



# assegai

the magazine of the rhodesian army



Vol. 17, No. 2, 15th June, 1977



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# assegai

the magazine of the Rhodesian army

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15th JUNE, 1977

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Commander of the Army

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## Contents

**Cover photograph:**

*WO 1 R. R. Schofield explains the capability of the new kitchen equipment to the Minister of Defence and Mrs. Partridge at the opening of the new dining complex at Depot, The Rhodesia Regiment.*

(Courtesy: Army Photographer)

MESSAGE FROM THE ARMY COMMANDER	3
SIGNALS RELAY THE NEWS	5
ACTING PRESIDENT VISITS DEPOT RAR	7
RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION	9
OUMA GOES TO WAR	11
THE HICKMAN HILTON	13
GOLF NEWS AND GIMBOKI RANGE	15
BORDER PATROL WELFARE FUND	17
KOHIMA	21
AS CHARGED	25
EXTRACTING THE DIGIT	27
HALLINGBURY SCHOOL WAR EFFORT	29
HOOTERVILLE HERALD	31
CARTOON COMPETITION	33

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## Message from the Commander of the Army

I am honoured as your new Commander to have this opportunity to address all members of the Rhodesian Army, for the first time, in this edition of *Assegai*.

In accepting the appointment at such a crucial time, I am deeply conscious of my duty and responsibility to the Army and to our beloved country. For both, I

have the utmost faith, loyalty and dedication.

We are faced simultaneously with political evolution, an economic and psychological war and finally with an intensified terrorist insurgency and a possible threat of classical war. For what purpose? Allegedly so that we Rhodesians of all races and creeds can determine our future in a democratic manner.

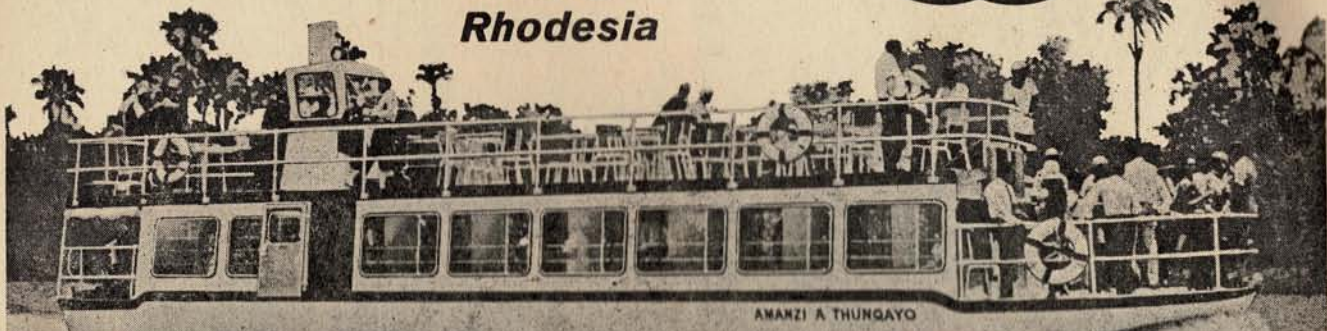
Naturally there is much uncertainty but we are soldiers, not politicians, and we must concentrate on hard facts. We accept the principle of political evolution. However, political change must be effected within an internal situation as stable as we can make it. What we cannot accept is that a minority of armed thugs and murderers can butcher and intimidate the majority of the population into what could be a false or wrong decision as to our collective future. I defy any professional military commander, Rhodesian or otherwise, to deny the rightness of this argument.

Our objective is crystal clear. Together with our colleagues in the other Services of the Security Forces, the Army must provide the stability from which a political solution, acceptable to the majority of people in Rhodesia, can be negotiated. Our immediate aim is equally clear — it is the ruthless eradication of the terrorist threat by ALL military means. I command you, therefore, to re-dedicate yourselves to the accomplishment of this aim, as I do now. In this you must be heartened by the knowledge that we, the Rhodesian Army, have never suffered a military defeat, and we do not intend to blemish this fine record — particularly as it so vitally affects our future.

