. Col Turner says that as much of the basic outfit as possible is made from locally-manufactured products. "In fact, our combat kit is 100 per cent Rhodesian. David Whitehead cotton fabric, from Rhodesian-grown cotton, is used for the uniform itself, and Bata supply the boots."

I commented upon the sartorial elegance of the Rhodesian troopie in comparison with his Continental counterpart, who often looks, to employ military parlance, a complete disaster area, in baggy ill-cut trousers, billowing creased shirt and sloppy cap.

Is the natty finish of Rhodesian Army uniforms the result of conscious effort?

Col Turner considers this with the suspicion of a smile, then says: "We're guided by fashion, certainly. For instance, the drainpipe trouser influenced the shape of our combat trousers, inasmuch as the outline could be combined with serviceability."

Arms and the man? This is of course a topic that can't be discussed in any depth at the moment, but suffice to say that armaments and weapons in general comprise a large part of Services' work.

The same limitations apply to talking about vehicles: United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia on military cross-country vehicles have given Col Turner and his staff a few headaches, but it's fair to say that Services have surmounted all the dilemmas, and the day will never dawn when the infantry find themselves plodding into action.

NOW for the rations: a perennial and favourite gripe of all soldiers doubtless since the days when Alexander the Great's troopies beefed about the curry in India.

Actually, the Rhodesian military man in the field today does very well in this regard — I've had a look at some of the "rat-packs" and they contain a cross-section of top-classed tinned foods.

Says Col Turner: "I don't believe the menu exists that would please every customer. We've had problems with rat packs: sticking to local capabilities in the production line, trying to cram into a very small box sufficient nourishment to keep a very energetic soldier going for a 24-hour period, yet that food, by necessity, requiring the minimum utensils for the preparing of the meal . . . all this to be achieved at a price that we can afford."

Biltong has often been suggested

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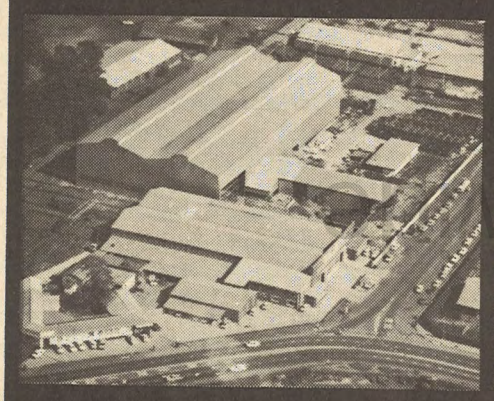

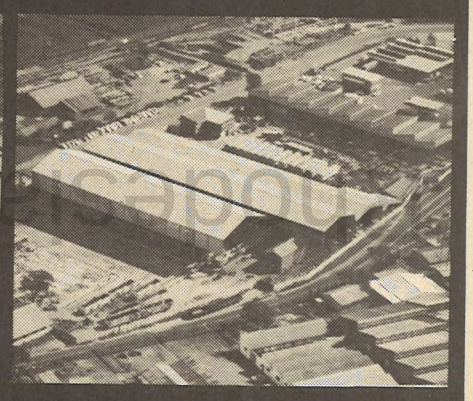

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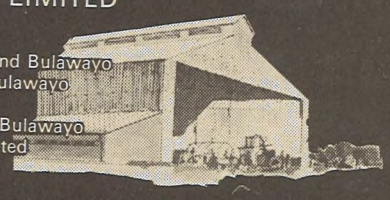

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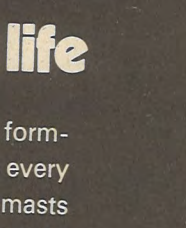

LS7639

The Rhodesian Army Services Corps

Binocular inspection: all binoculars, watches and sights for guns are regularly inspected by Services members. The Corps is also responsible for the repairing of all arms and weapons — for this there is an armaments inspectorate.

YOU NAME IT —THEY'LL PROVIDE IT

by outsiders, but this is quite impractical — the resultant thirst might prove a bad nuisance.

Soups? "Fine, if you can simmer them on an electric stove for 20 minutes — but just try simmering in the pouring rain."

There are three different scales of ration packs, and thus now it's possible to ring the changes on a box of 30. African soldiers receive the same type of pack as do their White colleagues, save for minor adjustments to cater for the African palate. Special rat packs are also supplied for vegetarians, Hindus and Moslems.

Services don't provide ration packs only for the Army, but for the Air Force and Police as well. This centralisation, obviously advantageous from an efficiency point of view, also means the impossibility of any sneaking suspicions that other branches of the Security Forces are feasting off caviar and quail in wine sauce, while, in the words of the song, we poor devils have bully.

Tubes of jam

Many rat pack products have been tailor-made by local manufacturers for Services' needs — to wit, the recently introduced tubes of jam, cheese and margarine.

Sometimes Rhodesian firms have come up with new commercial lines as a result of lengthy discussions with Services; Col Turner relates the case of the Great Rice Pudding Discovery.

"We wanted cooked rice for our packs. It couldn't be done, but in the process of experimenting, Liebig's created their now very popular creamed rice pudding. Similarly, the London Grill and Beef Italienne came about as a result of research into the concept of meals in a tin."

Services' latest coup in this field is the tinned Scotch egg. It wasn't possible, said the experts firmly; but Services' think-tank pondered, suggested, researched, commented that Scotch eggs needn't necessarily be round — and now the tinned square Scotch egg, encased in its savoury meat jacket, will soon be tucked into rat packs, a delicious innovation indeed.

Gourmet's banquet

Liebig's, with Services' permission, recently arranged for a young woman Cordon Bleu to tour army base camps, giving demonstrations as to how the contents of rat packs could be transformed — if not into a gourmet's banquet, at least into more interesting fare.

I had a look at the resultant booklet, "Let Cookie Show You How." No utensils other than the mess tins and metal drinking cups supplied to the men in the field are required for the recipes, and all ingredients come from rat pack contents.

Samples of variations thought up by "Cookie" include minestrone, goulash, curry and milkshake. After all this, there can be no room for moans to the cook of the day about baked beans again.

Mention of baked beans reminds me of a story that Services do tell against themselves. Some time ago, a terrorist in the last stages of starvation and dehydration, after weeks alone on the run, was captured by a Rhodesian Army patrol.

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The Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

MEN OF ALL WORK

gineer constantly runs; but on the other side of the coin, there's frequently the satisfaction of accomplishing a job impeccably — and when that task requires minute calculation, there's an extra sense of achievement.

Col Pelham remembers the 90 ft brick chimney at a brick and tile factory outside Bulawayo, which had to be demolished. The chimney was positioned between two buildings which had to remain unscathed.

Col Pelham laid out a tape between these buildings, and the chimney was felled on that tape as neatly and precisely as if a giant hand had carefully laid it there.

Such moments, to a sapper, whatever his rank, only serve to increase his conviction that he wouldn't swop his job for any other.

THE MAPPING OFFICE

MAPS of Rhodesia have come a long way since the representations of geographers such as Claudius Ptolemy (AD 150) who, as Swift put it:

" . . . in Afric-maps
with savage pictures fill their gaps;
And o'er unhabitable downs,
Place elephants for want of towns."

The mapping and survey office of the Rhodesian Army — which comes under the umbrella of the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers — is a highly sophisticated entity, and small though the quarters themselves may seem, they contain a vital cog in the Army machine.

I spoke to WO 1 J. G. (James) Butler, who's a well-known marine, aeronautical, and military artist in his own right.

"Our prime job is to keep the Army, Air Force and BSA Police supplied with maps," Mr Butler told me. "Orders for maps from various units are coming in all the time."

Mr Eckard is responsible for the issuing of maps, and last year he handed out 197 000 — the details of each one meticulously recorded. He generally receives around 2 500 at a time from the Surveyor General's office, and of course all of these have to be entered upon the office's extensive card index system.

THE map issuing, however, is just one facet of the office's sphere of activities. James Butler specialises in training cards: cut-away drawing of weapons, armaments, vehicles and military machinery which are then used for training purposes.

He showed me a cut-away of mortar bomb fuses which he had just completed. The research and actual drawing had taken him a fortnight, working on the project all and every day, but a larger and more complex subject such as an armoured car might well take him a month to complete.

Much research has to be done by Mr Butler before so much as setting pencil to paper. He has a large library of his own at home, he says, but the Army reference library has been extremely helpful in this regard.

His next task will be a number of models for the Rhodesian Army Recruiting Centre in Gordon Avenue, Salisbury.

After completing his drawings, he can then produce the positive with the mapping office's own equipment. However, he and his staff hope that their forthcoming move to new premises will lead to the establishing of their own silk screening process. Ultimately, they'd like to do all their own printing.

James Butler roughed out the initial designs for the Rhodesian Army's military decorations, gaining inspiration from study of British Army and foreign military equivalents. His original designs were modified to some extent by various committees, but nonetheless, a number of the existing medals and awards are his brain-children.

DO the staff of the mapping office ever chart maps themselves?

Mr Hulme told me that although the bulk of maps are manufactured by the Surveyor General's office, the mapping office is capable, when necessary, of drawing up its own.

For instance, battle and instructional maps are often required by the Directorate of Military Studies, and these the mapping office supplies.

Similarly, should a unit require a special map, all it has to do is to notify the mapping office of the salient details, and they will do the rest.

Has the mapping office ever made any notable blunders?

The staff couldn't think of a single instance. James Butler's only bad moment in this regard happened way back during his midshipman days at sea, when he had to work out the ship's position, and calculated it to be 56 miles inside the African jungle . . .

The mapping office team, however, are a crew of perfectionist professionals, and thanks to them, the Rhodesian Army is kept firmly on the straight and narrow. ●

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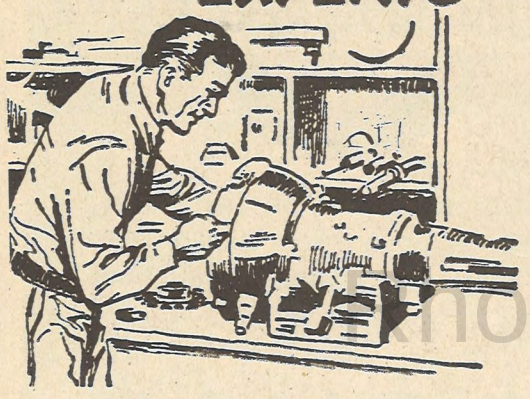

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YOU NAME IT —THEY'LL PROVIDE IT

malnutrition that the men instantly gave him what little water and food they had left themselves — the food being baked beans — but the sustenance came too late, for he died shortly afterwards.

When the word got around, Services received a signal from some wag who shall remain nameless: "Congratulations on your first kill."

Tinned goods are only a part of the provision story, of course. Services run butcheries in both Salisbury and Bulawayo, from which fresh meat, dairy goods and vegetables are regularly sent up to base camps. The quality of the meat and all other produce is top grade. Rhodesian soldiers are fed on the best their country can produce.

Army cooks, once a music-hall joke, are now a very different kettle of consommé, and when the Army's in party mood — at balls, luncheons, cocktail parties, and as regards outside catering such as weddings, which Services sometimes undertake — no Robert Carrier cookbook illustration could rival the spread produced.

AIR re-supply is vitally important to an Army operating often in remote and rugged areas.

Col Turner comments: "Our air re-supply unit devised, proved and introduced into service our own disposable air despatch equipment — that is, parachutes which don't need to be recovered.

Training period

"Parachutes can otherwise cost between $300 and $500 apiece, and the normal type of re-supply chute therefore always had to be recovered, because of its expense, for future use. So we devised the disposable version — locally-made — and it's served us very well."

I wanted a look at Services' training for Africans, and so I visited Captain Lynn Combrinck, OC Training Wing, Services Corps, at Inkomo Barracks. He told me that the basic training period is fourteen weeks.

During this time, recruits are versed in all facets of Army life, from square-bashing to classical warfare, counter-insurgency training, map-reading, and voice procedure.

After the passing-out parade (which includes the selection of the best recruit on course) the new soldiers are posted to units such as the Corps of Signals, the Corps of Engineers, the Corps of Military Police, the Rhodesian Defence Unit, and Services sections such as workshops — where they will receive their specialised training.

Says Capt Combrinck: "We have many applications for each course. The starting pay is good — $36 to $38 a month — and since accomodation, medical attention, rations, schooling for children, etcetera, is provided, that $38 is virtually pocket money.

"Our recruits are between 18 and 24, mostly unmarried. The minimum educational qualification is Standard Six, or Grade Seven, unlike that for Infantry; our recruits will be going to more intellectual posts, such as clerical jobs, and an IQ test is also part of our selection course."

Brawn and brain

This selection course lasts a week, in which the applicants are thoroughly screened by Capt Combrinck, CSM Wilson Mawarire, and another member of Services Training. Sgt Maj Barry Taylor of the Educational Corps handles the IQ tests.

Naturally, brawn as well as brain comes into it: applicants must fulfil a number of physical requirements, and undergo a comprehensive medical examination. Then they're put through a demanding routine, including a five-mile run which must be completed within a certain time; and a variety of exercises.

NEXT comes the tackling of the assault course. Here, a man's performance will reveal any lack of co-ordination or phobia about heights. Then comes the astonishing bit: a boxing routine.

Why boxing? "This is a very important phase," says Capt Combrinck. "It's useful psychologically to see how a man reacts to any sort of aggression. Very few of our recruits have ever boxed before, so they're all on an equal footing, and we try to pair them off with regard to size.

"All told, we're quite proud of our training programme, although not many people appear to realise that we're dealing with this aspect." He adds with a wry smile: "We in Services seem to be known chiefly as storemen."

Whereas in truth, far from only catering for that important military belly Napoleon referred to, Services supply the very life blood for the Rhodesian Army. ●

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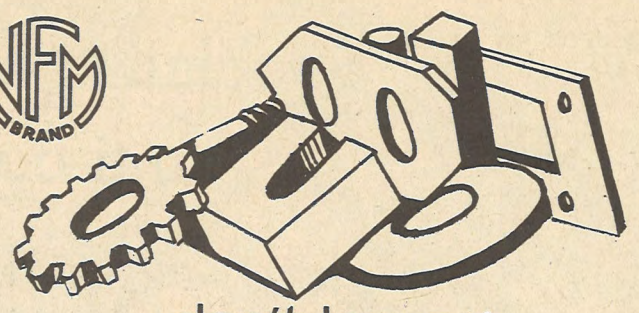

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THE Directorate Studies has its co favourite howlers over the years, of whi are: "Hitler was consta over his shoulder at his belly"; "I would use the attack the objective a Force" (bad news for that); and "The Allie landings in Sicily were In fact, they were almo failures."

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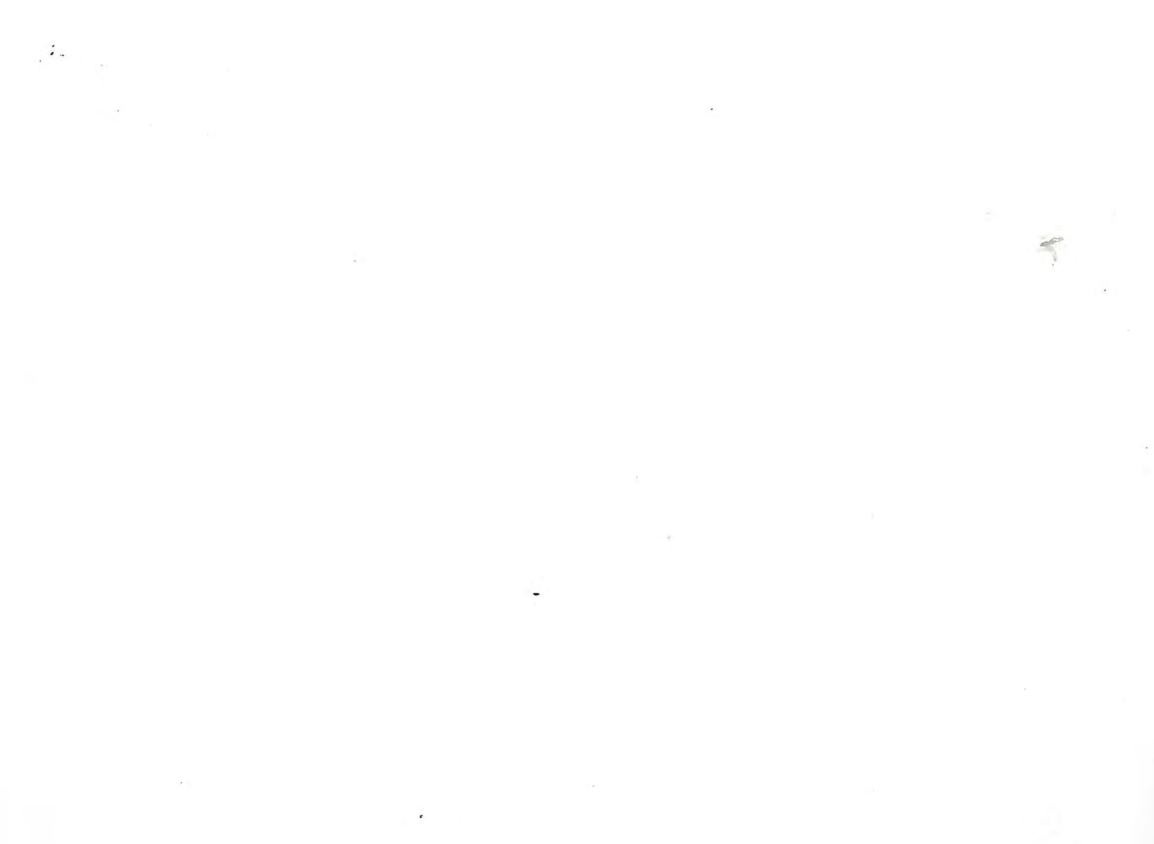

Right: The captain to major course is an important part of Military Studies' brief. Here, Capt Naylor delivers a lecturette on current affairs to fellow students. A Mil. S. staff member will be sitting in the audience, appraising and analysing.

Rhodesians Worldwide

THEY WAGE WAR... IN THE CLASSROOM

The Directorate of Military Studies was set up as a result of UDI: since then it has never looked back

THE Directorate of Military Studies has its collection of favourite howlers, garnered over the years, of which samples are: "Hitler was constantly looking over his shoulder at his soft underbelly"; "I would use the artillery to attack the objective and the Air Force" (bad news for the JOC, that); and "The Allied airborne landings in Sicily were disastrous. In fact, they were almost complete failures."

Fortunately, the complete failures who have passed through the portals of Mil S are few and far between: the directorate's standards are high, as befits an academy concentrating upon the advanced training of more senior Army officers.

Modern methods

But such is the expertise of its team and the modernity of their methods that the intelligent pupil applying himself should be able to achieve a pass.

Yet this success story is only seven years old — and born, as the adage goes, with necessity playing mother to invention.

Prior to Rhodesia's Declaration of Independence in 1965, captains in the Rhodesian Army who were studying for the examinations which are a prerequisite for promotion to major, could obtain assistance from the Metropolitan College in Britain, via a correspondence course.

After November 11, 1965, this facility was withdrawn by the British.

Hence, the Directorate of Military Studies was begun, its initial raison d'etre to assist young officers at this critical stage of their careers. By the time the directorate got off the ground in 1968, there was a hefty backlog of 30 such officers.

The first team was headed by Col A. West (later Brig West); and comprised of Majors Miller (now Col Miller) and Slater (now Lt Col Slater) and Capt T. H. (Tom) Davies — now Maj Davies, and once more a member of the Mil S Staff.

One of the directorate's first "old boys" has since returned as an instructor — Maj E. P. (Peter) Adams. Its director at the time of writing is Col A. B. Campling.

Maj Davies recalls those early days in 1968: "The first time the staff got together, all we had was a piece of paper — the authority for the founding of the directorate. It was very much a case of starting from scratch.

"We devised our course from various sources, and used the same syllabus in 1969, though since then there have been various modifications — we've learnt from experience."

Course withdrawn

Another facility withdrawn by the British at the time of UDI had been that of the Camberley Staff College course. Hitherto, each year a few Rhodesian senior officers — generally majors — had been selected to go over to Britain for a year's training at that military college.

The Rhodesian Army was not prepared for its senior officers to lose out entirely on such training, and thus Mil S was tasked to devise a course whereby students could be trained for the posts of Grade 2 staff officers.

The first 21-week course began in July 1970, and was a resounding success.

"Everyone passed," Maj Adams recalls, "but this was an indication of the high calibre of the students."

The course, now an intrinsic part of Mil S's work, is known as the intermediate staff course — the qualification being referred to as "isq".

The official staff of the directorate comprises the director (formerly Col Campling, but Maj V. L. Walker has recently been appointed the designate incumbent of this post, with rank of lieutenant colonel) and four instructors — Majors Adams and Davies, and Majors B. A. Barret-Hamilton, OLM, and R. E. H. Lockley.

When I interviewed the staff, there was intense activity, since the new captain to major course was about to begin — and much of the material for each course is revised each time — "firstly, in order to keep up to date with military developments; and secondly, for our own benefit, in that after we've done an exercise a few times, we're heartily sick of it; every question which could be asked has been asked."

The staff at Mil S don't allow themselves to become stale. They're vitally interested in the job, finding it intensely rewarding and absorbing.

They'll admit that newcomers to

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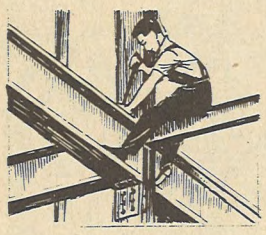

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The Directorate of Military Studies

THEY WAGE WAR ... IN THE CLASSROOM

the staff often greet their postings with rolling eyes and despair — "the reason that it's regarded a fate worse than death to come here is because it's known that on a staff course, for instance, we work as hard as the students.

"If a pupil has spent five hours preparing a paper, the least we can do is to spend five hours marking it — and that of course goes for every one of those pupils. The instructors spend most evenings and weekends marking or preparing material.

"But after you've been here a month or so your attitude changes; the challenge of the work grips you."

Instructors are frequently sent on visits to institutes of higher learning so that they can keep up to date with developments, and the latest teaching methods.

THEY aren't permitted to do too long a stretch at the directorate, either — "six years on the trot here without a break, and you'd become distinctly funny," says Peter Adams with a grin. Both he and Tom Davies, after their initial stints at Mil S, returned to units for a while, but they've since come back to the directorate — "because we're suited to the work, and because we like it.

Closed-circuit TV

A recent and helpful innovation at the directorate has been closed-circuit television. Col Campling explains: "When we lay on a demonstration or a cloth model, we sometimes require a lot of talent over and above the staff we have here, and so we borrow officers from elsewhere.

"These men have to give up an entire day, and often operational commitments makes this difficult. So in the future, we intend to assemble all the talent, kit and equipment here, lay on a first-class demonstration, and then videotape it".

War games, the in-thing in NATO circles, are nowadays part of the Mil S curriculum.

In a war game the students are divided into two teams, waging an imaginary war against each other in theory and on paper. Each force sits in its own room, where an operational centre is set up, complete with radios and telephones.

In the middle are the staff, who have to determine casualties, tactical victories, etcetera, by means of various tables.

NATO evolved this technique in order to predict the outcome of possible wars, and have set down guidelines, including tables for the calculation of unpredictable factors — acts of God, such as inclement weather, the death in action of a commander, epidemics and so on; and the quirks of man, such as sudden mutinies or the lethargy of a commanding officer.

Maj Adams cites the case of the Battle of Waterloo — "which might have gone the other way if Napoleon hadn't been ill that day and had taken more interest in it."

Backlog of students

In 1972, the directorate switched to a system whereby one year it would hold a staff course, and the next a captain to major promotion course, comprising both correspondence and full-time phases. In addition the conventions of service writing course was held.

Col Campling comments: "It became apparent to us last year, though, that there was no longer a need for us to be burdened by the CSW course. We were, however, building up too big a backlog of students ready for the staff course.

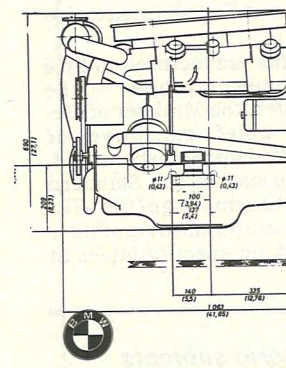
"MOREOVER, although 16 was the maximum capacity we could handle for the captain to major course, there were far more than 16 eligible for this. So in order to give everyone a fair crack of the whip, we're running two promotion courses this year, and two staff courses next year.

"In 1977, there'll be a staff course during the first half of the year, and a promotion course during the second."

The captain to major course lasts nine weeks, all of it now full time. The correspondence phase has been abandoned, in view of the current operational situation: captains on active service didn't have time to do much correspondence work, whereas their counterparts in other jobs had the opportunity to tackle this.

Nowadays, everyone's expected to do a certain amount of preliminary work before they arrive at Mil S, but generally all students start on equal footing. They live in for the duration of the course because much syndicate work is done in the evenings, and there are also a lot of weekend tasks to be completed.

I went over to the Beit Hall, where the majority of lecturing is done, to look at the hive of activity there preparing for the forthcoming course. The students had just



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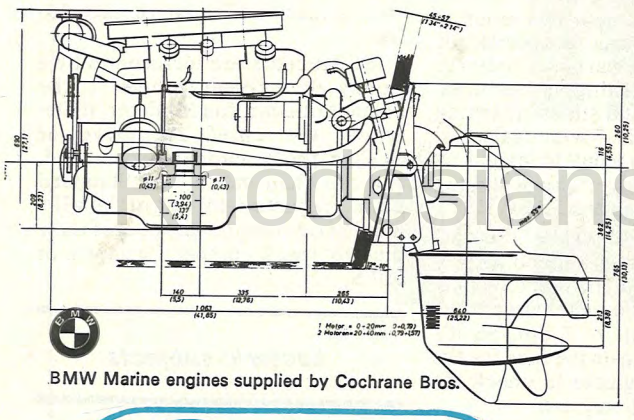

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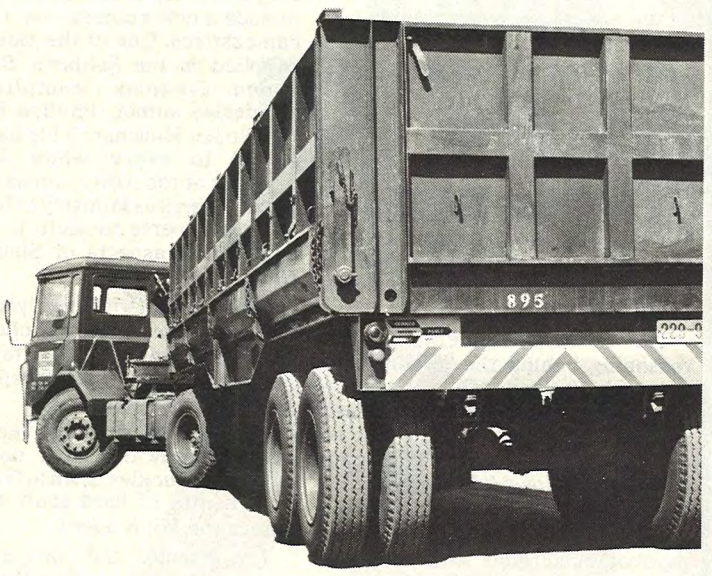

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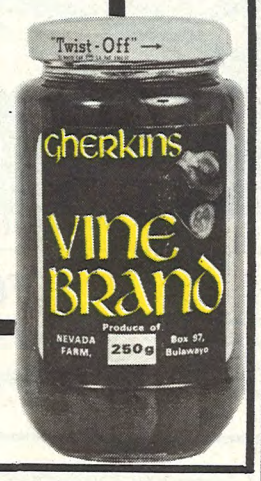

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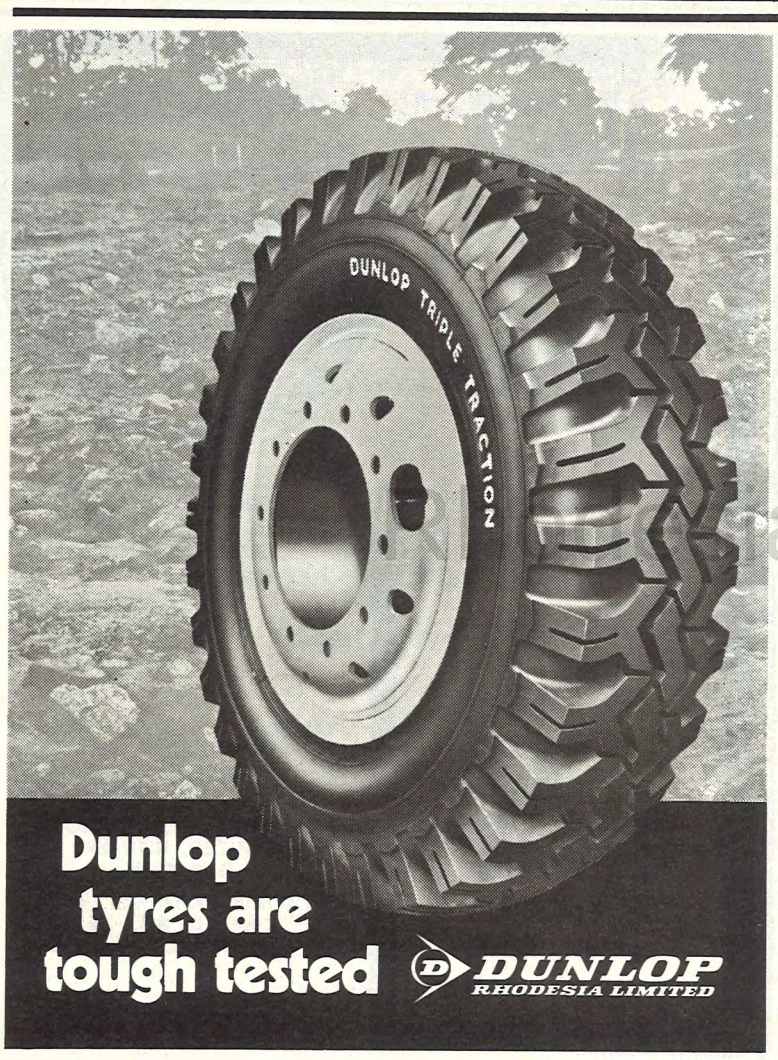

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The Directorate of Military Studies

THEY WAGE WAR... IN THE CLASSROOM

their précis, maps and stationery ranging from folders to rubbers.

Here, in the Beit Hall, the captains will be addressed by Col Campling on the opening day of their course; and here, for the next two months, they'll spend a large proportion of their day taking part in syndicate discussions, listening to lectures, watching films and slides, learning from cloth models — which take two instructors up to a day to lay out on the floor — and feverishly watching the pigeonholes in the lobby.

In these "dreaded racks" the staff place notification of impending projects: a paper, for instance, which, placed in the pigeonholes at 4 pm has to be completed by 7 pm. So it's metaphorical egg on the face for the student who neglects to check his pigeonhole until, say, six.

THIS psychological pressure is very much a part of promotion and staff course work — "if you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs . . . you haven't read the exercise instructions" is a favourite Mil S piece of fractured Kipling.

