

NO 5

The top half of the cover features a stylized graphic. It shows the silhouettes of two soldiers in the foreground, facing right. The soldier on the left is holding a rifle. Behind them is a large, stylized flag with horizontal bands of red, white, and blue. The background is a solid light blue. The silhouettes of other soldiers are visible in the distance on the right.

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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

P.O. Box 8150, Salisbury, Rhodesia.



FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

J. S. Callow
1/11/77

NUMBER FIVE

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Acknowledgment is made to Captain M. L. M. Blackman, Army Public Relations, for the cover design and to the Rhodesian Security Forces for their co-operation and assistance with photographs and features. The photographs on pages 35 and 43 are by courtesy of The Herald and Sunday Mail.

Published by CentAfrican Press Publications, P.O. Box 1566, Salisbury, Rhodesia. Editor: Sally Bown.

Printed in Rhodesia by Art Printopac

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Rhodesians Worldw

AN aura of glamour seems traditionally to surround the Air Force, giving the erroneous impression that the pilots spend their time propping up bars and chatting up the beautiful girls. Nothing could be further from the truth nor more desirable. No doubt beautiful girls are delighted when the Air Force lads come home on leave, but while they are on duty their lives are far from glamorous, as we were to see when we visited a forward air base.

The light aircraft flew over miles of bush interspersed with clearings where tribesmen till their soil. Even from our altitude it was plain to see how successful aerial observation of suspicious activities must be. The herds of cattle with their young herdsmen, and women and children taking their washing to the river, were easily discernable.

We were to visit Fire Force Bravo, one of a number of units which combine the Air Force mobility with Army fire power in a highly successful anti-insurgency operation.

As our aircraft prepared to land on the grass airstrip the armoured escort car awaited us to deter any ill-advised aggressor from "revving" the runway. The unofficial insignia of a mouse painted on the side of the vehicle, with the motto beneath it, "Seek & Squeak", are misleading, since the young men who man the armoured car are fully capable of blasting any opposition into a state of harmlessness.

"They're magic!" Coming, as it does, from an Army officer, that phrase is praise indeed for the Air Force. The creation of a series of Fire Forces has linked both services closer than ever before. Almost immediately upon our arrival we were to witness the swift and automatic co-operation that has moulded these fighting teams into one of the most successful weapons of the present counter-insurgency war.

A Fire Force is made up of a number of Air Force aircraft (helicopters and fixed-wing) and personnel who co-operate with a number of Army personnel (troops and paratroops). They form a quick reaction team,

completely mobile and self-contained, who are able to provide fire power or assistance immediately on request.

Ten minutes after our arrival a radio message was received from an Army patrol. Women from a certain village had been observed apparently carrying food into the undergrowth and returning empty-handed. A terrorist presence was suspected.

The Operations Commander immediately pinpointed the position on the detailed map in the fully equipped Operations Room. The Army Commander of Fire Force Bravo alerted his troops and carefully studied the map, planning his strategy and discussing alternatives with the young pilots. No formal briefings are necessary, for all those concerned have now become accustomed to the close-knit co-operation that is the essence of their success. They plotted the position on their maps and waited for the word to go. So far there had been no definite call for Fire Force.

Meanwhile the technicians had removed the covers from the already fuelled and serviced helicopters. An extra medical pack was put on board in case a casevac or treatment became necessary. Regrettably the civilians are too often caught up in the cross-fire as the terrorists seek to shield themselves from the security forces.

The troops of the Army contingent, mainly black soldiers, made ready for a possible contact. The Fire Force troops would be taken in by helicopter and dropped in predetermined positions close to the village. Theirs would be the responsibility to investigate the situation and to determine whether or not there was a terrorist presence. Should a contact be made the paratroopers would be called in and dropped by Dakota, with remarkable accuracy, to strengthen and back-up the troops already on the ground. It is a little known fact that a large proportion of the Army paratroopers are in fact blacks, and those attached to Fire Force Bravo during our visit were almost entirely black soldiers.

Further information came from the Army patrol and the camp sprang into action.

The rotors on the helicopters swiftly turned and each machine lifted from its protected enclosure within the camp and landed again on the airstrip to take on the waiting troops. Within minutes they were airborne, carrying their infantrymen to investigate the scene. The paratroopers had by now been checked by their dispatchers to ensure their equipment was correctly fitted and they filed onto the Dakota, which would circle in the area, ready to react to a request from the men on the ground for paratroop back-up. Back at the camp we waited under the hot canvas for news. An air of expectancy pervaded the Operations Room as the Ops Commander maintained radio contact with the Fire Force. The ground troops had been landed, but had discovered no presence. A little later a report was received that tracks of about twenty people had been picked up, but they had passed through earlier in the morning, probably at about dawn. The Dakota was

ordered back to base, while the helicopters "leap-frogged" along bush paths, dropping trackers. This is often successful in ascertaining in which direction the terrorists are travelling and enables the troops to catch up with them. If the helicopters make contact with the terrorists, a radio call will immediately bring back the Dakota with the back-up troops.

Time passed and finally the helicopters returned with rather dejected troops on board. This has been a "lemon", but there is still the hope of another call-out today and the chance of a successful contact. Most military personnel, regardless of race, will vouch that the main problem of the war is not the killing of the terrorists, it is finding them. Once they are found the Fire Force are remarkably successful, as the diary of a young terrorist killed in action testified. The entry read: "The situation at home (his camp) is not very bad, but the problem is Air Force. If you attack anywhere, it doesn't take time for Air Force to come."

The advantage of a Fire Force is that the entire operation can be packed up and moved to a new base within twenty-four hours. The Rhodesian Air Force

Parachute training—a static line jump by RLI soldiers.



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have fully computerised lists of every suitable airstrip in the country, ranging from farm grass strips to more substantial examples. They also have lists of the fuel dumps around the country. At the press of a button all airfields and fuel supplies close to a given trouble spot can be listed and their positions radioed immediately to the Fire Force. The facility provides the Fire Force with extended operational time and distance.

All helicopters carry their own refuelling pump and lubrication requirements, and the technician of each aircraft always accompanies the pilot on his missions. Remarkably quick lubrication services have been accomplished on aircraft involved in a lengthy action, and on one occasion this led to an amusing incident. During a twenty-minute stop the pilot offered to lend a hand and grabbed hold of the first grease gun he could find while the technician refuelled. Only when they later flew through a shower of rain and bubbles foamed up on all sides, did they both realise that he had in fact used the hand-cleaner that the technician had kept in a spare grease gun for convenience.

Everything at a Fire Force base must be transportable, and careful planning is needed to keep sophisticated machinery in peak condition in the bush and provide each aircraft with sufficient fuel to keep it airborne. Fuel storage problems are overcome by the use of huge heavy-duty rubber bladders which are sent in empty when the camp is established and then filled from a bowser. Each waiting aircraft has its own feed pipe leading off the protected bladder and if necessary all aircraft can be refuelled simultaneously.

All personnel of an Air Force are by definition qualified in one field or another. There is a specialist force and no one section can be said to be more important than another. However, the technicians do rate highly in terms of specialist skills.

In the field they often labour under difficult conditions with the technical problems of their own aircraft. We watched the tech. from the Dakota balancing precariously on an old oil drum as he fitted a new part to an engine of his Gooney Bird. Despite the fact that one of the Dakotas in the fleet flew at Arnhem, these grand old warhorses are maintained at a very high serviceability rate. This is a feat the technicians are justly proud of and is in no small part due to the dedication of these young men.

The words of the old poem are remarkably accurate:

"... They patch her up with masking tape, with paper clips and strings;
And still she flies and never dies,
Methuselah with wings."

When a Dakota recently caught its wingtip on a tree whilst landing on a bush airstrip, and tore off a metre of wing, the technician hacked off the ragged edges and bound it up with masking tape, and the aircraft flew its normal missions for the rest of the day.

The Dakota must surely be the most remarkable aircraft ever designed or built.

The helicopters, being more modern than the Dakotas, are more sophisticated and require specialist

knowledge and ability. The technicians must be able to diagnose the problem and assess whether or not they are able to rectify it. If a new engine is required one will be flown out to the base and within two hours the technician and the pilot of the machine will have installed it. Lubrication services are required frequently whilst operating in the dust and heat of the bush, and the young technicians conscientiously ensure that their aircraft are permanently ready for operation. All the work is done by the technicians themselves but there are always willing hands to assist them in the task.

All sections of the Air Force are open to applications from all races and every applicant is judged on the same basis. If he has the correct educational qualifications he will sit a scientifically devised aptitude test to ascertain whether his natural abilities can be used in a particular section of the Air Force.

It is not enough to be educationally qualified and to possess a glamorous vision of flying through the skies with the greatest of ease. The training in all sectors, particularly those of pilot and technician, is far from easy and requires utter dedication and ability.

Technicians serve a five year apprenticeship before they qualify. A pilot can be taught to fly an aircraft in a relatively short time, but to manoeuvre it to the best advantage of the troops he is dropping, and to learn to accurately pick out a map reference when all he sees below him is M.M.B.A. (miles and miles of blasted Africa), whilst still judging and calculating speed, height and distance, requires a good deal more than an ability to keep an aircraft in the sky. The training is arduous. All pilots must have a basic knowledge of the mechanics of their aircraft. After training, each man undergoes further specialised instruction to familiarise him with the particular aircraft he will be using. The skills required to throw a helicopter around the air differ from those required for fighter or bomber aircraft.

Pilots spend up to eight months each year on operational duty. It is exhausting and demanding work. On average they fly troops into two contacts each day. Each helicopter technician is trained in the use of the fitted defensive gun carried by each machine.

But despite the fatigue and danger, and the inevitable disruption to their own personal lives, these young men continue to serve their country, and the Air Force does not lack for volunteers or recruits.

Ten years ago the serviceability rate of the Rhodesian Air Force was 85%, a remarkable figure when, in other parts of the world, a 60% rate is considered good. Last year the Rhodesian serviceability rate was only slightly lower than 85%, and this has been achieved despite the difficulties of a war situation and the problems imposed by sanctions in obtaining spare parts.

In common with so many facets of the Rhodesian economy, sanctions have often provided the incentive for improvisation and invention. With supply markets cut off, the Air Force was thrown back on its own resources and two Rhodesian inventions have proved most successful. For years the Canberra jet engines

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Preparations at a forward base.

were started by an explosive cartridge which was filled with cordite and electrically detonated. They were made by the British, and cost in the region of \$25 each time an engine was started.

When sanctions cut off the supply of cartridges the technicians at New Sarum put their heads together and, following their basic dictum of "what does it do, and how can we make it or substitute it?" they came up with an invention which is not only more efficient and better for the engine, but reduces the cost of starting from \$25 to 40 cents. The specifications of this modification were drawn up and sent to Britain as a matter of courtesy, but there appears to be no record of any response from that country.

The other notable contribution made by the Rhodesian Air Force was low cost practice bombs. When open, the bomb doors of the Canberra tend to create air turbulence which adversely affects the despatching of the British type practice bombs, which were lighter than the real thing. Obviously it is not practicable to practice with highly expensive actual weapons. Quite apart from non-suitability of the British practice bombs, sanctions threatened to cut the supplies, so a substitute had to be found. After experimenting, the Rhodesians came up with a concrete bomb containing a small amount of explosive in the tail marking the landing spot. These proved so successful and well designed that they were frequently found intact after a practice bomb mission, and they reduced the cost of practice bombing to \$12 per weapon.

The logistics of uplifting a body of men with aircraft and equipment and dumping them in the middle of the bush so that they are fully self-contained and operational within twenty-four hours, are fairly complicated.

Aircraft and vehicles need fuel, oil, grease, spare parts; and the men need to be fed and watered and provided with hygienic facilities and accommodation.

For this vital task a Camp Commandant is appointed. He is normally a member of the invaluable Volunteer Reserve, who undergoes detailed instruction on the art of setting up a bush camp from scratch.

Basic plans of the layout of the new camp are provided from the planners at Headquarters, and the Camp Commandant will be flown to his new camp site with his "Travelling Circus". Earthmoving equipment will create the solid ramparts that protect the aircraft and canvas accommodation. On board the aircraft that brings him to the new site will be a ready made up "Domestic Parcel". This giant collection of goods, sealed inside plastic, will provide everything that is needed for a Fire Force contingent, from salt and pepper to pots and pans and canvas tents.

The mobile Operations Room will be brought in by the signals crew, who will set up their own generating plant and aerials.

The canvas tents for the men and the messing facilities are set up according to the camp plan.

Sanitary arrangements must be carefully laid out to avoid ill-health and disease. "Desert lilies" bloom at all necessary points and the shower facilities at Fire Force Bravo closely resembled those in the film "South Pacific", except that there were no lovely girls. A hessian screen encircled a floor of wooden planks which drained into a pit below. An ingenious contraption consisting of a tin with a shower rose and tap fitted, provided cold water showers. Chloride of Lime ensures that flies are not attracted to the sanitary facilities.

The camp kitchen depends on a wooden fire and/or gas cooking ranges, and catering facilities are fairly

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basic, but remarkably palatable food is turned out on to the plates of the men. Food is obtained locally and an allowance of \$1 per day per man is provided to purchase provisions from the local farmers, village or stores. Fresh milk and bread are obtained from the nearest centre, but storage of these perishables presents a problem.

The same messing facilities cater for all ranks and all races. This arrangement has been in operation for some time and has never caused any problems. Black and white members of the Air Force are served the same food and eat it at the same table. They all partake in the communal soft drink facility which provides soft drinks and beer for the men. All Air Force bases are teetotal during daylight hours, and after dusk the bar is open for a strictly limited time.

Coolers and freezers are provided by the Border Patrol Welfare Fund and these are greatly appreciated after a hot day of operational duty.

The Camp Commandant is also responsible for the security arrangements of the camp. Sentry posts must

be built and manned twenty-four hours a day, a task often undertaken by National Servicemen. The armoured cars must be maintained in good condition to afford an escort to all aircraft landing or taking off. At some camps security dogs are used to provide further protection.

Like all wars, a good deal of time is spent in waiting, and the Air Force Welfare Organisation provide the usual dart boards, playing cards and reading matter. The Border Welfare Fund donates six new paperback books per month to each base camp and donations in this line from the public are always gratefully received. If the camp is close to a farming community or village where film shows are given regularly, attempts are made to show the film at the camp.

The men look forward to receiving parcels of goodies from friends and relatives, and the mail is eagerly awaited. The public may care to take note that in the heat of bush camps, savoury rather than sweet items are more appreciated.

One item that no one has to wait for is their pay

Paratroopers ready to jump.

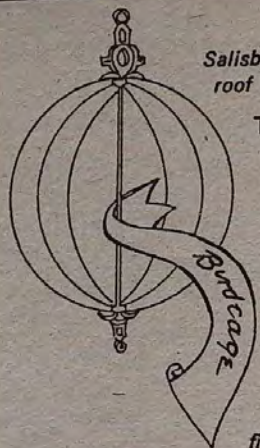


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Casualties are airlifted to medical centres as speedily as possible after receiving first aid.

packet. The Camp Commandant endeavours to distribute the pay regularly to each man.

Basic medical care is provided by the medic attached to the Army contingent at the Fire Force camp. Tied to the tent pole in the mess tent is a disconcerting notice which enquires, "Have you had your pill today?" The all-important anti-malarial tablets are permanently on display, beside the heat fatigue tablets, on the dining table. Prevention is better and cheaper than cure.

An important side benefit provided by a Fire Force is the facility of Casevac.