We have a duty to perform and I would ask you all to apply yourselves to it with redoubled vigour.

May God bless you and your families  
in your endeavours.

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Air safaris, too are becoming increasingly popular. **R.U.A.C.**, Rhodesia United Air Carriers an associate company, supplies these and other air charter services.



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# School of Signals relay the news . . . and keep the fans happy

Over the weekend 18 to 30 May members of the School of Signals, Brady Barracks put their theoretical knowledge to practical use by transmitting details of the progress of competitors in the Dunlop three-day stage cycle race.

Lt R. Lotter, who was in charge of the Signals detachment, said that the exercise had been particularly valuable and that "the men learnt flexibility and how to sort out communications problems on the spot. When something went wrong they had to set up relays and this was all good experience".

From the spectators point of view the information passed by the Signals was quickly relayed over the public address system gave up to the minute news of the leaders, breakaways and pile-ups. Race officials were most complimentary about this facility which made for smoother organisation.

All the Signals personnel involved volunteered to cover the event.



*Smn Chris Nel hands a message, detailing the composition of the leading bunch of cyclists, to Cpl John Rautledge for transmission to the main control centre located at the finish line.*  
(Courtesy: Bulawayo Chronicle).

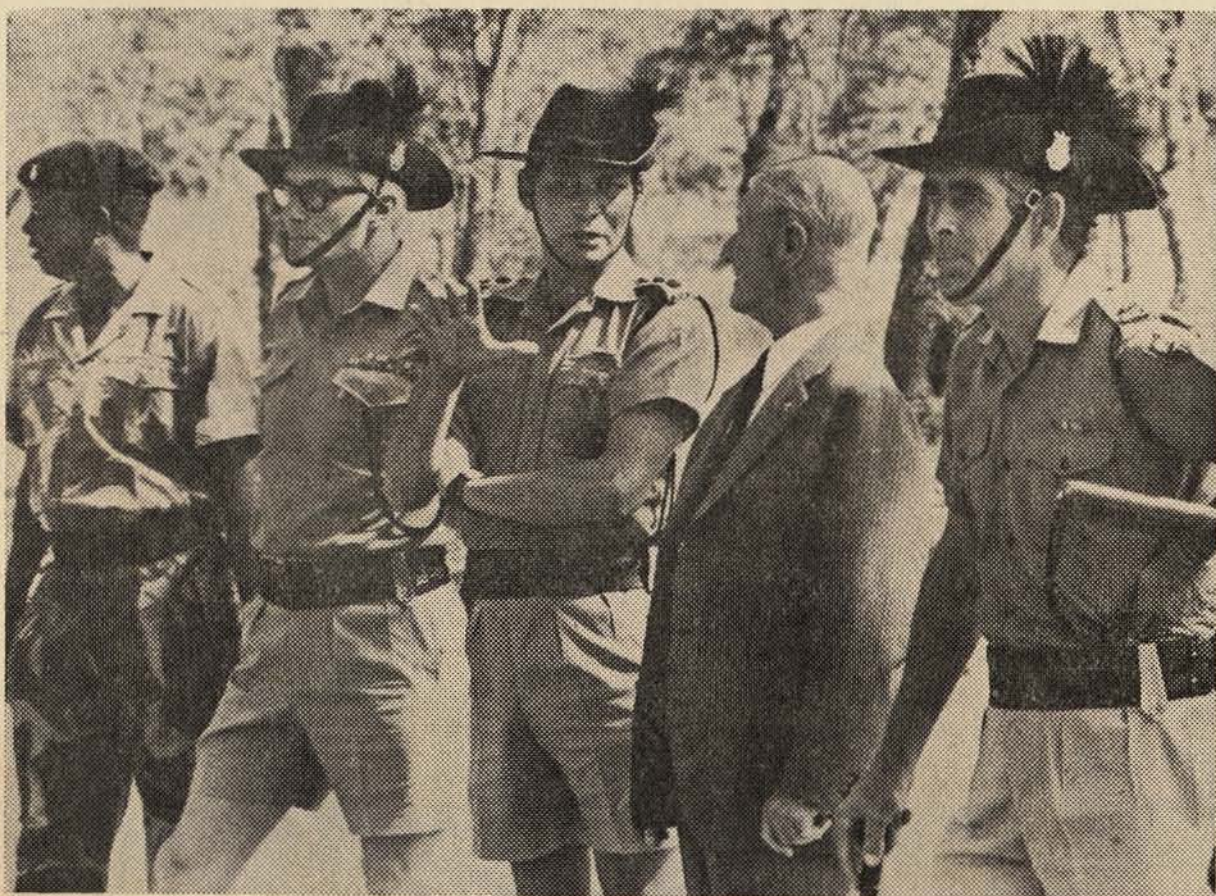


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## Acting President visits Depot RAR



The acting President of Rhodesia Lt Col H. B. Everard visited Depot, The Rhodesian African Rifles at Balla Balla on the 18 May.

After inspecting Shaw Barracks, Col Everard visited a training area close by where recruits of Intake 1/77 were undergoing instruction in anti-terrorist tactics.

*The Acting President, Lt Col H. B. Everard is briefed by the Training Officer, Depot RAR. Accompanying the Acting President were, left to right: RSM Manaure, Maj Bonzo Atkinson, Capt Ed Fouche, BCR, Lt Col Everard and Maj Pete Morris, Commandant Depot RAR.*

*(Courtesy: Bulawayo Chronicle)*

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# RWS news . . .