On the intermediate staff course, particularly, students are deliberately placed under intense stress for the first few weeks.

Pressure is on

"We give them projects to do but just sufficient time in which to complete these. And we ask for the papers to be handed in at hours such as 11 pm, or 4 am."

The staff closely watch the reactions of students to pressures such as these. The man who maintains his cool, staying unflustered and working steadily to the limit of his capabilities in the time allotted, is the man who'd shape best in crisis of a military nature.

The students understand the reasoning behind the jostling and accept it in good part — "there's been a very good instructor/student relationship in all courses run so far," says Maj Adams. "This is an adult course for adult students."

Col Campling interjects: "But we do organise breaks at the correct psychological times — about every four weeks or so, a morning or a whole day is devoted to golf or volleyball — or perhaps we'll take them out to Lake McIlwaine for the day.

"In fact, we're fairly strong on organised sport as a regular part of the curriculum, partly for its relaxation benefits, and partly because here students and instructors can mix freely."

Though, as with the captain to major course, students live in, a free weekend is available almost every month so that those men from other centres can go back to their wives and families for two or three days. Holidays such as Easter, Whitsun, and Rhodes and Founders, are also free.

ISC students are lectured to by a galaxy of eminent people — the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, the chief executive of ACCOR, the Bishop of Mashonaland, and the chairman of the Standard Bank, are just a sampling of the VIPs who have given up a morning of their time to speak on specific topics at Mil S.

Esoteric subjects

In addition to this, students are taken on guided tours of Government departments and industrial complexes. The object is to provide the staff officer of the future with a broad view of Rhodesia; the blinkered soldier is very much a thing of the past.

Esoteric subjects such as geopolitics are now being introduced into the ISC syllabus; but closer to home is the emphasis being laid upon African traditions.

AS from 1975, all promotion examinations within the Rhodesian Army, ranging from corporal-sergeant to captain-major, include a new subject; that of African customs. One of the aids being supplied is the *Soldier's Book of Shona Customs*, compiled by Rhodesian author, Phillipa Berlyn, and Roger Howman. This has been issued to every white serving member of the Army; but as a booster, Mil S invites Ministry of Internal Affairs experts to lecture to students upon aspects of Shona and Ndebele life.

If you fail ISC, it's highly unlikely that you'll be given the chance to attempt it again, and that failure is apt to mean that your prospects of promotion are diminished.

Thus, the failure rate is very small indeed; even the most notorious "cuffer" knuckles down to five and a half months of hard graft once he enters the Mil S doors.

The director and staff of Mil S aren't content to rest on their very real laurels. They're constantly looking outwards and forwards, discussing and planning new ventures.

A wag once thought up this motto for Mil S: "We know it works in practice, but does it work in theory?"

The staff of the Directorate of Military Studies can laugh at that one because, as anyone who has been through the academic mill there will testify, the theory's doing fine. ●

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2 1 Field Regiment, Rhodesian Artillery

3 Rhodesian Corps of Engineers

4 Rhodesian Corps of Signals

5 Rhodesian Staff Corps

6 Rhodesian African Rifles

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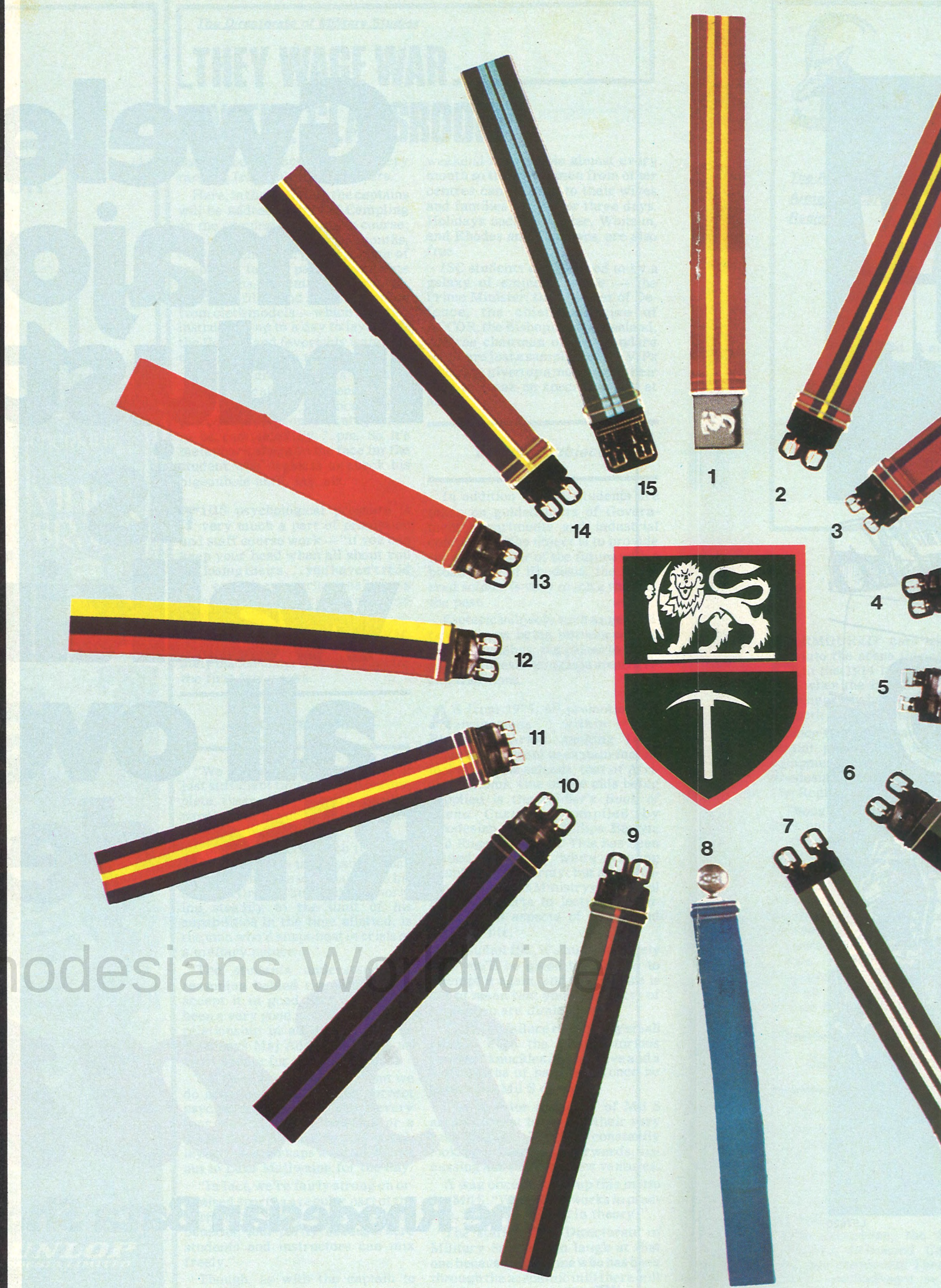

Rhodesians Worldwide

Rhodesians Worldw

THE STORY OF THE STABLE BELT . . .

In British Army Dress Orders of 1811, members of some Cavalry Regiments were given permission to wear girdles. For Officers those girdles were scarlet and gold, while the other ranks wore girdles of yellow and red. These were worn under the regulation leather belts in order to preserve their bright colours and protect the woven material of which they were made.

Many years later, when girdles went out of general use, they continued to be worn in the stables in preference to leather belts, which were kept highly polished for more important occasions.

Thus stable belts were no longer part of a dress uniform, but fulfilled a still-colourful, if utilitarian, purpose.

Nowadays stable belts are worn as unit identification.

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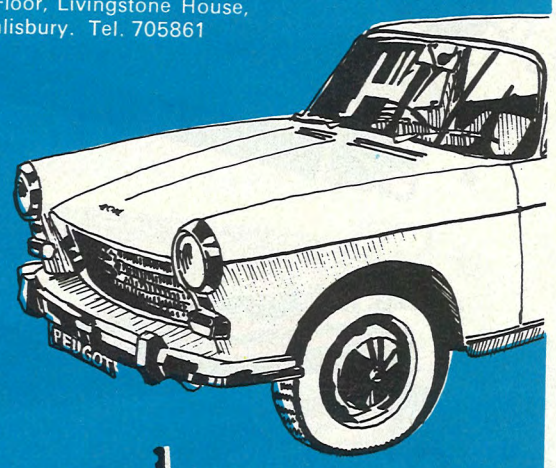

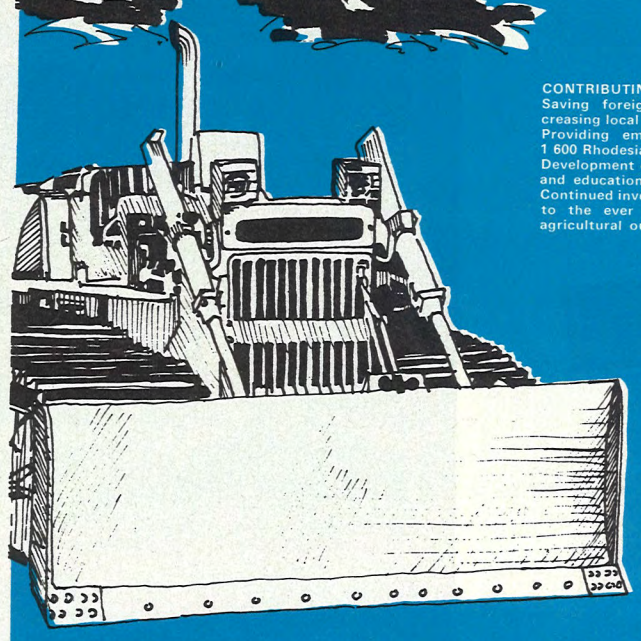

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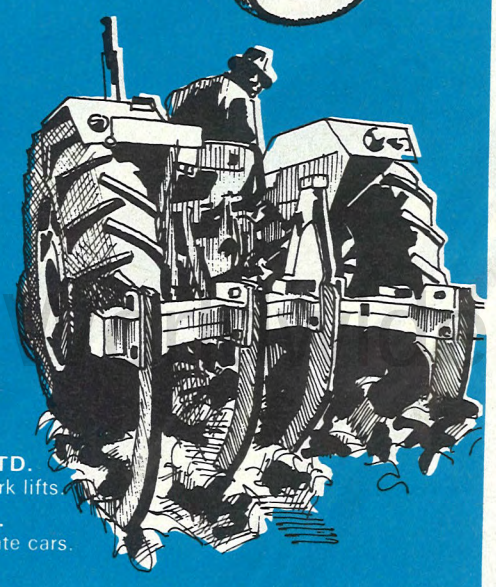

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The Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment

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Rhodesiana Online

The Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment

Right: A member of the Signals Troop attached to the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment tests communications.

Below: An Armoured Car staff sergeant briefs a Scout Car commander for his next task.

THE MEN INSIDE THE STEEL

The Armoured Car Regiment is responsible for a wide variety of duties — from counter-insurgency operations to ceremonial parades

ARMOURED cars thundered into the arena this century — in the 1914-18 War, to be precise, when the first tanks bumbled their ungainly but lethal way along the path to the Somme.

Since then, they have been an essential part of any large army's equipment, and accordingly, the Rhodesian Army has its Armoured Car Regiment.

Though this particular unit was born only in July 1972, the history of armoured cars in the Rhodesian context stretches back to the early days of the Second World War, when Lt Col C. V. King took 100 men to Kenya, to serve with the South African Forces in the African campaign — and won battle honours in the ensuing years.

This, the Southern Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment, was affiliated with the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own).

Cerise and old gold

Today's grandchild of that first regiment, the present RhACR has as its colours cerise and old gold as a token of that long-ago relationship, since the colours of the 11th Hussars — since amalgamated with the 10th Hussars — were cerise and old gold.

With peacetime, the Southern Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment was disbanded. There was a further reimbodiment in the late 1940's when Lt Col C. V. King DSO commanded the regiment which then had Staghound Armoured Cars.

The regiment was again disbanded in the middle 1950s and then A Squadron, the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment (Selous Scouts) was formed with the advent of the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Came the break-up of the Federation, and the consequent disbanding of the squadron.

At long last, Rhodesia acquired an Armoured Car Regiment that was here to stay, when, on the 18th December, 1972, a training officer for such a proposed regiment was appointed — Major Bruce Rooken-Smith.

BORN in Kenya, he came to Rhodesia in 1967 after several years in the British Army. He joined the Rhodesian Army in March, 1968.

Maj Rooken-Smith defines the role of armoured cars in counter insurgency warfare this way: "Escort duties relating to convoys; guarding of vulnerable points; providing direct fire support, road blocks, cordons, and the showing of the flag (an armoured car is a fairly impressive sight); reconnaissance work.

"Where classical warfare is concerned, reconnaissance also applies, of course, but then there is delaying action in the withdrawal; anti-tank actions; flank guarding; deep penetration; the disruption of the enemy in pursuit, and the exploitation of gaps in the advance."

The Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment is becoming more popular with National Servicemen because the comparatively lengthy preparatory training at Depot The Rhodesia Regiment before being posted to Depot The Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment, has been considerably pruned.

Now within weeks instead of months, those interested can find themselves in a Ferret (the type of armoured car best known to Rhodesians in general, and which has featured in a number of marches past).

Training period

For a National Serviceman, the armoured car training takes 26 weeks. During this course, the soldier learns tactics, signals, gunnery, driving and maintenance, and is then available for operational duties.

Maj Rooken-Smith is delighted with the calibre of the National Servicemen he now has under his command — all of the latest complement have gained O levels at the least.

The Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment is essentially a Territorial unit, with members training on Monday nights and at weekends. Part of the training comprises cloth model exercises: on the day I interviewed him, Maj Rooken-Smith had a pile of boxes containing toy tanks in one corner of his office.

These are used on a table or floor area which has been treated to simulate different types of terrain, and RhACR officers and senior NCOs demonstrate with the tanks various formations, techniques of crest crossing, and general tactics adopted on the ground.

This is, of course, part of the training for regular members of the regiment too — though a number of Maj Rooken-Smith's men have had previous valuable experience in other armies' armoured units.

The RhACR started its life in Cranborne Barracks, but moved into its new home in KG VI Barracks in December 1973, as soon as phase one of the building schedule had been completed. The entire complex should be finished by December 1975, with A Squadron in new quarters at Brady Barracks.

ANOTHER change has been that of the regimental badge; it bears the head of a sable, and the motto used to read: "Asi Sabi Luto". Then the Sindebele experts were consulted (because the RhACR chaps believe in being accurate in everything) and it was found that the wording was incorrect.

Since this was being altered on the badge, it was decided to do away with the old representation of the sable which, some felt, did not quite resemble a sable.

He has now been replaced by a much more ferocious-looking fellow. And the newly-worded version now reads: "Asesabi Lutho", which means in case you were wondering, "We Fear Naught".

What could be more appropriate? ●

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The Rhodesian Army
Educational Corps

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RHODESIA,

The Rhodesian Army Educational Corps

Right: Staff Sergeants Mataga (left) and Zikhali (right) of the Rhodesian Army Education Corps, coach Inkomo African children in athletics, after the day's lessons are done.

Rhodesians Worldwide

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Thanks to the Educational Corps, the children of African soldiers are getting the best schooling available

ONE OF the main aims of the ambitious African in Rhodesia today is education for his children: and so far and wide has the reputation of the Rhodesian Army's facilities in this field spread, that it must rank as one of the prime incentives for the many hundreds of eager applicants.

Sgt Maj Barry Taylor, of the Educational Corps told me that an intrinsic part of the Army's conditions of service is that free education up to Grade seven level is provided for all African children of military personnel.

"In fact, we provide the full range of primary school education," says Sgt Maj Taylor, who was a teacher and assistant headmaster in civilian life before he joined the Rhodesian Army.

"We have fully trained African teachers who are nevertheless soldiers. They staff schools at Inkomo, New Sarum and Thornhill (though the latter two are Air Force bases, we administer African educational facilities at both centres), 1 Brigade, at Brady Barracks, Bulawayo; 1 RAR at Methuen Barracks, Bulawayo, and at Llewellin Barracks."

The corps doesn't need to advertise for teachers: the rate of pay is such — ($5-$10 a month more than the equivalent civilian scales) then free rations, child education, medical and dental care, as added perks — that many applications a month are received.

"Thus," says Sgt Maj Taylor, "we get the cream. In order to keep our teachers up to date with new ideas, we call them in once or twice a year for lectures on the latest educational methods.

"Though all our male teachers are, as mentioned, soldiers in effect, our lady teachers — who are employed to teach mainly the Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes — are members of the United African Teaching Services, and of course Government employees. We have several husband-and-wife teaching teams in our schools."

I remember once walking by mistake into one of the classrooms of the African school at Methuen Barracks, and being greatly struck by what I saw. It was a KG 2 class, an airy room filled with sunshine and music, and the small pupils sang and clapped their way through what seemed to be a numbers song — a far cry from the dreary mumble of tables by rote that we had to plough through when I was at primary school.

The walls were bright with paintings, collages and projects, and the whole atmosphere projected happiness and contentment.

On the time-worn premise that all work and no play makes Jack Mawere a dull boy, the teachers encourage non-academic activities too, such as gardening (valuable in a practical sense, because a lot of the pupils eventually go back to settle in their own Tribal Trust Lands); choral work, art per se (Inkomo African School sends regular exhibits to the Lomagundi Show); woodwork, carving — and, of course, sport, at which a high standard has been reached. There are frequent and enthusiastic inter-school competitions.

Hygiene is also stressed, so that girls destined to become housewives in the TTLs will know how best to maintain a healthful environment for their families.

The primary school course culminates in the Grade Seven examination — the all-important entrance qualification for High School. The Rhodesian Army's African primary school pupils have scored well here.

Another important facet of the Educational Corps' work is adult education, for all races.

Courses for clerks

"We lecture to European soldiers up to O level, and also assist those who seek further education," Sgt Maj Taylor told me. "Then we counsel people as regards university education.

"This applies to African soldiers too. Many of them want to learn book-keeping, so we run clerks' courses for all races. The two and a half month course includes typing, office routine, filing etcetera. A good proportion of our pupils emerge with a 30 plus w.p.m. typing speed."

Soldiers who wish to continue with their studies in leisure time while on operational duties, are catered for too. Captain Jackson of the RLI has arranged a system for members of that regiment wherein any man who wants to pursue a specific line of study is provided with recommended books and test papers to take into the "sticks".

He then sends back each paper as he completes it — a correspondence course in the combat zone, as it were; and a diverting method of whiling away the empty off-duty periods.

The Rhodesian Army would one day like to see its entire white complement being conversant in the indigenous language of the pertinent area — in effect, Chishona or Sindebele — and to this end, increasing numbers of European personnel are taking such lessons.

All this is the responsibility of the Educational Corps, and a fine job they're making of it. But I must add a mention of the educational project not within the corps that has been started, truly at grassroots level, by Mrs Anne Heppenstall, wife of Lt Col David Heppenstall, CO 1RAR, at Methuen Barracks, Bulawayo.

Mrs Heppenstall has got a playgroup for African pre-schoolers off to a good start, and it should prove a popular and vital outlet for small children living in barracks, who up till now have had little with which to amuse themselves while older siblings are at primary and secondary school during the day.

Mrs Heppenstall invited playgroup expert Mrs Joanne Ward of Salisbury to teach the mothers, on a self-help basis, playgroup methods and projects.

I was there on the first morning, and by noon there were numerous blissful toddlers covered in poster paints from top to toe, but having had the time of their lives.

Clay modelling, collage, song and dance, band music, paper games and gardening were all on the agenda for future busy days.

So, from its first halting steps to its stride into secondary school, the child of an African soldier in the Rhodesian Army is being given the best of schooling care — and for adult soldiers of all races who never quite managed to make it academically before but who are ambitious, the educational sky's the limit. ●

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HODESIA,

The Rhodesian Army Educational Corps

Right: Staff Sergeants Mataga (left) and Zikhali (right) of the Rhodesian Army Education Corps, coach Inkomo African children in athletics, after the day's lessons are done.

Rhodesia Images Worldwide

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Thanks to the Educational Corps, the children of African soldiers are getting the best schooling available

ONE OF the main aims of the ambitious African in Rhodesia today is education for his children: and so far and wide has the reputation of the Rhodesian Army's facilities in this field spread, that it must rank as one of the prime incentives for the many hundreds of eager applicants.

Sgt Maj Barry Taylor, of the Educational Corps told me that an intrinsic part of the Army's conditions of service is that free education up to Grade seven level is provided for all African children of military personnel.

"In fact, we provide the full range of primary school education," says Sgt Maj Taylor, who was a teacher and assistant headmaster in civilian life before he joined the Rhodesian Army.

"We have fully trained African teachers who are nevertheless soldiers. They staff schools at Inkomo, New Sarum and Thornhill (though the latter two are Air Force bases, we administer African educational facilities at both centres), 1 Brigade, at Brady Barracks, Bulawayo; 1 RAR at Methuen Barracks, Bulawayo, and at Llewellin Barracks."

The corps doesn't need to advertise for teachers: the rate of pay is such — ($5-$10 a month more than the equivalent civilian scales) then free rations, child education, medical and dental care, as added perks — that many applications a month are received.

"Thus," says Sgt Maj Taylor, "we get the cream. In order to keep our teachers up to date with new ideas, we call them in once or twice a year for lectures on the latest educational methods.

"Though all our male teachers are, as mentioned, soldiers in effect, our lady teachers — who are employed to teach mainly the Grade 1, 2 and 3 classes — are members of the United African Teaching Services, and of course Government employees. We have several husband-and-wife teaching teams in our schools."

I remember once walking by mistake into one of the classrooms of the African school at Methuen Barracks, and being greatly struck by what I saw. It was a KG 2 class, an airy room filled with sunshine and music, and the small pupils sang and clapped their way through what seemed to be a numbers song — a far cry from the dreary mumble of tables by rote that we had to plough through when I was at primary school.

The walls were bright with paintings, collages and projects, and the whole atmosphere projected happiness and contentment.

On the time-worn premise that all work and no play makes Jack Mawere a dull boy, the teachers encourage non-academic activities too, such as gardening (valuable in a practical sense, because a lot of the pupils eventually go back to settle in their own Tribal Trust Lands); choral work, art per se (Inkomo African School sends regular exhibits to the Lomagundi Show); woodwork, carving — and, of course, sport, at which a high standard has been reached. There are frequent and enthusiastic inter-school competitions.

Hygiene is also stressed, so that girls destined to become housewives in the TTLs will know how best to maintain a healthful environment for their families.

The primary school course culminates in the Grade Seven examination — the all-important entrance qualification for High School. The Rhodesian Army's African primary school pupils have scored well here.

Another important facet of the Educational Corps' work is adult education, for all races.

Courses for clerks

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Rhodesians Worldwide

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G (General Staff) Branch

Left: A discussion concerning likely training areas for the Rhodesian Army. Policy formulation, and the deployment of troops, are also part of G Branch's portfolio.

Rhodesians Worldwide

IT ALL STARTS HERE

As planners and co-ordinators, the staff of G Branch are responsible for military operations throughout Rhodesia, and for training

CAESAR'S Gaul may have been divided into three parts, but the Rhodesian Army HQ has a neater way of apportionment.

There are two departments; General Staff, headed by Col G. — Col A. B. Campling — which is then split into two sections, G Branch and Military Intelligence; and AQ (headed at the time of writing by Col W. T. D. de Haast, but upon his retirement to be taken over by Col D. T. Hopkins), which consists of A and Q branches.

G Branch is the cerebrum. It's responsible for military operations throughout Rhodesia, and for training; policy formulation is evolved here, including any future development for the Rhodesian Army. Deployment of troops, training requirements for operations — all these are part of G Branch's portfolio.

A Herculean task, you may well think: yet the head of G Branch, Lt Col L. (Leon) Jacobs, is Colonel Cool himself, supremely unflappable, incisively efficient.

Numerous briefs

His staff comprises two majors — one dealing with the operational and staff duties side and one dealing with training. There are also three captains.

Yet another facet of the GSOI's role can be likened to that of a Prime Minister's principal private secretary, in that he has to prepare numerous briefs for the Army Commander's use as regards the myriad committees upon which he sits. The GSOI prepares the background research and data for the Army Commander to peruse.

For obvious reasons, the operational side of G Branch's work cannot be discussed here, save for mentioning that in this regard, G Branch deals with the operational allocation of manpower.

What of the training sphere, though?

Col Jacobs explains: "At the moment, of course, this is all directed towards operational training, the emphasis being on shooting — the standard of which we're constantly at pains to maintain and improve.

"The different types of weapons and targets used . . . the allocation of ammunition per man . . . range courses . . . all these are our responsibilities. I arrive at decisions pertaining to such matters, after consultations with troops in the field."

TACTICS are an integral part of training, of course. I ask if the age-old tactical rules, adhered to by commanders all the way down from Alexander the Great, through Wellington to Joffre, still apply — or has the complex nature of modern warfare completely outmoded these?

Col Jacobs remarks: "Of course, one has to consider overriding factors, but generally speaking, I'm a great believer in the basic rules for classical warfare, which have been arrived at by lessons learnt at progressive military stages throughout history.

"In my opinion, classical warfare methods and those for counter-insurgency are not at all separate, but intermeshed.

"For instance, in classical warfare, a reconnaissance patrol relies upon its own stealth and cunning — exactly the same applies to a COIN recce patrol. The task of a fighting patrol in classical warfare is to gain your information by fighting if necessary, and so it is within the COIN context.

"There is some modification of tactics, certainly, between the two concepts; the psychological aspect in COIN is marked, for example.

"Our policy is to train for classical warfare as well as for counter-insurgency. We strive to be able to meet the ultimate threat to our country and our training is directed principally at this.

Imagine Col Jacobs perpetually at a giant military chess board and you'll have an idea of the intricacy of his work. It's up to G Branch to find and establish new training areas — for example, the double National Service intakes now implemented at Llewellin Barracks have necessitated the setting up of two new ranges there.

Notable success

Artillery wanted to undertake a massive classical war retraining exercise: G Branch had to select the district and make the requisite arrangements. (The exercise was held in the Buhera district and was a notable success.)

"The armoured cars training syllabus is just one of our responsibilities," Col Jacobs continues. "So is the training programme of African soldiers at Depot ASC — and that of RAR soldiers. On the staff duties side, we arrange the call-up of certain intakes, and the subsequent movement to independent companies."

Remoulding and organisation takes up a lot of G Branch's time. At one stage, would-be armoured car recruits had to complete a four-and-a-half month stint at Llewellin Barracks before proceeding to that unit.

G Branch, in consultation with OC, Armoured Cars, felt that this was an unwieldy arrangement, and altered the process to the present satisfactory status quo wherein recruits complete an eight-week basic training course only at Llewellin Barracks, and are then posted forthwith to armoured cars.

The establishing of 2 RAR has been handled primarily by G Branch — again, of course, in close consultation with the Commanding Officer, 1 RAR, and the Army staff.

Once authority for the formation of the unit had been obtained, G Branch had to thrash out how many companies should be set up, how large the initial intake should be, and — in conjunction with Q Branch what nature the accommodation, equipment etcetera should take. All posts for 2 RAR have been negotiated by G Branch.

AS Col Jacobs says: "We're the planners and the co-ordinators."

A mention of the diverse committees upon which he himself sits illustrates this amply: he's the secretary of the Main Weapons and Equipment Committee (chaired by the Army Commander); chairman of the Armour and Anti-Tank Committee; chairman of the Engineers' Committee; chairman of the Boats Committee; a member of the Transport Committee, the Clothing and General Stores Committee, the Army Welfare Board, the Officers' Promotion and Administration Board, the Army Priorities Committee, and the Army Dress and Advisory Committee.

Small wonder that he takes work home every evening, and is in the office each and all of Saturday morning. Yet he says: "I'm stimulated by hard work; I function best under pressure. I love to be at the centre of things — and that certainly sums up G Branch." ●

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Rhodesians Worldwide

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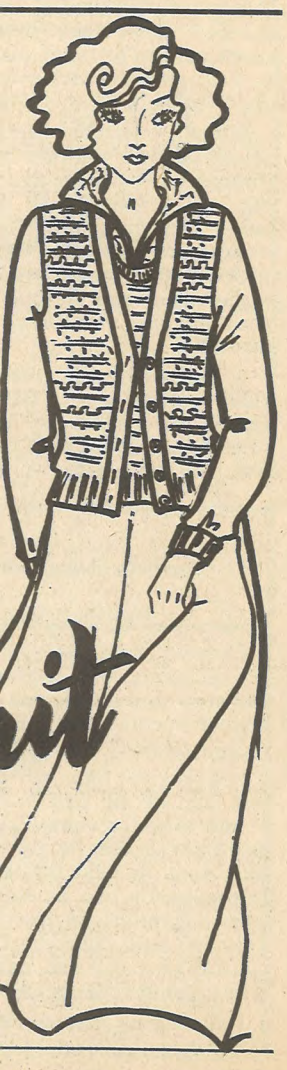

Q (Quartermaster General's) Branch

Right: Kitting-out time at the Q Stores. Members of "Dad's Army" line up. The storeman is Rfn Shaw; from left to right are Riflemen Rachman, Beattie and Muirhead.

Below: In the Q Stores: Rfn D. G. Beattie collects a weapon from the armoury. Storeman armourer Rfn R. G. Andrews checks it off on the list. Both men are members of "Dad's Army."

A GIGANTIC STORES CUPBOARD

Q branch, in association with the Services Corps, provide the material needs to enable the Army to live and fight

"THE beauty of this job," says Lt Col C. P. (Peter) Craig, Quartermaster General of the Rhodesian Army, "is that you do see the end results of your efforts.

"You plan a building programme ... and you watch the barracks arise. You decide upon a specific type of equipment for a certain purpose — and in due course you see it arriving. In short, you're dealing mostly with tangibles, and this can be very satisfying."

Col Craig sums up Q Branch's basic function at all levels this way: "In essence, we provide, in close association with the Army Services Corps, the material needs to enable the Army to live and fight: weapons, rations, clothing and equipment, transport, ammunition, unit equipment, barracks equipment and accommodation.

Direction and advice

"Then there's the determination and publication of Q policy as directed by the Army Commander; and the co-ordination of Q activities within the branch, and the Army as a whole, affecting the implementation of that policy. The quartermaster general is responsible for advising the Army Commander on Q matters, as required."

There's Q representation at every level — the QMG and his staff are housed at Army HQ, but at Brigade HQ, there's a QSO2 or AQSO2 and staff; Battalion HQ have a quartermaster and an RQMS; and sub-units each have their CQMS.

Let's look at the work of Q teams in these spheres: at a Brigade HQ, the Q staff is responsible for the implementation of Army Q policy, and Q policy as directed by Brigade Command. The Q staff also advises the brigade commander on Q matters.

It would also be responsible for the planning logistical support within the brigade, in co-operation with other services concerned. It would supervise the day to day Q administration of units under command, and process Q administration matters to and from lower and higher echelons, to mention just a few of its activities — "various and multitudinous", as Col Craig describes it.