If a member of their own force is injured he will receive first aid and life support from his comrades and the Army medic, and then he will be lifted out of the field as swiftly as possible. The helicopters carry full medical packs which can deal with most eventualities, and if necessary the helicopter can carry two stretcher cases at one time. Frequently calls for assistance are received from the civilian population, particularly in the tribal areas where non-selective land-

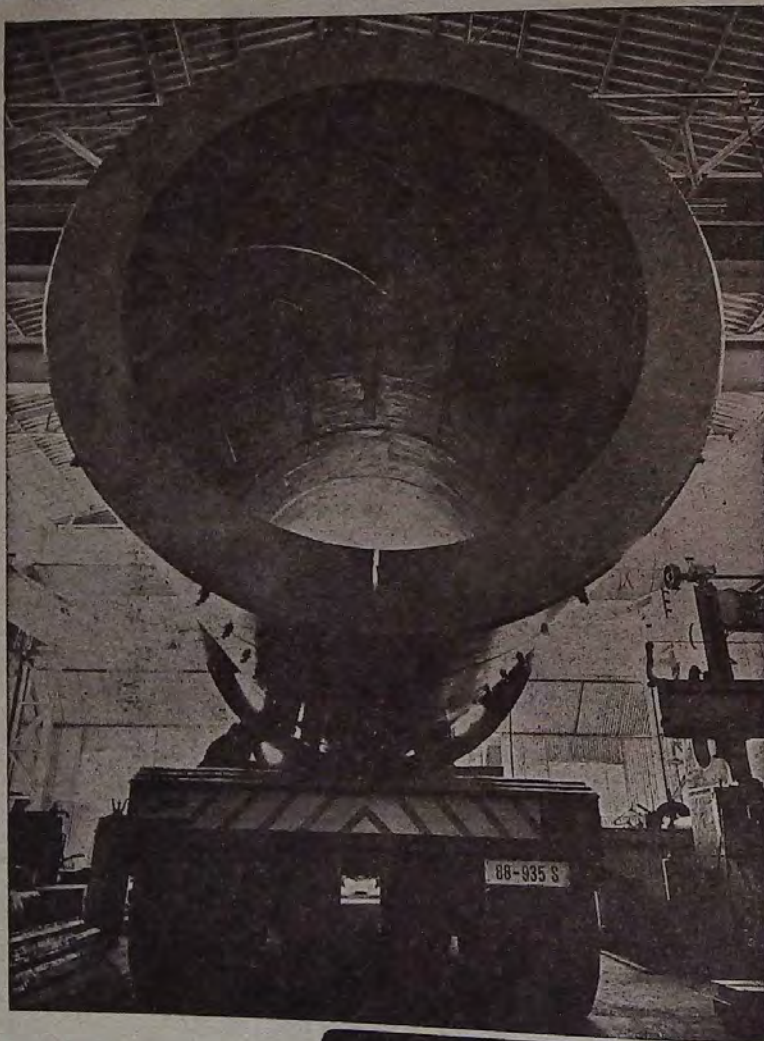
mines are detonated by unsuspecting tribesmen and children driving their scotchcarts about their business.

The helicopters and their crews will immediately attend the scene. Both the pilots and the technicians have a basic first aid knowledge, and together with the medic or doctor they will render assistance and uplift the patient to the nearest medical centre.

Alae Prasaedio Patria. So runs the motto of the Rhodesian Air Force and this is indeed the case. Despite all difficulties the members of this small but effective force have proved their worth. As our light aircraft taxied down the runway with the "Seek & Squeak" armoured car cruising along beside us, we looked back for a last glimpse of the sandy base camp of Fire Force Bravo.

A solitary technician was still servicing his helicopter and the crew of the Dakota were relaxing in the late afternoon shade of their aircraft. As days go, this had been quiet, but hope springs eternal, and there will always be tomorrow and the promise of a mission successfully flown and a contact successfully made.

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RHODESIAN WOMEN'S SERVICE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE

Rhodesians Worldwide

WHEN the women of Rhodesia grew dissatisfied with taking a back seat in the war against terrorism they began to pester the Army with requests to join up. They had had their fill of baking cakes and knitting balaclavas. Their menfolk were becoming more involved in the defence of their country and the women felt strongly that if the Army could be persuaded to recruit women they could be used to great advantage in many tasks which would then release able-bodied men for more active work.

So in 1975 the Rhodesian Women's Service was formed and amidst much shaking of heads and doubtful glances, the first intake of women joined the Army on a trial basis.

Happily, the prophets of doom have been proved wrong and three years later the RWS is an unqualified success.

At the start, conditions for women were not conducive to persuading them to make a career in the Army, but as time went by this improved. In 1977 it was realised that it was necessary to bring the RWS into line with the male element, or at least up to 80 per cent. in line. When I raised queries about equality to Lt. Trow, she assured me that this in fact was quite fair, since the girls are not deployed in the operational area. The girls do qualify for the same perks as their male colleagues.

FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA



Women are serving their country in centres throughout Rhodesia.

To begin with, there was no rank structure in the RWS, but as the Service grew with each intake the matter of distribution of responsibility had to be looked into. Today the rank structure of the RWS is exactly the same as any other unit in the Army. Women must hold the same qualifications as their male counterparts, and pass the same promotion examinations, although for obvious reasons there are certain modifications to these on the tactical side.

Commissioning Courses of 12 weeks' duration are held, and despite the hard work necessary to pass the examinations, these are well subscribed. Prospective candidates must have been in the force for a minimum of six months, have an A category medical fitness rating, and possess O Levels in English, Mathematics and a language or a science subject.

Duties

No matter how persistent the women may become, the Army dig their heels in at having women in the operational area. The main duties of the RWS tend to be clerical and administrative, answering telephones, typing letters, ordering stores and generally keeping the office side of the Army in order.

The RWS do in fact have certain specialists who have either joined up with a specific purpose in mind

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or have shown a certain aptitude towards one aspect of the military machine.

Amongst these are riding instructors and "remount riders", who, I discovered, in reality were the equivalent to bronco busters, in that they re-train and, if necessary, re-break horses acquired by the Army for use in the operational area. There are also women Laboratory Assistants and SRNs on the medical side, Radio operators in the communications department, one talented lady who has a bent towards radio technology and is on her second course with the Army on this subject, and a woman Mine Dog Handler. The Mine Dog Handler is one of the few women who succeeds in getting anywhere near the operational area.

The RWS is permanently on the look-out for members with a particular ability in any one direction, and they also hope to train their own instructors for future courses run for the women. At present there is one officer who is an instructor and who was trained in Rhodesia.

The girls of Rhodesia are obviously keen to do their bit and the RWS has no difficulty in recruiting girls for each intake. Because of lack of accommodation the recruits live at home, or, if they are from out of town, they live in one of the Army flats in town. Because of the numbers of volunteers the RWS choose the top 30 girls for each intake, judging them on their academic qualifications and medical fitness. The initial training course lasts for one month and includes physical training, drill, administration lectures, familiar-

isation with Army procedure. They are supplied with a free uniform: a smart outfit including a hat, sling bag, shoes and rain coat, and made an offer of a salary dependent upon their academic qualifications and experience, as are all Army personnel.

If the recruit accepts the offer, she is invited to sign on for a period of one, three, five or seven years. New recruits are advised to sign on for one year initially.

The RWS try as far as possible to follow the conditions of service of other branches of the Armed Forces, and the girls receive the normal Army medical and dental benefits. They also receive a living out allowance to assist with their accommodation. Their scale of pay is the same as the men except for the obvious discrepancies where certain allowances do not apply to the women, such as the various bush allowances.

At present the women are not given any monetary incentive to sign on for extended periods, but as the service grows there are expected to be adjustments to this oversight.

Today women are serving their country in uniform in centres all over Rhodesia. They have proved themselves fully capable of shouldering responsibility and taking over vital jobs previously done by men. The success of the RWS has been largely responsible for the recent situation where the Rhodesian Army found itself fully up to strength and called a temporary halt to recruitment—a most satisfactory position.

Weapon training is undertaken by all recruits.



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THE SPECIAL RESERVE

THE blue overalled figures of the Special Reserve, pounding their beat, questioning late night pedestrians and checking on homes, have become a familiar and comforting sight.

The Special Reserve was in existence many years ago, when it was deemed sensible to create a force which could be called up in the event of civil disturbance or a national emergency. They were not a regular part of the Police force but were attested into the force when necessary, and discharged again when the emergency was over. In those halcyon days their recognised weapons were simply a police baton, wicker shield and tin hat, and their only means of identification was an arm band bearing the words "Special Constable".

The Special Reserve were used increasingly during the early 1960s and whenever necessity arose until 1974.

Chief Inspector Le Guern was looking forward to an enjoyable retirement after twenty three years in the Police force. But it was not to be. In 1974 he was asked to resuscitate and re-organise the Special Reserve, and form it into a properly constituted, uniformed, volunteer force.

His first task was to visit all urban Police Stations and delve into dusty files until he found the appropriate lists of names and papers pertaining to the Specials. After a great deal of checking new lists were compiled of members in each area. A uniform was designed, and the members became an official part of the Police force, charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order in their own residential areas. Theirs was primarily a crime prevention function. They were armed in the same manner as a regular policeman would be undertaking a similar task, with hand-cuffs, baton and police whistle.

By 1975 the newly organised Special Reserve had become an effective part of the anti-crime aspect of the

Police force. In areas where patrols had been active, the crime rate had dropped significantly.

As the Specials (as they came to be called) proved themselves in one field, the regular Police felt sufficiently confident to give them further duties, and their scope widened to include such duties as assisting Field Reservists on road block duties, surveillance and creating a police presence in shopping centres and cinema complexes. Since the Woolworth's disaster when so many innocent civilians were blown apart by a bomb of communist manufacture, their duties have also included anti-bomb patrols, keeping a watchful eye open for suspicious-looking parcels and searching likely hiding places for explosive devices. Their duties also include assisting the regular Police in urban and peri-urban Police stations by manning telephones and radios.

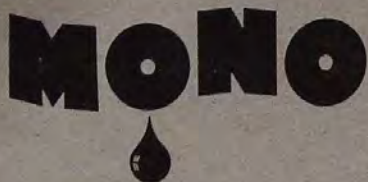
Their hours of duty are normally from 6.00 p.m. onwards and on Saturday morning, but on occasions they can be called out during the day. Some members, who are retired from business, volunteer for duty during the day time.

In the cities and towns where the Special Reserve operate, areas of responsibility are defined according to each urban Police Station. Each area is commanded by a Chief Warden who liaises with the Member in Charge at the area Police Station.

Each area is divided into Wards, each in the charge of a Warden, and each Ward is divided further into Sections in the charge of a Section Leader. The Section Leaders are responsible for arranging patrols of their own areas, deploying men who are from that particular area. This arrangement ensures the advantage of local knowledge of the area the patrols will cover, and since the men are from the area there is the added incentive of protecting their own "patch".

Training in each area is in the form of evening lectures which familiarise the member with the basic knowledge required by a policeman. This includes

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knowledge of his powers of arrest, what offences he has powers of arrest for, and what degree of force is permitted in making the arrest. They are also required to deal with grievances from the public and must know the bye-laws governing such items as barking dogs and noisy neighbours. Radio procedure and map reading are also included in the training.

Members are instructed in the use of a number of different firearms ranging from the automatic pistol to the FN. Should the need arise the Special Reserve could and would be armed.

Volunteers between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five who have no other military commitment are welcomed as members of the Specials. Since the thirty-eight to fifty age group have been transferred to the regular Field Reserve, the Specials tend to be composed of the older age group men, or those who have no other military commitment due to medical reasons. However, it is cheering to hear that there are a number of younger men who volunteer to assist the Specials on the understanding that their military commitment takes priority over any Specials commitment.

The Key Point Specials have no official uniform and their main function is to ensure the security of national key points, such as power stations, water works, pumping stations, bulk food storage areas, etc. The members are drawn from the employees at each point and should an attack occur, the members would immediately assume Police powers to enable them to defend their positions. They would have legal powers of arrest and be entitled to issue orders pertaining to the safety of the employees and the building.

It is not only whites who are members of the Special Reserve. In Asian and Coloured residential areas the identical system exists. The success of each area patrol hinges heavily on the number of volunteers available. The Asian and the Asian and white areas have proved most successful. Mixed patrols have encountered no difficulty in co-operating together for the good of the community. A number of younger men, with other military commitments, help in the duties of the Specials whenever they can.

The Coloured residential areas are not so successful in raising volunteers to police their own patch.

The Special Reserve is not open to blacks, but those who wish to protect their community can perform the same duties in the African Field Reserve; and indeed, many blacks have already joined this Reserve wing.

Like all voluntary services, there are seldom sufficient members to satisfy the man in charge. Chief Inspector Le Guern assures potential volunteers that although they may expect to be used in a widening role, there is no danger that anyone will expect them to act as Shock Troops. The capabilities and stamina of the members are taken into account when appointing members to their duties.

The age limit of the Specials is sixty-five. However, if a member has been attested into the force before he reaches that age, and agrees to undergo a medical exa-



An African member of the Police Support Unit upholds the Police tradition — "we never sleep and are always ready."

mination annually, he may be permitted to remain on strength until the age of seventy. After that age, however, the force insist that the member resigns.

The Special Reserve can claim to be the only truly voluntary force in the country, for they do not receive even a token payment. Members are entitled to claim petrol used on duty and the cost of telephone calls made on behalf of the Specials, but few members avail themselves of these refunds. However, there is no shortage of recipients for petrol coupons, which is very understandable.

The Specials uniform consists of a dark blue overall and a hard helmet, but most strangely, no boots. Members must provide their own footwear.

When Chief Inspector Le Guern requested 4 000 torches and batteries from Stores, the reply he received was quite unprintable. He was undaunted, however, by this rebuff, and with the spirit of "do-it-yourself" that seems to prevail in Rhodesia, he set about finding the required torches. The Natal branch of the Friends of Rhodesia came to his rescue, and the South Africans sent up the torches together with batteries. However, batteries have a habit of running out and requiring replacement, and again the Natal Friends of Rhodesia have come up trumps. They now ensure a regular supply of torch batteries to the Special Reserve.

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FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

Who takes care of the caretaker's family while the caretaker is busy taking care? There was once a song along those lines. Thanks to the Special Reserve, men who are out on call-up in operational areas can feel easier about leaving their wives and families at home. It is reassuring to know that the Specials patrol their areas regularly, creating a uniformed presence and checking on suspicious loiterers. If women or elderly people are left alone, application may be made at the local Police Station for special house surveillance.

From information that filters back to the Police, it is known that the black population of areas where patrols are active also appreciate the added security engendered by their presence.

Since they are more often the victims of muggings and robberies, this is not surprising.

The role of a Special Reservist is not, perhaps, exciting, but it is vital to the safety of the civilian population, and contributes a good deal to the peace of mind of those younger men who shoulder the responsibility of defending Rhodesia's borders.

Carry on Copper, we welcome your shadowy figure along the street as dusk falls.

SUPPORT UNIT

PAMBERI ne gondo! Forward the Eagle!

This is the motto and the pride of the Police force.

The members of the Support Unit have earned themselves fame and recognition during the past few years, and it is known that terrorists now quiz the local villagers as to whether or not the soldiers in the area wear an eagle on their uniform. The main problem experienced by Support Unit is that the terrorists are becoming increasingly reluctant to stand and fight with them. The men of the "Black Boots" maintain that their kill rate would be greatly increased if only the terrorists were prepared to face them in battle.

The Support Unit was originally an Askari troop whose sole function was ceremonial guard duties, and as such they have been in existence almost as long as the B.S.A. Police itself. The ceremonial guards on duty at Government House are supplied from the Support Unit.

With the advent of civil disturbances and riots in the early 1960s it was felt there was a need for a force that could be used as support strength for the Police in various districts. These were not intended to be a regular complement to the district strength, but a temporary back-up strength to assist during trouble periods. The Support Unit, as such, then came into being and when they were first deployed in Bulawayo during a period of civil disturbance, the local black population were heard to query who these military-looking people were. When they were told they were Police, the local people would not believe it. It was not possible for them to be Police, because all policemen of their acquaintance wore brown boots, and these people had black boots; and from those observations the nickname of "Black Boots" stuck to the Support Unit.