## Ouma Goes to War

It all started with the poster . . . You know the one . . . Kitchener pointing a finger and saying, "Your country needs YOU." My policeman son has it on the wall of his pad and after a few visits it had a thoroughly hypnotic effect on me, with the result that early one morning I found myself with twenty-nine other females of like intent but totally unlike in shape, size, age and experience, boarding a bus for stores. Here we spent an amazing three hours getting kitted out . . . more clothes than I'd ever had at any one time before and some of them even fitted me, in places! After lunch we had a lecture from a charming lady of some good few month's service who introduced us in the correct wearing of our new uniforms and mentioned in passing, that although now in the Army we were totally non-combatant soldiers, that we would never be expected to carry arms and venture into the forward areas and that above all we should never lose our femininity . . . that was day one!

Day two was quite different. We started as the early morning mist mingled with the red dust thrown up by our fleet of landrovers. We stood around like a pathetic bunch of rather badly tied camouflage parcels until it occurred to the bright few that the enormous volume of sound emerging from the lips of a rather well set up and immaculate looking gentleman was words . . . albeit unfamiliar words like "squad" and "move" and "fall in", but we were definitely meant to do something about it. We did, We moved, fell over rather than fell in and ended up as something remotely resembling a squad. All that can be said about the next three hours was that they passed. The odd fragile bloom fainted and was placed neatly in the shade to recover, blisters could almost be heard forming on delicate civilian feet but somehow we made it . . . even managing to clamber aboard our transport where we collapsed into the panting, sweating and voiceless heaps. Lunch was a real eye-opener . . . diet conscious dollies wolfing plates of steak and umpteen vegetables, helped down with bread and butter, hunks of cheese and gallons of tea or coffee. Afternoons should have been better, or at least less strenuous but what with trying to stay awake in lectures or doing incredible things with pistols and uzis it was all go from dawn to dusk and by four thirty we were thirty minds with but a single thought . . . hot bath and bed.

But women are adaptable, versatile creatures and by mid-week we were quite at home in our lumpy, scratchy camouflage, quite familiar with the ramifications of our fly buttons and hefty webbing belts. We got into the habit of marching everywhere rather than strolling and contemplated with a fair amount of professional pride the day when we would make our first, crisp salute. The three hours of drill each morning set us up for hours that followed and we were even able to accept with equanimity the special type of criticisms peculiar to "Drill Pigs" which was lavished upon us at each drill session by our own Drill Sgt Major . . . matter of fact we became quite fond of the lad in a masochistic sort of way. He certainly was a shining example of neatness and efficiency which we did our small best to copy.