At Battalion HQ and sub-unit level, the QM and his staff are responsible for meeting the everyday material needs of the battalion sub-units in barracks or on operations. They control and account for all stores and equipment on charge to the unit, and generally supervise barracks administration.

Col Craig says: "Q policy embraces long and short term planning for the logistical support necessary to keep the Army functioning as a fighting force.

"In very broad terms, this embraces such matters as the types of equipment and transport with which the Army is to be supplied; the types of operational rations required to maintain a healthy nutritional balance; and the planning and implementation of the Army works programme, which runs into millions of dollars."

Justifiable pride

Has Q Branch ever slipped up, either by commission or omission? Col Craig said with justifiable pride that he couldn't think of any serious instances, but he tells the following story against himself, to indicate that on a personal level, even a quartermaster general cannot always be prepared for every contingency:

"After I left depot, having been the commanding officer there, the following year I was invited to the ball. My wife was in Europe at the time, so I went along alone and was allocated a room in the new single quarters, of which at that time I was the only occupant.

"While I was changing into my mess kit, standing at the washbasin, a stud slipped out of my dress shirt and fell down the plug hole. I only had one set with me, so I had to recover this. I had no choice but to unscrew the pipe at the bottom of the basin. As I bent down to do this, off popped three of my fly buttons."

For once, the QMG was at a loss ... but not for long. He found a safety pin and effected a temporary repair — "Then stopped the first car I saw outside, which happened to contain the padre".

This is one of the many instances in which the Corps of Chaplains rose to the occasion magnificently. The gentleman of the cloth in question took the colonel home, delegated the vital button-sewing operation to his servant; and in due course, colonel (immaculately attired) and padre arrived at the party.

That was a memorable evening in the private life of a quartermaster general. Professionally, though, he co-ordinates and directs a highly efficient and gigantic stores cupboard, without which the Rhodesian Army could not exist. ●

FOOTNOTE

QMG: quartermaster general
Q branch: quartermaster general's branch.
QSO2: Q staff officer grade 2 (major).
AQSO2: A/Q branch staff officer grade 2 (major)
RQMS: regimental quartermaster sergeant.
CQMS: company quartermaster sergeant.

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Rhodesians Worldwide

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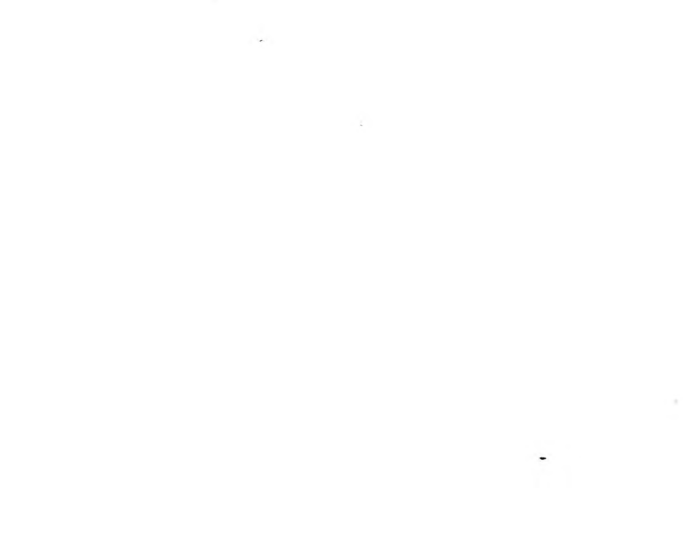
The Rhodesian Army Medical Corps



Right: A casualty arrives in Salisbury, administered to all the way by Medical Corps members. Four hours is the prescribed optimum time between field and hospital, but so streamlined are procedures that the delay is usually less than that.

Below: "Now, this won't hurt at all . . ." A Rhodesian Army member opens wide for a Medical Corps dentist to get to work.

THE LIFESAVERS

The staff of the Medical Corps have chosen to serve Rhodesia in a very special way . . . by safeguarding the health of her men at arms

"IS THERE a doctor in the house?" is a question that need never be asked within the Rhodesian Army. Its Medical Corps is a highly efficient organisation with branches and sub-units in every conceivable place where Army or Air Force personnel might require medical attention.

I talked to Col J. W. Drummond, director of the corps, and to Lt Col J. F. Ainslie, the assistant director.

Col Drummond's formal definition of the directorate's function is this: "To formulate policy for medical services provided for the Rhodesian Army and the Rhodesian Air Force. (We supply medical cover for the Air Force, and Medical Corps personnel are seconded for service there, wearing Air Force uniform.)"

The corps itself has three functions: firstly, a therapeutic and curative role; then a preventative part to play, particularly as regards bilharzia and malaria; and thirdly, the responsibility of dealing with the supply of medicine requisites.

Medical degree

Col Drummond typifies the soldier-doctor contained in this corps: born and educated in Scotland, he obtained his medical degree at Edinburgh University. In 1942, he was called up to serve with the Royal Army Medical Corps, and remained with that corps for four and a half years, serving in North Africa, Italy, Germany and Britain.

He was demobbed in 1945, and went into general practice. In 1955, having emigrated to Rhodesia, he joined the Federal Army, and stayed on after the dissolution of Federation, to serve in the Rhodesian Army. He became director of the Medical Corps in 1973.

He says of his job: "I enjoy it very much, and find it very challenging.

"An Army medical officer is basically a general practitioner; he deals not only with Army members, but with dependants. Then, of course, since the counter-insurgency operations began, the corps has had to provide medical services in the field. So our MOs here have a dual career, that of soldier and doctor."

UNDER the Geneva Convention, an Army medical officer is supposed to be unarmed but an RMO may carry a 9 mm automatic pistol, to be used for self-protection, and for the protection of his patients. But like any member of the Rhodesian Army in the operational area, he's in a certain amount of jeopardy all the time, and in recent years several casualties have been recorded.

So the "medics" aren't merely sitting pretty at base camps: when they're required, they're right there in the thick of it. At present, there are four field medical units, where casualties are admitted and treated

Col Ainslie describes the routine: "Let me give you an example of what happens. Rifleman John Smith is with a patrol, and contact is made with terrorists. In the ensuing engagement, Smith sustains a bullet wound in his upper arm.

"Immediately his nearest comrade gives first aid and applies a dressing, and the casualty is seen by the qualified medical assistant with the patrol, who checks the condition of the case and gives morphine. The incident is radioed to base, to Company HQ, Brigade HQ and, in turn, Army HQ.

Next of kin

"Upon receipt of the message, the Army authorities will at once take steps to inform the next of kin. This task is, where possible, delegated to a chaplain, but should one not be available, it would be carried out by some other responsible officer, or by a member of the BSA Police.

"Similarly, the Army undertakes to keep next of kin informed of any significant changes that may occur in the patient's condition.

"Now let us follow the case. He may be evacuated by air or by road to the nearest casualty collecting post or mobile medical unit, where he is attended to by a medical officer who has facilities to hand such as intravenous fluids, plasma, oxygen and antibiotics.

"Because the wound is serious, and possibly complicated, after supportive treatment the case is evacuated by helicopter or another aircraft to base hospital, which has already been warned to have everything ready for the reception of the case, a detailed description of the injuries having already been signalled in advance, so that an orthopaedic surgeon is standing by.

"Once having been seen by a doctor a decision is immediately taken as to whether the man may return to duty, or be sent for treatment to a central hospital. If he is to be sent to hospital, this will be by road or aircraft, depending upon the seriousness of the condition and the necessity for urgent treatment.

"A set procedure is followed to notify authorities at the man's destination of his impending arrival, so that arrangements can be made to receive him. His next of kin will be informed of this."

COL Drummond adds: "Our policy as far as treatment of casualties is concerned, is to get them to hospital with the minimum delay — within four hours being the prescribed optimum, but we pride ourselves that through our procedures, it takes a far shorter time than that.

"I must say here that the Air Force have never refused us assistance, even when they've been heavily committed themselves. Speed is the life-saving essence in such cases, and this swiftness has without doubt saved many lives — a couple of hundred at least in recent years."

As regards the urban role of the Medical Corps, there are hospitals at Inkomo Garrison, King George VI Barracks, the RLI Barracks, Llewellin Barracks, Brady Barracks and Methuen Barracks.

At the School of Infantry, Gwelo, there's a well-equipped clinic. There are two Air Force hospitals,

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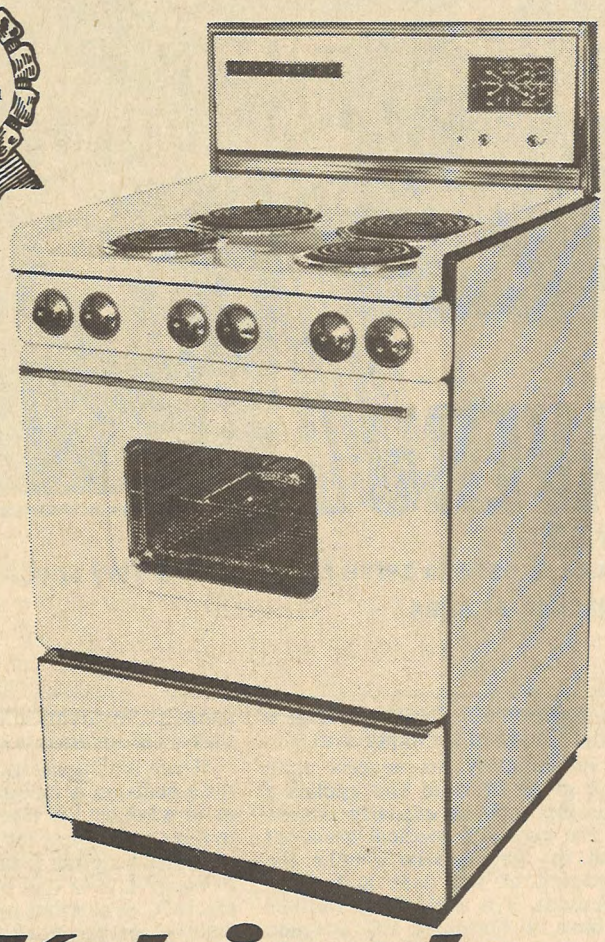

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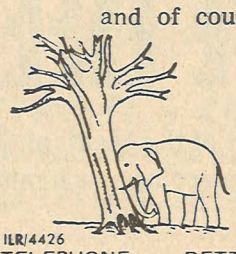

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Left: The Camp Hospital, King George VI Barracks: Pte Young, of 3 Brigade, enjoys the ministrations of Sisters Sandy Brown (left) and Joan Finlayson.

THE LIFESAVERS

Rhodesians Worldwide

at New Sarum and Thornhill respectively.

In the field, there are several medical units where casualties are admitted and treated in the first instance, as described by Col Ainslie.

Each urban Army or Air Force hospital has its quota of nursing sisters, and very resourceful and compassionate ladies they are too, as any serving member or dependant will testify.

The corps also has State Registered male nurses. European and African medical assistants, non-medical officers employed in administration posts, health inspectors (fully qualified, and members of the Royal Society of Health) dentists — "though not enough," says Col Drummond ruefully — and medical officers.

THE position regarding medical officers has eased in the last seven years since the Army medical cadet scheme came into operation. This offers a unique opportunity to impecunious young men bent on a medical career but unable to finance their way through university.

The first fruits

The Medical Corps has a number of such cadets studying at the present time, but as the scheme has been in operation since 1968, the corps is now reaping the first fruits, in the shape of a crop of qualified young doctors, able to serve in either urban camp hospitals or in field units.

Their dedication is unmistakeable: whereas with many civilian general practitioners today, the patient often has an uncomfortable assembly-line feeling, the new breed of Army doctors is in fact akin to the family doctor known and loved 25 years back, who took time to listen — probably the best diagnostic method of all.

If a serving member or dependant goes through the correct channels — contacting the camp hospital nearest to him/her and either arranging an appointment, or requesting the doctor to make a house call — such medical services are free, and so are all the medicines prescribed by an Army MO for his patients.

Should the services of a specialist be required, the Army MO will refer the patient to an appropriate consultant — the Defence Forces having a list of consultants on contract to them. (This list is reviewed every year.)

The services of the consultant, the medicaments prescribed — if dispensed at a camp hospital — and hospitalisation at a Government hospital, are all paid for by the Army/ Air Force.

Hospital fees

Maternity medical care, however, is not a free service, although a $75 grant is supplied to each member whose wife has given birth, and hospital fees for the confinement if a Government maternity home is used, are paid for by the Army/Air Force.

Should complications arise as a result of pregnancy, and the civilian doctor in charge of the case deems it necessary to call in a specialist obstetrician to take over, the obstetrician's fees and those of the anaesthetist, if one is required, plus any investigations such as laboratory tests and X-rays required by the obstetrician, will all be paid for by the Army or Air Force.

"BUT people can be too demanding," says Col Drummond. "Because it's a free medical service, some of them think nothing of calling out a doctor during the hours of darkness. And, however trivial the complaint may seem, a doctor can of course never take the risk of not going."

Col Ainslie comments: "There's an appalling lack of knowledge among the lay public as regards medical ethics. Unreasonable requests and demands are made as a result of ignorance."

The colonels also remarked on the fact that nowadays a common opening gambit on the part of a patient is a peremptory: "I want to see a specialist." (Easy words when you know that the Army, and not

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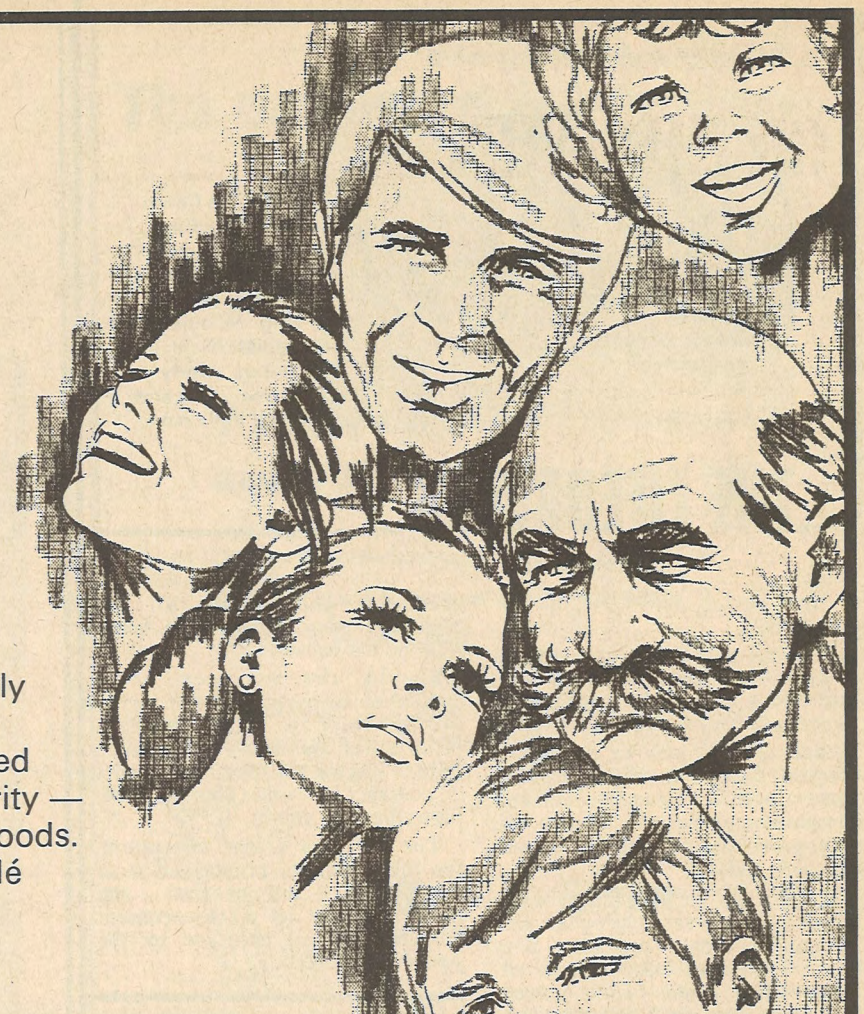

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The Rhodesian Army Medical Corps

THE LIFESAVERS

yourself, will be footing the subsequent bill.)

There's also a penchant for insisting upon a second opinion — which procedure can be very tricky, ethically speaking, for a general practitioner.

Did this know-all attitude stem from the preponderance nowadays of medical articles in magazines and newspapers?

The colonels agreed that this probably had precipitated the rash of amateur diagnosticians.

A few months ago, the Medical Directorate put out a plea in the Army magazine *Assegai* for members and their families to be more reasonable in their clamouring for medicines apropos minor ailments.

AS in the military field, new developments in the medical world are taking place every day. The Medical Directorate keeps pace with these progressions, and although it hasn't been easy in recent years to obtain equipment — "we're keeping our heads above water," says Col Drummond.

"I would like to mention here how grateful we are to societies and organisations who have helped us in this respect, supplying us with X-ray equipment, ambulances, etcetera."

New methods of treatment are passed on immediately to MOs — "should we learn, say, of a new technique of treating phosphorous burns, the director would go up to the operational area, and describe this routine to all doctors there."

Forward areas

Each MO has alternating spells of duty, both at an urban camp hospital, and in the forward areas. There is one MO at every Joint Operational Centre, and every company has a qualified medical assistant.

(The corps has its own training school at Llewellin Barracks, and upon completing a three-month course there, students qualify as Group A, Class 3 medical assistants.)

The Medical Corps has a Territorial wing, with Territorial Force MOs, more MOs on reserve, as well as dentists. Then there are many other ranks TF and reserve medical assistants; so should a large-scale emergency ever require a massive infusion of medical personnel, the corps is well equipped to supply this.

As regards National Service, young doctors are usually called up after completing their housemanship. They serve for six months in the Army or Air Force, and after that they are free of any further commitment.

Did you know that the Medical Corps has put all Rhodesian Army soldiers on the Pill? Before you suspect that this might be a sneaky way of cutting down on paying out that $75 maternity grant to wives, let me hasten to tell you that the pill in question is an anti-malarial prophylactic which must be taken regularly by all members likely to serve in or visit operational areas where malarial mosquitoes might exist.

Regular bilharzia tests are also carried out on members who have been in contact with water that could have been infected. The Army Health Laboratory at King George VI Barracks is fully equipped to make not only routine investigations of this sort, but also tests concerning more complex tropical diseases.

Adequate supply

Col Ainslie told me that in the field, water points are provided by Army engineers, who are responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of clarified and sterilised water to base camps.

"Individual water sterilising tablets are issued to all soldiers, and they are instructed in the use of these tablets for their individual water bottles. The tablets destroy all dangerous bacteria, and it should be noted that typhoid and cholera organisms are particularly susceptible to this sterilising chemical.

"So, if soldiers carry out instructions as laid down, they should not become infected by any waterborne disease."

THE next time you see a helicopter whirring into Salisbury towards the Central Hospital, give a thought to the efficiency and skill of the Army Medical Corps, who will have treated the casualty therein and transported him with the utmost speed to the city centre.

This is the dramatic side of their sphere of activities; behind the scenes, though, is so much more — for instance the young MO who is willing to give up three hours of his off-duty time on a Sunday evening to listen to the personal problems of a distraught husband and wife.

Then the "medics" who constantly run the gauntlet of land mines as they drive along remote roads, bringing medical supplies and aid to far-flung sub-units.

The unfaltering vigilance in the battle against bilharzia and malaria; and overall, the true grit of these men who have chosen not to line their pockets in the lucrative realm of civilian private practice, but instead to serve Rhodesia in a very special way — by safeguarding the health of her men-at-arms. ●

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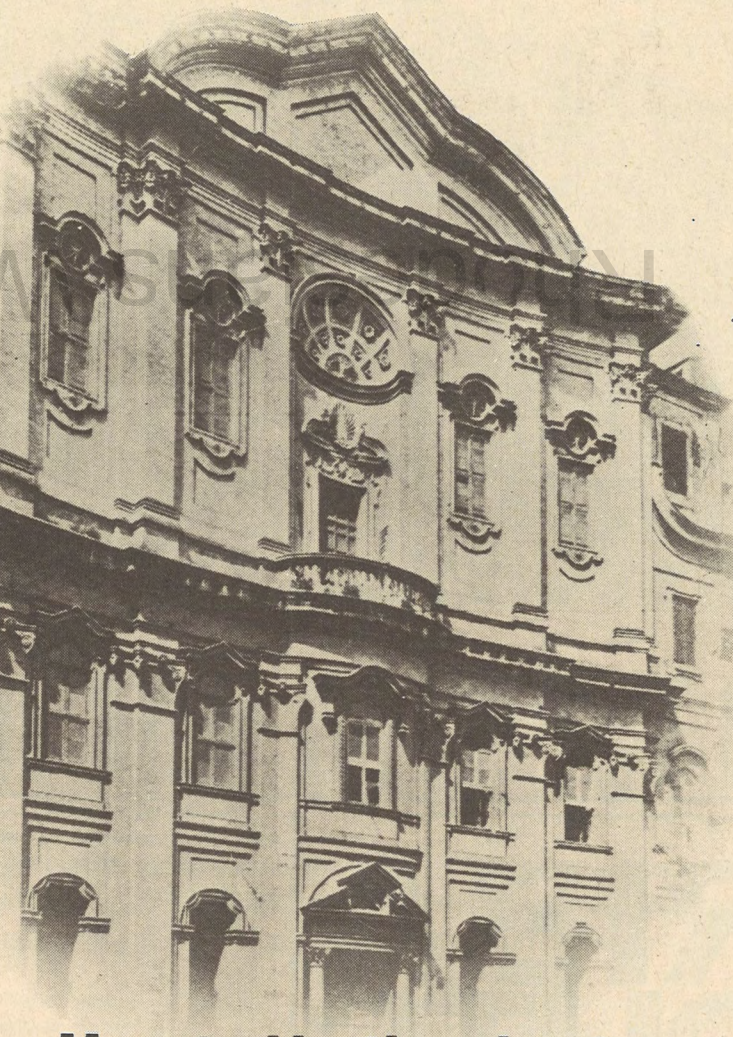

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The Rhodesian Army Pay Corps

Right: Pay time in Sticksville. Rhodesian Army members are usually paid before they leave for the operational areas, but should any sub-unit require further funds, a member of Army Pay and Records will journey out to them.

THE MEN WITH THE MONEY

When a soldier returns from the bush, he expects his salary to be waiting for him. Seeing that he gets it is just one of the many responsibilities of the Rhodesian Army Pay Corps — a multi-million dollar concern.

THERE'S an old maxim that three basic factors are necessary to maintain a soldier's morale: food, mail and pay. I personally suspect that though the average troopie enjoys moaning about any irregularities in the first two services mentioned, the sight of the pay office going up in smoke would reduce him to tears.

Yet pay is something he takes for granted. He expects it to be there waiting for him, whatever the hour, when he returns from "the sticks"; and one of his favourite formulas for a joke is a "box-up" over someone's salary or records.

Aunt Sally role

The Rhodesian Army Pay Corps is quite phlegmatic about its Aunt Sally role in this respect. What isn't widely appreciated, though, is the immensity of its task — the sheer volume of paperwork to be processed, the millionfold figures to be wrestled with, the vast amount of money to be handled . . . the effort that goes into keeping up efficiency despite all these elements — and how superbly the corps functions as a rule.

I talked to the corps' director, Lt Col D. T. (Terry) Hopkins, who has an infectious enthusiasm for his work.

Though maths and me are totally incompatible, I found myself becoming more fascinated by the minute as we walked through the huge hall, divided into sections by filing cabinets and shelves, where the financial career of a soldier is charted and controlled from the moment he signs on until the day he retires.

Col Hopkins has been in the Pay Corps ever since he joined the Rhodesian Army in 1960. He's acquired relevant qualifications, such as his ACIS (Associated Member of The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators), but like all other Pay Corps members, he's basically a soldier, and one section of his Rhodesian Army career comprised a stint at Staff College in South Africa. He became director of the Pay Corps in 1969.

He defines the responsibilities of the Pay Corps in this way: "We handle all pay and allowances for the entire Rhodesian Army — regular, territorial force and reserve — and this ranges from seeing that the Army Commander gets his monthly salary cheque, to ensuring that the wife of Trooper Bloggs receives her monthly allowance while he's on duty in the bush.

Rent of ability

"It's up to us to issue the right pay for the right job at the right time. What is pay? The dictionary definition is 'money received in return for work.'

"The economic textbook talks of the rate of pay being 'the rent of ability', and this is why a professor of mathematics earns more than a parking meter attendant.

"From the employer's point of view, salaries and wages must attract, and retain, qualified competent people; present an orderly way of motivating people and reward meritorious performance, and also offer internal equity between members in a systematic manner.

"The Army pay system meets these criteria by providing a sliding scale of pay throughout the ranks, with incremental steps for each particular rank. The movement from one rank to another for officers and NCOs is determined by examination, service and performance.

"There are two main factors in any scientific appraisal of wages. Firstly come the external group of factors which help to attract initially: such as starting salary, pension, security and prestige.

Secondly are the internal or intrinsic factors to retain your employees. These include the chance of learning trades, perfecting skills and generally, job opportunity."

Types of engagement vary. There's the three-year primary engagement; the old five-year initial engagement; the seven-year short-service engagement; the 10-year medium service engagement, and permanent service.

At each stage, there is available a phase of the ESG, or extended service gratuity — a system of bonuses payable where the man in question undertakes to serve for a longer period.

Introduced only in 1973, the inception of the ESG has made a great difference to the lives of many Army families.

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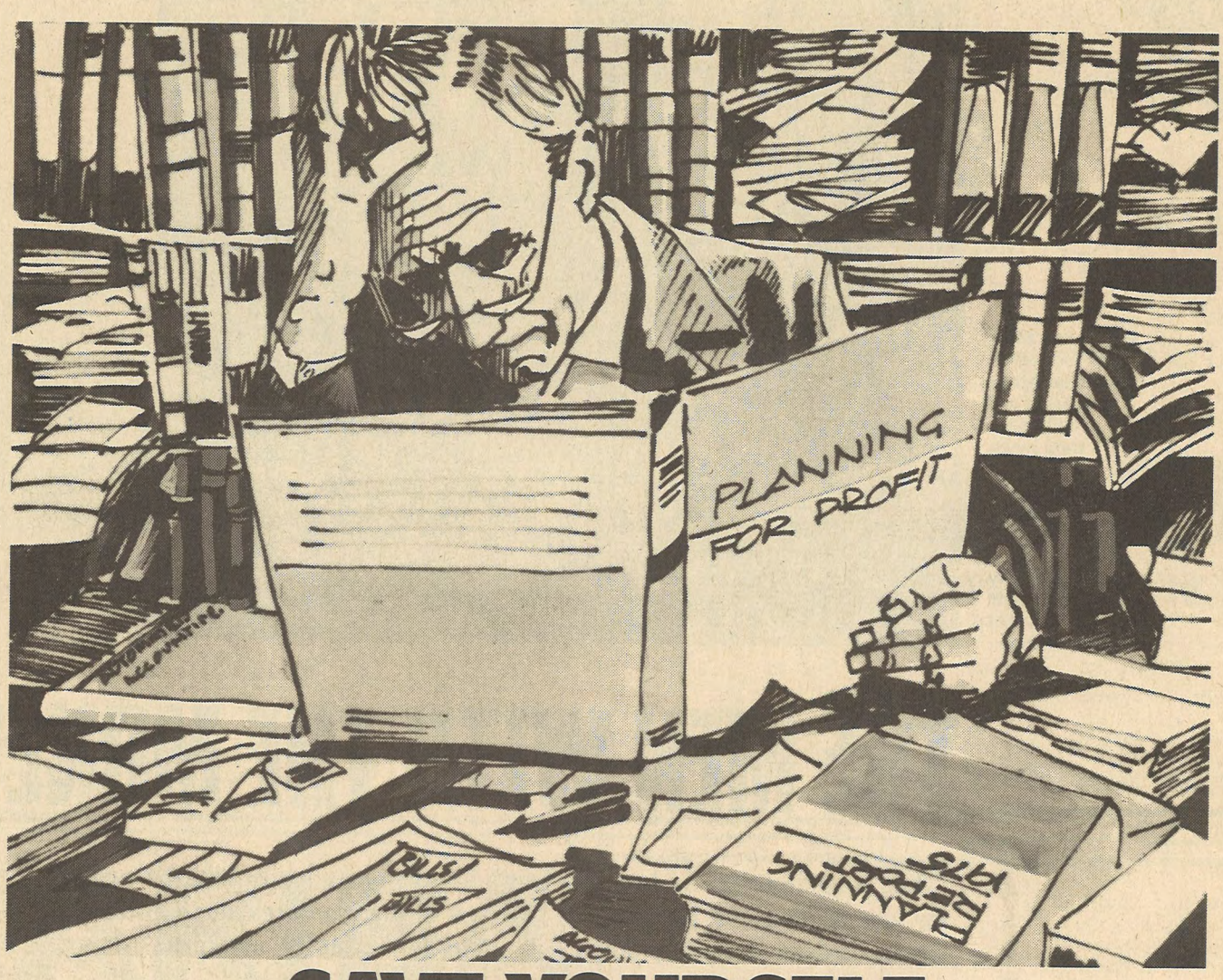

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The Rhodesian Army Pay Corps

Left: Part of the busy day at Army Pay and Records. The career, marked by financial milestones, of every serving member of the Rhodesian Army, is on paper here. Time was when every entry had to be made by hand, but recently computerisation streamlined procedures.

THE MEN WITH THE MONEY

decided to blow it have had the fun and pleasure of overseas holidays — out of the question hitherto, perhaps — new cars, and sometimes even new homes.

Christopher Robin's Alice, who talked about a soldier's life being terribly hard, would have changed her tune could she have known about Rhodesian ESGs.

This bonanza comes up just every so many years, of course, depending upon a man's terms of engagement; but allowances can prove to be a steady monthly help.

Acting allowances and the efficiency allowance (paid for the passing of certain basic soldier tests) apart, there are the trade allowances — Army tradesmen, from mechanics to radio technicians, all receive monthly financial recognition of their status once they have passed a trade test.

Annual bonus

Then there's the SAS qualification pay and a similar allowance for members of the Selous Scouts.

On top of all this, every soldier receives an annual bonus: generally speaking, five per cent of his salary, to a maximum of $300.

The calculation of salaries, the multiplicity of allowances, bonuses and ESGs for each member of the Rhodesian Army is just one of the Pay Corp's tasks . . . let alone the correct deduction of PAYE, personal tax, pension contri-butions/insurance premiums and the like.

The Pay Corps isn't solely concerned with the individual's needs, of course. It acts overall within the Army context as accountant and book-keeper, and provides auditing services to various regimental funds.

These funds are non-Government moneys which furnish finance for messes, canteens and institutes throughout the Army.

Though personnel in the corps are trained as pay or record clerks, each must first undergo a training in basic soldiering — fieldcraft, weapon handling, drill, and so on.

Serious burden

The new soldier is then ready to enter the Pay Corps and pick up his pen. Promotion within the corps is relatively swift; a man with potential and drive can rise to sergeant within three to four years.

The corps has recently gone over to computerisation, and is looking for men to train as computer programmers and systems analysts. The computer has done much to alleviate what was fast becoming a serious burden, paper-wise, on the corps staff's shoulders.