From small beginnings the Black Boots have expanded many times over, and now every operational area has its complement of Support Unit operating within it.

Each troop consists of both black and white members who come from all parts of Rhodesia.

The black members are recruited from the age of 18, and once trained will become regular members of the Support Unit. The white members are either volunteer regular policemen who have completed the normal police training at Morris Depot, or they are National Servicemen who have volunteered to serve their time with the Support Unit. The National Servicemen first complete the normal police training course at Morris Depot and are then required to serve a full two years with the Support Unit to ensure continuity. Thereafter their six-week call-ups are with the normal police units.

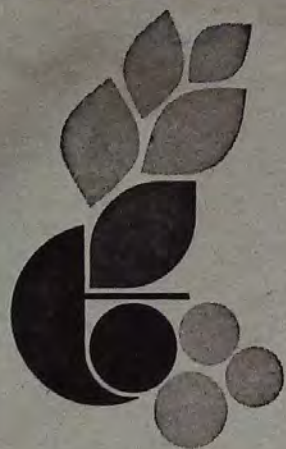
The secret of the success of the Support Unit lies in the close comradeship and spirit that builds up over time between the members of each stick. The same blacks and whites tend to serve together for extended periods, and this is why the territorial members may only serve their initial two years with the Support Unit. The temporary introduction of territorial members on short call-up periods would disrupt the close co-operation that has built the Black Boots into the fine fighting force they are. The ratio is normally one white to

A moment's relaxation during battle training.



FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

23



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exercises are just one
aspect of the Support Unit
training to be entirely
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eight blacks, and as one black member told me with a cheerful grin, "We are better at tracking and fighting, and the whites are better at organising and planning the strategy."

The recruits, whether they are raw black recruits with no previous experience or whites who have passed through Morris Depot, receive a thorough military training to equip them for the role they will be expected to play in the operational area.

The Black Boots are no respecters of race. The morning I visited Tomlinson Depot a black Sergeant-Major was tearing strips off a mixed unit on the parade ground and shortly afterwards several black and white members were to be seen running around the square with their rifles held above their heads. Their offence was that their equipment had not been clean and serviceable. One day their lives and those of their team mates may depend upon a serviceable rifle and full ammunition pouches, and the Support Unit prefer their members to sweat a little more on parade rather than never sweat again!

Training is thorough and covers weapon drill of a variety of weapons, and the full range of counter-insurgency tactics. A great deal of the training period is spent in the Battle Camps where the recruits are made to double everywhere. It is normal for them to run 30 km a day. They sleep in the open, do their own washing and ironing and generally learn to flourish under very rough conditions. The black and white members of each troop stick together through the training in the same way as they will patrol together in the operational area.

The accent at the Battle Camps is on aggression, and the instructors seldom let up during training. The results are rewarding and are proving effective. The men are taught to fire with both eyes open and from a kneeling position. They learn to fire a machine-gun from the shoulder and to carry it for many kilometres without a sling. The machine-gun weighs 12 kg and it takes a fit man to carry this additional weight all day without tiring.

The most demanding part of the Battle Camp is the 150 metre long battle inoculation where men are put through contact conditions with the use of live am-

munition. Everything that can possibly happen to a man in a contact happens to him on that battle inoculation. First he comes under machine-gun fire. Running through a river, explosives are detonated beside him. Running upstream he has to fire at terrorist targets that appear on each side of him. In a mock terrorist base camp further explosives go off around him. After that he comes under further heavy small arms fire and then mortars, before he finally hurls a grenade. Some recruits come through better than others, but they all come through, and to date there has not been a serious casualty.

Members of the Black Boots come from almost every tribal area in the country and they know instinctively when the behaviour of the local villagers is suspicious or uneasy, indicating the presence of terrorists. They are naturally good trackers and have great staying powers. Running 15 km before engaging the enemy is common, but one man recently ran a total of 40 km in a day so he could take part in five separate contacts.

The Support Unit is never short of volunteers, and for every squad in training there is one applicant squad waiting to begin.

The qualifications of the applicants are checked, and they must have passed Standard 6 education and be graded A1 in medical fitness. Despite the close checking, there are still approximately 8 per cent. of applicants who drop out during training, mainly for physical reasons. Weaknesses that were not previously apparent are brought out during the course.

Although the white National Servicemen are not accepted back after their initial two-year period with the Support Unit, there have been numerous cases of men returning to join the regular Police with the stated proviso that they will be deployed with the Black Boots.

Apart from the administrative block and armoury, it is obvious that the Support Unit has been labouring under fairly makeshift conditions at Tomlinson Depot. The clinic where the men receive attention to minor cuts and bruises and obtain their anti-malarial tablets is a prefabricated hut. The stores are constructed from corrugated iron and the armoury workshop is so small that when two people are inside there is scarcely room for the weapons they repair. The rapid growth of the

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Unit caught everyone unprepared and the single lecture room soon became completely inadequate.

The Support Unit are not too unhappy, though, and they take pride in their ability to achieve so much with so little. They also hasten to mention their new Depot on the outskirts of Salisbury where there are new single and married quarters for both junior and senior staff and four times as much accommodation as is available at Tomlinson. The new project will eventually cost about \$6 000 000 and will include a school, clinic, canteens, headquarters block, armouries, magazines, training wings, lecture rooms, married and single quarters, a football field and a swimming pool.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-1979 but the first moves to the new premises will take place in May, 1978. The swimming pool will be particularly welcome as the members of Support Unit tend not to benefit greatly from the generosity of public donations which supply portable pools and other comforts to base camps in the bush, since they are seldom static for any length of time.

Support Unit receive their orders from the JOC of the area in which they are deployed. They are highly mobile and will move their base camps to the areas where they are required and operate from there. They operate as a troop, going into the bush for periods of six weeks or so. They are entirely self-reliant, even to provisioning of the men. They are given a ration allowance and expected to provide for themselves from the district in which they are operating. They purchase their food from local stores or from local farmers or villagers, and there has never been any instance of looting or theft. This is partially due to the pride that the members take in the good name of their unit, and also to the harsh discipline meted out to members of Support Unit who overstep the mark.

The only part that Headquarters play in the operations of the Black Boots is to maintain radio contact, supply transport when required and to re-supply ammunition.

The fleet of vehicles bearing the golden eagle is fairly extensive and, despite the normal military complaints that there are never sufficient, they appear to serve the Unit well. The CMED do a grand job in servicing the range of lorries. Hyenas, kudus and rhinos appear from time to time in the vehicle yard before being deployed again.

The stories of courage among members of the Support Unit are legion, and there are two holders of the Police Cross for Conspicuous Gallantry.

One is Constable Mazarire, who was in his fourth year with the Support Unit. "He was on deployment at about 7.30 in the morning when 15 terrorists opened up an ambush. The unit returned fire and kept their heads down. The section officer, who was driving, was wounded and Constable Mazarire went to his aid. The constable was hit in the left arm but continued to get out of the truck when he saw the section officer struggling. He was then shot in the back. But the con-

stable continued to go to the aid of his section officer, and as he pulled him to cover he was shot once again. He then went back for the radio so the alarm could be raised and was shot again."

Today Constable Mazarire has lost approximately 40 per cent. of the use of his right hand, and although he does not in fact take part in active patrols, he provides a forbidding base camp deterrent.

Constable Kumpoundi is another holder of the Police Cross. He formed part of an escort party when the convoy was ambushed by a group of terrorists. The vehicle was struck by an RPG-7 rocket, badly injuring other members in the vehicle. Terrorists then directed small arms fire at the vehicle from 20 metres away. Kumpoundi, despite bruises to his lower back, lacerations to his right thigh and a perforated ear drum, immediately returned the terrorists' fire. This resulted in three terrorists turning away from pressing home an attack. He then pulled himself from his seat and fired towards another five terrorists who were intent on continuing the ambush. This was sufficient to stop the second attack being pressed. He then took up a defensive position to protect the other members of the party. He had controlled his fire to the extent of only expending 60 rounds out of his holding of ammunition. He then, on orders, ran, armed but unaccompanied, some 8.7 km through the bush to seek assistance. His journey, through territory known to contain terrorists and sympathisers, took approximately one and a half hours, enabling a rescue party to be despatched immediately.

The spiritual care of the members of the Black Boots is not forgotten and the Support Unit padre, nicknamed The Silver Fox, ministers to his men wherever

Constable Mazarire was awarded the Police Cross for Conspicuous Gallantry.



FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA



**The Bata
movement.
Get into it.**

and whenever he can find transport to take him into the bush. He closely resembles a white haired Friar Tuck as he emerges from his office, which at present is an old caravan, but he has hopes that once the move to the new Depot is completed he might for once be able to operate from a more substantial base.

The Support Unit rather pride themselves on their ability to operate on a fraction of the base staff of other arms of the forces. Parcels and letters delivered to Tomlinson Depot for the men in the bush are despatched with the first transport travelling in that direction. Happily, the monthly pay can be expected on time, wherever the men may be, and a small registry staff arrange for the wage packets to be delivered regularly.

There is also a special Police Reserve section who serve the Support Unit, working as drivers and radio operators at the base camps, thus relieving regular members of these tasks and enabling them to undertake more active duties.

WOMEN POLICE

THE B.S.A. Police has traditionally been a force where young men from abroad joined up for a few years and then found themselves staying on. The Women's Section of the Police is no different, although many more Rhodesian girls than foreigners apply.

At present the Women's Section is up to establishment, but one of the weaknesses of females is that they will insist on getting married, and more often than not they then resign from the Force, although there are no regulations prohibiting policewomen serving on after marriage.

Rhodesians of all races are accepted and the initial period of service is for two years, of which the first three months is spent in training. The recruits are supplied with a free uniform and receive excellent medical and dental care. As in all services, there are always members who consider the salaries too low in these days of inflation, but nevertheless the girls still join up. The interest provided by their jobs more than makes up for the extra money received by their less motivated friends on the outside.

Provision of accommodation is still providing a complication to the Police Force because of a lack of suitable premises in the vicinity. The most practicable arrangement has proved to be to provide the African policewomen with a hostel in one of the Salisbury suburbs, since their houses tend to be some distance from the city centre, and to let the white policewomen live in private accommodation for which a living out allowance is payable.

The women learn almost all that is taught to the men in training, except those subjects pertaining to active combat duty, and are then gainfully deployed in a wide variety of branches.

The nerve centre of a police station is the Public Enquiries and Control Section, or to those who have not moved with the times, the Charge Office. Here women man the radio sets, including the 24-hour com-

munications set which is in contact with the B cars. A good deal of the routine Charge Office work is carried out by the policewomen.

If they have passed their Advanced Driving Test women may also qualify as B car drivers, or they act as Observers in a patrol car. They must, therefore, be trained and competent to carry out the initial investigations for the numerous situations they are likely to be called to. The more likely scenes would be motor accidents, housebreaking or assault, and the policewoman must be capable of taking command of a situation, calming the lost tempers and comforting the shocked, whilst at the same time taking note of what has transpired and forming a quick judgement as to what other assistance she should radio for.

Women may also work in the Investigation Department and follow up the cases with full investigations until they reach the court stage.

Traffic Enforcement is also an important part of their work, and those drivers in a hurry who are willing to risk their own and other people's lives by beating the traffic lights should remember that there are qualified women watching out for people like them.

Those girls who join the Police with romantic ideas of becoming a "007" may have their dreams shattered by reality, but they can nevertheless join the CID or Special Branch. The Crime Prevention Unit is also open to women. Unfortunately no one at Police Headquarters was prepared to enlarge upon the work entailed by these sections of the Force, since they have no desire to tip off every criminal in Rhodesia. However, enough has been written in fiction and in fact to give prospective candidates a vague idea of what to expect.

In any event they will have had to pass through the normal Police training school before they will be permitted to branch out into a specialist section of the Force, and once there they will be put on probation for one year before being fully accepted onto the strength of that section.

The African policewomen receive the same uniform, pay and conditions of service as their white counterparts, and the only discrimination seems to be in the Women's Lib area of promotions. Promotion opportunities do exist but few women have the necessary experience. I was also told by one young woman that few policewomen particularly want to "push a pen" in a higher up administrative job. They would far rather be out on the job. There is also the problem of length of service and the accumulation of experience that comes over the years. Many women exchange their uniforms for orange blossom long before they could hope to reach promotion.

That is not to say that our policewomen are not capable of doing an excellent job in maintaining law and order in Rhodesia. They are well trained and smartly turned out and they do not learn their Judo and unarmed combat lessons just for fun. They are more than capable of "getting their man" and seeing to it that he receives his just deserts.

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FENCING SERVICES



THE HOME FRONT

—a salute to the civilians who do their bit

THE spotlight of acclaim rests on the fighting men of Rhodesia, as indeed it should, since they daily place their lives in danger in order that this country may continue to function free from the burden of communist doctrines. But there are many Back-room Boys amongst the civilian population, without whose help and moral support the armed forces would find life rougher and tougher, and we have taken this opportunity to salute them. We cannot hope to cover every organisation which has contributed to the war effort and have picked out but a few, but to those hundreds of people who stolidly continue to "do their bit", we pay tribute. The stability and progress of a country rests upon people such as these.

Rhodesians World ST. GILES

Courage, Endeavour, Achievement: everything about St. Giles aims towards the attainment of these three values.

The cheerful, matter-of-fact attitude of the staff and patients surrounds the entire complex, from the bright, modern reception hall, through the physio and occupational therapy rooms, to the private wards where a small number of patients live for varying lengths of time.

St. Giles was founded when the Cerebral Palsy Association merged with the Polio Association. With help from dedicated people such as Lady Cumings, who has been associated with St. Giles for over 20 years, the present modern and efficient complex has emerged.

The cost of running such a comprehensive rehabilitation service is enormous. Last year it reached \$300 000. Government and Municipal grants pay for one third of this cost; one third is received from fees of those attending therapy at the centre; and one third comes from the ever generous Rhodesian public.

"I cannot praise the generosity of the public enough," said Miss Morris, the Administrative Director, "they have been magnificent all along."

If a patient is genuinely unable to pay the fees, these are reduced or waived altogether. "We turn no Rhodesian away" is the guiding dictum of St. Giles.

There is an adult ward block with nine beds and a

school hostel for 25 to 30 resident children. The bulk of the patients visit the centre daily for treatment and 1 600 treatments a month are given to outpatients, a fair proportion of whom are from the Security Forces. "But I am happy to say we are fairly empty at the moment," said Miss Morris; and indeed, the treatment rooms were very quiet when I saw them.

Miss Morris feels strongly that handicapped people should be integrated fully into society once they have begun treatment at the centre. "The public must realise," she said, "that people attending St. Giles are not ill. They are perfectly capable of living happy and productive lives. We aim to provide the treatment necessary to ensure the fullest possible physical and psychological recovery from injury or disease; and to help disabled people adjust to the problems of daily living and attain independence despite their disability. You will not find any of our people feeling sorry for themselves for long."

St. Giles offers a comprehensive range of facilities, amongst which are:—

Physiotherapy, which involves muscular re-education and strengthening exercises; training in walking, co-ordination and balance; training in the use of orthopaedic appliances and walking aids; hydrotherapy in a warm water pool; heat therapy and a respiratory unit to provide inhalation therapy and chest physiotherapy for patients suffering from chronic lung disease.

Speech Therapy for patients who have suffered a speech defect through injury or illness.

Psychology Department, which provides help and guidance for patients who have problems adjusting to serious injury or disability.

Occupational Therapy, including work assessment, placement and remedial therapy. Various types of individual remedial therapy as well as group activities are included. A large and well equipped heavy workshop supervised by the Technical Instructor, and an "aids-to-daily-living" flat unit with specially adapted bathroom and kitchen are incorporated in this department.