In the second week we had a couple of really splendid afternoons out at the range firing off live ammunition no less and, much to our surprise, there were no nasty accidents. We didn't always hit the targets of course but I don't doubt we looked a formidable body of men/women, enough to strike terror into the hearts and minds of the enemy . . . and this is where I must refer back to the first lecture about non-combatants and femininity. It's all part of the great cosmic joke, as a friend of mine used to remark when at a loss for the answer. All our instructors in the more active subjects, and in this I include first aid, kept stressing the operational, bush aspects and what to do when faced with a bunch of ferocious terrors. Mind you, these instructors were all male and for most of them it was a first brush with the fairer sex in the role of tutor. One has to hand it to them, they were models of patience and rectitude most of the time and did a good job on us, all things considered.

At the end of two weeks we paraded at the RLI Barracks to the dulcet strains of the Prisons Band . . . all done up in our number ones, looking as though butter wouldn't melt in our mouths and under those fancy exteriors thirty highly efficient, fully trained fighting machines! Well, it makes a good ending to what was really just a beginning and if yours truly should ever make Lieutenant that policeman son will have to salute me. Justice will be seen to be done, after all, it was his fault in the first place, his and that rotten poster.

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# The Hickman Hilton

by

F. C. D. EATON



*Army Commander celebrates the completion of the "Hilton" with Mr. Jeff Rigby and Sgt John Smith.*

For the last few weeks life at Army Headquarters (never, according to some, a very enjoyable one) has been pandemonium. On the morning of 1st April, 1977, 3 Engineer Squadron descended on the building in full strength loaded with Jack Hammers, sledge hammers and chisels and with an evil gleam in their eyes. By 0830 hours no one in the building could speak or telephone due to the noise and a cloud of dust seeped into every office cupboard and desk drawer.

This was the start of the construction of the new office accommodation for the Army Commander and the two Chiefs of Staff. For the benefit of those who never visit the corridors unless they can possibly help it, the whole of the central wing of the existing building which used to house the Engineer Directorate together with the ladies' rest room is now a suite of offices and in the courtyard alongside is a small conference/map room.

After a few weeks the noise and dust of the demolition died down and the construction started. This brought with it a new distraction

in the form of wheelbarrows of sloppy cement which could, and often did, nearly run you down just for the hell of it. The sloppy cement did, of course, slop and was duly walked down all the passages and into every office. Camp and his staff almost gave up trying to keep the place clean.

However, in due time the job was completed. Carpets were laid, painting finished and on the evening of Friday, May 13th a roof wetting party was held in the new complex, attended by the Army Commander and most of his staff. All members of 3 Engineer Squadron who have probably never worked so hard in their lives also attended. General Hickman congratulated the Sappers on the standard of their work and the speed at which they completed the job. He stressed that with the recent re-organisation of the Command structure in the Headquarters it was obvious that the existing office accommodation was totally inadequate, and because the new complex was more spacious and comfortable he hoped that this would lead to greater efficiency.

# The 10 most asked questions about the Army



## What's it like in the operational area?

Tough, tiring and often dangerous. But the training you get beforehand is so thorough that you're capable of dealing with any situation that might arise.

## How tough is basic training?

Again, very tough, especially the first six weeks. But if you're reasonably fit, you shouldn't have too much trouble keeping-up. If you're not, the training will get you into shape. You'll probably feel better than you've ever felt before and have an appetite like a horse.

## What about bull?

There is now no unnecessary spit and polish. Of course, outside the operational area, we expect you to look smart and presentable. However it's nothing you can't handle. Once you get into the swing of things, kit cleaning takes only a few minutes each day.

## And haircuts?

Over the past two or three years, the rules have relaxed to the point that you don't stick out like a sore thumb when you're wearing civvies but you still look smart in uniform.

## How strict is the Army?

There is discipline, there is drill. But it's all designed to help you work as an efficient member of a team. When you're relying on your friends, and they're relying on you, there's no room for slackness or sloppiness. Funny thing about Army discipline, we haven't come across a single individual who can say that it hasn't stood him in good stead later on in life.