All pay calculations are now done by the computer, saving many man-hours, and soon, Col Hopkins hopes, it will be possible to transfer the entire range of the present manual systems to the computer, which will then store complete details of every member of the Army.

In pre-computer days, peak rush periods of the year (involving matters such as income tax or the payment of annual bonuses) invariably meant heavy overtime for the pay clerks for anything up to two months.

Col Hopkins comments: "By moving over to the computer, our efficiency will be improved, and we'll be better able to cope with the ever-increasing avalanche of

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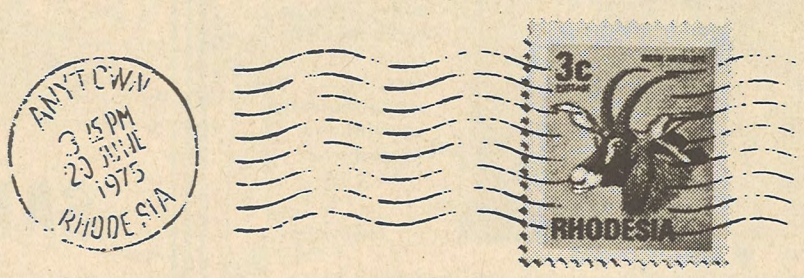
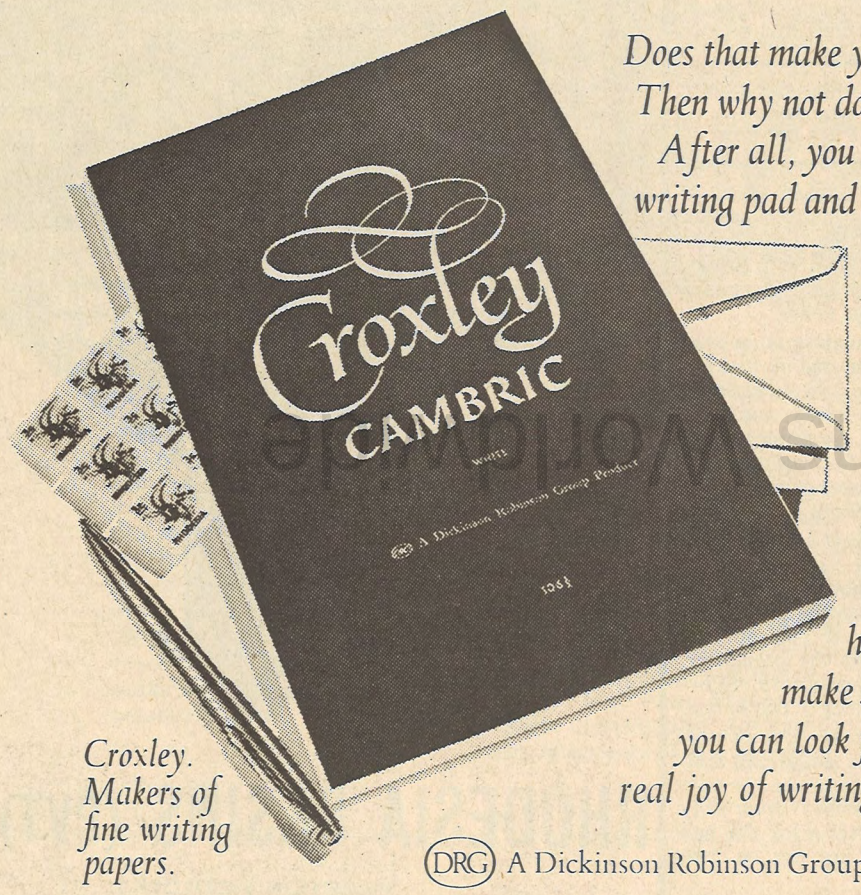


someone is waiting for a letter from you.....



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Army Pay and Record
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THE MEN

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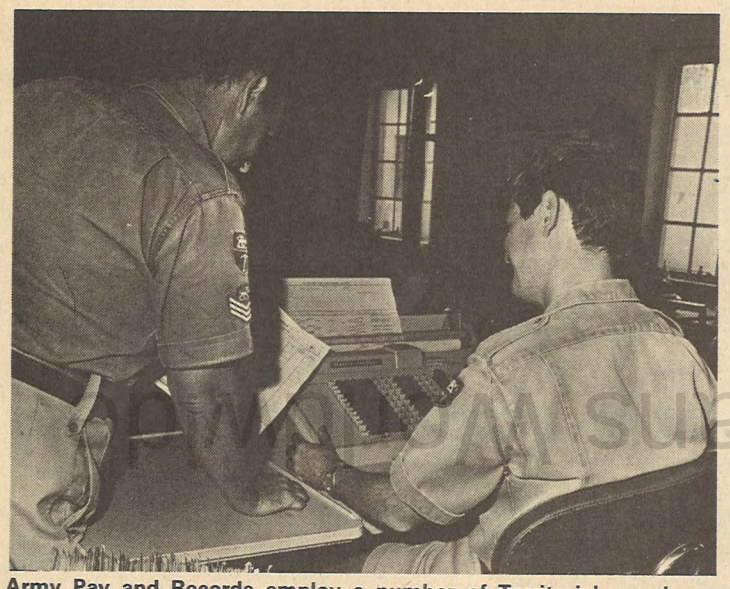

Army Pay and Records employ a number of Territorial members. Most of these men have had accounting or clerical experience in civilian life.

THE MEN WITH THE MONEY

paperwork which modern technology seems to produce."

Have there been any really horrible mistakes over the years? He smiles and says, choosing his words carefully: "As in any organisation dealing with a vast volume of data, errors — human and mechanical — do occur from time to time.

"With surprising frequency, these errors seem to strike the same people . . . and a proportion of those unfortunate few seem to be very senior officers . . ."

Army Pay and Records' best (or worst, depending upon how you look at it) bloomer came about through their job of tracing people with military commitments.

Sometimes the records involved go back many years, and thus it was that a Very Important Person in the Rhodesian Air Force was called up to do his Army duty.

Tracing process

He replied most politely, saying that he realised how short the Rhodesian Army was of men, but that he really felt that the Air Force required him more!

A word about this tracing process: every letter, signed or anonymous, alleging that an individual is dodging his military service, is investigated by the RhAPC.

Records, needless to say, are an important part of the corps. All master records of every person who has ever served in the Rhodesian military forces since Pioneer days — including all records of Air Force personnel up to the inception of the RRAF — are stored here. Medical records are included too.

Capt Peter Walker, the senior records officer, told me that when a soldier is injured on duty, he acts as a link man — "between our own medical people and the pensions officer.

"On the record side, we're continually bombarded with enquiries from all over the world. Though we occasionally get enquiries from Debrett's Peerage and the College of Arms, most of our letters are from chaps wanting extracts of their wartime service, and that sort of thing.

Campaign medals

"A couple of years ago, I had a letter from an African requesting details of his military service as a bugler in 1918!"

Records was able to supply that information.

Until recently, the corps held campaign medals and ribbons dating back to the 1890s, but it has now handed custodianship of residual historical medals to the Queen Victoria Museum in Salisbury.

Nonetheless, the medal roll still remains, and so another fairly common enquiry received concerns relations who fought in the rebellions and Matabele wars and possibly earned decorations.

Current medals are sent in the first instance to the records section of Army Pay and Records who then implement their issue to relevant persons. In the case of the Rhodesian General Service Medal, this has entailed no less than 16 000 soldiers, to date.

Pay clerks aren't always desk-

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The Rhodesian Army

THE MEN

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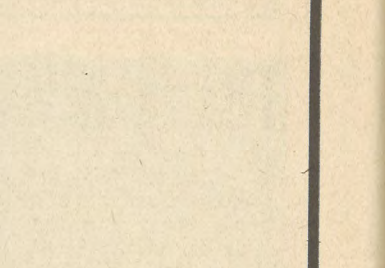

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The Rhodesian Army Pay Corps

THE MEN WITH THE MONEY

bound. Though Rhodesian Army personnel are assured of receiving their pay every time they return from the operational area (and usually before being transferred there for a relatively lengthy tour of duty), should members of any unit in action require an interim payment of say $10 each for pocket-money, a pay clerk will journey to that camp, however far-flung, and hand out the money.

I spoke to WO 1 Peter Killick, whose last posting was as the RLI paymaster, who said that he has never found his job anything but absorbing and worthwhile.

"You're dealing with people all the time, and quite often in addition to normal pay duties, you help sort out their personal problems."

Any problem with a dollar sign attached seems to be brought to Mr Killick. Should a soldier's financial affairs be in a serious tangle, the Pay Corps will help by taking them over entirely until such time as they are completely sorted out.

OCCASIONALLY Mr Killick receives a telephone call from a wife, in despair because she has no money left, the electricity has been cut off, and the rent is overdue and her husband is away in the bush.

Here Mr Killick swings into action, as soon as he has satisfied himself that the plight is genuine. He'll contact the husband in question at his unit — by radio if necessary — and ask for permission to remit an adequate amount of money (deducted then from the man's next salary) to the wife, to tide her over.

Estate agent

Should the estate agent prove difficult to placate, Mr Killick will intercede here too.

Normally, though, such situations seldom arise, since the RhAPC will, if requested, pay a regular allotment to wives while their husbands are away on operational duties.

The introductory stories produced by soldiers wanting a "sub" on their pay are often so long, complex and colourful that they would put Scheherazade's fables to shame.

To cut this cackle, at one time the RLI pay office pinned up a list of reasons, 1 to 23, which seemed to cover all the usual contingencies, and any supplicant's wordy pleas would be waved aside, with a request for him merely to select the pertinent number on the list!

Mr Killick is inured to irregular working hours. He says: "I've paid out salaries till 1.30 in the morning sometimes. And if a unit comes in over a weekend, the men will expect to be paid, so you find yourself working on a Saturday and a Sunday too.

"But it's a rewarding job; you feel you're really contributing something. And they do appreciate it, you know — for Christmas, I received numerous Christmas cards from RLI soldiers alone."

Territorial Force members are paid out on the spot, as soon as they return to the bright lights. Col Hopkins says that in this respect, the corps couldn't function without the backbone of TF and Reserve paymasters and pay clerks, who handle these matters.

Chief accountant

Some of these TF members are company secretaries and directors in civilian life; on the day that I visited the corps, Col Hopkins pointed out one "troopie" surrounded, like all the others, by ledgers and papers — and told me that this man was the chief accountant of a large industrial organisation. The experience and expertise of such men is, of course, invaluable.

The TF work is often particularly tricky, because of fluctuations in numbers and circumstances. If it's been some time since a certain group was last called up, the chances are that many of the members have in the interim married, and produced children, thus completely altering their pay entitlement.

ALL told, the Rhodesian Army Pay Corps is a multi-million dollar concern, and Lt Col Hopkins' post can be likened to that of a financial director and personnel administrator of an equivalent civilian industrial organisation.

He makes the point on behalf of his staff that administrative work can be just as arduous and demanding, if not more so, than straightforward soldiering.

On the admin side, he says: "This quotation from Field Marshal Lord Wavell sums it all up; 'The more I have seen of the war, the more I realise how it all depends upon administration and transportation (what our American allies call logistics).

"It takes little skill or imagination to see where you would like your army and when; it takes much knowledge and hard work to know where you can place your forces and whether you can maintain them there.

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Major General G. A. D. Rawlins,

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At every rank in the army — from the highest to the lowest — there are many interesting men. Men with widely differing backgrounds, all vastly experienced in the various facets of military life. For this feature on personalities we have chosen 11, who we think exemplify all that is best in Rhodesia's Army.

LEADERS EVERY ONE...

Rhodesians Worldwide

Major General G. A. D. Rawlins, OLM

IT is with great sadness that all members of the Army witnessed the recent retirement of Maj Genl G. A. D. (Andy) Rawlins, Chief of Staff of the Rhodesian Army, at the comparatively early age of 50.

He's been a Rhodesian since he was three months old — although he was born in England, his parents emigrated to Rhodesia in early 1926. He was educated at St George's College, Salisbury, and was then called up at the age of 17½.

In the first instance, he was a gunner, but a WOSB in Egypt spotted his leadership potential and decided that he was better suited to infantry work.

With peacetime, he elected to make the Army his permanent career, and when he returned to Rhodesia, he joined the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps as a corporal, but was soon promoted to sergeant.

In 1950 he was commissioned, and posted to the RAR, a regiment for which he retains a deep affection and loyalty.

His next appointment was that of adjutant, 1 RR, but when in 1954 the RAR moved down to Llewellin Barracks, he went along too, and in 1956, as a captain, he was sent to Malaya with the regiment.

Upon his return, he was promoted to major, and appointed OC, B Company. He saw service in Nyasaland, and in 1960 he was one of the two Rhodesians chosen to attend Staff College in Camberley, Britain — the other Rhodesian being one Maj G. P. Walls (now Lt Genl Walls, the Army Commander.)

1961 saw Maj Rawlins returning to the RAR once more, this time as second in command of the battalion. His next posting was as G2 at the Lusaka HQ of Northern Rhodesia District.

In 1963, he was appointed chief instructor at the School of Infantry, Gwelo, and on the break-up of Federation, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed commandant of the school. It was during this time that he instituted the first officers' COIN course.

He remained there for a year, until his transfer to Army HQ as G1. In September, 1968, came the appointment he'd always wanted: that of commanding officer of 1 RAR.

In February, 1970, Genl Rawlins was appointed Colonel AQ at Army HQ, but 10 months later, he was promoted to brigadier, commanding 1 Brigade. In August 1972, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Rhodesian Army — a meteoric rise from lieutenant colonel to major general in just two and a half years.

Major General J. R. Shaw

THE Rhodesian Army's incoming Chief of Staff, Maj Genl J. R. (John) Shaw is a walking refutation of all the remarks ever made about the Rude Soldiery.

Though an outstanding and dedicated military man with invaluable experience of every possible facet of his profession, he's also an intellectual. His interests are classical music, crossword puzzles, golf and cooking.

Born in Northumberland and educated at Berwick-on-Tweed Grammar School, he left school to join the staff of the local newspaper, and says that he still retains a liking for writing.

In 1944 he became a trooper in the Royal Horse Guards, ultimately reaching the rank of corporal. After a year's training at Windsor, there followed two and a half years in post-war Germany, with the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine.

In April 1948 he joined the Metropolitan Police. After his four months' training at Hendon, he was posted to Bow Street Police Station.

When in 1949 he saw an advertisement seeking men with armoured car experience for the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps, he applied, and was accepted, as a corporal.

After a short spell at the Drill Hall, Bulawayo, he was posted to Gwelo as an armoured car instructor. In 1951 he was commissioned, and posted back to Bulawayo as a staff training officer.

The following year saw his appointment as adjutant of the Southern Rhodesia Armoured Car Regiment. In May, 1954, he was transferred to the RAR, and after two years' training with the battalion, he moved with them to Malaya, where he served as intelligence officer.

After his return to Rhodesia, there followed a variety of staff jobs. In September, 1960, he was sent to Rhodesia House, London, to assist in recruiting for the RLI, SAS and Selous Scouts. Subsequently he attended Staff College in Camberley for a year.

Once back in Rhodesia again, he was appointed brigade major of the newly formed 2 Brigade. After a year in that post, he was transferred to Army HQ, where he remained until the break-up of Federation, when he opted to join the Rhodesian Army.

He was posted to the RAR as second in command, which post he held until his promotion to lieutenant colonel in 1965.

The 1966-69 period was spent in military intelligence, and on the joint planning staff. In October, 1969, he was appointed adjutant general at Army HQ, in which capacity he served for nine months.

Upon his promotion to full colonel in July 1970, he became Colonel G at Army HQ. January 1972 saw him appointed commander of 3 Brigade.

In August, he took over 1 Brigade in Matabeleland; and in May 1974 he took command of 2 Brigade — the first brigadier ever in the Rhodesian Army to have commanded each of its three brigades.

He was appointed Major General and Chief of Staff (Designate) of the Rhodesian Army in June, 1975.

Brigadier J. S. V. Hickman, MC

Photograph taken when he was CO, 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry (August 26th, 1968, to June 28th, 1970).

BRIG J. S. V. (John) Hickman, MC, epitomises the career soldier of today: young, enthusiastic and a professional to his fingertips.

Born in Bulawayo, he was educated at St George's College, Salisbury. His father is Col A. S. Hickman, MBE, a former Commissioner of the British South Africa Police.

The young John Hickman joined the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps in 1951. His was the first batch of second lieutenants to be commissioned in what was to become part of the Federal Army. In 1954 he was posted to the Northern Rhodesia Regiment, in Lusaka, as platoon commander, A Company.

He moved with the regiment to Malaya, where he served as a platoon commander, with signal success. His platoon returned to Rhodesia in 1956, but three years later, he was invited back as part of the contingent representing the Federal Forces at the Malayan Victory Parade.

His next post was that of adjutant of his battalion, at Tug Argan Barracks, Ndola. Next, he was appointed adjutant of the School of Infantry, Gwelo.

In 1959 he was transferred back to Northern Rhodesia as a military intelligence officer.

Following his trip to Malaya for the Victory celebrations, he was posted to the School of Infantry, this time to take over the newly formed cadet division within Tactical Wing. Subsequently he was transferred back to the NRR as a company commander.

After a spell at HQ 2 Brigade,

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BARKER, McCORMAC. PP 41

LEADERS

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Brigadier

E. A. Culbert

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EVERSHARP MARKER

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BARKER, McCORMAC. PP 41

LEADERS EVERY ONE...

Salisbury, as deputy assistant adjutant and quartermaster general, he was posted to Staff College, Camberley, Britain, for a year.

Upon his return to Salisbury, Brig Hickman was posted to Army HQ as GSO 2 Operations. In 1966 he was transferred to the RLI as second in command of that regiment, and stayed on to become commander in 1970.

His next appointment was that of adjutant general at Army HQ, and when he went up to full colonel, he became Colonel G. Then it was back to 2 Brigade, but this time as a brigadier.

In June 1974, he moved over to take command of 1 Brigade.

Brigadier E. A. Culbert

IN NOVEMBER, 1975, Brig E. A. (Ted) Culbert retires. Born and educated in England, he served in the British Army during the Second World War, and then applied for and was granted a short service commission.

In 1951 he emigrated to Rhodesia, and joined the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps as a corporal. His first post was at Drill Hall, Bulawayo, but he was subsequently posted to the School of Infantry as an instructor.

In 1953 he was transferred to the RAR as an NCO instructor, and a year later he was commissioned, and appointed a platoon commander. In 1956, his company was transferred to Malaya, where they spent two years.

After his return to Rhodesia, there followed a two-year stint as an officer instructor at the School of Infantry — although during the Nyasaland Emergency, he was temporarily detached for service in that country — and in January, 1961, he was posted to 2 KAR as a company commander, a taxing job at that time, when the Congolese debacle was in full swing, and part of his company's brief was the controlling of the border between Katanga and what was then Northern Rhodesia.

At the break-up of Federation, Brig Culbert was in a staff post at Army HQ.

In 1965, he was posted to the School of Infantry as chief instructor, but his tour of duty there was interrupted by a year at Staff College. In 1967 he returned to the School of Infantry, this time as commandant; a progression at that institution from sergeant instructor to commanding officer.

1970 saw his being appointed Director of Military Studies, "where my prime task was to organise and run the first intermediate staff course," he recalls. It was a resounding success.

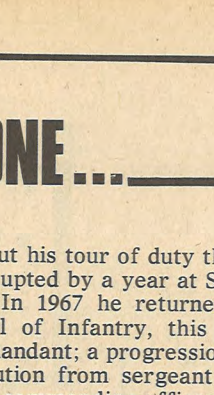
Upon his promotion to full colonel, he was appointed Colonel AQ at Army HQ in 1971; but in October 1972, he became commander of 3 Brigade.

"It's been marvellous," he says, "a good and rewarding three years as commander of a working brigade."

Brigadier A. L. C. Maclean

IN June, 1975, Brig A. L. C. (Sandy) Maclean took command of 2 Brigade. Born in Bulawayo, he was educated at Rhodes' Estate Preparatory School, Bulawayo, and then at St George's College, Salisbury.

He was subsequently awarded a bursary to Haileybury and Imperial Service College, Hertfordshire, where he completed the three remaining years of his schooling.



Upon leaving school, he was employed for a year in the office of the divisional roads engineer, as a learner draughtsman; but he enlisted in the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps on February 7, 1951 — strangely enough, the same day as did Brig J. S. V. Hickman.

He qualified as a drill, weapons, and minor tactics instructor, and served at the Drill Hall, Salisbury, at 1 RAR (then at its Borrowdale camp) and as detachment commander at New Sarum.

A highlight of that period was attending the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, as a member of the Southern Rhodesian contingent — his having been promoted to sergeant by then.

He was commissioned in 1954, into 1st Battalion The Northern Rhodesia Regiment — "one of the first five Federal officers (Brig Hickman was another) to be posted

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LEADERS

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He was then posted to th of Infantry, Gwelo, as offi instructor — a particul teresting job at that time, was course officer for ever officer cadet course Rhodesia. He holds a Staf qualification.

There followed staff ments at Army HQ; and in was posted to 1 RLI, as a commander. From 1969-72 with 1 RAR, firstly as Company, then as battalio in command, and finally manding officer.

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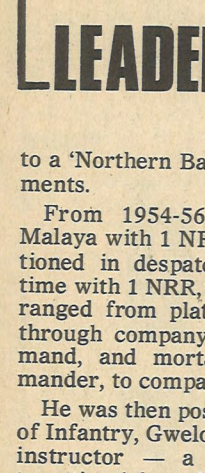
Brigadier Designate A. N. O. MacIntyre



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BRIGADIER-Designate A ("Derry") MacIntyre, coming commander of 3 has already had some exper the job that faces him, since time he takes over, he'll hav 18 months as deputy comma 2 Brigade acting as brigad mander from time to time.

His appointment as 3 Bd new commander is a popul he's that rare mixture, a and talented soldier with el his dry wit is renowned thro the Rhodesian Army.

Born in Scotland, Brig Ma was educated at Aberdeen mar School. Faced with the tal directive of choosing medicine or religion as a ca opted for medicine and had describes as "a marvellou years at university until th they felt they could dispen my services. I was not sad this."

There followed his Nation vice stint, which he enjoy

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to a 'Northern Battalion'," he comments.

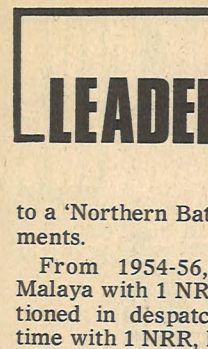
From 1954-56, he served in Malaya with 1 NRR, and was mentioned in despatches. During his time with 1 NRR, his appointments ranged from platoon commander, through company second in command, and mortar platoon commander, to company commander.

He was then posted to the School of Infantry, Gwelo, as officer cadet instructor — a particularly interesting job at that time, since he was course officer for the first ever officer cadet course held in Rhodesia. He holds a Staff College qualification.

There followed staff appointments at Army HQ; and in 1964 he was posted to 1 RLI, as a company commander. From 1969-72, he was with 1 RAR, firstly as OC, HQ Company, then as battalion second in command, and finally as commanding officer.

From 1972-75, he served as Colonel G, Army HQ. In view of his infantry experience with both the RAR and the RLI, he is a most popular and appropriate choice as 2 Brigade's new commander.

Brigadier Designate A. N. O. MacIntyre



Photograph taken when he was CO, 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry (June 29th, 1970 to April 16th, 1973).

BRIGADIER-Designate A. N. O. ("Derry") MacIntyre, the incoming commander of 3 Brigade has already had some experience of the job that faces him, since by the time he takes over, he'll have spent 18 months as deputy commander of 2 Brigade acting as brigade commander from time to time.

His appointment as 3 Brigade's new commander is a popular one: he's that rare mixture, a devoted and talented soldier with élan, and his dry wit is renowned throughout the Rhodesian Army.

Born in Scotland, Brig MacIntyre was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School. Faced with the parental directive of choosing either medicine or religion as a career, he opted for medicine and had what he describes as "a marvellous four years at university until they said they felt they could dispense with my services. I was not sad about this."

There followed his National Service stint, which he enjoyed so much that he signed on for a period of extended service, at Depot, the Gordon Highlanders. He passed an OSB and was sent to Eaton Hall, Cheshire, the Officer Cadet School for National Servicemen and short-service officers.

Then, to his own astonishment, he found himself volunteering to join the Parachute Regiment.

"My parachuting was not a successful stage of my career," he says. "In fact, I was really spastic about it. My last jump was just as traumatic as all the rest — over Frensham, in England. I landed in a pond."

At 22 he was just too old to obtain a regular infantry commission in the British Army, so he tried civilian life, and was about to take up a job connected with cattle ranching in Brazil when over a drink with a former colleague, the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps was mentioned.

Derry MacIntyre, on impulse, went to Rhodesia House and applied. He was accepted as a sergeant, and his first post was at Llewellin Barracks, but soon he was posted to colour sergeant in early 1957 and on April 1st of that year — "an appropriate enough date," he says — he was commissioned.

He was posted to 2 KAR and moved with the battalion to Zomba. Subsequently he became adjutant — at the time the State of Emergency in Nyasaland was declared.

Brig MacIntyre's next appointment was that of adjutant of the School of Infantry, Gwelo, and OC Tactical Wing. There followed a short spell as second in command of 2 KAR, but soon he was posted to the newly formed RLI — "a colossal hodge-podge of wonderful people."

But the dissolution of Federation hit the RLI badly; a depressing time for officers such as Derry MacIntyre, who by then was OC 2 Commando — with a staff of 12 NCOs and one private!

His next appointment, as GSO 2, Salisbury Area KG VI (now HQ, 3 Brigade) lasted only three months; he was then posted to Staff College, Camberley, England. Just as he was in the swing of it, enjoying both the academic and sporting aspects, November 11, 1965, dawned — and Rhodesians were asked to remove themselves.

In 1966 he was appointed brigade major of 2 Brigade. The following two years were frenetic; Operation Cauldron, lasting for three months, was followed in quick succession by Operations Excess and Griffin.

Brig MacIntyre's next posting was to the School of Infantry as chief instructor. In 1970 came the job he'd always wanted: CO of the

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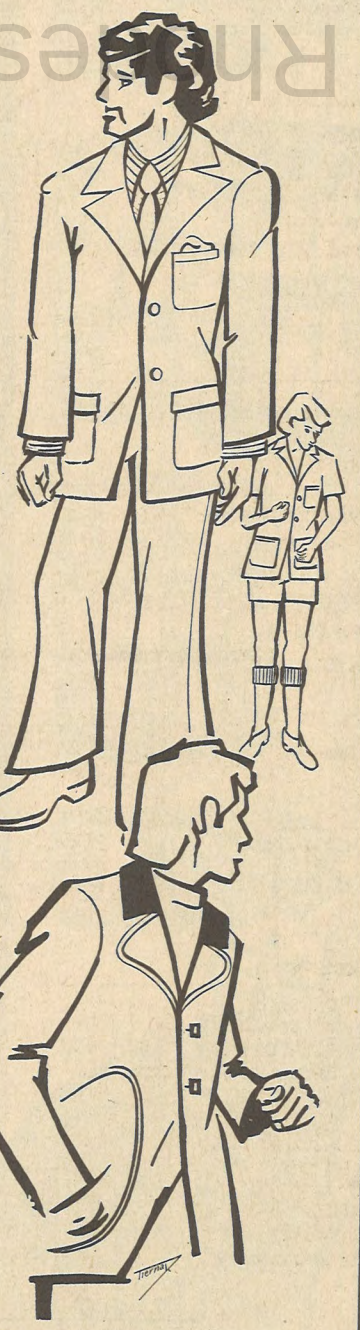

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He was then sent to run
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As full colonel, he was a
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director of projects. He
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November, 1975.

Colonel
W. D. de Haast, MBE

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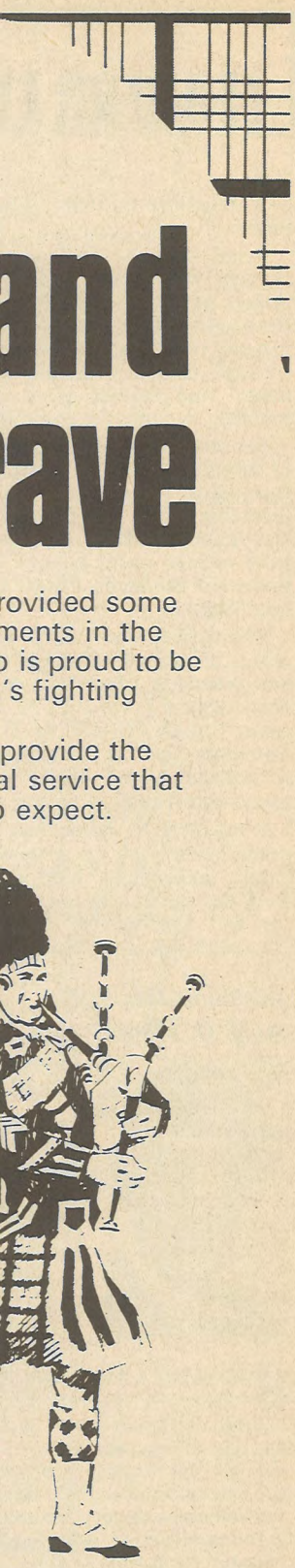

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RLI. With three years under his belt in that appointment, he's the longest serving CO, 1 RLI, to date.

He was then sent to run the first Joint Operational Centre at Centenary; and later went on a recruiting tour.

As full colonel, he was appointed deputy commander, 2 Brigade and director of projects. He takes up command of 3 Brigade in November, 1975.

Colonel

W. D. de Haast, MBE

OF all the officers in the Rhodesian Army, perhaps Col W. D. (Bill) de Haast, MBE, has been the most closely concerned with the mechanics of Operation Hurricane, in that as Colonel AQ (Chief of Administration and Logistics) he has been responsible for what he terms "the three M's: men, money and materials."

Born in Bulawayo, he was educated at Prince Edward School, and upon leaving, he was commissioned into the Black Watch Regiment, having completed an OCTU in England.

After two years of war service, he was repatriated to Rhodesia in 1946, and in the March of that year, he joined the Southern Rhodesian Staff Corps. Like many other young officers fresh from overseas service, he had to resign his commission and join the Staff Corps as a corporal.

There followed a period as a Drill Hall instructor, but soon he decided to specialise in signals. To this end, he attended a number of signals courses in Britain.

Shortly after the inception of Federation, he was commissioned into the RAR, at the time when the battalion was reforming for service in Malaya. The young de Haast spent two years in the Far East as the RAR signals officer, and was mentioned in despatches.

Upon his return to Rhodesia, he was posted into the newly formed Corps of Signals, and subsequently attended further signals courses. His first few years in the corps followed a now traditional pattern of service in various squadrons and in staff appointments.

But 1962 saw his being entrusted with a challenging project indeed: the assignment of forming a School of Signals.

The efficiency with which he carried out this task may be assessed by the official recognition awarded to him: an MBE.