A Work Assessment Unit who make pre-vocational investigations and assessments with a view to recommending suitable employment possibilities for handicapped work seekers. Practical and written tests are



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Sheltered Workshops for women who are unable to adjust to open employment but are capable of attaining a good standard of productivity in a sheltered environment.

A *Medical Social Worker* who organises group therapy visits patients in their homes, and through personal consultation assists with any social and financial problems a patient may have.

A *Community Centre*, which forms an integral part of the rehabilitation programme, provides full social and recreational facilities for both past and present patients. Various social and sporting events are arranged here where the facilities are fully adapted to wheelchairs and the needs of handicapped people.

Occupation Group. The Beit Hall at the Community Centre is also available for handicapped persons in need of mutual stimulation and social contact and who can also benefit from some form of productive occupation.

Occupational Therapy

Sister Nicholson, the Co-ordinating Sister, guided me through the therapy rooms where the most ingenious equipment is available to help the patient. As we entered the Occupational Therapy room we were greeted by a Police Reservist who had been injured on PATU patrol. He was winding a wheel with a heavy weight on a pulley, to strengthen the muscles on his arms and hands.

"Welcome to the torture chamber," he said with a rueful grin. But it turned out that the torture chamber had given him back the use of his left hand and much of his right, in just one month of therapy. Specially designed games are made up by the St. Giles workshop. A giant chess board, with pegs for the pieces, hung on the wall. This was to encourage the players to raise their arms above their heads. Weaving and carpet looms at various heights are used for the same purpose. Clearly many patients discover hidden artistic talents, for we saw some beautiful collage and batik work.

A fully equipped flatlet leads off the Occupational Therapy room. Here patients are trained to cope with everyday living. Simple aids, such as a holder to keep a saucepan still on the stove, or to secure an egg-beater so it may be used with only one hand, are available to the patient for home use. Before the patient leaves St. Giles his private home is assessed and recommendations are made for the necessary adjustments (such as handrails and ramps to accommodate a wheelchair) to provide the patient with the greatest degree of independence.

Often a patient is able to return to his original employment, as was the case of a 30-year-old artist/draughtsman, who was involved in an army motor acci-

dent during the last few days of his National Service. The jeep in which he was travelling went over an escarpment and he found himself hanging by his head and shoulders from a tree. The rescue team realised his neck was broken and lifted him carefully. After excellent emergency treatment at a nearby Mission hospital, he was taken to Salisbury, where the Neuro-Surgeon stabilised the fracture. Four weeks later he was transferred to St. Giles, paralysed from the neck down, but with slight movement in his hands and arms. Within three months his progress was sufficient to enable him to return to work in the mornings whilst still attending therapy in the afternoons. His employers were most helpful and made the necessary adjustments of ramps and widening of doors to accommodate a wheelchair, and six months later the young man was back in full time employment, driving his own car with hand controls and living in his own home.

The treatment rooms are linked together by covered walks and courtyards where bougainvillea spill colour against the white walls. The Physiotherapy room is a large hall fitted with treatment mats, walking bars, slings and a comprehensive range of aids. When we arrived the physiotherapists were busy putting their patients through their daily exercises.

One patient had lost the use of his legs for some time, but the therapy he had received had developed his arm and chest muscles to such an extent that it would have to be a very stropky trouble-maker indeed to risk a tangle with him. He was cheerfully trying to coax the physio into lightening the weight on his leg sling when we left him.

Hydrotherapy

In winter months this blue-tiled, raised pool is the most popular therapy room. It is fed with warm water which relaxes muscle spasm and lightens the weight of the body. Once a patient is in the water there is a drastic improvement in mobility. One patient we spoke to said she was unable to walk more than a step until she was in the warm water, but once in the pool she can walk freely right across it.

Adult Ward Block

The adult wards accommodate nine people with full nursing facilities and provide meals and rest facilities for day patients. The single bedrooms are light and airy and equipped with remote control television sets donated by the Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund. The patients can entertain visitors here; and they frequently spend weekends at home, or go out to visit theatres or cinemas.

A regular visitor and sometimes resident of the private wards is Shirley Wicksteed, a victim of a terrorist landmine. She is a pretty girl, full of life and not averse to cracking jokes about her disability. Another resident is a New Zealander from the RLI who frac-

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Clear Castle.**



**When you've had a Castle,
you know you've had a beer.**

BARKER, McCORMAC, RBC163/8



Tsanga Lodge, once a children's holiday home, now the Forces' convalescent centre at Inyanga in the bracing Eastern Highlands.—(Photograph by Sunday Mail.)

tured his spine in a parachuting accident. A freak wind collapsed his chute as he neared the ground.

There is a certain guardedness when strangers enter their circle, while they sound you out. Depending on their assessment of the stranger, they are more or less forthcoming. There is an underlying wistfulness to their good spirits which increases the stranger's admiration of their courage and leaves him with a feeling of complete inadequacy in the face of such determination.

The New Zealander teased Shirley about her "stumbling blocks," referring to her artificial legs, and the friendly insults sped back and forth. Such acceptance of their handicap makes the outsider feel very humble indeed.

I met another young man in a wheelchair, who attended as an out-patient. He had been in a motorcycle accident whilst on call-up. He is now living at home with his wife and baby, but because of his over-eagerness on several occasions has landed up back at St. Giles. He had set himself the goal of April, 1978, a full year after the accident, to be fully competent to cope with daily life. He said that the biggest strain had been on his wife, since she has to care for the small

baby and also help him. He was full of admiration for her and for those relatives and friends who help ease the path for the handicapped person to return to his old life.

"Friends of St. Giles"

St. Giles is run as a Voluntary Organisation and its Associated Members are known as the "Friends of St. Giles". An Executive Committee is elected from members at every Annual General Meeting, and it is their responsibility to administer the financial and general matters of the Centre. Sub-Committees are appointed where they are required, and the day-to-day administration is carried out by the Administrative Director, Miss Morris, and the Financial Director, who are responsible to the Executive Committee. St. Giles relies heavily on the generosity of the commercial sector and the general public for sufficient funds to keep this remarkable and successful rehabilitation centre available for all servicemen and civilians who may need the facilities and assistance it can offer. St. Giles is indeed a great achievement.

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OPERATION COMFORT

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF RHODESIA

Women's Institutes can be found wherever there are groups of women determined to contribute to society. It is a non-racial organisation and amongst its members are 15 000 African women who make up 1 000 W.I. branches, many of which are in the more remote tribal areas. The members of the Women's Institute do sterling work bringing aid to the people of villages which are harassed and victimised by bands of marauding terrorists. They also provide help for the Security Forces in the form of canteens right around the country.

To the Rescue—Operation Comfort

When, in January, 1977, terrorists burnt down the homes of the people of Kandeya, completely destroying their houses and possessions, a member of the Hatfield W.I. telephoned the Head Office demanding to know what the W.I. intended doing to help the unfortunate tribespeople. With a combination of enthusiasm, hard work and the co-operation of the news media, Operation Comfort was launched the same day. Pleas for household items, food, blankets and anything that could be used by people who literally had nothing but the flimsy clothes they stood up in, went out to the people of Rhodesia. The following day the flood of donations began and continued unabated for four weeks, filling the W.I. offices until there was scarcely room for the Secretary to answer the telephone. New shoes were donated by a Salisbury store, two hundred bags of potatoes came from a farmer's wife, blankets, old clothes—anything and everything was gratefully received. Items that were needed were purchased out of the cash donations that poured in from far and wide.

The Department of Internal Affairs co-operated fully, and arranged for the transportation of the goods to Kandeya, as well as to other areas where the terrorists had been active, destroying and looting property.

Operation Comfort is an on-going exercise and although the stream of donations has dwindled considerably, clothing and household items are still sent to the needy people in the affected areas. During the month of January, 1978, alone, two hundred and fifty large bags of assorted household items were delivered to the tribal areas, together with five hundred and twenty new blankets bought out of cash donations. The enthu-

siastic letters of thanks from the District Commissioners make the effort worthwhile for those who give their time and energy to this cause.

Troop Canteens

Each W.I. acts independently and makes its own decisions as to how best to serve the community. A large number run Troop Canteens to provide hot food and beverages to the members of the Security Forces. Where a W.I. is too small to set up this welcome service, the members frequently join with the Women's Voluntary Service to provide this assistance.

Members in towns are usually less affected physically by the war, and they assist country branches, whose burden is greater. Many Institutes adopt units of the Armed Forces, sending each man regular food parcels, letters, and generally assisting him wherever possible.

The Shamva district has been adopted by a Salisbury Suburban W.I. who concentrate on helping the local farmers' wives to bear the financial brunt of providing help for the troops. Commodities such as tea, coffee, and that vital item no one can afford to be without—lavatory paper!—are sent regularly to the Shamva district. A cottage in the village has been furnished by this Institute, where farmers' wives can stay while their husbands go out on patrol.

Other Institutes concentrate on sending regular hamper of goods to the troops, baking home-made cookies and knitting balaclavas, mittens and scarves for the cold winter nights.

African Women's Clubs

In Salisbury during 1977, African women's clubs knitted vast quantities of balaclavas for the troops. They raised the money for the wool amongst themselves, by holding jumble sales and generally adopting an enterprising attitude towards the problem. The Coloured women of Shabani do sterling work running a canteen for the convoys of men on their way to the operational area.

All Play a Part

Volunteers frequently offer assistance, and many elderly people have contributed a great deal, particularly to Operation Comfort. Most noteworthy were a dozen crocheted blankets from one elderly lady and two dozen girls' dresses from another.

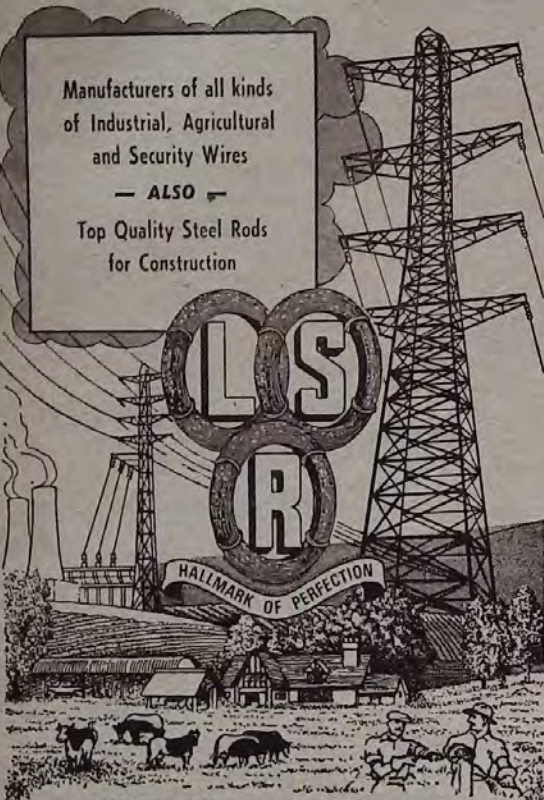
Often items that are useless to the housewife can be used to advantage. A donation of blanket sample squares were sewn together to make blankets; odd balls of wool are made into baby blankets; remnants of material are sewn into children's clothes.

The ingenuity and hard work of the women of the W.I. can turn anything and everything into something useful.

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FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

RELIEF OF THE SUFFERING

TERRORIST VICTIMS' RELIEF FUND

Soon after the first acts of terrorism in the present war had been committed, a meeting was convened by Colonel Everard which resulted in the formation of the Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund.

Government had also moved quickly, and shortly afterwards legislation was passed to provide compensation for damage or loss sustained by victims of terrorist activities.

Thus there are now two sources of financial assistance available to terrorist victims, and it is important to understand the areas which each source covers.

The Victims of Terrorism (Compensation) Act allows for compensation to be paid for damage or loss of property (tractors, vehicles, buildings, crops, livestock, personal belongings, etc.); loss of earnings; disability; widows' and children's pensions; educational allowances and vocational training. The operative word is compensation.

The Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund provides relief, and not compensation, thus filling the gaps left by circumspect expenditure of Government funds.

The Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund is purely an administrative body and they do not actively raise funds, relying entirely on the public for donations. Mr. A. G. Calder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, praised the efforts of local organisations who support the Fund. Lions Club, Round Table and Freemasons are amongst a host of others who give generously. An average of \$30 000 per month is distributed from the Fund and this is received from regular business and private stop-orders and pledges, together with incidental donations.

The functions of the Fund are legion and each case is assessed on its own merits. The primary object is to relieve the financial burden for the relatives and dependants of the injured breadwinner until such time as Government compensation, pension or insurance payments can be arranged.

The Fund will meet expenses of close relatives in visiting the injured person in hospital in Rhodesia, including travel, hotel accommodation or flat rental if the stay is lengthy. They will also meet the air fare and expenses of a close relative from anywhere in the world where this is considered necessary. For those who face a protracted stay at an establishment such as St. Giles, television sets equipped with remote control hand sets are rented from commercial firms.

Experience has shown that white victims in hospital

are well cared for on the whole by relatives and friends, but the black victims do not fare so well and often lack basic commodities. With the assistance of the Professional Women's Club, Rotary Anns and others in the different centres, the Fund distributes comforts to patients in need. Between \$500 and \$1 000 per month is expended on hospitalised African victims alone. Items such as clothing where necessary, towel and soap, toothpaste and brush, foodstuffs, fresh milk, cigarettes and matches, soft drinks, biscuits, etc., are offered to the patients.

In the case of the death of the breadwinner of a family, the widow immediately receives a relief cheque to help her financially until the formalities of pensions and insurance can be resolved. In the case of African widows, a further grant towards the expense of a "Wake" is also made.

The Fund will finance a holiday for men and their families during their recuperation, or, in the case of a widow with very young children, will pay for a companion to accompany her to assist with the children on holiday. These holidays are frequently at sea level.

It is emphasised that nobody has a right to relief from the Fund and payments are evaluated on the merits of each case. However, the Trustees are at pains to ensure that the greatest use is made of the funds available. For Christmas, 1977, each widow, regardless of race, and those who are permanently injured, received a cheque from the Fund. The overall amount paid out in this way was \$80 000. But Mr. Calder pointed out that the size of payments such as these will depend in the future on availability of funds.

Contributions to a Medical Aid Society for widows and children are made from the Fund where necessary, and at present there are over thirty-five widows under the sponsorship of the Fund.

In the case of paraplegics, the Fund will assist with, or entirely pay for, the purchase and/or modification of a motor vehicle to provide the patient with greater mobility. The cost of modification is in the region of \$300 to \$700. If a vehicle must be purchased, the cost can reach \$5 000, since automatic transmission is necessary on the vehicle. Once the modification has been carried out, the vehicle is presented to the recipient, together with one year's licence and insurance already paid.

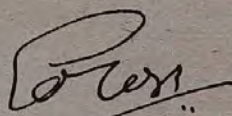
Alterations and modification to a private house or flat to accommodate the patient's wheelchair are also paid for by the Fund.

The Terrorist Victims' Relief Fund is available to anyone who requires relief (as opposed to compensation) due to terrorist activity. During 1977 the business and private sectors of the community supported this worthwhile fund to the tune of \$403 000, a magnificent gesture when one takes into account that the same business and private sectors have also donated no less than a further five and a half million dollars to other registered Welfare Organisations during the same year, according to recently published Government-audited accounts.

FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

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Manager for Rhodesia



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THE WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES OF RHODESIA

THE WVS are a voluntary service, as distinct from a charitable organisation, and as such their approach to problems within the community is slightly different. Twenty-five years ago the late Mrs. Zoe Shearer was asked to form a women's organisation in Rhodesia to deal with any national emergency that might arise. She had greatly admired the work done by the British Women's Voluntary Service during the Second World War, and asked permission to use the same name, but this is as far as the connection goes. Since no national emergency arose for many years, the WVS looked for channels through which to diversify and make use of the enormous store of goodwill and expertise that existed amongst their volunteer members.