## What about the time off?

There's plenty of free time, except when you're on ops. Usually, evenings and weekends are your own. And there's 49 days paid leave a year.

## Why is the Army still recruiting when there is such a wide-spread call-up?

The Army is an organisation that needs a nucleus of trained men to keep it at peak efficiency. The Army can't afford any gaps, so recruitment is an ongoing process to maintain the force the country needs. A team of professionals.

## Can I choose any Army job?

Yes, if you're good enough and if there's a vacancy. What we like to do is show you all our careers at a Recruitment Centre. This is a thorough process that helps us see where your talent lies. Together we'll spend some time in pinpointing the job you'll be a natural for.

## Do I commit myself by going to an Army Recruitment Office?

Far from it. The office is there as a recruitment point. It's also there to supply you with all the information you need to help you decide if the Army's for you.

And just because you might want to join, doesn't mean to say that the Army will take you on automatically. The standards are high because the demands of soldiering are tough.

## Is there much travel?

It's possible that your role could call for you to be in Bulawayo one day and the north-east or Kariba the next. Variety is the keynote and you'll travel to remote parts of the country where it's quite an event to see a European. Any other questions?

Your nearest Army Recruitment

Centre can give you the answers.

Look in today. Write:

The Recruiting Officer, Pvt. Bag 7720, Causeway or Tel. 707060 Salisbury.



# Army Golf Scene

Where have all the golfers gone? Well, some of them are battling to the tee, albeit not too frequently. To prevent the sport becoming completely defunct, Maj Lin Combrink had the idea of setting the different Corps against one another on one Wednesday a month.

Three games have been played between Services, Signals and Medics (Army HQ have not been able to provide a team yet), all of which have been won by Signals — rumour that they have perfected a radio controlled ball is completely false. We hope to get more players out of their cubby holes — even an ad-hoc team such as Army HQ/RLI/Armoured Cars would be welcome. The games are played on the first Wednesday of every month at either Wingate, Police or Country Club. As the winning team chooses the venue — contact Signals! Teams consist of six players.

On another front (course) Llewellyn Barracks are holding their Annual Open Championship over the weekend 25th/26th June, 1977 and would welcome entries from other centres.

The new handicapping system is now in full swing and for this reason, players who do not submit their scores after every game may find themselves suddenly playing off a very much lower handicap. Maj Clarke is being inundated with cards from players he thought that he had packed up. On the other hand, players who cannot get a game in because of operational commitments may find themselves pushed out a shot or two. The essence of the new system is that ALL players submit their scores after



every game. Hopefully, the golf “ringer” will become a rare creature in the future.

Those players who are convinced that the Signals have a bad habit of winning may be pleased to hear that they were thrashed (255 against 262 points) once again by Hartley. The good citizens of the town meet them about twice a year for a golfing, shooting, gaming weekend. Four times Signals have tried, four times they have lost.

Finally, two Salisbury teams (eight players) are going to Llewellyn Barracks on the 11th June, 1977 to play against Bulawayo and Gwelo, a mini-championship — Lt Col Clem Langton, having found a golfer or two, rashly challenged the other towns. The results should be very interesting. One can never tell, we may be able to sneak an Army Championship in over a weekend —after all, if the Blue Jobs and Fuzz can do it, why can't we?

---

## Gimboki Range

Through the generosity of Mrs. Petrusa Kruger who formerly lived at Chipinga, the Rifle Clubs of the Eastern Districts now have a rifle range with facilities which better most in the country.

Over the years Gimboki Range has been used frequently by Army and Police Rifle Clubs. More recently the Range has been used extensively by 4th Battalion, The Rhodesia Regiment for training purposes. This constant use merely served to highlight the primitive conditions which existed on the Range for toilet facilities and catering.