He served as commandant of the School of Signals for five years, and upon promotion to lieutenant colonel, was appointed director of signals.

In 1970, he was posted outside Rhodesia as a military liaison officer. Two years later, he was promoted to full colonel, and appointed Colonel AQ at Army HQ — just at the time when Operation Hurricane had erupted.

He retires from the Rhodesian Army in February 1976, after 32 happy and satisfying years.

Colonel

A. B. Campling

COL A. B. (Bruce) Campling is Colonel G at Army Headquarters. Born in Salisbury he was educated at Prince Edward School where he matriculated in 1946 and obtained his Higher School Certificate in 1948.

In 1949 he joined the Department of Irrigation, but left the following year to work for the South African Mutual Life Assurance Society in Capetown. In January, 1951, he joined the Southern Rhodesia Far East Volunteer Unit, which was to become C (Rhod) Squadron 22 SAS in Malaya from March, 1951, to March, 1953.

He joined the Southern Rhodesia Staff Corps as a corporal in October, 1953, and was promoted to sergeant in January, 1954. In February, 1956, he was commissioned, and served in the Northern Rhodesia Regiment from 1957 to 1961 when he returned to Salisbury as GSO 3 at Headquarters Southern Rhodesia District.

In 1964 he was posted to RLI where he commanded A Company (later 1 Commando) until December 1965. There followed four years at Headquarters 1 Brigade and 2 (Indep) Coy RR.

He obtained his Staff College qualification in 1969 and was appointed brigade major, HQ2 Brigade in 1970. In January, 1972, he was posted to Army HQ as adjutant general.

June 1974 saw his appointment as

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Colonel G at Army Headq

Colonel

D. T. Hopkins

COL D. T. (Terry) Hop
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1961. Born in England in
saw war service in the M
Navy.

Until his appointment as
AQ in July 1975, he spent h
service in the Rhodesia Ny
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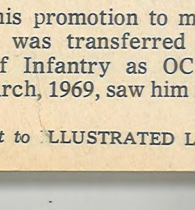
appointment of director
with the rank of lieutenant

Col Hopkins is a membe
Chartered Institute of Secr

Lieutenant Colonel

D. G. Parker



BORN in Umtali, Lt Co
(David) Parker was edu
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director of military studies and 11 months later, upon his appointment to colonel, he took up the post of Colonel G at Army Headquarters.

Colonel

D. T. Hopkins

COL D. T. (Terry) Hopkins was commissioned into the Rhodesia Nyasaland Pay Corps in 1961. Born in England in 1928, he saw war service in the Merchant Navy.

Until his appointment as Colonel AQ in July 1975, he spent his whole service in the Rhodesia Nyasaland Pay Corps and the Rhodesian Army Pay Corps, assuming the appointment of director in 1969 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Col Hopkins is a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Lieutenant Colonel

D. G. Parker

BORN in Umtali, Lt Col D. G. (David) Parker was educated at St George's College, Salisbury. He then completed a basic training course at Mons, and subsequently passed out of Sandhurst. There followed courses at the Small Arms School at Hythe, and the School of Infantry at Warminster.

Upon his return to Rhodesia, he was posted to a staff job at Army HQ, Salisbury. His next appointment was as ADC to Maj Genl Long, at that time GOC the Federal Army.

In 1960, it was decided to include a regular European infantry in the Order of Battle of the Army of the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland.

Accordingly, No 1 Training Unit was established in Bulawayo to train recruits and provide a nucleus of experienced personnel for the eventual formation of the battalion. The 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian Light Infantry, was officially established on February 1st, 1961.

Col Parker was a member of that first training unit, and went with the RLI to its brand-new barracks in Salisbury's Cranborne. At that stage, he was second in command of A Company, but in November, 1963, he was appointed adjutant of the battalion.

Upon his promotion to major in 1966, he was transferred to the School of Infantry as OC Cadet Wing. March, 1969, saw him returning to Salisbury as GSO 2 Training, at Army HQ. Then came a year's staff course, in 1970.

In 1971, he went back to the RLI, this time as OC 1 Commando, but in March, 1972, he was posted to HQ 2 Brigade as brigade major. In 1973, as a lieutenant colonel, he took up a staff job at Army HQ; and a year later came the appointment he'd always wanted — commanding officer of the RLI.

Friendly and informal though he may be on such occasions, his professionalism is unmistakeable: a fit leader indeed for "The Incredibles."

RSM

J. V. Manunure, DMM

MENTION the RAR in Army circles, and sooner or later the name Manunure (usually with the addendum of "What A Character") will come up. For RSM Julius Manunure is as much a part of the Rhodesian African Rifles as is TC Day, the hat hackle and the mascot.

Julius joined the Federal Army in 1953. His first job was that of office orderly, but subsequently he was made up to NCO and posted to a platoon. He has been in the RAR throughout his Army service.

1956 saw the most exciting event of Julius' life: his transfer, together with other RAR troops, to Malaya.

Julius returned to Rhodesia in 1958 with his company. There followed spells on duty in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and a trip to Nigeria when a contingent of troops drawn from African battalions were sent to take part in the independence celebrations of that country.

Since the outbreak of the anti-terrorist war in Rhodesia, Julius has spent much of his time in border control duties.

He was made up to company sergeant major in 1963, and regimental sergeant major in 1971. He and RSM Tumbare are now the two most senior Africans in 1 RAR.

To him, the biggest bonus of all arising from his Army service has been the opportunity to travel.

"If I hadn't been a soldier, I would have remained in Rhodesia all my life," he says. "And now I have seen many parts of the world." ●

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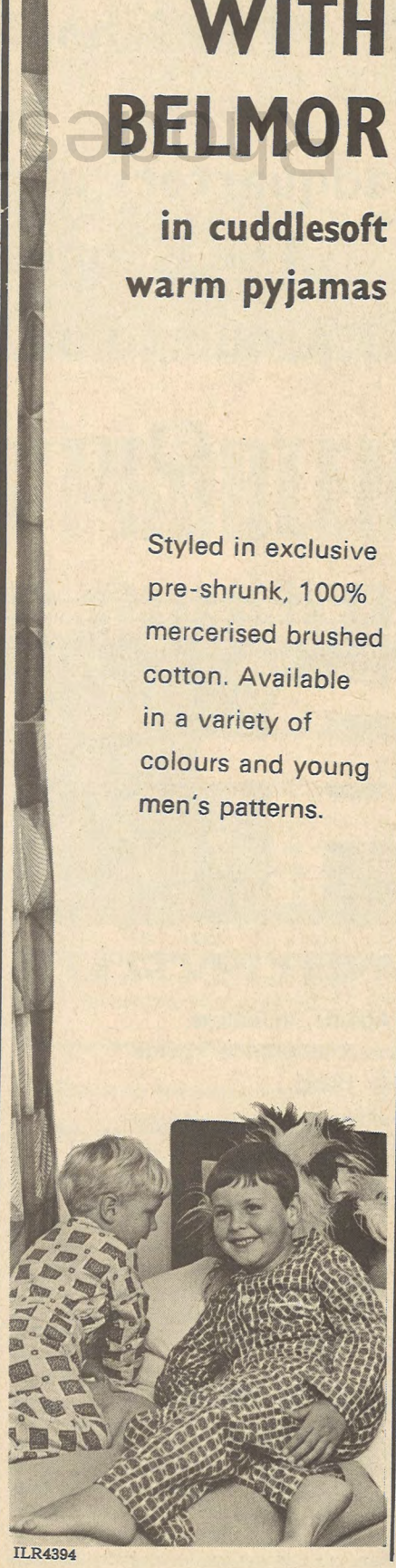

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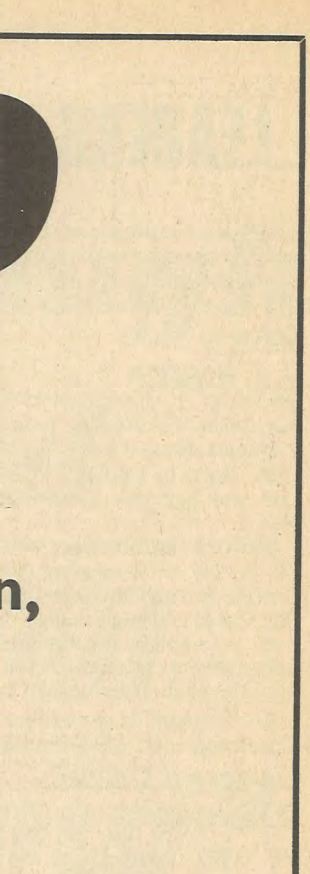

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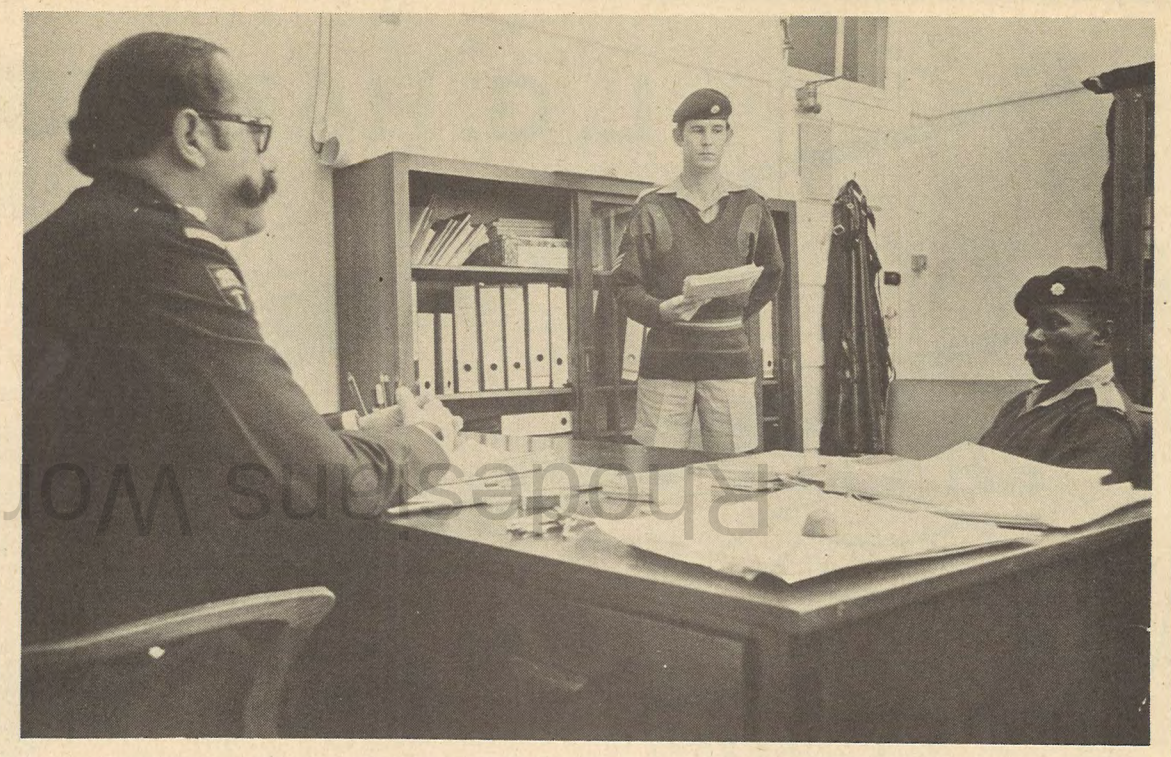

Right: A legal consultation, Army style. Director of Legal Services Lt Col John Reed counsels an African corporal who has been involved in a road accident. The whole legal gamut, from courts martial to the drawing up of wills, is covered by the Legal Services staff.

SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS ARE THEIR CONCERN

When a man is in need of advice, it is comforting to know that he has Legal Services to turn to

SOME sage remarked around 200 years ago that while doctors, like ale, are preferable when old and matured, lawyers, like bread, are at their best when young and fresh.

Certainly, the comparatively youthful Legal Services team, led by Lt Col John Reed, seems to bear out this maxim. They've chalked up some signal achievements in recent years, and the array of services offered now is impressive.

Did you know, for instance, that any serving member of the Rhodesian Army or Air Force — regular, Territorial Force or Reserve — who has a legal problem, is able in the first instance to consult Legal Services, obtain valuable advice, and probably thus save himself a fair amount of money?

Team members

While they won't actually wage legal war on his behalf in court, members of the team will advise as to how best to tackle the problem in question, correspond where necessary with the attorney (or lay individual) representing the opposing side, and if and when the matter comes to what Lt Col Reed terms "the final crunch" of litigation, hand the case to a member of the Side Bar (an attorney, in lay language) who then takes over.

But since that civilian attorney has not had to handle the preliminary negotiations and correspondence, much in the way of costs can be obviated.

What sort of problems in this regard land in the legal lap? Lt Col Reed says: "Though this is quite a large facet of the work we undertake, it is by its very nature strictly confidential.

"Suffice to say that virtually the whole spectrum of legal problems encountered in the field of vexed human relations has been canvassed."

Courts martial, of course, are a concern of Legal Services. I asked Lt Col Reed what were the basic offences likely to land a recalcitrant soldier — or airman — in the dock?

"Each case is assessed on its own facts," he said. "Within the disciplinary machine, there is a variety of levels — for example, summary disposal of charges by company and squadron commanders; on a higher level, disposal of charges by commanding officers, and at certain rank levels, by superior authorities who are, in the Army sense, brigade commanders.

"Above that come the courts martial. There is the district court martial, and then the most awesome, the general court martial.

Absence without leave

"Among the more common types of offence leading to courts martial would be desertion, lengthy periods of absence without leave, theft or misappropriation of Government property, serious instances of insubordination, ill-treatment of subordinates, and disobedience to lawful commands."

Time was when junior Army officers or Air Force officers were commandeered to appear as prosecuting or defending officers, when perhaps all they had ever seen of the interior of a courtroom was a scene from Perry Mason on TV.

Wasn't this a rather unsatisfactory state of affairs — and did it in fact still exist?

Lt Col Reed comments: "Firstly, as far as the court is concerned, I as director, invariably sit as judge advocate. (If I'm not by any chance available, then a professionally qualifed member of my staff would sit in my stead.)

"The function of the judge advocate is to control proceedings as regards advising on points of law. In effect, the judge advocate maintains an overall control over what transpires, and it's therefore quite impossible for anything to happen which is not strictly within the law in all senses.

"Although the president and members of the court — probably laymen — are arbiters of any punishment or sentence, they are bound to abide by the rulings and direction of the judge advocate, who is always professionally qualified, and thus able to advise on the legal principles concerning the imposition of a sentence."

Apropos the question of lay prosecuting and defending officers, Lt Col Reed tells me that within the last two years, the practice has been established for Legal Services to furnish at the least a profession-

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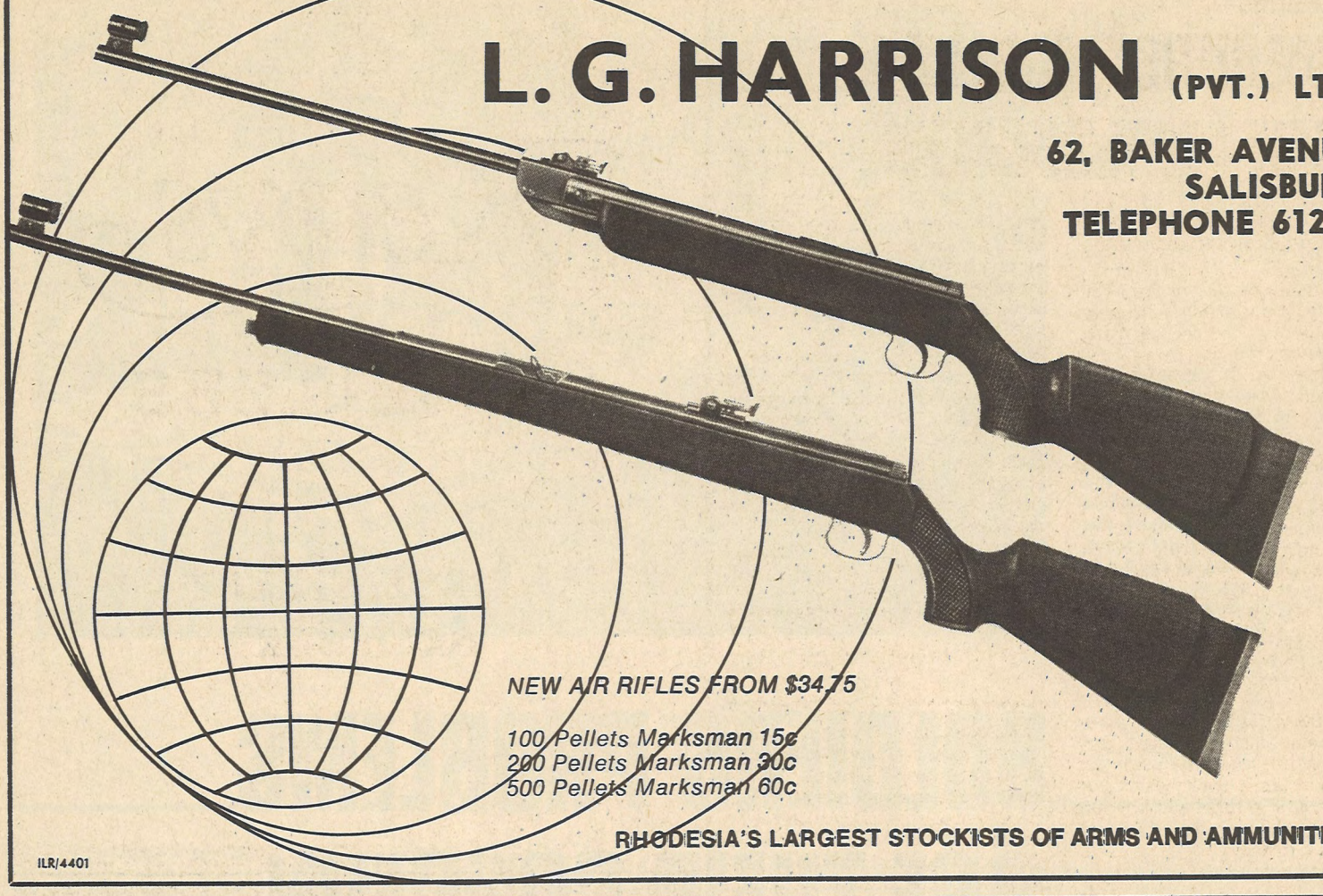

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Legal Services

SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS ARE THEIR CONCERN

ally qualified prosecutor, and quite often a professionally qualifed defending officer.

These men are drawn from the previously mentioned Territorial Force nucleus — the accused may, if he wishes, request by name a specific member of that nucleus to defend him if he is not otherwise committed.

Lt Col Reed has no reservations about the system: "Contrary to what may popularly be believed by people who know little about the court martial system, it is actually an extremely fair and just one — albeit somewhat stern, perhaps, but that obviously is the natural consequence of the overall Army and Air Force need to maintain the high standards of discipline within the Defence Forces."

BOARDS of Enquiry are another frequent part of Legal Services' working week: its members review numerous such boards, involving motor vehicle and aircraft accidents, and losses of stores equipment, to name but a few of the topics encountered.

"In cases of a traffic accident, where a claim for damage caused to civilian property is lodged, we're authorised to recommend payment. This used to be the function of the Government Attorney, but has been undertaken by Legal Services for the past 18 months now.

"We don't actually sit on the boards, by the way — our job is to review the proceedings carried out at unit level."

Stepping stone

Then there's training, a vital role for Legal Services to play in Defence Forces where the passing of military law examinations is a mandatory stepping stone to promotion.

Lt Col Reed and his assistants lecture to officers on courses such as the military studies in preparing for their captain to major promotion course, and assist Air Force officers' promotion examinations.

Lt Col Reed adds: "We also either set and mark military/Air Force law examinations at officer level, or vet papers set by various examining boards. The provision of lectures does of course take up a fair amount of time, and here the TF nucleus is often very useful as regards helping out."

Few youths of 18 or 19 think about making a will before they join up — but Legal Services is making it its business to ensure that no serving member of the Army or Air Force dies intestate, leaving his family to face the distressing muddle that ensues in such cases, often taking nearly a year to sort out.

"We've recently completed a fairly large exercise in which we called in all wills made by members — regular, TF and Reserve — vetted these wills for validity, and made arrangements with the Master of the High Court to have all the wills deposited with him in one central place."

Is the making of a will obligatory in the Defence Forces?

Making a will

"We could never compel anyone, but they're all strongly advised to do so. Each large National Service intake is attended by one of my officers, and as part of the attestation procedures the recruits are advised as to the desirability of making a will, how to go about it, and told the various formalities required by law.

"A new system of pro-forma wills has been recently introduced. These are simple wills, but nonetheless adequate for the needs of most members. Anyone who requires a complicated or unusual sort of will with special provisions, can request us to draw this up — free of charge, of course, like all our work.

"IN the same context, we assist in the administration of deceased estates of men killed on duty. Where no suitable close relative or competent person is available to act as administrator and executor of the estate, we undertake this job in its entirety. And we give as much assistance as possible to lay executors."

In short, any matter with the slightest legal connotation is yet another item on the agenda for the busy Legal Services. Much of the staff's day is taken up with paging through tomes, searching for references, cases, precedents.

It's easy for outsiders, perhaps, to think of them as dry-as-dust legal eagles. But in human terms, to my mind, their great achievement is the lifting of burdens such as marital wrangles, financial tangles, the bewildering maze of lease agreements, and in a nutshell, the intimidating prospect of legal advice (which might otherwise cost a small fortune), from the shoulders of the men in our Defence Forces, who have a war to win. ●

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C Squadron
Rhodesian Special
Air Service Regiment

Right: Watermanship is also part of the SAS basic training. The subsequent specialist course deals with the more advanced aspects, such as night navigation.

THE TOUGH GUYS

"Who Dares Wins" — that's the motto of the SAS, the most extensively and diversely trained band in the Army.

THAT the SAS (or C squadron, Rhodesian Special Air Service Regiment, to be precise) is NOT — to quote the indignant words of an ex-SAS man discussing the canards often hurled at this remarkable group — is "a collection of ruthless expendable thugs mainly engaged on death or glory missions".

Certainly, death or glory missions come into it sometimes — except that the glory is never noised abroad, in that the classic definition of the SAS role is "long-term deep penetration operations behind enemy lines".

As for the ruthless thug bit, I had coffee one morning with some SAS members, and a more charming group of young men you couldn't wish to meet.

Need for secrecy

To all intents and purposes, they seem little different from their contemporaries in other branches of the Rhodesian Army. Yet they're extraordinary in that they are perhaps the most extensively and diversely trained band in the Army; and in that pro rata their deeds (which must remain forever unsung . . . or at least for the next 50 years) have possibly contributed as much to the anti-terrorist war effort as the better-known exploits of any other unit.

Nothing can be said of the SAS' work in the Rhodesian context, but to appreciate the value of such a regiment, let's look back to the birth of the concept itself: in the summer of 1941 in Britain, when that country was severely on the defensive.

British troops had been swept out of France, and had altogether failed to check the Germans' triumphal procession through Europe.

Even early successes on the part of the British in the Western Desert against the Italians had been put paid to by the advent of Rommel on that particular battle scene.

The Germans were, however, very vulnerable to attack along the line of their coastal communications, and on their various transport points, aerodromes and other targets in the coastal area. Successful raids on these targets would deal the enemy a body-blow indeed, but the element of surprise was essential.

IN 1940 No. 8 Commando — the brainchild of one Capt Robert Laycock — had set off for the Middle East, its aim to secure Rhodes. The 2 000 men in No. 8 Commando were divided into three units, the whole being known as "Layforce".

Before Layforce could have a crack at Rhodes, though, German troops had whisked through Yugoslavia and Greece, and captured Crete. Rommel had entrenched himself in Africa.

Layforce was diverted to the North African coast, the objective being the vital German installations described. But Layforce depended entirely upon the Navy in order to be deposited at the chosen coastal spots. Ships were scarce, the Germans soon became aware of the imminent threat of a Layforce attack from the sea, and accordingly prepared themselves; and all told, the powers-that-were decided that in its present form, Layforce was a non-starter, and should be disbanded.

Two members, by name of David Stirling and Jock Lewes, maintained that the principle of Layforce was a valid one if the modus operandi — and the grouping of commando units — were restructured.

Hospital memo

Parachuting was then in its infancy, but Lewes "won" 50 parachutes originally intended for India and accidentally unloaded in Alexandria — and with Stirling, began experiments as to the best techniques apropos this method, which seemed to them to be the optimum way of dropping small bands of troops behind enemy lines on surprise raids.

During one early jump, Stirling landed on rocky ground and injured himself so severely that his legs were temporarily paralysed. Typically, he was quite undaunted by this — in fact, he used his two months in hospital to compile a convincing memorandum as to the value of such a parachute unit, intending this document to be submitted to the Commander-in-Chief.

Knowing full well the kiss of death that transmission through the lengthy traditional channels all the way to the top can often bestow upon a radical project, he decided to beard a senior officer in his den, and thus — as a second lieutenant — walked unannounced into the office of the Deputy Commander Middle East.

Fortunately for Stirling — and therefore ultimately for the British Army — General Ritchie, and subsequently the C-in-C, General Auchinleck, was sufficiently impressed to give him the go-ahead to recruit 66 men from Layforce remnants.

The basic unit was to be a four-man section, and the first objective would be the German airfields on the night before Auchinleck's major offensive in November.

The rest of the story is now proud military history: how, although that first raid was a disaster, the SAS moved on to triumph indeed, specialising in destroying German aircraft on the ground in the Western Desert and Mediterranean; spearheading the Sicily landings; tying down whole German divisions in the Aegean and Adriatic.

SAS men played a notable part in the liberation of Athens (their commanding officer riding in on a bicycle, the only transport available).

Subsequently they set up vital HQ behind enemy lines in Italy and France, and later passed on to Belgium, Holland and Germany, always ahead of the armies, systematically undermining the enemy and knocking out precious installation points so that the task of the oncoming conventional forces would be that much easier.

During the counter-insurgency war in Malaya in the 1950s, the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment linked up with the Malayan Scouts, and it was the Rhodesian contingent, under the command of the then Maj G. P. Walls (now Lt Genl Walls, the Rhodesian Army Commander) who perfected the art of parachuting into trees.

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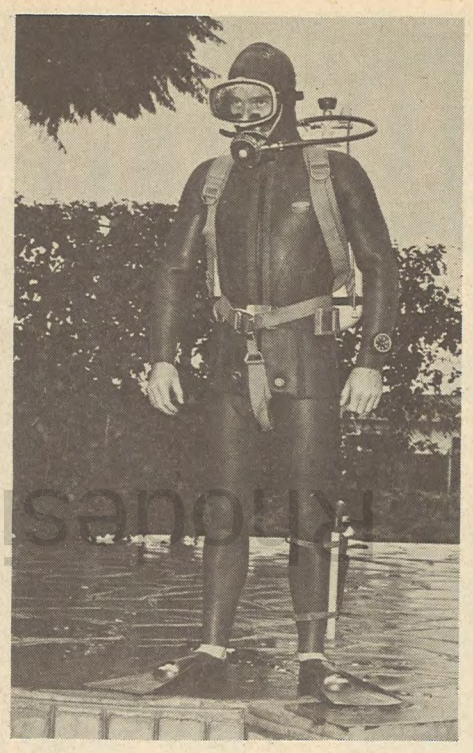
Rhodesians Worldwide



Left: Diving training lasts three months. This course usually occurs at some stage in an SAS man's career, after his initial 16 week recruit training course, and the 10 week SAS adaptation course.

Far left: Physical stamina, mental stamina, initiative, dedication, courage, compatibility, individuality and logic — these are the qualities an SAS selection team seek in their would-be candidates, rather than a superman standard of fitness.

Which indicates that we have come to the beginnings of the SAS story within a Rhodesian framework. Although the Rhodesian sub-unit had acquitted itself superbly in Malaya, upon return to Rhodesia, the men were posted to various conventional units.

In November 1959, the decision to form a parachute evaluation detachment was announced in the Federal Assembly by the Federal Minister of Defence, Mr Caldicott.

He said that this unit was to examine the practicalities of military parachuting and parachute training in the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, with a view to the possible formation of an airborne unit.

Qualified for wings

In February 1960, Squadron Leader E. Minter of the RAF arrived in Salisbury to undertake the training of the PED. He was soon joined by two other RAR members, and PED training began in No. 6 Hangar, New Sarum — training equipment being manufactured and erected by RRAF technicians.

March 9, 1960, was an important date for the PED. Having completed eight jumps, the course members qualified for wings, which were presented by the Minister of Defence at a parade.

All in all, the experiment had been a success, and in the July of that year, Mr Caldicott told the Federal Assembly that it had been decided to raise a regular European Special Air Service Squadron.

Six men out of a group of 40 volunteers were chosen to go to Abingdon in England for parachute instructor training. In the meantime, volunteers were being called for from No. 1 Training Unit, and once assembled, they were put through their paces on selection course runs in the Matopos.

As is inevitable with an innovation, the SAS soon acquired its share of critics, notably one Mr A. R. Morris, who in a letter to a newspaper, expressed doubt in no uncertain terms about the toughness of the SAS selection course.

THE squadron diary relates: "Maj C. E. Welch, the OC at this time, responded to the taunt by challenging Mr Morris to take part in the speed march — or in the whole 14-day selection course.

"The *Sunday Mail* reported the outcome: 'Honour had been satisfied' 'They're a grand set of chaps in the SAS, said Mr A. R. Morris, the Bulawayo man who had challenged the Army to a 15-mile endurance march through the Matopos.

" 'The course is tougher than I thought it was — I take back all I said,' he announced after 'retiring' after six miles.

"He went on to say that: 'I am quite convinced that anyone who completes this course in the specified time must be extremely fit — and I congratulate those who fulfilled the required time limits'."

On October 30, 1961, the first basic parachute training course began at the Parachute Training School, New Sarum — each instructor having had to turn carpenter, rigger, steel erector, painter and general dogsbody in order to get the school ready for the mounting of the first course.

No. 1 Basic Course completed their training on November 17 and were presented with wings by Sir Malcolm Barrow, CBE, MP, Deputy Prime Minister.

First descents

By July the following year, No 9 Basic Course had received their wings (this time from the Federal Prime Minister himself, Sir Roy Welensky, KCMG, MP, who had always been a firm supporter of the SAS in Rhodesia) — and the squadron was on its way to its first tour of operational duty, in troubled Aden.

They returned in the August, and the following month marked the commencement of Operation Mackerel, involving the first operational descents ever done in Rhodesia by the SAS.

Men were dropped — in batches varying from 20 to 40 a time — in Melsetter, Kutamba, Inyanga and Domboshawa, on internal security operations.

"These operations were successful, and the SAS acted as a strong deterrent," the squadron diary notes. "During the course of these operational jumps, the 2 000th was completed" — and yet the squadron was not yet a year old. (Ten years on, the 15 000 mark had almost been reached.)

Came the break-up of the Federation, and the SAS moved from Ndola, Northern Rhodesia, to Salisbury, Rhodesia, and was recognised as a regiment within the Rhodesian Army on January 20, 1964 — the strength being 31 officers and men.