Since they receive no funds from governmental sources, their first task was to raise finance in order to put into action a variety of schemes they had in mind. Thus the Theatre Group was born and has proved most popular over the intervening years, providing an introduction into the world of theatre for youngsters as well as providing entertainment for the public.

The WVS pride themselves on being capable of dealing with most problems, but they endeavour to avoid duplicating the work of other organisations and concentrate on filling the gaps instead.

Getting Ahead with a Hat

The Rhodesian bush can be icy cold during the winter nights. During the early days of the present war, balaclavas were relatively unheard of, until several mothers with sons in the bush requested a knitting pattern for a balaclava. The WVS Headquarters quickly realised that there were a great many people with the time to knit, but perhaps without sufficient finance to afford the wool; similarly, there were many busy people who would be happy to buy the wool if someone else did the work; and so Operation Balaclava was launched and several city stores ran the "Buy a Ball for the Boys" campaign, persuading the public to contribute towards the wool. Some 13 000 balaclava helmets, made from a pattern from the Sec-

ond World War, have passed through the WVS. Distribution is made through the Army and Police Headquarters and Army Welfare.

Feeding the Inner Man

Armies march on their stomachs, someone once said, and wherever there is a need for refreshments for the troops the WVS step in with their canteens.

The main sphere of activity of the WVS is emergency catering, and they had their first baptism in 1960 with the Congo Emergency when they were required to feed and document the Belgian refugees fleeing from the turmoil. When it became apparent in the present war that troop canteens were required in forward areas to provide sustenance for troop convoys, it was a natural step for them to set up catering facilities.

The organisation behind running the eight forward area canteens and the one city canteen is enormous. Assessment of quantities is a magician's job in itself, since there is seldom any notice of how many men will be passing through; then there is the physical task of ordering and delivering the foodstuffs; stocking the deep freezers at the Headquarters and from there at the canteens; the problem of hygiene under unsophisticated conditions; and the judgement of knowing how much food to prepare to avoid wastage.

The WVS are conscious of the fact that the pockets of the public are not a bottomless pit, and they attempt to cover the cost of food by levying a basic charge, but much depends on the circumstances. If men are coming out of an operational area after a long stint and are unlikely to have any cash on them, the food is free. At the KGVI Barrack canteen, however, which caters for incoming and outgoing intakes, a charge is made. In this way the WVS hope to cover costs without resorting to the public.

The staffing of the canteens is voluntary, and each week ninety women from Salisbury assist at the KGVI canteen. In areas where there are staffing problems owing to a shortage of local people, Salisbury women volunteer for one week stints to help out.

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Members of the W.V.S. busy packing parcels for the security forces in the forward areas.
—(Photograph by The Herald.)

Rhodesians Worldwide

Morale is high and help has been received from outside our borders. One South African woman spent her holidays assisting in canteens. She reported, "If I return home in one piece my neighbours are going to come up too!" Happily, she returned very much in one piece.

The Border Patrol Welfare Fund are unstintingly generous in loaning fridges, deep-freezers and stoves wherever they are required in the forward areas, although less vital canteens must be equipped by the WVS themselves.

At Umtali, on the Eastern border, the WVS have organised a full rest-room for service men. The building has been loaned free of rent and the furniture supplied by the local people. The local WVS man the canteen facilities and act as a depot for offers of lifts in cars going to and from Salisbury and other centres in Rhodesia.

Touching Tribute

The services offered by the WVS are greatly appreciated by all ranks of the Armed Forces, as is obvious from some of the letters of thanks received at the Headquarters, but the most touching tribute came from a young trooper writing home: "We had excellent graze at the canteen and you will be glad to know that one of the ladies told me I could eat as much of anything I liked, but I must eat my vegetables."

Civil Defence Task

The WVS are part of the Civil Defence machinery and their task lies mainly in emergency feeding. They have a fully equipped truck with gas burners, thermal urns, cups, pots and jugs, which can set up a field kitchen at a moment's notice. The WVS have also compiled a list of available accommodation should an emergency requiring this facility occur.

One of the most successful services provided by the WVS is their SOS Department, which aims to help people who have incurred bad debts to rehabilitate themselves. This department is run by five voluntary workers, five days a week, and has proved so successful that Magistrates and Solicitors frequently refer people to them for rehabilitation. As in all war situations, private lives and businesses can become disjointed, and what started off as an inconvenience to the business can become a deep financial problem if appropriate action is not taken in time. Even when it appears too late, there is still hope if professional help and advice is sought. This department started long before the war added to their work, and was proved successful then, and creditors are normally pleased to co-operate with the WVS advisers.

The WVS are a diverse and hard-working group of women, reminiscent of the Pioneer women who stood beside their men loading rifles in laager. Rhodesia can be proud of them.



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As regular suppliers to the armed services, the Plate Glass Group of companies feels a special relationship exists between themselves and all branches of the Rhodesian fighting forces.

We wish to associate ourselves with this publication, recognising it as a tribute to the men from all walks of life who regularly serve their country — and all servicemen in Rhodesia.



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THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**ARBITER BETWEEN
THE TRIBESPEOPLE AND
THE SECURITY FORCES**



INTAF

At the Training Depot of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at Chikurubi there hangs a notice in bright orange. On it is printed these words:

“Objective”

“The programming and motivation of the Tribal African towards active participation in the development of a new and better way of life which takes into account the socio-political and agro-economic potential of the community as a whole.”

The role of the men of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is frequently misunderstood. Theirs was not primarily intended to be an aggressive or even protective role, but an administrative one.

The District Commissioner of an area, and his District Officers and District Assistants, are trained and employed to provide guidance and assistance, both monetary and practical, to the local tribespeople in all facets of their lives.

Central Government is responsible for a good deal of the development in the tribal areas, but the African Tribal Council, headed by the local Chief, play a vital part in providing facilities that Central Government do not cover. The Tribal Land Authority continue the traditional practice of allocating arable land and grazing areas to the individual tribesman.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs provide advice and the necessary skills to help tribal farmers combat animal disease and to increase the yield of their crops. Farming co-operatives have been formed to facilitate the marketing of the harvest. Schools for the children, clinics, roads, bridges and dams are all-important to the welfare of the community as a whole but their construction requires skill and money, and where money is not plentiful a self-help scheme must be introduced incorporating ingenuity and improvisation.

For many years IntAf have made progress but they were always hampered by the lack of communications caused by the widespread villages within the Tribal Trust Lands.

However, they did provide a link between the Government and the people of the tribal areas. With the advent of the terrorist war this role has expanded to

include that of arbiter between the people and the Security Forces who, through necessity, are required to operate within many tribal areas.

The terrorists operate by living off the people. They have learnt the thoughts of Mao well:

“Where the waters are life-giving the fish will thrive and multiply.

Where the waters are stagnant the fish will die.”

In order to make their waters life-giving the terrorists had to first break down the established order of the lives of the tribespeople through whatever means were necessary. Once this was achieved they could impose their own order and thus thrive and multiply amongst the people of the tribal areas.

The methods used by the terrorists are well known and they finally result in making the tribespeople the “men in the middle”. On the one hand, the terrorist gangs brutally demand food, women, shelter and money on pain of torture or death. On the other hand, the Security Forces prosecute the tribespeople in court for giving aid to the terrorists and not reporting their presence. The pressure is unbearable for many and often the result has been that a large proportion of the population have abandoned their homes and property and moved their families closer to the urban centres for safety.

Because of the administrative role that they play, the District Commissioner and his staff are often placed in a situation where they present soft targets for terrorist attacks. If a District Officer is to attend a meeting of tribespeople or a cattle dip, the people of the area must be informed so that they may be there to talk to him.

The need for protection grew as the war progressed, and resulted in the formation of a para-military wing of IntAf. The Ministry were allocated a number of National Servicemen and also members of the older age-group now called up.

The young National Servicemen are required to serve their normal eighteen months, but many of them who later intend joining the regular service of IntAf have already spent a year since leaving school in the bush

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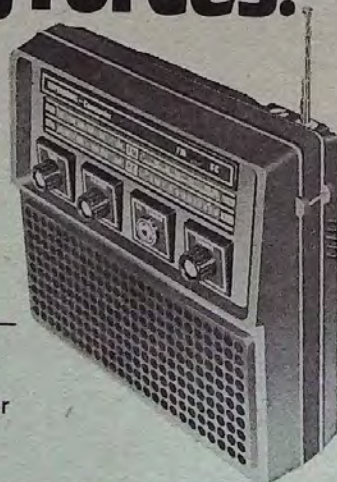
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Training of the INTAF National Servicemen is similar to that of other para-military units.

in an administrative capacity. The very popular scheme "Veld Vac" encouraged many young men to consider a career in the Department of Internal Affairs.

One such youngster is Garth Maynard, a most courageous young man who has never let misfortune defeat him. Born with only one leg, Garth determined he would live a normal life. As a boy he met a District Commissioner based near Bulawayo, Garth's home town. This DC later became DC in charge of Training at Chikurubi and Garth was encouraged to attend a Veld Vac course during the school holidays. The life and the people of the rural areas appealed to him and when he left school he joined the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Since he was too young to undergo military training he spent a year in the districts learning the administrative side of the job. This year he is back at Chikurubi undergoing his training. One would have imagined that an artificial leg would hamper his style, but he has earned the admiration of his colleagues and there is little that he cannot undertake. A twenty kilometre march, whilst perhaps a little tiring, presents no difficulties to him. "The only problem I have," he said, "is that the rubber on the end of my wooden leg keeps wearing out and they are difficult to get here." IntAf give him a "retread" when necessary.

Training

The training of the IntAf National Servicemen (IANS) is similar to that of other para-military units. Drill, personal appearance, weapon instruction and the basic knowledge of bush warfare are taught. If the recruit is to join the regular service of IntAf he will

be required to learn an indigenous African language fluently, along with the customs and traditions of the people. The recruits, who will only serve for eighteen months, will be taught the basic grounding of the local language along with a knowledge of the customs and traditions of the area in which they will be stationed.

Their main responsibility will be to provide protection and to administer to the Protected Villages which have been established. The newly formed Guard Force will eventually take over the role of providing protection.

When their initial period of service is completed they will become known as Vedettes and be liable to call-up to serve in a similar capacity for differing periods. Every effort is made to ensure that the Vedettes always return to the same area for these periods in order to ensure some form of continuity for the tribespeople.

The force is divided into Echelons, including an Engineering Department, and the offices which deal with the call-up, pre-deployment training and innumerable items pertaining to these activities, are entirely run by territorial members.

The requirement of IntAf to act in a para-military role has resulted in the necessity for Chikurubi Training Depot to suddenly deal with several thousand more recruits than previously.

The recruitment of District Assistants has also increased greatly in order to provide protection for the Protected Villages and for the District Officers and Commissioners as they go about their task.

With a limited permanent staff establishment these increases have presented problems, particularly of ac-

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commodation, but one way or another these are dealt with.

The increasing attacks on members of IntAf seem to point to the determination of the terrorists to break down the administration of the economic and social life of the tribespeople. The advent of Protected Villages, however, has greatly strained the supply source of the terrorist gangs. In some districts the terrorists have all but abandoned many areas and have been forced onto the white farming land to obtain their food from the labour force. This in turn has resulted in certain schemes being implemented, until now it is well-nigh impossible for anyone but a bona fide employee of a farm to purchase food. Rations of maize meal are strictly supervised by the farmers so that the labourer and his family are well provided for, but there is no surplus available for unauthorised persons.

Within the Protected Villages the stores are permitted to sell food to the villagers, and the people grow crops on their own land and reap and bring in the harvest, but every person leaving and entering the wire fence is checked to ensure that no unauthorised food is taken out and that no foreign equipment is brought in concealed in a bundle of wood or clothing. This removes the burden of responsibility off the shoulders of the tribesmen, who might otherwise be pressured by the gangs of terrorists to supply food to them.

So successful has this plan proved that the tribespeople who originally abandoned their homes and moved away when the terrorist presence became too overpowering, are now returning to their traditional land. In one particular badly affected area, the local population has dwindled to approximately three per cent. of its former size. Protected Villages were introduced and within two months the numbers of returning tribesmen had swelled the population by seventy per cent., a triumph indeed for the hard work of the Department of Internal Affairs.

Outside Criticism

Despite the undoubted success of the Protected Village scheme in protecting the villagers from the terrorists, there has been a good deal of criticism levelled at them from outside the country on a variety of grounds, ranging from the "moral" viewpoint to the effect that such a concentration will have on the people's traditional life style.

We recently visited two Protected Villages, one of which was very new and the other of which had been established for four years. The local District Commissioner explained the events which led up to the building of the Protected Villages.

It began in 1973, when terrorists came into the north of the area and made overtures to the local tribesmen, attempting to persuade them that since the terrorists were to be the future masters of the country, it would be well for them to assist in the "fight for freedom". Certain of the tribesmen were observed to be sceptical of these claims, and to bring home their point more effectively, a local black farmer was murdered.

From these beginnings the terrorism spread through the district. The witch-hunts and killing of perfectly innocent tribesmen as "sell-outs" became more frequent and the demands for food and women grew.

The leader of this notorious gang was cunning enough to withdraw from the area immediately after committing a spate of atrocities, and thus provided a difficult problem for Security Force follow-up operations in those early days.

During the period that he managed to elude capture, the entire social and economic life of the Tribal Trust Land came to a standstill. The tribesmen tried to shut their eyes and their ears and hoped the nightmare would go away.

This had previously been an affluent farming area where the local black farmers earned a good living from dry-land cotton and Burley tobacco. Encouraged by the wealth of the locality, the Tribal Council had also been most progressive, running schools and dip tanks, building roads and dams and generally contributing to the community welfare. During the reign of terror the tribesmen became completely demoralised. They realised their lives were being destroyed but despite urgings from the District Commissioner, they could not find determination or will power to resist the thuggery meted out by the marauding band of terrorists. It was then that the District Commissioner began to speak to the Chiefs and Headmen about the possibilities of Protected Villages.

The Portuguese in Mocambique had initiated a similar programme during the period they had been in that country and a group of District Commissioners visited one such camp. They were horrified by the lack of sanitation and fresh water and by the absence of cultivated land. The Portuguese had previously issued rations to the villagers. (It is of interest to note that these previously condemned villages in Mocambique are now utilised by their present government as "Re-education centres".) It was obvious that if Rhodesia were to introduce a similar scheme a great deal of planning and improvement would have to be made.

Together with his Agricultural Assistant, the District Commissioner studied a map of the area, and finally broke the Tribal Trust Land down into the existing natural communities in relation to arable land, traditional grazing and water supplies. Around this information he outlined the siting of possible Protected Villages so that they would interfere as little as possible with the traditions and economic life of the people. The proximity of existing schools was considered and no arable land was more than half an hour's walk from the village site, so that the people could continue to cultivate their traditional fields allocated to them by the Tribal Land Authority.

Most people, regardless of race, resist change. It is a natural tendency, and the Chiefs and people of the area did not look very kindly on the idea of moving house, even for so short a distance. So for the time being nothing more was done to establish the Protected Villages. But after a particularly savage spate of kill-

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ings in the villages dotted around the Tribal Trust Land, the Chiefs and Headmen finally decided that they could no longer continue risking the lives of their people. So one morning the entire Tribal Authority arrived at the District Commissioner's office asking to speak with him. They reminded him that he had recently been talking about the protective wire. They had not wanted the wire before, but now they had taken all they could bear from the terrorists, and rather than face yet more murders and mutilations, they wished the District Commissioner to put their people "inside the wire".

The District Commissioner set to work to implement his plans as quickly as possible. The first two Protected Villages in this area were built from the local resources of the Department of Internal Affairs and a good deal of improvisation and saving had to be made. They cut their own timber from gum trees to build the watchtowers, begged and borrowed the equipment and materials needed to fence in the planned area. A borehole was sunk which supplied fresh water to a brick storage tank built from home-made bricks. A line of access taps led off the tank to supply water to the villagers. Sanitation had to be organised. Initially each householder was required to build a "long-drop" under the supervision of the Medical Health Inspector,

but these were later replaced by properly constructed and ventilated privies.