The local shottists attempted to raise funds for the construction of a club house in January of this year and their efforts received an early

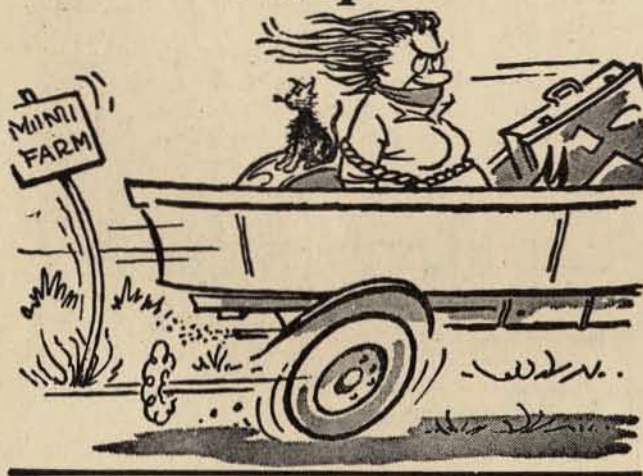
boost when Mrs. Kruger donated \$5 000 to the project; as she said at the time, she wished to give something which would be of use to the Battalion. Unfortunately when tenders were received it was found that the cost was more than double the donations received. At this point Mrs. Kruger again played “fairy godmother” and donated a further \$7 000 and building commenced in February.

On Saturday, 4th June, Mrs. Kruger, who now lives in Pretoria, was the principal guest of the Battalion at the official opening of the Club house at Gemboki Range.

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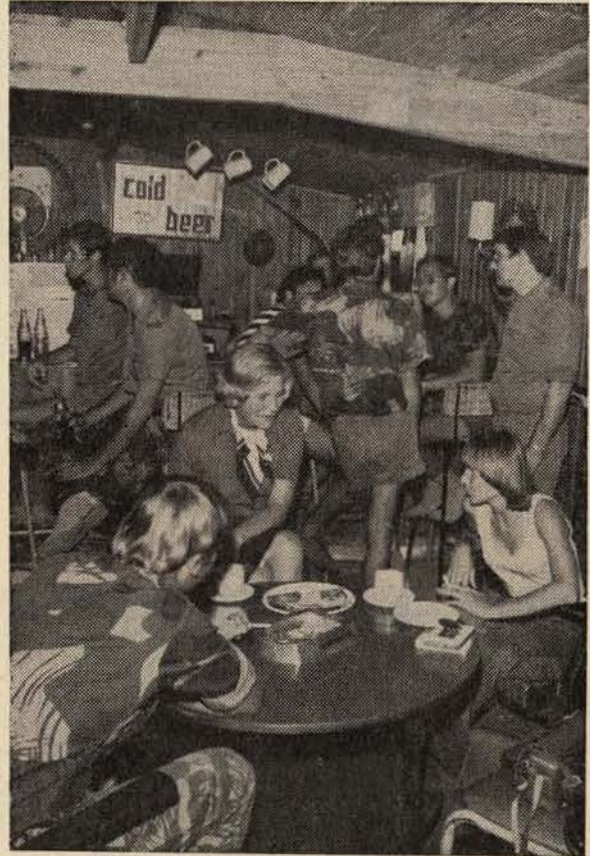
# Border Patrol

We all know of the tremendous amount of good work done by the ladies of the Border Patrol Welfare Fund in the way of providing deep-freezers, stoves, swimming pools, sports equipment and other goodies to our men in the field. However, what is less well known is the amount of real physical energy their Committee expends on personal visits to the operational areas. On a recent trip of this nature the five ladies of the Committee headed by Lady Graham covered some 1250 miles by Dakota, leapt in and out of dusty Land-Rovers with alacrity of schoolgirls, drank innumerable cups of strong tea and still kept their cool, despite soaring temperatures and singular lack of shade.

The party for this visit consisted of the five ladies . . . Lady Susan Graham, Mrs. Judy Garnett, Mrs. Jeanette Mussett, Mrs. Ethelwyn Passaportis and Mrs. Betty Smith . . . and several senior members of the Army, Air Force and Police particularly concerned with Forces' Welfare. Also two cameramen, one for cine film and one for stills. This not inconsiderable group, henceforward known as "The Team" left New Sarum shortly after dawn had cracked on the morning of Saturday, 14th May, first stop, Mt. Darwin. On arrival the pattern, more or less for the rest of the trip, was set.