A year later, the 45-man first SAS recruit course began, after a recruiting drive in Salisbury.

"The recruiting team amongst other successes nearly signed on Fernanda Canova," (a local night-club stripper) the squadron diary gravely reports.

From that time on, the SAS went from strength to strength in expertise, numbers and successes as regards operations.

WHEN the SAS celebrated its 10th anniversary in Rhodesia, the Minister of Defence at the time, Mr J. H. Howman, ID, MP, wrote in a foreword to the commemorative programme: "As Minister of Defence I am well aware of the calibre of our Special Air Service Regiment, the duties that it undertakes, its training, discipline and bearing.

"I am proud that it forms an important part of the Rhodesian Army and my only regret is that the exploits of the SAS cannot yet be disclosed to the Rhodesian public so that they could share my pride in full."

What sort of man joins the SAS?

A combination of James Bond, Bruce Lee and Errol Flynn, with the fearless ferocity of King-Kong?

Not at all, says the present OC, who would like to dispel the notion that only supermen need apply.

"Any reasonably fit Rhodesian who wants to get into the squadron will walk the selection course — you don't have to be capable of

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The OC, C Squadron, S ments: "He must be able an individual on his own certainly — but also as a m a team. These are the qu look for in a recruit: stamina, mental stamina, dedication, courage, com individuality and logic.

"Blokes sometimes s from an SAS selection c cause they seem to feel th one is a disgrace. This is of course; a first-class might be better suited to or corps work.

Week-long cours

"I can think of severa officers who've failed SA tion courses years back, who have gone on to mak cess of their careers i spheres of the Army. One stance is now the hold DMM."

The selection course is g held in Inyanga, and lasts Each man is supplied with prismatic compass and a m has to make his way along s routes. He'll cover arou miles during that week course includes a 17-mil march.

However, it's the mental that selectors watch most When a man is near exh they'll question him and him: has he retained all t seen and done?

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C Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service Regiment

The SAS trainee begins his parachute work with lessons on static line parachuting. Later, he'll move on to the more sophisticated aspects, such as free-fall parachute training. Here, a routine jump is in progress.

THE TOUGH GUYS

swimming Kariba with a knife between your teeth."

So much for the stories of the feats required of would-be recruits during the course. The mental and emotional qualities sought by the SAS are perhaps more stringent.

One writer has said that the SAS man has to be conditioned to be mentally tough, and not to accept at face value all that he sees and hears. He has possibly always had a tendency to be a loner.

The OC, C Squadron, SAS, comments: "He must be able to act as an individual on his own initiative, certainly — but also as a member of a team. These are the qualities we look for in a recruit: physical stamina, mental stamina, initiative, dedication, courage, compatibility, individuality and logic.

"Blokes sometimes shy away from an SAS selection course because they seem to feel that to fail one is a disgrace. This is nonsense, of course; a first-class soldier might be better suited to infantry or corps work.

Week-long course

"I can think of several senior officers who've failed SAS selection courses years back, and yet who have gone on to make a success of their careers in other spheres of the Army. One such instance is now the holder of a DMM."

The selection course is generally held in Inyanga, and lasts a week. Each man is supplied with a pack, a prismatic compass and a map, and has to make his way along specified routes. He'll cover around 100 miles during that week and the course includes a 17-mile speed march.

However, it's the mental reaction that selectors watch most closely. When a man is near exhaustion, they'll question him and assess him: has he retained all that he's seen and done?

Can he think logically and recall events or features of terrain in the correct sequence, when his mind is almost as weary as his body? Does he rub along fairly easily with the others?

"This is important," says the OC; "when you're out on a four-man patrol for say six weeks, towards the end of that time, any slight idiosyncrasy on the part of one or more of the others — finger-drumming, for instance — will become so magnified that you'll end up wanting to kill him."

Complex procedure

This is a natural enough reaction, of course; but if your character is such that it's likely to set in after 10 days rather than five weeks, you're not the man the SAS needs.

The SAS training programme in its entirety is a lengthy and complex procedure stretching over no less than three years. It begins with a 16-week recruit training period, which teaches the "rookie" the basics of soldiering.

After this comes the 10-week SAS adaptation course — "which starts his introduction to SAS skills," says the OC.

"During this time he learns first aid and medical training, elementary signals training, static line parachuting (with the assistance of the Rhodesian Air Force, with whom we work very closely), watermanship — which includes canoeing and boating — and minor SAS tactics."

Towards the end of this course there's a test period, lasting a week, which demonstrates how much he has assimilated of all he has so far been taught — "he's sent on an exercise, with the whole squadron hounding him."

Should he emerge honourably, he's then eligible to receive his wings and beret, and becomes of operational use to the regiment.

There follow, at intervals

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THE TOU

throughout his SAS specialist courses, gener ing five weeks each: thoro ical training, involving a large hospital; signals tra an advanced level, to brin to 10 words a minute in demolitions course; parachute training.

He undergoes intensive in tracking and bushcr learns advanced waterma cluding the more soph points of navigation, such work.

He does a three-mont course, and a three-month course, so that he becomes the indigenous language area. (Rhodesian writer a expert Philippa Berlyn h handling the Shona courses helped the Army immeasu this regard.)

Thus, at the end of thre the SAS man is not only most trades, but a fair m them too. (Should he ever leave the Army, he's well e for a variety of civilian from diving to demolition

Accidents too occasiona pen, even in the SAS. The OC recalls one incident son back — "in the piping peace, when we were taki border commitment at Kar

Guns bristling

"We lined up in convoy our Sabre Land-Rovers, guns bristling, and set hundred yards outside the 2 Brigade, the leading Sab med on its brakes, and of co next one had to follow suit. sent a jerrycan of petro flames."

John the barman, who wa ling with the squadron, wa second Sabre and was volved in this first mish miles north of Karoi, the d the vehicle at that stage co John, dozed off, and the

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throughout his SAS career, specialist courses, generally lasting five weeks each: thorough medical training, involving a stint at a large hospital; signals training on an advanced level, to bring him up to 10 words a minute in morse; a demolitions course; free-fall parachute training.

He undergoes intensive training in tracking and bushcraft, and learns advanced watermanship, including the more sophisticated points of navigation, such as night work.

He does a three-month diving course, and a three-month language course, so that he becomes fluent in the indigenous language of the area. (Rhodesian writer and Shona expert Philippa Berlyn has been handling the Shona courses and has helped the Army immeasurably in this regard.)

Thus, at the end of three years, the SAS man is not only Jack of most trades, but a fair master of them too. (Should he ever elect to leave the Army, he's well equipped for a variety of civilian careers, from diving to demolition work.)

Accidents too occasionally happen, even in the SAS. The present OC recalls one incident some years back — "in the piping days of peace, when we were taking up a border commitment at Kariba.

Guns bristling

"We lined up in convoy order, in our Sabre Land-Rovers, machine guns bristling, and set off. One hundred yards outside the gates of 2 Brigade, the leading Sabre slammed on its brakes, and of course the next one had to follow suit. A spark sent a jerrycan of petrol up in flames."

John the barman, who was travelling with the squadron, was in the second Sabre and was thus involved in this first mishap. Ten miles north of Karoi, the driver of the vehicle at that stage containing John, dozed off, and the vehicle veered off the road and rolled on to its side. John and his bar equipment were duly transferred to a third vehicle, and the convoy set off once again.

"More by good luck than good management," the OC continues, "we got to the Kariba side of Makuti. The vehicle in which John was riding took a bend too fast, tumbled down a very steep slope, and overturned.

"A white-faced African barman emerged from the rubble and said to me in a trembling voice: 'Bwana, as true as God, today I'm going to die.' "

Indefinable thrill

Fortunately, fracas such as this are almost as rare as frilly underwear in the SAS.

I asked the squadron's OC what appealed to him most about the SAS. "I like it because of the adventure and challenge," he says. "I can't describe to you the excitement I feel every time I see the men stood up before an operational jump."

That's the indefinable thrill, the intense satisfaction behind the regimental motto: "Who Dares Wins." Possibly because of this, there's the undeniable fact that once you've been an SAS man, you'll always be an SAS man at heart.

I'm thinking especially of someone I know very well, who was with that original crowd back in 1961; he has owed and willingly given allegiance to other units of which he's since been a member, but there's no doubt that the SAS will always hold very special memories for him.

Like gambling, it gets into your blood, this kind of existence; the difference being that the commodity that each Rhodesian SAS man gambles with, for the good of his country, is his life. ●

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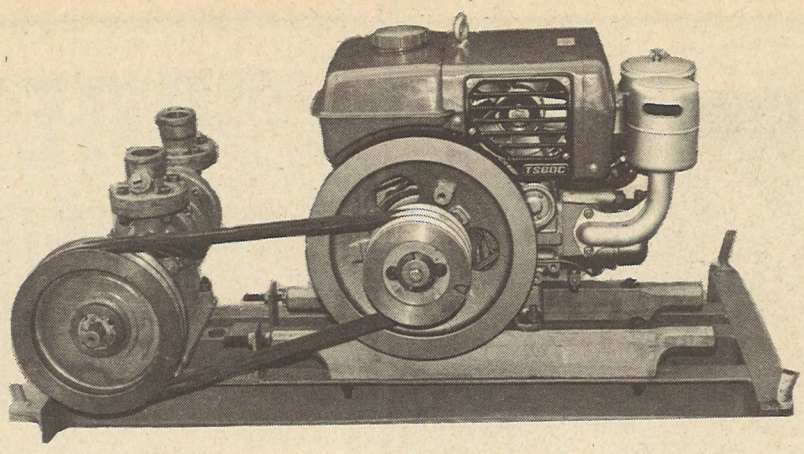

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CAE Protection Company members on patrol. These men perform a vital task, in protecting civilians and equipment in the operational area.

THE PROTECTORS

Carrying out certain guard duties is important work for men from the Coloured, Asian and Eurasian communities

THE Coloured, Asian, and Eurasian Protection Companies have an important role in the operational area; their main task is to provide protection for equipment, machinery and personnel employed in regions where terrorists are known to operate.

The companies were formed with a view to replacing Reinforcement Holding Units on guard duties in the operational area. The manpower is drawn from the hitherto uncommitted sector of the Coloured, Asian and Eurasian communities, and although the great majority are National Servicemen, there is a small percentage of volunteers within the companies.

The first of these was inducted for training on August 29th, 1974; the second on October 2nd, of that year, the third in June this year and the fourth in August this year.

The companies are staffed by regular and territorial officers called upon on a rotation basis, but it is intended ultimately to appoint regular officers as commanders and second-in-commands of the companies. ●

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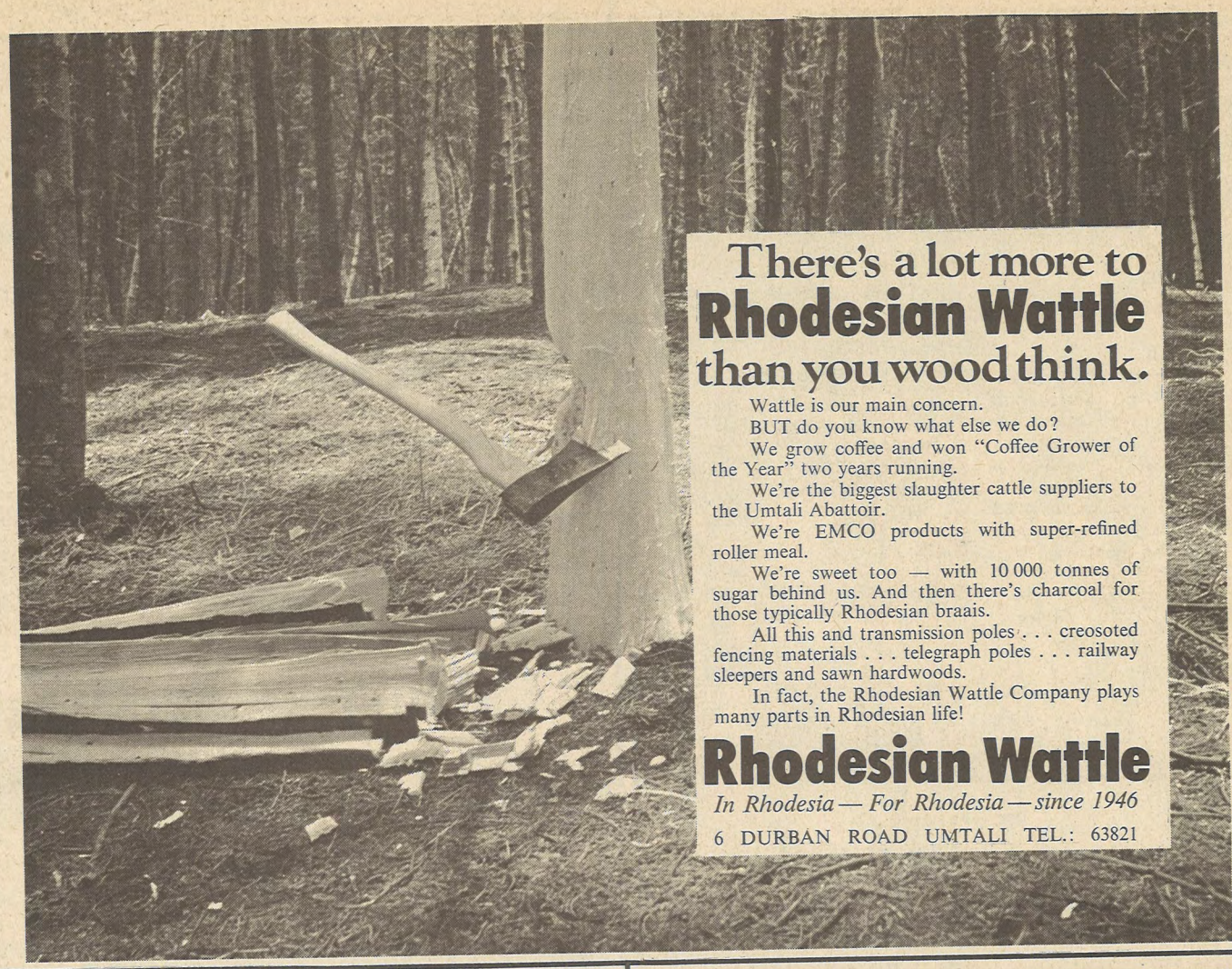

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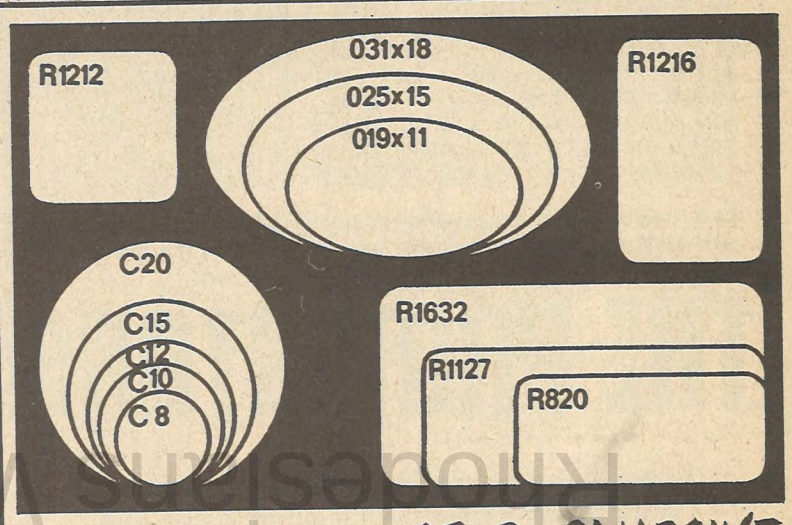

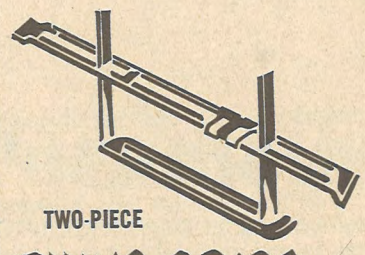

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The Rhodesian Corps of Military Police

Right: The urba the MP's role: jus is ensuring tha marches, such a 1 RAR on Tanlw Day, go smoo military police the vehicles into parked them, assisted the BS in traffic ar

MILITARY police have figured largely in car Army life, and usu grim hulks with threaten pressions and prognathou the whole mien being rathe that of a homicidal orang uniform.

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Strong sense of hum

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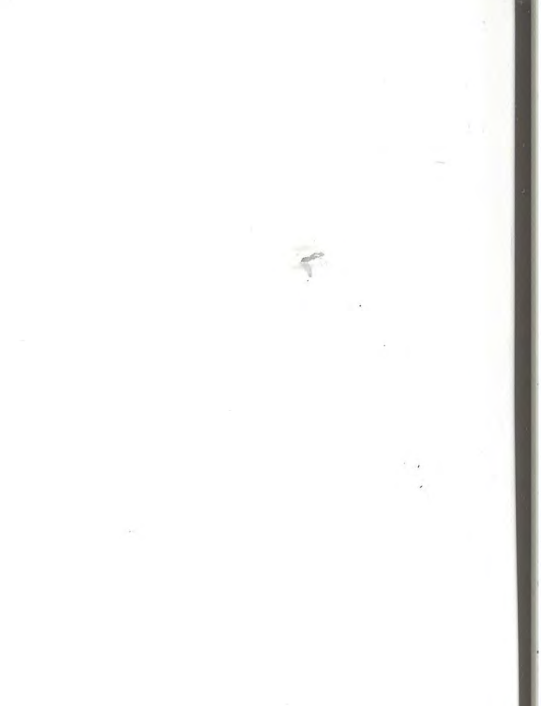
The Rhodesian Corps of Military Police

Right: The urban side of the MP's role: just one job is ensuring that military marches, such as that by 1 RAR on Tanlwe Chaung Day, go smoothly. The military police escorted the vehicles into the city, parked them, and then assisted the BSA Police in traffic and crowd control.

Right: A military driver stops at a checkpoint manned by the military police. In the operational areas, MPs carry out discipline patrols, set up vehicle checks, and static speed checks.



THEIR BEAT IS NATIONWIDE

One day he may be carrying out traffic control duties in the operational area; the next, investigating a robbery in town. That's the military policeman — a man with a dual role to perform

MILITARY police have always figured largely in cartoons on Army life, and usually as grim hulks with threatening expressions and prognathous jaws, the whole mien being rather akin to that of a homicidal orang-utan in uniform.

It's a very different story in the Rhodesian Army, I'm glad to say, where the MPs, though greatly respected, are well-liked enough to be welcomed into any mess for an off-duty drink, the hosts relaxed in the knowledge that to any soldier who toes the line, these are friendly fuzz.

Strong sense of humour

Lt R. (Bob) Reith, the Director of the Rhodesia Corps of Military Police, is a prototype of the new breed. He's tough, shrewd, and down-to-earth, but he has a nice twinkle in his eyes, and a strong sense of humour, which even gruelling spells in Cyprus, Borneo and Northern Ireland, as a member of the Royal Military Police, haven't served to extinguish.

Born and educated in Aberdeen, Bob had 15 years in the British Army before coming to Rhodesia in 1970. Bob's father was in the BSA Police on the security side, and he had written such glowing reports about the country that Bob decided to emigrate.

He joined the Rhodesian Army as a sergeant, going straight into the Corps of Military Police.

Three and a half years later, he went up before an officers' selection board, and in 1974 was appointed Director of the Corps of Military Police.

He says: "In the Rhodesian context, military police have a role in the field, operationally speaking. We're responsible for road communications systems, control of traffic, and road discipline.

"When you've got a large amount of traffic — a brigade, say — being moved from one location to another in the field, then a lot will be coming from various points to a main access, to travel along this and then disperse.

"If you don't control that traffic by means of a rigid timetable, chaos will result."

(Lt Reith has valuable experience of traffic control on a large scale: during a stint in Germany with the RMP, he was on a traffic post for 19½ hours once, NATO trucks passing through at strictly controlled five-minute intervals.)

Road signs are a vital part of the MP's job in the field: "Where no road signs exist, we stick them up: this goes for hazard signs — for instance, those indicating dangerous hills, narrow bridges, and so on — and for a recognised system of route guide signs which keep the soldiery in general on the right tracks.

"We set up information posts in the operational areas, and have runners available lest an individual driver needs advice."

Timetables are meticulously adhered to. Lt Reith showed me a photograph of MPs flourishing a blackboard at an approaching lorry. Chalked on the board was the warning: "Serial No. 33 — you are five minutes too fast. Slow down!"

Were the lorry not slowed down this way, it might well barge straight into traffic ahead. These timetables are compiled with due regard to terrain features such as narrow bridges, detours, and so on.

Military traffic accidents are the pigeon of the MPs too. Here they perform as normal traffic police, noting down details and reporting findings in the traditional way.

Setting up speed traps

These men have to be flexible, in that they cope with a dual role: they're soldiers primarily, policemen next.

In the operational area they could be called upon to serve as soldiers, but in town their working day is filled with police duties — anything from investigating a break-in to military property, to setting up speed traps.

After the first phase at Depot, Llewellin Barracks, those recruits selected by Lt Reith's team are assimilated into the military police. Their initial basic training course, lasting three months, verses them in normal police duties. Rules of evidence, preservation of scenes of crime, static speed traps, car parking, and military law court procedure are among the topics covered.

Lt Reith comments: "The old idea of an MP being just a big bruiser with his cap pulled down over his eyes, has gone by the board. That sort of man wouldn't have the intelligence to handle what he has to handle these days.

"Things like judge's rules, legal definitions, rules of evidence ... you've got to master them and understand them, if you're to know your job."

Those fundamentals, certainly, must be grasped, but from that point onwards, a sparkling academic record isn't of the greatest importance. Lt Reith rates that intangible, flair, highly — and being the good detective that he is, can pick out "good copper potential" in a rookie.

"As an MP, you've got to be able to sense, when someone's telling you something, whether he's glossing over a certain aspect. I've been in this game for 21 years now, and it's amazing how much I've switched on to through sheer instinct."

A case in point was the murder of a lady of doubtful repute in Germany. "We got to hear of the murder, and went to the scene. All we had to go on at that stage was the body.

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"The murder had taken pl
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tell us about the
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"THIS was one of the
arrests ever made by
police — less than an hour,
after we'd arrived on the sc

"When we interviewed
others at the bus-stop, we
three witnesses who suppli
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eventually tried by German
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The Rhodesian Corps of Military Police

THEIR BEAT IS NATIONWIDE

"The murder had taken place in a garage, and across the road was a bus-stop where there was a twice-weekly pick-up, to take men going on rest and recreation periods to the nearby Air Force station, where they'd be flown home to Britain.

"I had two NCOs with me, but radioed for more, and sent the rest on house-to-house checks. Then an individual arrived at the bus-stop and looked over at us.

"I don't know why I watched him, but as soon as he'd spotted us, he left his bag at the bus-stop and went on to a shop further on up the road. He was incorrectly dressed, and I said to myself: 'I'll nail him for that when he comes back.'

"Five minutes elapsed and he still hadn't appeared. I thought: this guy's involved. I took a bloke with me, and we went to the shop. I told him to go round the back. We found the man hiding in a toilet there. As soon as we walked in, he started to tell us about the murder straightaway.

"THIS was one of the fastest arrests ever made by British police — less than an hour, in fact, after we'd arrived on the scene.

"When we interviewed all the others at the bus-stop, we found three witnesses who supplied constructive evidence. The man was eventually tried by German courts and sentenced to 25 years' hard labour."

Draft dodgers

More detailed training for Rhodesian military police after the preliminary schooling, concentrates on weapons: each man must be thoroughly conversant with all types of weapons currently in use in this country.

Other facets of the work include drugs investigation, thefts investigation, and tracing absentees or those attempting to dodge military commitments. On occasion, the MPs have actually removed a fugitive from an aircraft minutes before the plane in question was due to leave for Europe.

The fully-fledged MP can be posted to any of three platoons. Headquarters of the corps are in Brady Barracks, Bulawayo; then there are sections at Cranborne Barracks; 3 Brigade (KG VI Barracks); the School of Infantry, Gwelo; an African detachment at Inkomo; and a small detachment at Depot, Llewellin Barracks.

Lt Reith is also responsible for the training of all regimental police. These men are charged with the security within the cantonment area, and for a 2 km perimeter outside that, of their own particular regiments.

Another "hat" of Bob Reith's is that of commandant of the detention barracks. I'm glad to say that this institution is never crowded out, and most offenders — of all races — invariably serve a 28-day sentence, as grave misdeeds are comparatively rare within the Rhodesian Army.

Misdemeanours which could conceivably land a soldier for a spell in the detention block include theft of military property, and sleeping on guard duty in an operational area.

Where criminal offences are concerned, the corps does of course prefer to deal with the culprits, but civilian authorities have the prerogative to insist on intervening where they deem it necessary.

Incident with a drunk

Life as an MP has its lighter side sometimes. Lt Reith recalls one transgressor who was "so drunk that he was ramrod-stiff. We brought him in, laid him down, and he promptly wet himself. So we tried to prop him up but he kept keeling over, and every time he was prone he would wet himself again.

"I was carrying on a telephone conversation at the time, grasping the receiver with one hand, and trying to hold him up with the other. We eventually carried him out and put him into a Landrover, to take him to the camp hospital — he still as stiff as a board . . . yet as soon as we arrived at the hospital, he leapt out of the vehicle, quite mobile."

THE day after I interviewed Lt Reith, the Rhodesian African Rifles were holding their Tanlwe Chaung celebrations at Methuen Barracks, commencing with a march through the city of Bulawayo. It was the duty of the military police to escort the vehicles into town, park these, and then assist the BSA Police in traffic control and crowd control.

The organisation of traffic to Methuen Barracks — involving thousands of visitors — was coped with by regimental police of the RAR — who had, of course, been trained by the military police.

In the event, TC Day went off with clockwork smoothness: one traffic snarl-up at the outset could have thrown the entire schedule out, but thanks to the military police, not a single hitch of this nature occurred.

They take achievements such as this in their stride, as part of the daily round. What does make them proud, though, and justly, is the fact that since they moved into the operational areas, many lives have been saved as a result of their discipline patrols, vehicle checks, and static speed checks. And that, to them, is the best laurel of all. ●

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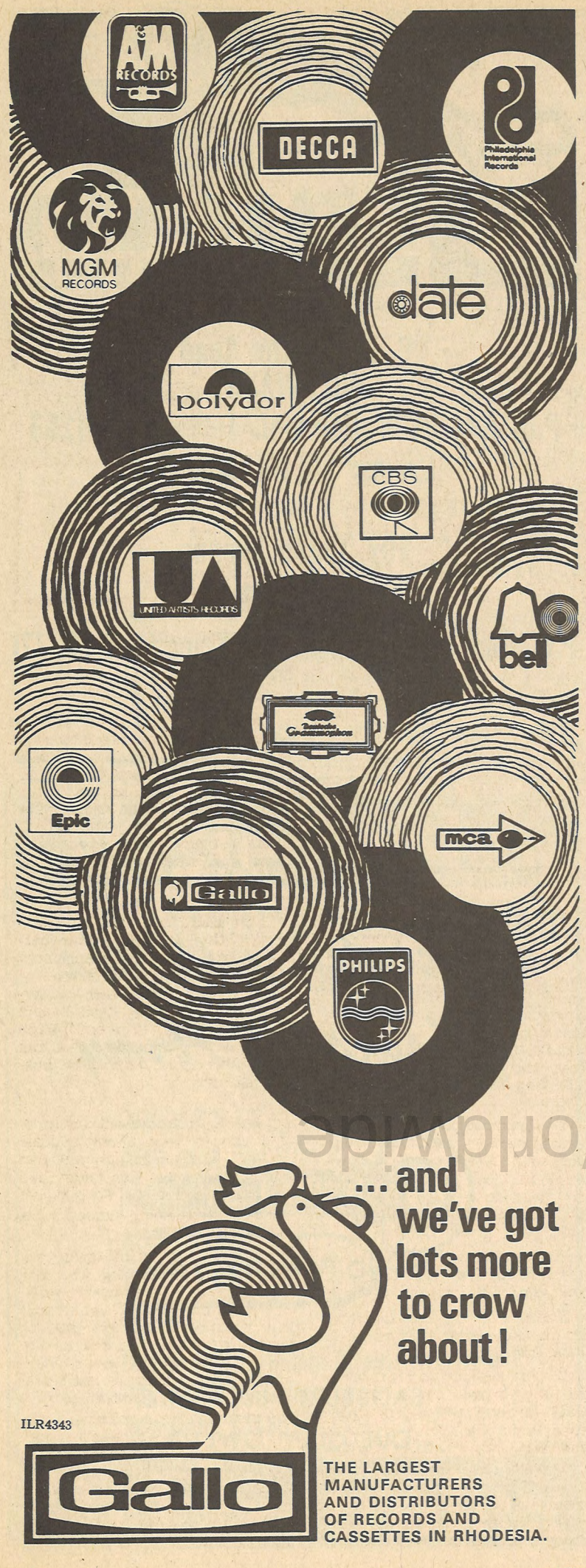

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Rhodesians Worldwide

The Rhodesian African Rifles

The Rh Corps of

Right: The RAR B regimental cer Condu bandmaster I McDonald. Dresse best is Tpr Majo goat
Far right: The Band on parade t the city streets. H theme wou regimental march less formal occasi bands play sel from modern con like the I

THERE'S nothing more tive and stirring tha strains of a military whether it's belting out *Th Red Line* or *Great Little* or merely providing a back of *Oh, What A Beautiful Mor* a Band Sunday garden party

The sound of music isn't tire story, though: a militar is actually a remarkable sador for the Army it repr and this applies to all of its ex engagements, from playing opening of Parliament to i sing unsophisticated vil ag some remote rural area.

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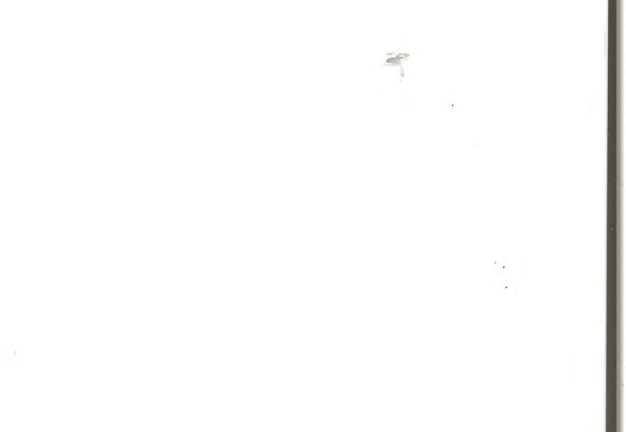
The Rhodesian African Rifles

The Rhodesian Corps of Signals



Right: The RAR Band at a regimental ceremony. Conducting is bandmaster Maj Ken McDonald. Dressed in his best is Tpr Majoda, the goat mascot.
Far right: The Signals Band on parade through the city streets. Here, the theme would be a regimental march, but on less formal occasions the bands play selections from modern composers like the Beatles.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

There's a wealth of talent and experience in the Army's two military bands

THERE'S nothing more evocative and stirring than the strains of a military band, whether it's belting out *The Thin Red Line* or *Great Little Army*, or merely providing a background of *Oh, What A Beautiful Morning* at a Band Sunday garden party.