Each community entering the Protected Village was allocated an area of the ground, within which each head of a family was given a plot of land.

Contrary to the popular picture of people being herded into the Protected Villages, the people from this Tribal Trust Land moved of their own accord as soon as the villages were ready. The District Commissioner made available transport to assist in the move, but few availed themselves of the offer, preferring instead to move at their own pace, using their own scotchcarts or trucks.

Initially each family built the traditional pole and dagga huts with the inevitable grain storage hut at the back, but as they became more established those who had previously owned brick houses with corrugated iron roofs moved the timber and roofing, and in some cases the bricks, and rebuilt them within the protective fence.

The problem of the ancestral spirits was not insurmountable, since the people were still living on the traditional ground and still tilled the traditional soil.

The effect Protected Villages had on the local marauding gang of terrorists was quickly apparent. They were successfully deprived of their source of food and women, and could no longer terrorise the local popu-

A protected village.



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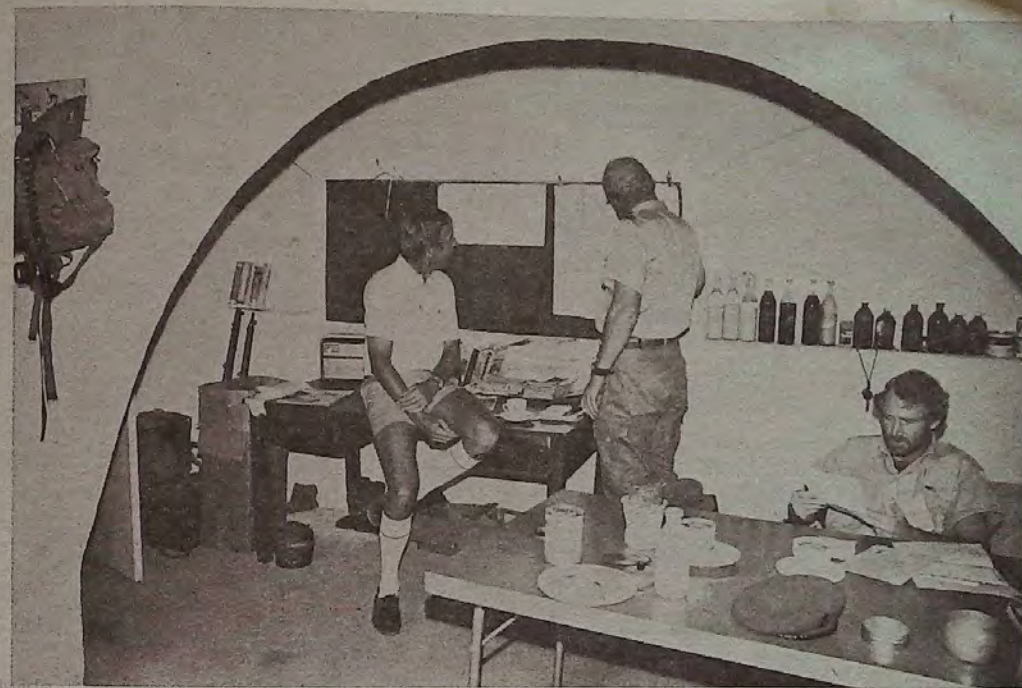
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lation as they had previously. Slowly the people in the Protected Villages regained their confidence and life began afresh for them. Their former interest in agriculture and the building and maintenance of schools and roads returned. The women no longer had so far to walk to fetch water or to take their grain to the miller and they had more time to devote to leisure activities. Women's Clubs flourished. Playgroups for the pre-school children began and a pilot group of prospective teachers were taken to Domboshawa and trained for this purpose. When they returned to the villages they passed on their knowledge to the other women there. In time a training centre was erected where clubs could be given lectures and farmers' meetings could be shown the latest developments in pesticides for their crops and beneficial methods of agriculture.

The Chief's court, which had begun as a thatched shelter, was soon exchanged for a brick structure.

The tinsmith set up his forge and found business brisk amongst so concentrated a population. The miller installed his diesel engine mill and did a roaring trade. The storekeepers set up business in shacks at first, but over the months they retrieved the fabric and equipment from their old buildings and rebuilt their stores.

Their turnover increased due to the concentrated clientele and competition between stores improved the value and range of goods on their shelves.

Widening Horizons

When the Government brought ESC power to some of the older villages so that lighting could be provided in the streets and along the fence, many store owners installed freezers. The local butcher built himself a cold-room, thus improving his bulk buying capabilities and consequently his profits. A loudspeaker system based in the Keep at the centre of the village broadcast Radio Harari programmes, widening the horizons of those villagers who had seldom travelled much further than their villages.

Government houses were erected for the Community Development Worker who assists with the self-help programmes, and for the qualified State Registered Nurse in charge of the Government clinic inside the village. A doctor pays regular visits to the clinic.

Because of the improved roads and communications, the villagers are finding the marketing of their produce easier. The local co-operatives flourish, and the profitability of these enterprises has enabled a number of villagers to purchase vehicles of their own. As we left

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the gates of the more established Protected Village we passed a lorry bringing in a brand new grain mill. Obviously the local miller had done well lately.

Young Farmers' Clubs are well attended by the local youth, although the members seldom show interest in agricultural methods, preferring instead to learn building, carpentry or welding, and as far as is possible instruction in these skills is provided.

Encouragement is given to the Tribal Council to institute paddocked grazing systems to improve the overall grazing for the cattle; and to undertake a tree plantation scheme which will provide future generations with sufficient timber for construction and firewood.

At the Protected Village that we visited the borehole supplies sufficient water for domestic use only, but there are villages where the supply is sufficient for irrigation systems to be introduced.

The people grow their sweet potatoes, tomatoes and vegetables beside their houses, but their maize crop is still grown on their traditional lands. At harvest time this is reaped and brought into the storage huts.

Shortly after the implementation of the Protected Village system in this Tribal Trust Land, the notorious gang of terrorists was finally caught. Most of the gang were killed during the contact, but the leader was captured after his leg was blown off. He was completely unrepentant of the misery he had caused the tribesmen and claimed he would do it all again if only they would give him his leg back. He was later tried and hanged.

Growth Point

The question is sometimes raised as to the fate of the Protected Villages if and when the security situation returns to normal. The men of the Protected Villages say they would like to return to their old homes but the women are not so keen. They are becoming accustomed to the availability of water and the closeness of the store and the miller. They do not relish returning to the arduous distances they previously had to travel.

The District Commissioner hopes that when the protective role of the villages has passed, they will prove to be growth points for industry and agriculture along similar lines to Seki. There is a great need for capital to be injected into the Tribal Trust Lands, but if this can be found the villages could provide the opportunity to bring the average tribesman into a progressive economy, something that proved a permanent problem when the families and groups of tribespeople lived in scattered communities in the Tribal Trust Lands.

A heartening benefit for conservationists has been the rapid recovery of the veld in areas where Protected Villages have been built. The well known sight of eroding land, divested of grass and tree coverage by overgrazing, is becoming less frequent. Cattle and goats are kraaled at night close to the Protected Villages and are taken out in the morning for grazing. In places this has resulted in so drastic an improvement of the veld coverage that present maps of the area scarcely resemble the terrain any longer.

FIGHTING FORCES OF RHODESIA

It has long been a bone of contention that the tribesmen claim they have been given the worst land and the whites have been given the best. The whites respond by pointing out that any land, if it is not conserved and grazed in an orderly fashion, will deteriorate. There are signs that this point might now be demonstrated, and it is hoped that when the Protected Villages are no longer necessary a more scientific approach will be adopted towards the conservation of grazing pasture.

The game population in the Wildlife Reserve to the north of this Tribal Trust Land has also increased dramatically. Since this has been declared a "No Go" area the poaching has decreased and the legitimate hunting has stopped. Leopard and elephant are prospering and it is not uncommon to find kudu and sable venturing into the Tribal Trust Land as their populations increase.

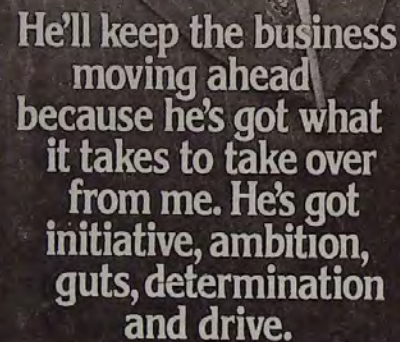
In this area are old mine workings and the ruins of Portuguese forts. Legend claims that there is a cave full of Portuguese artifacts which was discovered by an old prospector by the name of McAndrew. He covered over the entrance and later tried to return to it but never found it. The greybeards of the tribes in the area maintain that the cave is there, and perhaps one day when the fighting is over, a child herding cattle, or some adventurous young man, may stumble across it.

We also visited a Protected Village that had been occupied for only a few months. Just as Rome was not built in a day, so Protected Villages need time and money to acquire the amenities that make life more comfortable for the inhabitants. The brick houses were not in evidence as much as at the older village, but several stores had been built and substantial pole and dagga houses had been erected. The water supply provides fresh water for all, and the school is only half a mile from the gate, but the luxury of broadcast music and lighting had not yet reached this village. Nevertheless, many houses boasted borders of brightly coloured flowers and gardens of sweet potatoes and tomatoes. In time the amenities will be added to this village as well, but meanwhile the people have fresh water, sanitation and, most of all, protection from the knock on the door in the night and the demands for their daughters and wives, and the dreaded witch-hunts which result in the tortuous death of perfectly innocent tribesmen.

The Protected Villages are protected by the members of IntAf themselves who live in the fortified Keep which is built at a strategic point within the wire fence. Ultimately the newly formed Guard Force will take over the responsibility of protecting the villages. The look-out posts afford the sentries an excellent view of the village and the surrounding fence. The accommodation is adequate and includes facilities for the officers and men who will occupy the Keep. Radios maintain constant communication with the Headquarters.

The IntAf officers keep a supply of first-aid equipment in the Keep, and if no clinic is available for the villagers, or an emergency arises, they will render assist-

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THE GUARD FORCE

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OFTEEN referred to as the "Cinderella" of the Forces and much to the annoyance of its officers and men, frequently shrugged off by the public as of no consequence, this young force is growing fast.

It seems to be characteristic of Rhodesians that the more you try to put them down, the harder they fight, and Guard Force are no exception. They are out to prove their worth and their effectiveness in providing protection for the thousands of tribespeople in various areas from the vicious attacks by terrorists. The "Freedom Fighters" who bring murder, mutilation and arson to the simple people of these regions are now finding their evil intentions thwarted by the mushrooming of Protected Villages, many of which are now defended by members of Guard Force.

Their success against the enemy is slowly growing as they become more experienced; and as tales of their encounters travel along the bush telegraph, so does their standing rise in the eyes of prospective recruits. Morale is high amongst the officers and men, and the Guard Force marching song stirs the blood of anyone whose home is Africa.

Perhaps because they have struggled to prove themselves, struggled to obtain efficient weapons and equipment, struggled to get the much needed vehicles, they are fiercely loyal and protective when they speak of their Force.

Co-operating with IntAf

Initial responsibility for the security of the Protected Villages and Keeps fell on Internal Affairs. However, the role of IntAf has traditionally been an administrative one. Without the dedication of the District Commissioner and his staff who administer the tribal areas, the people there would be without the agricultural advice and help, schooling, health facilities and a host of other amenities that have helped to raise the average standard of living. Under the circumstances IntAf managed well in providing protection for the people, but it is difficult to mix an administrative role with an aggressively protective one, and when the Protected Village programme began to grow it was decided to form the Guard Force to provide protection for the villagers.

The first officers and senior NCOs were signed on in August/September 1975. The task before them was to establish Guard Force Headquarters, the shape and modus operandi of the Force. There was very close liaison with members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and many reconnaissances made to Protected Villages.

The Force was officially gazetted as an autonomous Force under the Ministry of Defence on 1st February, 1976.

The Force is destined to become one of the largest forces serving the country, and their advantage is that they remain in an area, unlike the Army, who are highly mobile and go where they are most needed and are then re-deployed.

Although there is still no parity with other forces in the matters of amenities, salaries or pensions, they are slowly making headway in their efforts to be accepted as a vital fourth arm to the Security Forces. They have proved that theirs is not merely a sedentary protective role and accounts of their effectiveness are growing. In a recent attack on a Protected Village by forty terrorists at night, the Keep Commander successfully supervised the firepower of his Guards and after an hour the terrorists gave up the attack and retreated, having sustained a number of casualties. The Guard Force contingent sustained no injuries.

Protective Fences

Protected Villages have been criticised and condemned from outside the country, but in fact the idea was originally a British one. In Malaya in 1957, a situation arose where communist insurgents were terrorising the local villagers into supplying them with food, shelter and information as to the movements of the British forces. The methods used by the insurgents to obtain co-operation from the local people were as unpleasant and disgusting as those used today by the communist-trained and armed terrorists on the tribespeople of Rhodesia.

The idea of moving people into collective villages surrounded by a protective fence and providing strong points within the complex proved highly successful in denying the insurgents the basic necessities of food and information, and in protecting the people. It is often overlooked that many of our men and officers of today's Rhodesian forces served in Malaya, and their experience has stood them in good stead.

The Commander of Guard Force, Brigadier W. A. Godwin, DMM, OBE, himself served in Malaya with the British Army and is well versed in counter-insurgency tactics.

When the infant Guard Force was born in August, 1976, the older established forces were unable to release officers to command the new, as yet unknown, service. For some time there had been retired ex-

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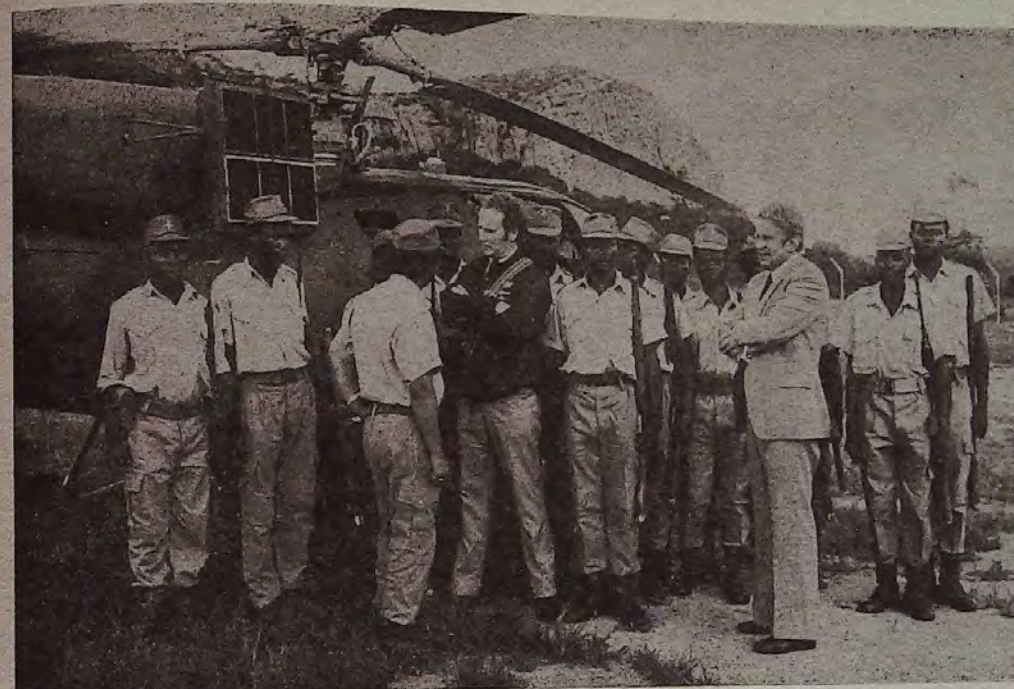
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An American Senator talks to a Guard Force detachment.