The sound of music isn't the entire story, though: a military band is actually a remarkable ambassador for the Army it represents, and this applies to all of its external engagements, from playing at the opening of Parliament to impressing unsophisticated villagers in some remote rural area.

The Rhodesian Army is fortunate to possess two bands of high calibre: the Rhodesian African Rifles Band (70 strong, because it has a corps of drums), directed by Maj K. R. (Ken) Macdonald; and the band of the Corps of Signals (52 strong) directed by Capt F. (Frank) Hayes.

Since taking over in 1972, Frank has completely renewed the repertoire of his band, bringing them bang up to date, so that you're far more likely nowadays to hear *Bridge Over Troubled Water* at a Band Sunday than *The White Horse Inn*.

Frank says: "In recent years, the Americans in particular have mastered the art of military bands, and most of the music now is modern. The days of playing selections from Gilbert and Sullivan à la seaside bandstand have long gone.

"There are some magnificent arrangements for military bands available these days — compositions by the Carpenters, Simon and Garfunkel and the Beatles, to name but a few."

Ken Macdonald is equally progressive; in fact, the two musical directors are firm friends, and any rivalry is a very amicable affair. This goes for the African members of their respective bands too.

Ken comments: "You'll always find your band playing especially well when they know that another military band is listening!"

And Frank adds: "It's part of a bandsman's makeup — of any musician's in fact — to want to show off."

ALL band members without exception are fiercely proud of their unit, and in consequence the turnover is very small: on average, the directors can expect to keep their bandsmen for at least 10 years.

They're primarily soldiers, though, and have to complete a basic military training before they move into the band.

Even then, life isn't all one grand sweet song: the RAR band members take over guard duties if ever the entire regiment moves out of barracks, and the Signals bandsmen serve three days a week (members partaking by means of a roster system) on internal security duties at Cranborne Barracks.

However, a normal working day for both bands means practising from 8 am through to 4.30 pm. Both directors agree that it takes around three years for a bandsman to become truly proficient, starting from scratch as most of them do.

But Frank recently organised a pressurised training for 10 new recruits, and had them playing in the band within four months.

As a rule, rehearsals are twin affairs, the experienced section in one room giving forth melodious notes, the "rookie" portion in another producing strains less easy on the ear.

Worst moments? Neither Ken nor Frank have had any really heart-stopping catastrophes occasioned by their current bands, but each can recall at least one red-faced event during their respective British Army service.

Drunken soloist

Frank remembers the time he was playing with the East Lancashire Regiment at Paignton in Devon. The bandmaster announced that a certain soloist would play the piccolo, but alas, on getting to his feet, the soloist, who had been sampling Devon cider rather too liberally, fell flat upon his face.

The bandmaster announced solemnly that it appeared that the piccolo solo would not now take place — then turned to Frank, told him firstly to remove the prone body, and secondly to whistle the piccolo solo!

Was he tempted to laugh during his whistling feat? "No," he says, "I was filled with terror throughout!"

Ken tells of the Queen and Prince Philip presenting Colours to the Fleet Air Arm in 1956.

"It was a windy day and one of the bass drums just took off. It went bowling down the square, straight for the Wrens at the far end. They went down like ninepins.

"Afterwards, Prince Philip said to us: 'Did you organise that purposely? You know, we go to so many functions at which everything is pat that this was a refreshing change!' Giles later did a cartoon depicting the event."

Though the priorities of the Rhodesian Army bands are internal fixtures such as parade work and church services, they do a lot of outside jobs. For instance, the Signals Band will soon be playing at the reunion of 13 very old soldiers — the last survivors in Rhodesia of those who fought at the Battle of Gallipoli during the First World War.

Then there are the important tours of the operational areas (during which the bandsmen carry arms as well as instruments) — playing at African villages, entertaining war-weary troops and civilians at the "sharp end." Each band has a dance band section, and these are in great demand for public functions.

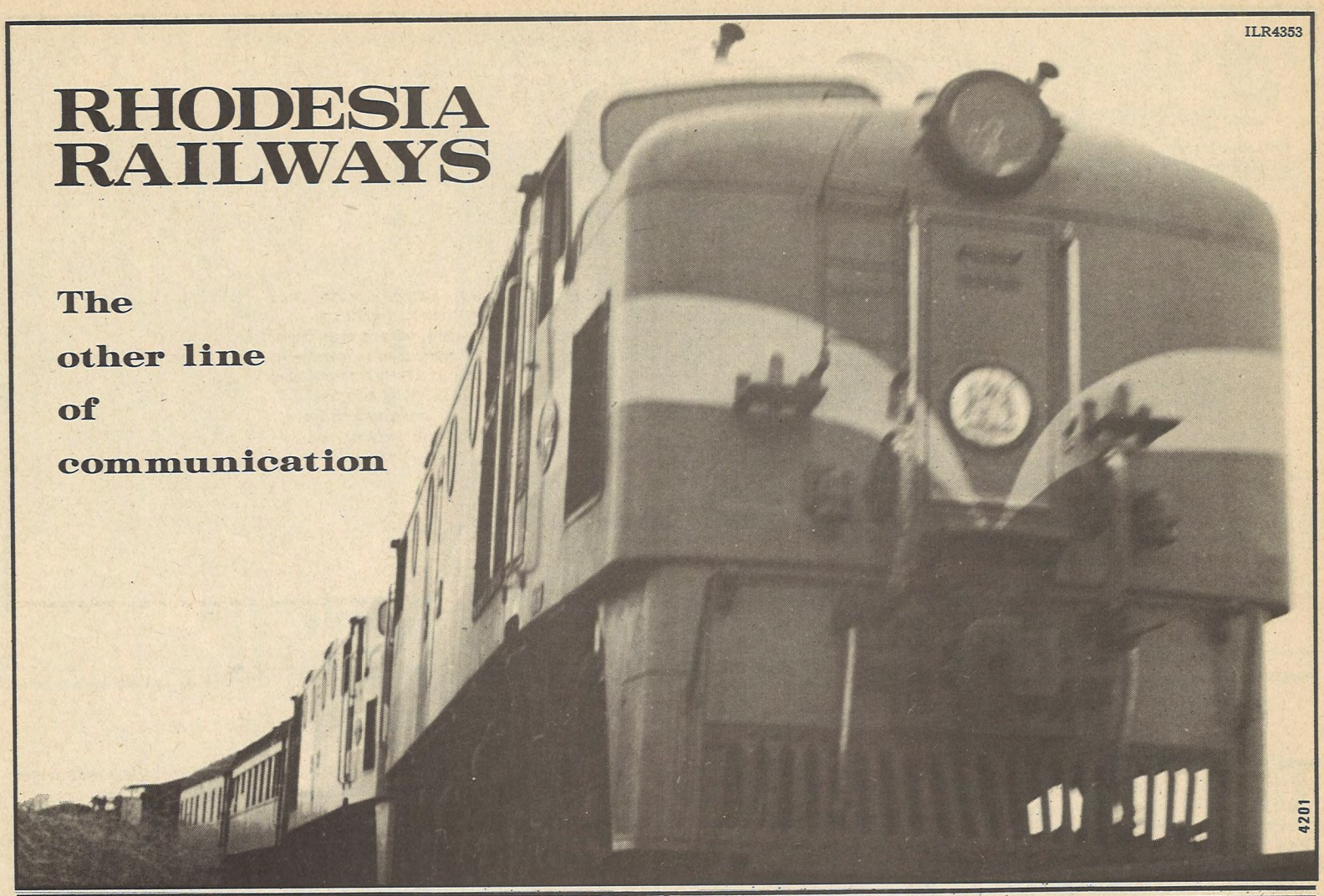
WHEN I interviewed the directors in April, Frank told me that he'd just had his last weekend off for that year. Ken hadn't had one free weekend, and the prospect of any in the next eight months was extremely unlikely.

A lot of hard work goes into teaching and rehearsing and perfecting ("and a band works while everyone else plays," as Frank says) but both directors talk of their hair "standing on end" on the frequent occasions when their bands do them proud — and that's what makes it all worthwhile.

When they do have time at home to themselves, Ken admits to enjoying a busman's holiday and listening to a variety of music — but for Frank, it's the sublime sounds of silence as he strides over the quiet fairway playing the "game called dammit". ●

RHODESIA RAILWAYS

The other line of communication



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The Rhodesian Corps of Signals, Communications Centre

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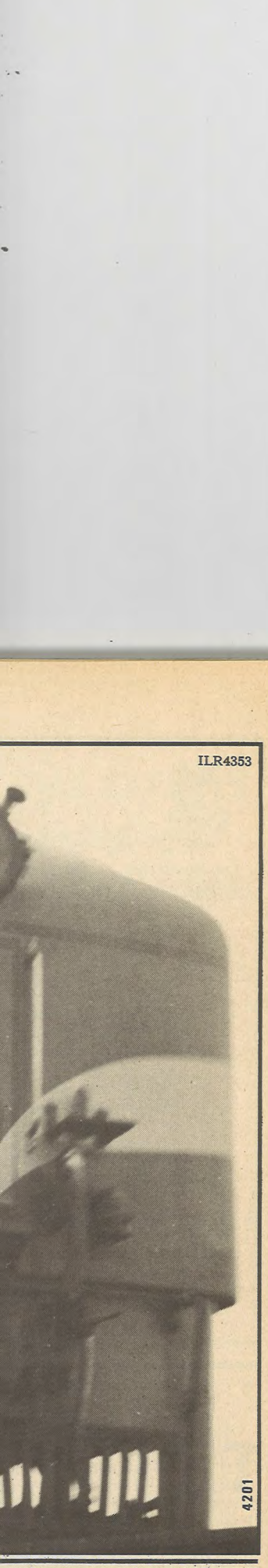

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ACTORS

The Rhodesian Corps of Signals, Communications Centre

Left: The perforator pool at Communications Centre, where messages are prepared in tape form before being transmitted by the relay centre. All tapes are checked by a separate person, to ensure accuracy.

Rhodesians Worldwide

IT NEVER CLOSES

All messages to and from the various military headquarters and units pass through the Communications Centre

COMCEN means different things to different people. I, in my lay ignorance, had thought of entitling this feature "The Heart Of The Matter."

Squadron Commander Maj Andrew Blaine, in overall charge of the troop comprising Comcen, corrected my biology: he thinks that Comcen can best be likened to the body's central nervous system — "passing messages to and from the brain".

And the most prosaic simile came from troop commander Capt T. W. (Tom) Nichol, who compares Comcen to a post office.

Capt Nichol showed me around the centre's various sections. There's an ordered bustle throughout, everyone with an appointed task, and a constant hum of activity. Comcen is responsible for the acceptance and delivery of messages to the diverse military headquarters and units throughout Rhodesia.

Working hours

Like the Windmill Theatre, it never closes — the centre maintains a 24-hour service to the operational centres, and is capable of opening up any station on the network within a reasonably short space of time should the situation warrant it.

Communications are maintained to the main centres throughout Rhodesia during normal working hours — and also to other Security Force Headquarters.

Capt Nichol explains: "When a message is handed in at Comcen for transmission, it's carefully checked for legibility and security classification.

"The acceptance clerk has a laid-down sequence for checking outgoing messages, and if a message complies with these requirements, it's then accepted and each copy given a date time group (indicating the date and time of acceptance) and date stamped.

"The Comcen retains sufficient copies of the signal to provide one copy for each addressee, and a file copy. The remaining copies are returned to the originator as his file copies. Once accepted, the message is then registered and given a serial number."

THE next step is the perforator pool, where the message is prepared in tape form, and transmitted to the relay centre. The system used is the Murray code: to my eyes, a totally incomprehensible maze of perforations — but there's never any chance of a new and inexperienced operator making a grave blunder, because all tapes are checked by a separate person.

Those perforations can be put to uses other than for the mere coding of grave military messages. A skilful puncher in an idle moment can produce some fairly artistic work, from Chinese-style landscapes, Madonna and Child figures and mountain vistas, to voluptuous naked ladies.

But to continue with the Comcen processing: the relay centre transmits the message to the pertinent addressee station. If the message is classified, there will be a slight delay.

"Similarly," says Capt Nichol, "each message coming into the relay centre is scrutinised for accuracy and classification, and if it meets with the necessary requirements, it's then relayed, each one in order of precedence.

"Service messages can be extremely long — sometimes over 1 000 words in length — and because of this factor, delays can occur where shorter messages are concerned.

"All messages can be passed by either landline or radio. If radio is employed, certain security precautions are adopted."

Despatch riders

There are also Signals despatch riders who are used for local deliveries.

Females are popularly supposed to have obsessions about telephones, so it occurred to me to ask why this mundane instrument wasn't used, perhaps in conjunction with a scrambler where necessary, instead of the Comcen procedure, as regards a message say between Army HQ and Cranborne Barracks.

Capt Nichol had the answer: the tongue, believe it or not, is a laggard compared with Comcen's machines which can, if necessary, open up to transmitting or receiving messages at the rate of 100 words per minute.

Registration of both outgoing and incoming messages takes place at every stage of the processes described above, so it's a relatively easy matter to trace the path of any mislaid or unduly delayed message.

Comcen is manned by both white and black personnel, and the races work well together in complete harmony. Normally, initial training is undertaken at the School of Signals (Brady Barracks, Bulawayo) but on occasion, Comcen can provide the initial training prior to the trainee in question embarking on a radio and line course at the school.

Capt Nichol recently took over the troop containing Comcen, from Capt Basil Bartlett, who is retiring after 31 years of military life, 30 of which were in the realm of Signals.

Capt Nichol has also had extensive Signals experience; he served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946, on the communications side of combined operations. After the war, he joined the police in Britain; subsequently emigrated to Rhodesia, but decided to return to Britain once more.

AFTER six months in that country, he knew he had made a grave mistake, so back the Nichols came to Rhodesia — in 1956 — and they've been here ever since.

Capt Nichol joined the Federal Army in 1959, and opted to join the Rhodesian Army upon the break-up of Federation. He's served in most sectors of the Rhodesian Corps of Signals since then, and is a popular choice as the new troop commander.

Comcen began its life housed in a small hut. Now it's a highly sophisticated and streamlined concern, which averages over 1 000 tapes a day, of varying lengths.

Capt Nichol is delighted at his appointment: "This is my line of work ... and here, at Comcen, you're right in the middle of things."

Some other parts of Army HQ may keep daylight hours only, but Comcen pulsates steadily on, night and day, transmitting and receiving, keeping the vast military body in touch with Headquarters. ●

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The Rhodesian Women's Services (Army)

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Flood of letters

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The Rhodesian Women's Services (Army)

Right: This is the elegant green uniform to be worn by members of the Rhodesian Women's Services (Army). The kitting-out includes a special panti-hose allowance!

Below: Within a fortnight of the announcement concerning the Rhodesian Women's Services, over 1 000 enquiries had been received. Here, Corporal Oosthuizen explains Army terms and salaries to two would-be applicants.

WOMEN ON THE MARCH

The formation of the new Rhodesian Women's Services unit means that the gentle sex can now play their part in the war effort.

MILITANT Women's Libbers, on a seek-and-destroy mission as regards male chauvinist pigs, needn't worry to investigate the Rhodesian Army.

That enlightened institution has decided that the hand which rocks the cradle can also be of great use in assisting with the running of the military machine — and so it is that the Rhodesian Women's Services (Army and Air Force) has come into being in 1975.

I spoke to Maj F. (Fred) Harrison, ASO 2 (Manpower Planning) "A" Branch at Army HQ, about it.

He told me that during the war, a women's military section was formed, on a Territorial Force basis, to help out with administrative work. Its title was the Women's Auxiliary Military Service, and with peacetime it became a regular unit. It was disbanded in 1960.

Flood of letters

In recent years, however, many Rhodesian women have felt that they wanted to do more to aid the anti-terrorist war effort than knitting balaclavas and holding fund-raising cake sales — and letters to this effect have been pouring in at a steadily increasing rate.

So the Rhodesian Army gave the matter serious thought, and the decision was that a women's unit would indeed be of value.

Maj Harrison explains: "We cannot, for a number of reasons (lack of accommodation being the chief one) have a regular women's unit, but we have decided that we needed to reform a unit on the lines of the one which existed during the Second World War."

At the time of writing, advertising for the RWS is under way. Applicants must be between 18 and 50 (although in special cases, over-50 applicants may be considered) and may be married or single. There are no specific educational qualifications required, although rates of pay will be in accordance with educational standards attained.

Those interested should write into Army HQ, who will then post to them the application forms, conditions of service, a medical examination form (the examination to be carried out, free of charge, by an Army or Government doctor), and a list of the jobs within the Army and Air Force that will be open to RWS members.

IN THE Army context, these include radio operating, teleprinter operating, operational room duties, clerical and stores duties, intelligence duties, driving and catering duties, photographic interpreting, and the jobs of medical assistant, dental assistant and computer assistant.

Initially, there will be no rank structure, but it's hoped that an appropriate structure in this regard will eventually be evolved, and ultimately a woman commandant will be appointed.

(This command not being her sole job, however — she'll probably hold some administrative post within the Army, but a secondary role will be the supervision of all RWS members.)

For the time being, though, each woman member will come under the jurisdiction of the OC of her particular sub-unit.

The women will come in on a month's probation, and after this has been completed, they will be required to sign a contract for the minimum period of a year.

Salaries will be on the lines of current Territorial pay scales, but adjusted so that paywise, the women will be on a level with their counterparts in other branches of the civil service — and indeed, in commerce and industry, because in addition to the salary, there are considerable "perks" attached to the job.

Free uniform

Take the free medical attention, for instance (treatment to be administered by an Army medical officer) — and free hospitalisation, if so authorised by an Army MO, in a Government hospital. Provision has also been made for free gynaecological attention to the limit of $100 a year.

Uniform is provided free; a smart green ensemble, designed by Sgt Maj Bernard McCaffery (who in his off-duty hours is a well-known Salisbury theatrical designer and costumier) — and the uniform kitting-out includes a hat, cardigan, raincoat, sling bag, shoes ... and a special pantihose allowance!

RWS members will be eligible for 24 days' vacational leave a year, and 12 days' occasional leave. Sick leave must be authorised by each member's CO, on the advice of the Army MO who has been treating the women in question.

What about training?

Maj Harrison says: "We intend to run a short course — lasting two weeks — for members here in Salisbury; although consideration is being given to holding a similar one in Bulawayo as well."

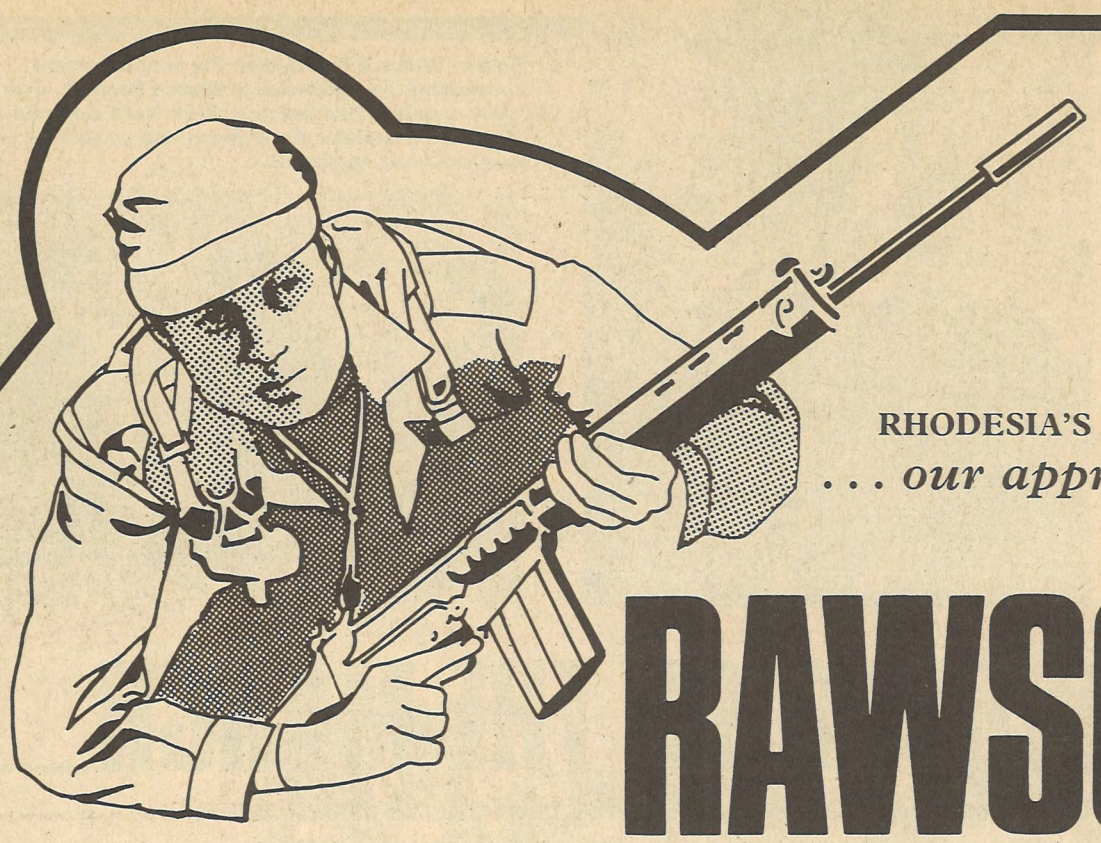
Subjects will include basic drill, weapon training (for self-protection only; these ladies will not be manning the machine guns in the forefront of battle, as their Israeli sisters have done); conditions of service; service writing; the Defence Act; and military etiquette, as well as a thorough versing in the complex structure of both the Rhodesian Army and Air Force. (Specialist courses, such as photographic interpreting, will come later.)

"UPON completion of the two-week course, the ladies will be sent back to their home towns and employed in various Army and Air Force units there. Initially, we plan to operate this scheme only in Salisbury, Bulawayo, Umtali and Gwelo, although possibly small numbers of ladies from Wankie and Kariba might be interested in joining."

RWS members will be soldiers from eight in the morning till 4.30 in the afternoon — but should special circumstances require them for after-hours work, they must be prepared to turn out; after all, they'll be attested members of the Security Forces.

Sensible women seeking an end to sexual discrimination have long realised that in order to swig the heady wine of equality, they've got to take their turn at treading the grapes.

The Rhodesian Army is now offering such an opportunity — and an added bonus for those who join up will be the satisfying knowledge that they're actively helping their country. ●



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Grant 5015
E RHODESIA, 7th August, 1975

Training, Public Relations, Publicity, Photography and Publishing Sections

Right: The public relations and photography section at Army HQ: from left to right, Army PRO Capt Geoffrey Bond, art director and visualiser Lt Mike Blackman, and Army photographer Peter Eaton.

THE IMAGE BUILDERS

Training, public relations, photography, publicity . . . the men who work in these various sections are a highly creative team responsible for presenting the Army to the public

THE WORDS "Army Headquarters" tend to conjure up a bleak utilitarian picture of bureaucratic bumph, but behind those walls there exists a group of creative men, their activities ranging from film-making to editing a magazine . . . and all with a highly professional touch.

Maj T. C. D. (Terry) Leaver is officially GSO 2 (Training) — a deceptively simple title for a multi-faceted job. He defines it with typical clarity: "The co-ordination of all training matters within the Army — this includes all courses run, especially those at the School of Infantry.

"All external courses, when these become available; and courses at civilian institutions such as Ranche House College and the Institute of Languages. Attendance by Army members at business management seminars comes under this heading too.

Artillery exercise

"We deal with ranges and training areas for the entire Army — that is, we're responsible for policy in respect of locating and arranging the purchase of such areas through normal Government channels. We deal also with Army exercises and it was up to us, for instance, to authorise and co-ordinate the arrangements for the recent large-scale artillery exercise in the Buhera district.

"We produce all pamphlets and films connected in any way with training, and cope with the stocking of these."

The Training section has also been closely involved with the formation of the Rhodesian Women's Services, providing advice as regards a suitable training programme for the recruits.

Maj Leaver continues: "We control training grants throughout the Army. A recent request of this nature was received from the commandant of the School of Signals.

"He wished to purchase the necessary parts in order to mock up a teleprinter machine for training purposes at the school. We arranged for him to be granted the requisite $250."

TRAINING ammunition is yet another of Maj Leaver's "pigeons". The Services Corps advises him as to how much ammunition the Army may use in a specific year, and he has to "house-keep" from then onwards, apportioning it as he sees fit.

For the 1975 Army Weapons Meeting, he doled out 95 000 rounds — but he says that much more in fact was used, since each unit employed some of its own allocation in addition.

Army sport shelters under the Training umbrella. Anything, from decisions taken during a meeting of the Army Sports Control Board, to the Army Weapons Meeting, concerns Maj Leaver and his staff.

They're responsible for all trophies; and it's also up to them, if approached, to analyse the pros and cons as regards a sport being declared officially approved by the Rhodesian Army.

The administrative side of all examinations within the Army is perhaps Maj Leaver's biggest headache.

"These include corporal to sergeant, sergeant to colour sergeant, lieutenant to captain, and captain to major," he says. "Six to eight months before each examination, I put out a signal to the brigades, requesting nominations of officers to set the various exams.

Separate subjects

"There are generally from three to seven separate subjects, and a board of officers for each subject is selected. I send the boards a letter advising them of the subject which they must set, and what is required in terms of the syllabus.

"Once the papers have been drawn up, the Colonel G and I then check these thoroughly."

After the examination in question has been written, and the papers marked, they are returned to Training, and Maj Leaver distributes the results. One slip in any way along the line in this procedure, from the setting of the examination to the notification of results, could have disastrous ramifications — and he's only too aware of this.

On several occasions, he's actually taken the papers home with him and worked his way through them as if he were a student, so that no possible loop-hole escapes him.

There is a surprising variety of courses available to members of the Rhodesian Army; just three instances are the Intermediate and Advanced Shona courses at Ranche House College, the English courses at the Institute of Languages (for foreign-born members of the Rhodesian Army) and Adventure Training for officer cadets and recruits — such as Outward Bound courses.

Maj Leaver says: "We've recently arranged for Maj The Reverend John Fall and Maj B. V. Smythe to attend an archaeology course so that they may obtain a licence to dig. Then, with the blessing of the Keeper of National Monuments, they will be able to take parties of 15 or 20 out to dig on sites.

"THIS is, of course, a complete departure from our normal activities, but it falls under the heading of Army Sponsored and Arranged Interest Trips."

Pamphlets are produced by Training on anything from Standing Orders for Promotion Examinations to the mini-magazine, *The Rhodesian Army Training Bulletin.*

This latter publication is produced thrice yearly, for internal consumption only, and contains data gleaned from contact reports regarding the latest terrorist tactics and developments; and new events generally in the military context throughout the world.

Filming is probably the most fas-

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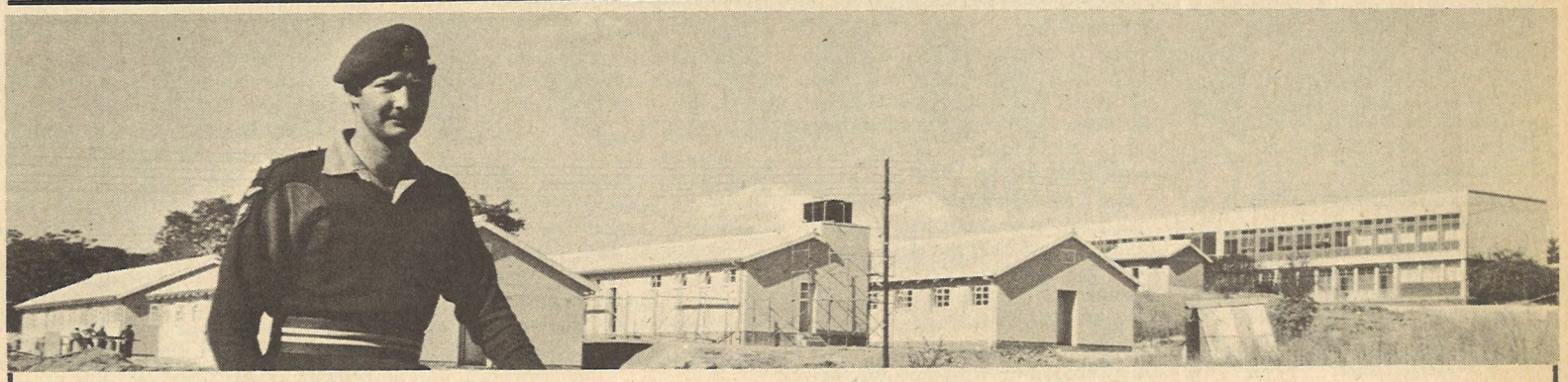

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cinating part of Training's programme. "Entering A K their latest production: thi screened for training purp departments such as the S Infantry, and Military Stu well as by every unit in th where a knowledge of Afri toms is required.

Training staff members w draft commentary and They're also responsible fo ing". For example, "Ente Kraal" required 30 RLI which Maj Graham N member of Training at th borrowed with the permis that regiment's CO, and dul ported to the chosen locatio

The Ministry of Infor Production Services unit c actual filming and techni duction, but Training see rest.

THEY tell me with jus pride that their trainin have been so highly regard some of them have been pu by external services. Dav and Darryl Zanuck, beware

From moving pictures to graphs and public relations public relations officer Geoffrey Bond and Army grapher Peter Eaton share fice at Army HQ, and it wa that *A Pride of Men* was b title and format conceived mind of Geoffrey Bond, and of the illustrations being pr by Peter Eaton from his file

The ideas man

Capt Bond is the first PI to be appointed by the Rh Army — in October, 1973 exact. In civilian life he was a well-known writer with 2 to his credit so far, includ excellent and well-re *Remember Mazoe.*

He's engaged at present ing the story of the RLI in hi time — not that he ever has n that commodity, since his P is a round-the-clock affair.

"My job is to get the Arm the public eye," he says. "I c with the ideas; obtain the a general's approval, then go with the necessary arrange such as contacting journ perhaps, for the publicisin specific topic, or appearing i and television interviews."

Combine professional s knowledge and a never-c fount of ideas, and you've g right recipe for a PRO. Ta new RAR recruiting film Bond saw wider possibilities than had been originally envi

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Training, Public Relations, Publicity, Photography and Publishing Sections

THE IMAGE BUILDERS

cinating part of Training's packed programme. "Entering A Kraal" is their latest production: this will be screened for training purposes by departments such as the School of Infantry, and Military Studies, as well as by every unit in the Army where a knowledge of African customs is required.

Training staff members write the draft commentary and script. They're also responsible for "casting". For example, "Entering A Kraal" required 30 RLI troops, which Maj Graham Noble, a member of Training at the time, borrowed with the permission of that regiment's CO, and duly transported to the chosen location.

The Ministry of Information's Production Services unit does the actual filming and technical production, but Training see to the rest.

THEY tell me with justifiable pride that their training films have been so highly regarded that some of them have been purchased by external services. David Lean and Darryl Zanuck, beware!