Rhodesians Worldwide

servicemen, many of high rank, from a variety of forces who had been hankering to make a contribution to the defence of Rhodesia. Now at last they had their chance. The retired ranks of the officers of the Guard Force provide enough 'scrambled egg' to make a breakfast for a Platoon, but they have readily relinquished it all and settled for the ranks of Commander, Deputy Commander, Commandant and Assistant Commandant. Amongst the NCO ranks are Junior Corporal, Keep Corporal, Keep Sergeant or Guard Sergeant, Keep Senior Sergeant or Guard Senior Sergeant, Keep Sergeant Major, Keep Warrant Officer II or Guard Warrant Officer II, and Keep Warrant Officer I or Guard Warrant Officer I.

Network

The protective net of Keeps and Villages spreads over eight areas. The villages are frequently widely scattered and an intricate system of communications and command is required to keep each area running efficiently.

In each area where Guard Force operate, there is a Group Headquarters which is normally established close to the District Commissioner's camp and the local JOC Headquarters. The Commandant and Assistant Commandant are based here together with a number of

NCOs and other ranks, including escort guards, signalers, drivers, clerks and a medic. From this base all provisions for the Keeps in the area will be ordered, and escorts arranged for transport in and out of the areas. When possible the Guard Force task involves protection of convoys, as required by District Commissioners and other Government agencies.

When Protected Villages are sited, every possible care is taken to place them close to the previous homes of those who will live in them. This consideration results in the building of widely dispersed clusters of Protected Villages, and frequently an interim command post is required to control the groups of villages. Hence a Forward Command Post would be sited at a strategic spot within an area containing several villages. The Forward Command Post is commanded by a Junior Officer with a number of men and he would maintain contact with the Keeps in his area.

Each Protected Village is surrounded by a high wire mesh fence. Within the complex is a fortified strong point; sometimes there are more than one, depending on the siting of the Protected Village. The Keep, as the strong point is known, is commanded by a Keep Commander with a number of NCOs and Guards under his command making up a Guard Unit.

The role of the Guard Force in the remote areas is vital to the safety of the tribespeople and strict dis-

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cipline of the Guards is maintained to ensure that no slacking occurs in the numerous duties they must perform. Boots must still be polished, even in the dust of the bush, and weapon cleaning and drill take on prime importance, since upon them depends the safety of so many.

At dawn the national flag is raised inside the Keep and the first patrol of the day examines the perimeter fence for signs of tampering or a terrorist presence. A Mine Patrol is sent out to probe the link road for landmines. The roads to each Protected Village must be kept open if supplies are to reach their destination safely. Frequently nearby estates send transport to collect labour for the fields and then return them in the evening. This provides a source of income for the villagers and appears to be popular. It is vital for the welfare of the villagers that the roads are kept free from mines.

At the security gate, those who wish to pass through either for work, to collect firewood or herd their animals, are searched by a Guard. The entire success of the system hinges on the control and checking of everyone and everything that leaves or enters the encircling wire of the Protected Village. When the farm transport returns the labourers and the women return from the fields, the checking and searching is re-enacted. A bundle of thatching grass is prodded to ensure it conceals nothing out of the ordinary; a cord of wood is searched to ensure the owner has not been persuaded to bring terrorist equipment inside the wire.

Throughout the day patrols of men sweep the surrounding bush, checking on anything suspicious and reporting back to the Keep.

At dusk the gates are locked and the villagers prepare their evening meal and sleep soundly, free from the fear of a midnight terrorist demand for food, information, girls and money. But for the Guards, work does not stop. The night Guards go on duty and patrol their appointed beats. Because of their varied patrol routine, these are known as Prowler Guards.

Training Depot

Two years ago no training facilities existed for Guard Force and they were obliged to utilise other established training agencies. Since then, however, the Guard Force Training Depot has been developed at Chikurubi. Many of the offices are still wooden prefabricated buildings but they serve their purpose while more substantial barracks and dining halls are built.

The cooking facilities are simple but effective and we saw four enormous cauldrons bubbling in readiness for the mid-day meal. At night the men will again sit down to a similar meal and in the morning they can expect a substantial breakfast.

The blacks who volunteer to join Guard Force will be accepted as regular members of the Force and their training consists of weapon drill, range work, field craft, field training, counter-insurgency training, map reading,

radio procedure and signals. They are also taught the procedure necessary to search persons entering and leaving the Protected Villages.

Once through the initial training, and having proved themselves in the field, the Guard may be recommended for a Specialist Course. These include driving courses, Signals, Medical, etc. To date a number of medics have been trained at Llewellyn Barracks and these will be used as instructors to train other groups of Guards for basic medical duties. The examinations for the medics will be set and marked by Llewellyn training staff to ensure an acceptable standard is maintained. Eventually Guard Force hope to provide one troop medic for every Keep under their command.

They are not forgotten by our friends overseas, and an ambulance donated by the Friends of Rhodesia in Australia is available at Chikurubi.

Discipline

To ensure that the Guards do not offend the villagers whilst on or off duty, strict discipline is maintained. On occasions where off-duty Guards have behaved in an unacceptable fashion the offender has been dealt with extremely firmly, and after a period of re-training usually becomes a far greater asset to the Force.

Apart from the regular training and Headquarters staff the white members in Guard Force are National Servicemen who will serve 18 months and D Category group (25 to 38 years old) who will serve their appointed call-ups with the Force.

The natural planning and co-ordination abilities of these groups are used to the best advantage by training the members as Keep Commanders.

The course lasts for five to six weeks and includes much the same subjects as that for the black regular recruits, but with more emphasis on the organisational and leadership side. A basic knowledge of local African custom and traditions is given and a grounding in the principles of man management.

Ideally Guard Force aim to supply each Keep with a Keep Commander and a Keep Deputy Commander, plus the normal complement of Guards. If a Keep Commander shows promise in his duties, he may be recalled to Chikurubi Depot to appear before an Officer Selection Board and to undergo an Officer's training course. If he passes the course successfully he may then expect promotion and find himself in charge of a Forward Command Post organising a group of Protected Villages, or else employed at Group Headquarters.

The recruits are trained by both black and white officers. Ninety per cent. of the instructors are from other services, namely the Army and Police force, and they all have adequate periods of military experience behind them. Every instructor will have attended courses at the School of Infantry in Gwelo, as have the remaining ten per cent. of instructors who have come from the Guard Force itself.

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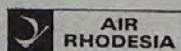
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THE RHODESIAN ARMY

The toughest counter-insurgency force



A FORMER Commander-in-Chief of NATO, General Sir Walter Walker, has described Rhodesia's troops as "the toughest counter-insurgency force in the world". In a letter to *The Times* newspaper he said, "The army cannot be defeated in the field either by terrorists or even a much more sophisticated enemy."

The history of the Rhodesian Army is a distinguished one. They fought for Britain during two World Wars and served her faithfully in Burma and during the dirty war in Malaya. With such experience behind them the officers and men of this relatively small but efficient force can look to the future of this country with confidence. They are more than competent to safeguard our borders against outside trouble-makers. Since inception the Rhodesian Army have often had to expand and change as circumstances demanded, and they are fully capable of adapting to any demands the future of our country might make.

As the war progressed and greater demands were made on the Territorial forces, it became clear that if commerce and industry were to continue operating at their original efficient level, a larger number of regular soldiers would have to be trained in the Army, to relieve the demands on the Territorial soldiers.

Until the end of 1977 the Independent Companies of the Rhodesia Regiment had been commanded by regular members, but the junior leadership had come from the National Servicemen. Over a period of about two months these Independent Companies were converted to Rhodesian African Rifles companies, by feeding into their ranks newly trained black soldiers from their Training Depot at Balla Balla, near Bulawayo.

At the same time the National Servicemen, who were previously in these companies, were distributed amongst the Territorial Battalions. Approximately half their number were deployed as the leadership element for the newly trained black soldiers. So today the Independent Companies have become part of the Rhodesian African Rifles Regiment and are fully integrated. Each man, regardless of race, proudly wears the R.A.R. embellishments on his uniform.

To further extend this programme, aimed at relieving the burden of the Territorial Army so that they

may be returned to commerce, newly trained black soldiers from Balla Balla have also been fed into the Territorial Battalions. The soldiers, when they complete their training, become R.A.R. soldiers and are attached for extended periods to the Territorial Army Battalions, thus swelling the ranks and providing a greater number of fighting men and at the same time relieving the demands on the Territorial soldiers. At present, as in the Independent Companies, the riflemen are mainly the newly trained black soldiers and the leadership is provided by the more experienced white members of the Territorial Army. In time, as experienced men come to the fore and larger numbers of applications are received for the commissioning courses from qualified black members, the leadership ranks will be taken up by a more integrated cross-section of Army personnel.

In both the Independent Companies and the Territorial Battalions, the specialist posts are at present held by white National Servicemen and Territorial members, since there has as yet been insufficient time to assess the potential of the newly trained soldiers, or to train them in a specialist field. During the current year the soldiers will be watched to see if any aptitude emerges which will lead them on to specialist training. Often the requirements peculiar to a specialist job automatically categorise those who are available for training. A man wishing to specialise in Signals must be competent to read, write and understand English to an efficient standard. A prospective vehicle driver must be co-ordinated and level-headed, capable of reacting calmly in an emergency situation. Future medics must have already attained a certain standard of education and possess a certain empathy towards people, particularly sick or injured people. Even a storeman must have a sound knowledge of English and accounting, since most of his work will consist of dealing with figures and invoices written in the English language.

Only after a man has served in the Army for about a year does he begin to show a definite aptitude towards one field or another. At this stage his officers will be able to pick him out and channel him into the appropriate courses.

This entire programme of integration must be con-

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A soldier's education ought never to stop.

considered in the light of the whole Rhodesian African Rifles Regiment, and it should be remembered that there are already two entire Battalions of R.A.R. They have a complete structure of black NCOs and the private soldiers serving in these Battalions are far senior in experience and service to the new soldiers in the Independent Companies and the Territorial Battalions. Obviously the Army must initially draw from these more experienced men for candidates for junior and senior leadership.

The young soldiers at present leaving the Training Depot at Balla Balla will be required to undergo further training to complete their knowledge on certain aspects of warfare. During training the emphasis is heavily on instruction in counter-insurgency bush warfare which will equip the soldier for the type of fighting he can expect in the field. However, if he wishes to progress in an Army career he will also require a sound knowledge of classical warfare, and it is the Army's responsibility through the Independent Companies and the Territorial Battalions to provide the necessary courses and training so that these soldiers may complete their

military education to this level. A soldier's education, of course, ought never to stop. As new tactics and weapons are developed throughout the world, so he should keep up to date and therefore at a permanent advantage, or at least at the same level, as any prospective enemy near his borders.

At present there are sufficient new soldiers to form a Third Battalion of the Rhodesian African Rifles and it is the aim of the Rhodesian Army to do just this when circumstances permit. At present a shortage of suitable accommodation and, more important, of trained regular command staff, makes this exercise impossible.

THE COMMAND LEADERSHIP

The basic requirements an applicant for an Officers' Selection Board must possess are a minimum of four GCE O Levels, preferably with Mathematics and English, and he must be between 17½ and 25 years old.

These qualifications have always applied to anyone of any race who cared to apply to the Rhodesian Army



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as a prospective Officer Cadet. In the past, applications have been received from the black sector of the community, but invariably when an applicant possessed the correct qualifications and was sent an invitation to attend a Selection Board, nothing further was ever heard of him.

As the need for command ranks grew more pressing, it was decided to actively encourage the existing senior NCO ranks within the Army itself, to go forward for officer training. For the first Commissioning Course of this type candidates were put forward from the ranks of "The Old and Bold", as the Army termed them. These were experienced men who had served with the Army for many years. Most of them had seen service in the Second World War and in Malaya. The military life and the discipline that is so essential to the efficient running of an army were no strangers to these men. The second Commissioning Course, which ends later this year, runs along similar lines and took its candidates from the more junior NCO ranks. This second course has bridged the gap between the seasoned soldiers and the normal officer training course run for the 17½ to 25 year old age group, who must possess the four GCE O Levels. This year, 1978, saw a return to the normal one year Cadet course, open to applicants from all races who possess the required qualifications. All this year's cadets are at present attending the regular Officers' training course run at the School of Infantry. The syllabus is the same as it has always been and the accommodation and facilities are shared by all.

If an applicant has the required educational requirements he is invited to attend a Selection Board where he is tested in various ways to assess his potential and his character.

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examiners a remarkably accurate rating of the candidate's logic and deduction abilities, his awareness of current affairs, his reaction to other people and his behaviour as a member of a group led by another member of the course or how he in turn leads. He is observed for his ability to speak, listen and argue. The candidates are subjected to practical tests which combine brain, muscle power and ingenuity. Over the years this has proved to be a most reliable system of selecting suitable characters for leadership of the armed forces, and very few misfits slip through into the group of potential officers who finally begin Officer Training.

Historic Day

The late Lt.-Col. G. E. L. Rule was the first Commanding Officer of the Rhodesian African Rifles. In his will he stated that his ceremonial sword should be presented to the first black officer to be commissioned. Thus it was an historic and significant day when, on 9th June, 1977, Mrs. Rule, the widow of the late Lt.-Col. Rule, presented the sword to Lt. Martin Tumbari.

Lt. Tumbari had joined the Army in 1947 and had served in Egypt, Malaya, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia. He had been on parade when the Queen mother had presented the Regimental Colours to the Battalion.

Despite the publicity given to the commissioning of black officers, the number of applications received from young, qualified African men is still small, both from the military and civilian sectors. At the start of 1978 applications were invited from young men throughout the country, and yet the course this year has only one black cadet and two coloured cadets amongst those in training.

It is true that a certain personal sacrifice of material

Mrs. Rule, widow of
Lt. Col. Kim Rule (first
C.O. of R.A.R.), presents
her late husband's
sword to Lt. Martin
Tumbari, the first
African soldier to be
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wealth is required when young men embark on an Army career, but the sense of achievement and the pride in serving their country seems to compensate the cadets who undergo the Officer Training Course each year.

Throughout history there have been individuals who have attempted to grasp or assume leadership, particularly in the military field; but it is not something that can be learnt out of thin air or caught like a disease. Like everything else that is worthwhile in life, it requires dedication and hard work.

THE RHODESIA DEFENCE REGIMENT

THE dark green stable belts of the Protection Units have taken on a new significance in the continuing war against terrorism. Over the years the Re-enforcement Holding Units and the Protection Units have quietly grown, and their deployment has become increasingly important in the defence of Rhodesia's borders.

On January 1st, 1978, these units were combined to form an official regiment and took their place proudly alongside longer serving regiments of the Rhodesian Army. The Regimental Depot at which servicemen will be trained for the Rhodesia Defence Regiment is at Inkomo, just outside of Salisbury.

The embryo from which the new regiment has grown existed for many years, in the form of the Re-enforcement Holding Units. These were originally purely

paper units which were formed at the beginning of 1973 to take on theoretical strength those Coloured and Asian personnel who had completed their Territorial service with the Supply and Transport platoons. Also included were the members of "Dad's Army", comprising the older age-group white personnel who had completed Territorial service with the Rhodesia Regiment battalions.

For several years members of the Re-enforcement Holding Units were called up for a short period, once or twice a year, and deployed in non-combatant roles. However, as the war escalated, the need for protection and guard troops increased the task of these personnel, and extended it to a more active role. As a result, in 1974 the Protection Companies were formed on a small basis, embracing the Coloured and Asian members. These two Protection Companies had a more mobile role than the previous Holding Units, and acted as escorts for army convoys transporting supplies and equipment to operational areas. They also guarded encampments and machinery where necessary. The situation remained at this level for three years. During this time, however, the strength of the Protection Companies had been increasing, along with that of the Re-enforcement Holding Units, as a growing number of men completed their service with the Territorial forces.