From moving pictures to photographs and public relations: Army public relations officer Capt Geoffrey Bond and Army photographer Peter Eaton share an office at Army HQ, and it was here that *A Pride of Men* was born — title and format conceived in the mind of Geoffrey Bond, and many of the illustrations being provided by Peter Eaton from his files.

The ideas man

Capt Bond is the first PRO ever to be appointed by the Rhodesian Army — in October, 1973, to be exact. In civilian life he was, and is a well-known writer with 20 books to his credit so far, including his excellent and well-received *Remember Mazoe*.

He's engaged at present in writing the story of the RLI in his spare time — not that he ever has much of that commodity, since his PR work is a round-the-clock affair.

"My job is to get the Army into the public eye," he says. "I come up with the ideas; obtain the adjutant general's approval, then go ahead with the necessary arrangements, such as contacting journalists, perhaps, for the publicising of a specific topic, or appearing in radio and television interviews."

Combine professional showbiz knowledge and a never-ceasing fount of ideas, and you've got the right recipe for a PRO. Take the new RAR recruiting film: Capt Bond saw wider possibilities for it than had been originally envisaged, and he wrote and recorded an English commentary, to supplement the ChiShona and SiNdebele counterparts. The English version is now on the commercial cinema circuit.

The Trade Fair and Salisbury Show both mean periods of intense activity for Capt Bond, who has to think up new slants each year to publicise the Rhodesian Army.

If an impact is to be made, the same old format just won't do, so it's up to Geoffrey Bond to dream up fresh variations on the basic theme.

Does he sit down and consciously rack his brains? He smiles at this, and says he never has to search for ideas — "fortunately, I possess a 100 per cent creative personality . . . but copious hot baths do help!"

Familiar face

Photographer Peter Eaton is one of the Army's best-liked and most familiar faces — and he's come up with some memorable cameos of military life during the past 14 years.

Though employed by the Army in a civilian capacity, Peter has years of Service experience behind him: he was a member of the Royal Air Force in peace time and then throughout the Second World War, rising to the rank of wing commander.

In 1961 he was appointed photographer to the Federal Army.

AS WITH Capt Bond, Army stands at trade fairs and agricultural shows involve him deeply: next time you visit such a display, take a good look at the effective blow-ups thereon, and spare a thought for the hours that Peter Eaton spent producing them in his darkroom.

He's accustomed to working under pressure, though, and nothing ever rattles him — not even the request from a certain unit, as I was interviewing him, for eight copies each of 38 negatives . . . by the following morning.

Unlike his civilian alter egos, the Army photographer is rarely given a personal by-line; Peter Eaton is used to this, but he does give a rather wry smile when he sees photographs of his reproduced in military journals of a variety of foreign armies — without a word of acknowledgement!

A newcomer to the Army HQ PRO and Photographic Section is Lt M. L. M. (Mike) Blackman, who had been a member of the Rhodesian Army for just two days when I spoke to him.

He has joined it as a specialist —

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THE IMAGE

art director and visualiser. ready known in Rhodesia penetratingly witty *How Days?* — a book of carto Army life, the fruits of his N Service stint. He donated proceeds to Army charities

Mike has spent the last th a half years in Europe, sup himself through his paintin commercial art work too — ter for large internationa panies. Experienced in all of art work, including desi out and camera techniques, a decided asset to the team.

Last but not at all least, survey on the creative s Army HQ, I visited the off *Assegai*, the Rhodesian official magazine, and talke editor, Maj K. J. (Keith) Bus

HE'S been a member of the since January 1961, cont in the Education Corps, but over as editor of *Assegai* i 1974.

Assegai, like its current dian, also joined the Army i when it replaced the old Newsletter, which ceased p tion on March 7 that year.

Two months later newsletter's smart new suc appeared, the crest of the Rh and Nyasaland Army on its surmounting the emblem of assegais.

Something better

In a foreword, the GOC time, Maj Genl R. E. B. Long said: "For some time now Army Headquarters have be atisfied with the old monthly letter.

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THE IMAGE BUILDERS

art director and visualiser. He's already known in Rhodesia for his penetratingly witty *How Many Days?* — a book of cartoons on Army life, the fruits of his National Service stint. He donated all the proceeds to Army charities.

Mike has spent the last three and a half years in Europe, supporting himself through his painting, and commercial art work too — the latter for large international companies. Experienced in all aspects of art work, including design, layout and camera techniques, he'll be a decided asset to the team.

Last but not at all least, in my survey on the creative side of Army HQ, I visited the offices of *Assegai*, the Rhodesian Army's official magazine, and talked to its editor, Maj K. J. (Keith) Busby.

HE'S been a member of the Army since January 1961, continually in the Education Corps, but he took over as editor of *Assegai* in April 1974.

Assegai, like its current guardian, also joined the Army in 1961, when it replaced the old Army Newsletter, which ceased publication on March 7 that year.

Two months later the newsletter's smart new successor appeared, the crest of the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Army on its cover, surmounting the emblem of three assegais.

Something better

In a foreword, the GOC of that time, Maj Genl R. E. B. Long, CBE, said: "For some time now we in Army Headquarters have been disatisfied with the old monthly newsletter.

"Up to the present time, it has been impossible to replace it with something better for various reasons. However, we can now go ahead and produce a proper Army magazine, of which this is the first copy.

"I hope that individuals in the Army will continue to produce articles for the *Assegai*, which should be considered by all units as a magazine in which serving members can express their personal views on items of general interest as well as on service matters . . .

That first issue was a very creditable one, with features ranging from "The Royal Rhodesia Regiment Dedicate Battle Honours" to "Mail Call", which contained such diverse enquiries as "How did the expression collar 'dog' come about?" — Corporal, Ordnance.

And: "When I was a young soldier, way back in the 1920s, the old hands used to sing a ripe kind of ballad which, so far as I recall, started with the words — 'Sergeant-major, Hollow ground razor, Queen Victoria very good man . . .' Do any other readers remember this ballad and is it, by any chance, ever sung today?" — Old Soldier, Salisbury.

The latest *Assegai*, which I have before me as I write, is somewhat more sophisticated, containing articles on such subjects as irregular warfare, and the budgets and content of Communist bloc armies; yet the overall twin aims are still the same: "a sounding-board; and a stimulus towards esprit de corps," as Maj Busby puts it.

Fearless editor

He's not only an efficient but a fearless editor: "I feel that if something needs to be said (excluding subjects concerning official policy, of course), then *Assegai* is the place in which to say it."

His current editorial, at the time of writing, is an illustration of this: the theme is a plea to Rhodesian soldiers to discard their blinkers and read more widely.

"Unquestionably the vast majority of the members of the Army do not read sufficiently and while they may be fully proficient in the military sense, they fall far short of this ideal in fields which have a definite bearing upon the exercise of the military arts . . ." this is just one of the trenchant paragraphs in this thought-provoking piece.

THIS particular editorial refers to the Army libraries; and mention must be made here of the hard work and unfailing competence of Mrs Maud Zimet, assistant editor of *Assegai* and Army HQ's librarian for 13 busy years.

Has *Assegai* ever had a scoop?

Believe it or not, yes: its spectacular feature on Rhodesia's honours and awards, published in the February edition, 1975, complete with colour plates, stole the march on all civilian publications.

Col W. D. de Haast, then Col AQ, conceived the idea, and in collaboration with him, Maj Busby wrote the feature.

It's hard to assess the total readership of *Assegai*, in that four or more people read each copy; but Maj Busby calculates the figure at over 5 000 — no mean achievement for what is, in essence, a "house magazine."

Like all the other image-makers interviewed in this feature, Keith Busby is entirely dedicated to his work. Theirs is the responsibility for displaying the Rhodesian Army to the public; and a first-rate job they all make of it. ●

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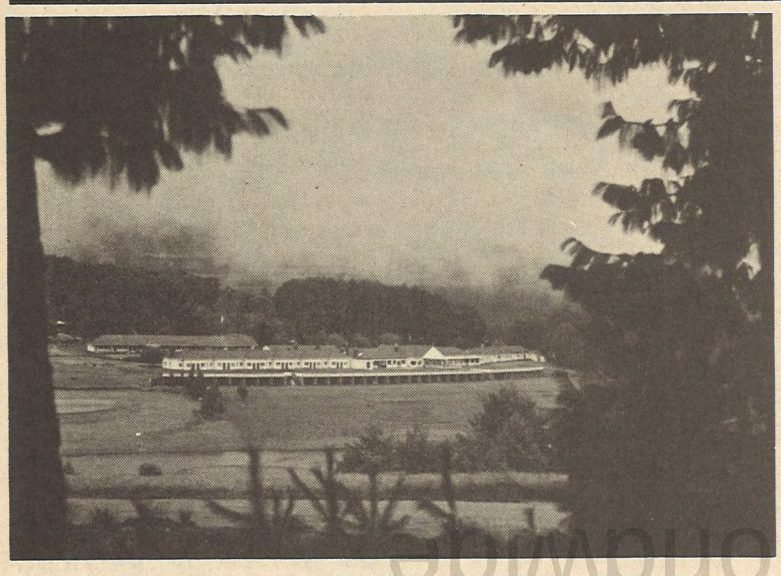

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Powerful headaches

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Left: Parcel sorting at the central Army Post Office. The flow of incoming parcels has lessened of late, but letters average around 4 500 a week.

Rhodesians Worldwide

HOW THE MAIL ARRIVES

On average 750 letters a day are received at HQ 2 Brigade for the men in the operational area . . . seeing that they reach their destination is the job of the Army postal service

THERE are two regular occasions, so I'm told, on which activity virtually grinds to a halt in remote Army camps: the first is the broadcasting of the "Forces' Requests" programme, and the second is the arrival of the mail bag.

Most troopies — and their wives, mums and girlfriends — take the Army postal system for granted, noticing it only when a letter to Little Johnnie arrives five days later than it might have done.

But spare a thought for the unofficial (and luckless) postmaster of the Rhodesian Army, Maj W. I. (Bill) Edwards, who almost certainly dreams of a white Christmas each year . . . being buried alive in a snowy drift of envelopes.

Not that the incoming deluge slackens off much during the other 11 months — HQ 2 Brigade, where Maj Edwards is AQSO2 (quartermaster, and in charge of administration, which means he's got plenty else to worry about besides mail) receives on average 750 letters a day for onward transmission to military camps.

Powerful headaches

Though various factors implicit in Operation Hurricane — such as frequent troop movements — have given him powerful headaches, Maj Edwards is now confident that the Army has evolved the best possible system.

"Hitherto," he said, "there were three military post offices: MPOs 1, 2 and 3, each representing a district within the operational area. But sudden troop movement from one area to another often meant that the mail wasn't following the men quickly enough.

"For example, one day a soldier might be in the MPO 3 environs, the next in those of MPO 1. So letters to him would have to catch up accordingly. And then of course we'd receive complaints.

"So we had discussions with the postal authorities, and we introduced a new system in March 1974, which was subsequently even further improved in February 1975. In brief, MPO 2 now serves the entire Operation Hurricane area.

"Mail sent to MPO 2 is sorted at our central Army post office and forwarded by us to respective centres. We clear mail twice a day from Kingsway Post Office in Salisbury."

THUS the onus for deciding which specific area a soldier is currently serving in, now falls entirely upon the Army postal sorters.

They have their own system of numbers to denote individual districts, and recently some smart-alecs in operational areas have been notifying their families and friends at home to inscribe such numbers on the envelopes of letters in the hope that correspondence addressed in this way will reach them sooner.

Such hopes are quite groundless, says Maj Edwards — "we ignore these numbers, and stick to our own internal system, so the writers are achieving nothing at all, since all letters go through our usual channels."

It would help, though, if the public were to take care to address envelopes sensibly: people are still merely writing the addressee's number, rank and name, and omitting any mention of his unit.

This means that the sorters have to plough through all their numerous lists trying to trace the man in question.

There's no censorship of mail from or to members of the Rhodesian Army. And those dollybirds who suspect that their envelopes are steamed open for the purple prose therein to be gloated over by prurient eyes, should imagine for a minute what it is to be one of a pair of postal sorters with around 4 500 letters to pigeon-hole each week.

Life-or-death message

The only interest a postal sorter has in his pile of envelopes is to distribute it as efficiently and swiftly as possible before the next mountain comes in.

The Army postal staff do open telegrams though, so that any truly urgent, life-or-death message can be radioed to the man in question.

Where a dependant seems to be in dire straits, according to the contents of the telegram, the Army tries to help until such time as the husband/son in question has been taken out of the operational area and sent home.

But sometimes such investigations come up with surprising results. An instance was the case of a woman in a small Rhodesian town who sent this telegram to her husband while he was doing his TF stint: "Desperately ill, please come home — Your Wife."

The Army telephoned the local police and asked them to call in this woman lest she was alone and in need of assistance. The police duly reported back that the lady was in perfect health and suffering from nothing more than loneliness and boredom.

In contrast, though, are the genuine domestic emergencies. Just one of many such messages was the telephone call Maj Edwards received one afternoon at 2.10 pm from a distraught wife: her mother-in-law was gravely ill and not expected to live. Could her husband be called back to be with his dying mother?

Maj Edwards got the message over the radio to the specific soldier at 2.40 pm., and by 3.30 pm he had arrived at New Sarum airport, Salisbury, having been flown in from the operational area.

LESS vital, but greatly appreciated, were the special arrangements laid on by Maj Edwards for a young university student. He was up from South Africa on vacation, and wanted to visit his father — who was in the Army at the time, and in the operational area — while he was in Rhodesia.

"I contacted the relevant authorities," says Maj Edwards, "and they told me that while the youngster and his mother would not be permitted in the camp itself, they could picnic outside, where the husband and father could join them for an hour or two. This was duly arranged.

"At Christmas, I was surprised and pleased when a card arrived from him, with a very nice thank you note."

Brickbats (largely undeserved) Maj Edwards and his staff get quite enough of . . . it's the unexpected bouquets like that which make their day. ●

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The Army Careers Office

Right: The solemn moment of attestation. Presiding is Maj Nick Lamprecht, Army careers and recruitment officer. This recruit is a reasonably kempt young man: some of the hopefuls entering Maj Lamprecht's office have shoulder-length locks, hippie beads and open sandals. All these soon disappear.

JOINING UP: THE BIG DECISION

Major Nick Lamprecht is the Army careers officer. A 15-minute chat in his office can change a man's life.

OF ALL men in the Rhodesian Army Maj Nick Lamprecht bears a heavy burden of responsibility indeed. As careers officer, it's up to him to open the gates, in the first instance, to each new recruit.

He tells me that this is how it works:"A chap will make an initial enquiry. His attitude, were he joining a bank, say, would probably be very different from the one I generally encounter.

"As a rule, he'll walk in here and say to me: 'I'm thinking of joining the Rhodesian Army.' (Not 'APPLYING to join', note.)

Get your hair cut

"I make this point at the outset, telling him: 'Great; we appreciate your interest. But you'll have to prove to us that you're acceptable. Next time you come to see me, take off your slops and wear proper shoes, cut your hair, and make sure you're decently dressed.

" 'Before you go away, though, let me paint a little picture for you. Understand that once you're accepted and start basic training, we're going to chase hell out of you; make a man of you'."

This homily, plus Maj Lamprecht's impressive combination of rugged looks and forcefulness, will by now have convinced the slop-wearer that the Army, unlike a certain car-hire firm, doesn't always say "Yes".

So off he goes, clutching a wad of application forms and brochures, to ponder the matter; and realise, ultimately upon reading those pamphlets, that what the Rhodesian Army is going to do for him is probably going to be a lot more than what he will be doing for it.

During his second appointment with Maj Lamprecht, he's placed under that wise gentleman's magnifying glass, whether he is aware of this or not.

"This time I have a good look," says Maj Lamprecht. "I try to find out what makes him tick. This interview usually lasts for about half an hour. As regards the questions, I've drawn up a sort of pro forma.

"Should he be a doubtful, I'd then subject him to a variety of tests — mental alertness and psychological aspects come into it, though we don't play around with IQ tests.

"A point I'd like to make here: we're not all that interested in educational qualifications. It's the character I want to know about.

"I ask the bloke what he would like to do in the Army. It's remarkable how few youngsters have thought about what they really want to do with their lives. If he doesn't know, I find out about his hobbies, look at his educational qualifications.

Job satisfaction

"Then I'll make some suggestions. Perhaps his interests indicate a career in Signals. I suggest this to him, and if the job of radio technician seems to appeal, I'll then arrange with a senior Signals officer for him to be interviewed.

"It's a question of fitting round pegs into round holes, because right placement leads to maximum job satisfaction — and, in the end, to how long the Army will hang on to him.

"If he's in the wrong job, he won't want to stay on for any length of time beyond the required minimum."

Maj Lamprecht speaks with utter conviction and sincerity, and truly loves his work. "The Army is the only way of life I know and ever want to know," he says.

Born and educated in South Africa, he joined the SADF at the age of 15. Then, in 1955 he resigned and emigrated to Rhodesia, where he joined the Federal Army.

Upon the break-up of Federation, he elected to join the Rhodesian Army and became chief statistical officer, in which post he remained for 18 months until he was appointed recruiting and careers officer in 1965.

He's been in that post since then, and has never wished to change it.

"I like dealing with people," he says. "It's a challenge, finding out what makes them tick. I've travelled a lot, recruiting, and that's been interesting, of course.

"It's a busy job because for every 10 cases you deal with (each involving several letters, and a file to be built up) you probably end with one recruit."

From where does most of the outside mail, enquiring about jobs in the Rhodesian Army, emanate?

Maj Lamprecht says that this largely depends upon the current political climate.

"For instance, the end of the

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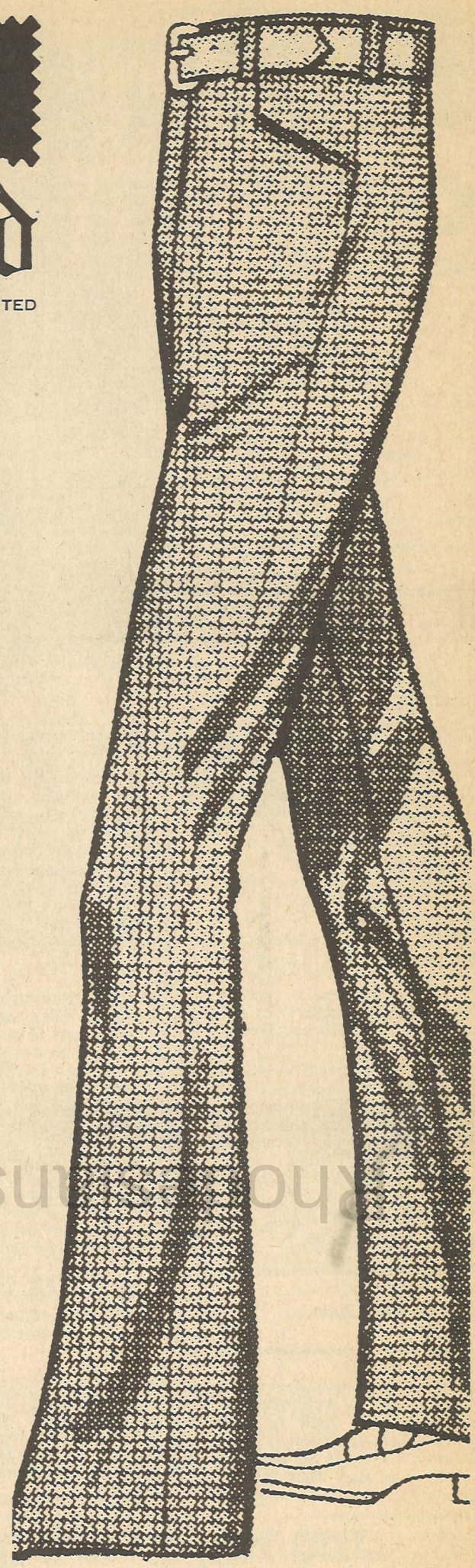

The Army Careers Office

JOINING UP

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The Army Careers Office

JOINING UP: THE BIG DECISION

Vietnam war meant retrenchment. Whenever this happens in an army, I can count on the enquiries pouring in around two weeks later."

Mere job necessity isn't all that prompts applications from outside countries.

Maj Lamprecht comments: "The fact that we're fighting for the survival of our country motivates enquiries from all over the world. I reply to letters such as these, thanking them, but saying that we don't recruit on paper so they come to us — at their own expense, having paid for the requisite return ticket before entering Rhodesia.

"One of my first questions in such a case would be: 'Why do you want to come all that way to join the Rhodesian Army?'

"The answer invariably goes like this: 'I admire the Rhodesians; I admire your cause. You're showing backbone here — you've got enough spunk to stand up and fight these Communist-inspired terrorists. I feel you're achieving something in Rhodesia.'

Necessary adjustments

"As a rule, I get more enquiries per week from overseas than I do from Rhodesia.

"What I really want is young Rhodesians. Although overseas applicants have usually had previous combat experience, they have to be retrained, reorientated, and adjusted not only to the climate but to our way of thinking."

MAJ Lamprecht admits candidly that he wishes he knew why the average young Rhodesian man isn't hastening to his door for application forms.

"I personally didn't join the Army for money (I was paid $3 a month when I joined . . . 'Have you no ambition?' my friends asked me) — but today, our salaries in the Rhodesian Army compare very favourably with the salary in the outside world that a school-leaver could hope to earn.

"I know a young man who's currently articled to a chartered accountant. He's earning $120 a month. In the Rhodesian Army, an 18-year-old would start on $191 a month . . . plus all the benefits.

"So the incentive is there to join the Army. Mind you, we've done a survey of school-leavers, and ascertained that we've been getting our fair share of them as regular soldiers . . . but we want MORE than our fair share."

Maj Lamprecht and I discussed the possible reasons for this comparative lack of interest in the Army as a career; and agreed that a leading factor stems from the upbringing of many 17 to 18-year-olds of today.

The new parents of the late 1950s were conditioned by the peace-loving Thoughts Of Spock, by intimidating articles in newspapers and magazines, threatening dire personality conflicts in store for the child who was soundly smacked or shouted at.

Personality conflicts

In fact, to my mind, the personality conflicts which have arisen as a result of millions of mums restraining itching palms, and dads keeping well out of it all, have been infinitely more deplorable than might otherwise have been the case.

Maj Lamprecht confirms this: "The average youth of today would rather 'do his own thing'. He knows that Army life means discipline, means conforming — and although these would make a man out of him, they just don't appeal."

With those who do have the true grit, there's nearly always a transformation after they've joined up.

"I get them in here — pale, long-haired, scruffy, generally sloppy in bearing. When I see them a few months later (because I always follow them up, to find out if they're happy, how they're progressing, and so on) I never recognise them.

"EACH is suddenly broader in the shoulder, more upright, with added confidence, a sparkle in his eye. When I first saw him, he was a nonentity: now he's a man."

A certain proportion of regulars do leave after their contract period is up, but it's interesting to note that many of these Army drop-outs later return to the fold.

Maj Lamprecht explains: "The young regular may see his civilian friend riding around in a sports car. He feels envious, thinks he could do better for himself. So after his three years are up, he's off.

"Then he finds it's cold out there. Jobs with huge salaries aren't all that easy to find. So he comes back. And when he returns, he then becomes a professional soldier.

"I've seen NCOs who originally left because the grass seemed greener on the civilian side — and who then rejoined us, our bringing them back in as NCOs, but some of these men now having risen to captain."

Not every visitor to Maj Lamprecht's office is a welcome one. He says: "With a face like mine, I've had some near misses, with regard to scraps. (Mind you, I was a keen boxer in my time.)

"Some of these blokes volunteer for the Army just because they've been kicked out of every other job.

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The Army Careers Office

JOINING UP

I remember one in particular been in and out of jail.

"He walked in here quarters stoned at 10 am on say: 'I want to join the RH Army, and you'd better t I've got a lot to offer you (This after having decla convictions.)

"Well . . . I've got to be v lomatic with this sort of p said politely that I'd refer t ter to HQ. 'I can see it in yo that you're not going to take he said. 'Tell you what, I'll f four soldiers.'

"I stood up, walked aro desk, and said: 'Not four, j At this, he ran to one corne room, did a handstand, put against the wall, and did 1 press-ups this way, then himself back on to his feet, 'Can you do that?'

" 'Look,' I said, 'I don't prove myself. I'M not tryin the Army.' At this, he push

"Then there was the bearded fellow who looked Fidel Castro. He said: 'If yo take me into the Army, I'm blow my brains out.' 'Be my I said, 'but don't do it here'

Flotsam and jetsa

The move of the Army and Recruitment Office to t centre hasn't been 100 per c vantageous, in that its wind plays do tend to attract all of human flotsam and jet peak high tide times — such in the afternoon, when gentlemen well past their are weaving unsteadily do street and happen upon the displays, which overcome with a powerful wave of no and a burning desire to lay their lives for their country "It is a far, far better thing do, than I have done before'

SO it is that they totter stairs to Maj Lamprech fice, and say with a flour want to volunteer."

Says Maj Lamprecht: "I've be honest sometimes. If the 65 and stoned, I obviously give him the application for make arrangements for have a medical. So I have him down.

"Often they become belli and say: 'Do you need sold don't you?' Some of them hav phoned the Prime Minister t plain that I rejected them."

Happily, this sort of appli very much in the minority, least brings a touch of h (even if only in retrospect) in Lamprecht's hectic day.

But what makes that day i

The Army Careers Office

JOINING UP: THE BIG DECISION

I remember one in particular who'd been in and out of jail.

"He walked in here three-quarters stoned at 10 am one day, to say: 'I want to join the Rhodesian Army, and you'd better take me. I've got a lot to offer you people.' (This after having declared his convictions.)

"Well . . . I've got to be very diplomatic with this sort of person. I said politely that I'd refer the matter to HQ. 'I can see it in your eyes that you're not going to take me on,' he said. 'Tell you what, I'll fight any four soldiers.'

"I stood up, walked around my desk, and said: 'Not four, just me.' At this, he ran to one corner of the room, did a handstand, put his feet against the wall, and did 10 quick press-ups this way, then threw himself back on to his feet, asking: 'Can you do that?'

" 'Look,' I said, 'I don't have to prove myself. I'M not trying to join the Army.' At this, he pushed off.

"Then there was the huge bearded fellow who looked just like Fidel Castro. He said: 'If you don't take me into the Army, I'm going to blow my brains out.' 'Be my guest,' I said, 'but don't do it here'."

Flotsam and jetsam

The move of the Army Careers and Recruitment Office to the city centre hasn't been 100 per cent advantageous, in that its window displays do tend to attract all manner of human flotsam and jetsam at peak high tide times — such as 2.30 in the afternoon, when various gentlemen well past their prime are weaving unsteadily down the street and happen upon the Army displays, which overcome them with a powerful wave of nostalgia, and a burning desire to lay down their lives for their country, in the "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have done before" vein.

SO it is that they totter up the stairs to Maj Lamprecht's office, and say with a flourish: "I want to volunteer."

Says Maj Lamprecht: "I've got to be honest sometimes. If the bloke is 65 and stoned, I obviously can't give him the application forms and make arrangements for him to have a medical. So I have to turn him down.

"Often they become belligerent, and say: 'Do you need soldiers or don't you?' Some of them have even phoned the Prime Minister to complain that I rejected them."

Happily, this sort of applicant is very much in the minority, and at least brings a touch of humour (even if only in retrospect) into Maj Lamprecht's hectic day.

But what makes that day is when a patently suitable young man walks in and says with real enthusiasm: "I'd like to apply to join the Rhodesian Army."

This gives Nick Lamprecht the sort of pleasure that a prospector experiences when he comes across a particle of gold amongst the dross.

He says: "Probably the most valid comment I can make is that young men on the market for employment just don't realise the tremendous opportunities available to them in the Army here. If they bothered to come and see me, I could tell them all about it. Fifteen minutes in my office might change their lives."

Worthwhile career

This is one of the objectives with which I set out to write *A Pride Of Men.* As its author, let me finish on a personal note: I began the task, looking upon it as a job, albeit an interesting and compatible one.

I have completed it with as much conviction as Maj Lamprecht possesses that the Rhodesian Army provides an eminently worthwhile career for any young man.

ON the purely practical side, the job opportunities it offers are amply illustrated within these pages: corporal to captain within a few years; a lieutenant-colonel at 34; sergeant to general . . . and Army Commander at 46. But there's more to it than the money or promotion.

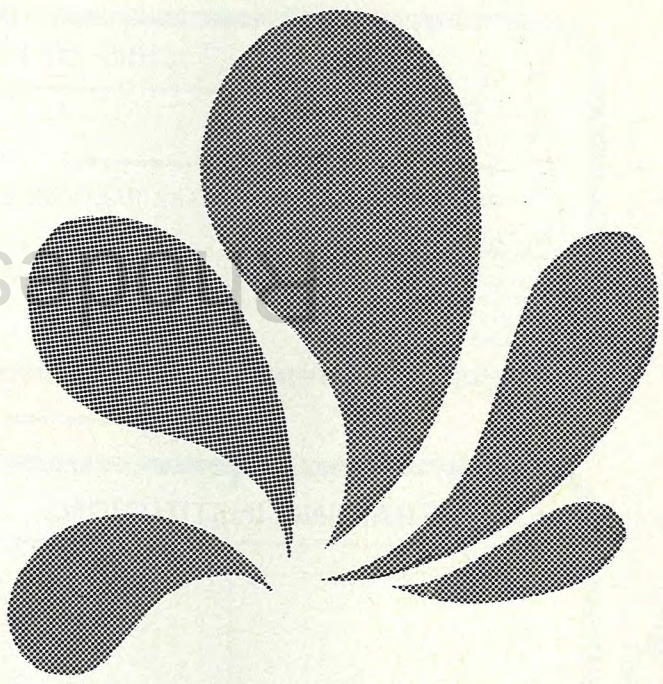
In my travels around Rhodesia, I've talked to hundreds of soldiers, from privates to generals; from "rookies" of 18 to men on the verge of 50 about to retire with real regret. As a military wife myself, I have known a number of these men for several years, and I'm satisfied that they have talked to me frankly.

Deliberately I have not edited their comments for the sake of freshness of content, because I hope that readers will be struck, as I have been, by the same words that keep on cropping up time and time again, in all sectors of the Army, and on every level of those sectors.

Words like "challenge", "job satisfaction", "achievement" and "camaraderie"; phrases like "I couldn't imagine doing anything else", and "I've enjoyed it all, every minute of it", and "The Army is my whole life".

Three hundred years back, Oliver Cromwell, that shrewd judge of troops, said: "I want men who know what they are fighting for; and love what they know."

These are the sort of men we have in the Rhodesian Army; and that is the secret of its proud story of success. ●



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INFANTRY INDEP. COMPANIES	INFANTRY INDEP. COMPANIES	INFANTRY INDEP. COMPANIES
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SIGNALS UNITS	SIGNALS UNITS	SIGNALS UNITS
SERVICES CORPS UNITS	SERVICES CORPS UNITS	SERVICES CORPS UNITS
MEDICAL CORPS UNITS	MEDICAL CORPS UNITS	MEDICAL CORPS UNITS
PAY CORPS ELEMENTS	PAY CORPS ELEMENTS	PAY CORPS ELEMENTS
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