When the combined strength of the units reached approximately 6 000 it became obvious that such a reservoir of manpower could be more profitably de-

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played than hitherto, and the suggestion of forming a new regiment was put forward.

Thus the Rhodesian Defence Regiment was born, placing the Protection Companies and Holding Units on a properly co-ordinated and recognised footing.

Two battalions have been formed: the Number 1 Mashonaland Battalion, based at Cranborne Barracks in Salisbury, and the Number 2 Matabeleland Battalion, based at Brady Barracks in Bulawayo. The new regiment has its own Depot at Inkomo, near Salisbury, where the Coloured and Asian National Servicemen are trained, and where older serving members receive pre-deployment training.

These battalions are made up from four different categories of servicemen.

Firstly, there are the National Servicemen from the Coloured and Asian ethnic groups, who are required to serve eighteen months, as are their white counterparts in other regiments.

Secondly, there is the "K" Intake, comprising the 25 to 38 year old age group of Coloureds and Asians who had not previously been subject to call-up. This category are now required to serve for eighty-four days. Half this period is spent in training at Inkomo and the second half on deployment.

The third category are the continuously embodied volunteers. These are Coloured and Asian members who volunteer for a year of continuous service. At the end of that year they are free to leave or to sign on again for a further year. This arrangement virtually makes them regular members of the regiment. At present there is some discrepancy between conditions of service of these continuous volunteers and those of regular members of the Army, but it is hoped that these will be equalised before much longer. As a first step towards achieving this, the first Coloured officer has already been appointed. He is a medical officer, with the rank of Captain, and it is hoped that this will lead the way for future suitably qualified members of the Rhodesia Defence Regiment to be accepted into the permanent force. The Rhodesian Women's Service, from its inception, accepted Coloured recruits as permanent members of the force, and at present there are six Coloured ladies serving their country, several of whom are deployed at Rhodesia Defence Regiment Headquarters at Cranborne.

The fourth category is "Dad's Army", who are the older whites of over 38 years.

Both battalions are structured to take into account the differing tasks required of the companies. The National Servicemen, the "K" Intake, and the continuously embodied volunteers are generally deployed on the higher priority tasks, whereas the over 38 year old category, who are liable for a shorter period of commitment than the younger men, are used for more sedentary tasks.

This does tend to result in the formation of companies of separate ethnic groups, but plans are afoot to include an intake of over 38 year old Coloureds and Asians in the future, in order to create additional com-

panies who could contribute effectively to the force. These intakes would be liable for the same commitment as their white counterparts and would be deployed on similar duties.

A recent innovation has been a pilot group of Coloured National Servicemen who have been given full combat training and then deployed in the field.

The Commander of the Rhodesia Defence Regiment, Lt. Col. Peter Grobbelaar, is extremely satisfied with the way in which the servicemen have adapted to training and given a good account of themselves.

Discipline is strict, as it should be with all effective forces, and Col. Grobbelaar pointed out that the Coloured soldier appears to have the natural aggression which is vital in all combat troops. Other servicemen will undoubtedly follow along the same paths, taking on an increasing responsibility in the fight against encroaching communism. The step from defensive to combatant role has not been particularly difficult since in recent years the members of the Protection Units were required to display a more aggressive role in the face of attacks by the enemy.

After a long period of semi-obscure, the Protection Units and Dad's Army have finally found their own identity in the Rhodesia Defence Regiment, with their own insignia and embellishments, and they are obviously bent on proving their worth.

Co-operation and consideration between the various ethnic groups have been excellent. On occasions where units of mixed ethnic groups have been deployed the members of this new and vital regiment have displayed a most responsible attitude in making allowances for the differences in diet and religious practice that must obviously exist. Problems have arisen on occasion, in supplying the required contents of ration packs (for example, a Moslem would require a different ratpack to a non-Moslem), but with the general spirit of co-operation that pervades the regiment, these difficulties have been ironed out.

There is no discrepancy in pay and general conditions between the different ethnic groups of the territorial strength of the new regiment.

Despite their newness, the Rhodesia Defence Regiment possess certain distinctive foibles, one being their own language. The RLI are famed for being incomprehensible to the ordinary listener, but the RDR certainly offer a challenge to the RLI superiority in this matter.

The story is told of the RDR private who, on seeing heavy artillery in the field for the first time, went and called his friend, saying, "Hey, Joe, just come outside and sight the size of this catie" (catapult).

The tale is also told of the radio operator who persisted in asking Control to "Bowl me the ages". After a considerable pause and a great deal of head-scratching, Control finally realised that the operator was merely asking for a time check.

And, of course, all armies have their clowns who never seem to quite know why they are there at all, and rather wish they were not. (No doubt the officers

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Krest lemonade
Krest ginger ale
and... Krest tonic!

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also wish they were not.) An RDR private appeared before an officer on a disciplinary offence. When he was given an opportunity to speak he proceeded to ramble on in such a vague and inconsequential manner that in the end the officer stopped him.

"Are you prepared to accept the punishment of the disciplinary officer, or do you elect to stand trial by court martial?" the trooper was asked.

To which the bewildered trooper replied, "I'd just like to stand down, sir."

History does not relate his fate.

THE RHODESIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

"WHAT happens if . . . ?" is the unasked question that flits behind the cheerful smile and casual conversation of families and friends of serving members of the Security Forces.

Where there is war there are bound to be casualties. The fact that the enemy sustain greater and more serious afflictions than our own forces is of little comfort when your own men are in need of medical assistance.

So what in fact does happen if a soldier is wounded in a contact?

Initially he would receive first-aid from his nearest comrade. As soon as possible the qualified medical assistant accompanying the patrol would check on his condition and administer morphine. A report would be radioed to base and arrangements made from there to evacuate the injured man, either by road or by air, and to advise his next of kin.

Having been returned to his base, where there would be a medical unit, possibly one of the new mobile units, the condition of the man would be assessed and the necessary medical attention administered to stabilise his condition in order to evacuate him to a city hospital. If his wound is not serious and does not require further attention, it will be treated at the unit. The main aim of the medical team is to get the patient from the

field and into hospital for appropriate treatment in the shortest possible time. To assist in achieving this objective the Rhodesian Air Force willingly co-operate by supplying suitable aircraft to take the patient to hospital.

It is comforting to know that first class medical attention is available at all stages to wounded servicemen, but Col. J. F. Ainslie, who has served with the Corps for 22 years and is now the Director of the Medical Corps, explained that this life-saving role was not the only responsibility of his dedicated personnel. They are also responsible for preventative measures against such diseases as malaria and bilharzia, and for the supply and delivery of all medical requisites to all Army hospitals and units throughout the country.

The Medical Corps is staffed by both regular and territorial members. These embody three different aspects: medical, dental and, as an unusual addition since horses and dogs have been used so effectively in the war, veterinary.

The younger age-group doctors are required to serve one year of National Service in the Medical Corps after completing their housemanship.

In recent years older doctors have volunteered for service and are now called up as territorials approximately twice a year. Call-up procedure is arranged in consultation with the doctors themselves and with the Rhodesian Medical Association so that mutually convenient arrangements can be made.

In addition to the Regular Army doctors serving on the Corps, the Army run a cadetship system, which ensures a regular supply of medical personnel. Each year a number of cadetships are advertised and suitably qualified members of the public are invited to apply. The required number of cadets are chosen through interviews with a Selection Board and these young men are then attested into the Army.

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their vacations they are required, as attested soldiers, to perform some military service.

On completion of their training they return to Army duty, with officer rank, and before they can resign to take up civilian practice, doctors are required to serve in the Medical Corps for four years and dentists for five.

The duties of the doctors are primarily towards the serving members of the forces, and to the families and dependants of the regular members.

Government hospitals are available for those who require specialist treatment. For minor cases, camp hospitals are available at Inkomo Garrison, King George VI Barracks, the RLI Barracks, the Llewellyn Barracks, Brady Barracks and Methuen Barracks. The Army Medical Corps are also responsible for the hospitals at New Sarum and Thornhill which cater for Air Force personnel.

These camp hospitals also act as consulting centres where members and their families may consult a doctor, free of charge, and discuss their medical problem. Should it be decided that special attention is required, the case would be referred to a panel of Consultants who would consider the case and if necessary refer the patient to a Government hospital.

Mobile Units — The Life-Savers

A certain amount of controversy surrounded the first mobile surgical units when they were presented to the Army Medical Corps by the Lions Club. There were claims that the expenditure on each of these fully equipped, fully mobile medical units was not warranted by the limited use they would receive.

Col. Ainslie strongly refutes these allegations. He says the units have already proved invaluable in resuscitating and stabilising patients so that they may be transferred in a satisfactory condition to hospital.

These units are fully equipped with oxygen, plasma, intravenous fluids, antibiotics and all necessary equipment required to render efficient assistance to an injured man. They are completely insulated and equipped with their own lighting and air conditioning units which run off the unit's own power source. Treatment under such conditions obviously increases the likelihood of the patient being received at the hospital in the best possible condition to respond to their specialised ministrations.

When the remaining number of mobile units are completed (they are in various stages of construction at present) the Medical Corps will have sufficient units to provide first class treatment in all forward areas where other medical facilities are not available.

In a number of areas rural clinics and hospitals have been forced to close as a result of harassment by terrorist gangs, leaving the local people with little or no medical aid. Although the Medical Corps do not undertake to provide a regular medical service to the tribesmen they will always render assistance where it is required.

Landmines are unselective, but despite the danger that they will be detonated by innocent black civilians, the terrorists persist in laying these death-traps along roads well used by local people. Senseless carnage is the inevitable result, as ox carts carrying sacks of maize meal, wood and usually young children, detonate such devices. Often there is little to salvage from the explosion; but where there is life there is always hope, and the Medical Corps have more than once reacted to calls for help with speed and efficiency.

The special responsibility of the Army Health Department is to prevent diseases rather than cure them. Malaria and bilharzia have long been the scourge of Africa, but they can be prevented if the correct precautions are adhered to.

The Health Inspectors visit and inspect barracks and field camps and then advise on the necessary steps that are required. Since contact with bilharzia infected water cannot always be avoided, the Army undertake to test members each year for the disease.

Water purification tablets are issued to soldiers and they are instructed in the correct use of these. In this manner all dangerous bacteria, including those of typhoid and cholera, are destroyed.

A large number of other ranks are also trained as Medical Assistants. It is their duty to aid the Medical Officers both in the field and in the camp hospitals.

The Assistants are trained at the Corps training school in Bulawayo.

Territorial soldiers undergoing initial training at Llewellyn Barracks are observed and suitable members are required to train as Medical Assistants. These are deployed with patrols in the field.

The task of supplying the hospitals belonging to the Army, the Air Force and the medical units in the field is a mammoth one. It is the responsibility of the Army Medical Equipment Section to ensure that essential medical supplies and equipment reach the most remote forward base as efficiently as they do the urban camp hospital.

To facilitate the dental care of the soldiers, the Medical Corps uses a mobile dental surgery. The "Fang Wagon" was originally a mobile bank agency belonging to the Standard Bank. Through the generosity of the Bank and the Lions Club of Marlborough, this was converted, and now reluctant soldiers "get drilled" where once crisp bank notes changed hands.

In the tranquillity of the Inyanga downs, wounded servicemen regain their health and peace of mind. Tsanga Lodge is the rehabilitation and convalescent centre for soldiers, and receives all ethnic groups. Facilities are not so sophisticated as those of better known rehabilitation centres, but since patients generally attend one of these formal centres before arriving at Tsanga Lodge, this does not present a problem.

Soldiers recuperating from illness or surgery are accommodated here, along with those who have suffered more serious disabilities. Tsanga Lodge is an integral part of the mission of healing undertaken by the Army Medical Corps.

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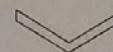
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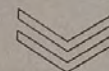
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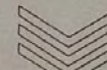
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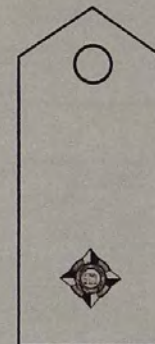
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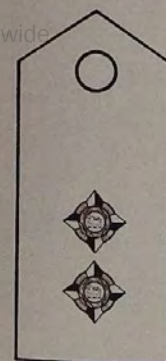
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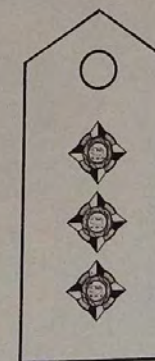
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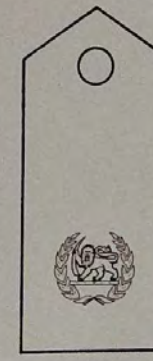
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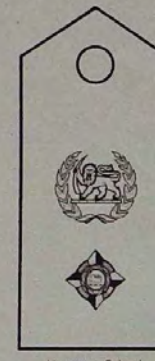
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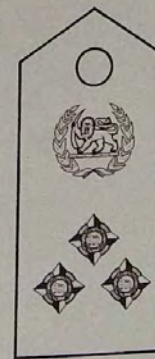
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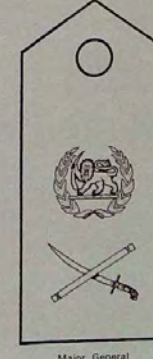
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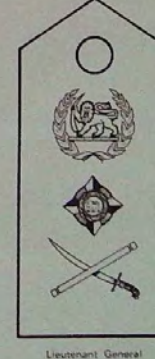
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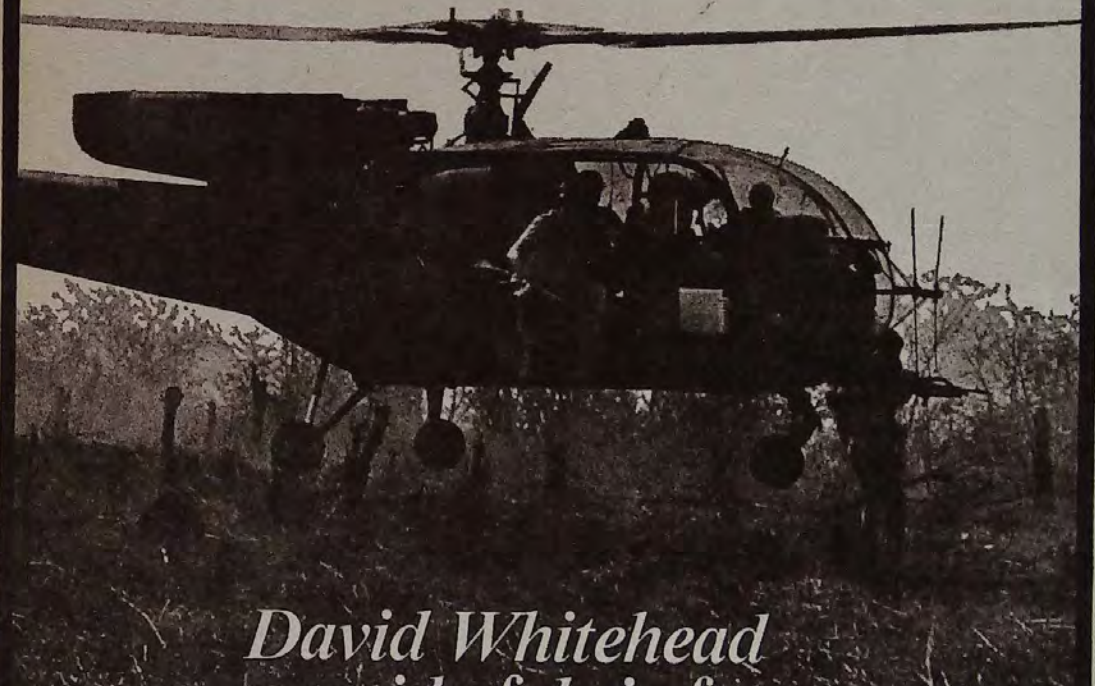
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