The ladies were introduced to the resident COs, Air Force, Army and Police met up with their local men in the field and the Questions and Inspections started. The ladies wanted to see any equipment that had previously been donated, to check on performance and continued use. They questioned quartermasters, Mess Sergeants and troopies in particular as to what was most needed, they made copious notes. One fact that came out of all those questions was that darts just about tops the polls as an aid to relaxation . . . indeed after the umpteenth dart board had been inspected for signs of wear and tear it was suggested that Lady Graham should set up as a world authority on the subject and write a book on "Dartboards I have known."

All the different sections of the Defence Forces were treated with equal care and attention and incidently vied with each other to show hospitality. Even in the most out of the way bush camps, with kitchen conditions that would have sent Mrs. Beaton into an instant



*The pub at Grand Reef.*

decline, the tea came out hot and strong and the sandwiches with more filling than bread. The Team were shown many self-help pub projects, with varying degrees of pride, since not all units have the same access to decorating materials or even men to spare for the work involved. However, in most of these pubs pride of place was given to captured AK rifles, in one instance so damaged and twisted of barrel that if fired now it could only succeed in shooting the person holding it. This particular pub was at Mt. Darwin and converted from a leaky water cistern . . . only no-one had realised that since the water had leaked out it would, in the rainy season, leak in. Nothing daunted our resourceful lads have ready a good supply of duckboards and no-one has



*Mrs. Passaportis, Mrs. Betty Smith and Mrs. J. Garnett examine mess dishes at Wankie — 4 (Indep.) Co. RR.*

*RWS Bone with Lady Graham, Mrs. Passaportis and Colonel Vickery at Wankie—1 (Indep.) Co. RR.*



been drowned to date.

At Mtoko the Team inspected one of their gifts of a plastic lined swimming pool. A marvelous thing, these, costing far less than the conventional variety and much simpler of assembly.

Two young troopies were persuaded, without too much difficulty, to shed shirts and boots and leap into the temptingly cool water and splash around for the benefit of the cameraman, who wanted some action pictures . . . we left one of the lads still looking for the money that had fallen out of his shorts pockets . . . as one very senior officer was heard to comment "War is Hell!"

At Grand Reef the Team had the excitement of seeing the Fire Force go out . . . excitement doesn't seem quite the word to use about such a serious matter, but the ladies, certainly, were tremendously impressed by the speed with which these young men moved from lying on their beds to leaping, fully equipped into the helicopters. There was a brief moment when the alarm first sounded when it was thought that a display was being put on especially for the visitor's benefit, but it was soon pointed out that there simply wasn't time for that sort of demonstration.

The committee ladies used every waking moment, even holding informal meetings in the aircraft while travelling from place to place and in this way a good many decisions were



*The ladies inspect a plastic swimming pool liner at Grand Reef.*

## **in the swim**

*Colonel Hopkins assists Lady Graham at the Adams Barracks, Umtali.*



*Lady Graham supervises the christening of the pool at Mtoko.*



*Mrs. Lang and her helpers, members of the Fort Victoria WVS.*

arrived at before they returned home. They said, on more than one occasion, how every important these personal visits were and how much easier it was to decide whether a request was reasonable or not when one actually saw the location for which it was intended. One illustration of this was in regard of a particular type of fire-place . . . rather pricey but most often asked for. The ladies had, up to this time, simply thought that the chaps were being a bit "posh" however, when they had seen one of these fireplaces, which comes complete with its own chimney, is completely free standing and can be removed if no longer needed in its original resting place they saw the sense behind the choice. Quite a few camps can now look forward to a warmer winter. The three-day tour ended with a flight along the entire length

of Lake Kariba and the most splendid luncheon in the truly palatial Officers' Mess at Kariba . . . "The Cherry on the Top" as Mrs. Smith so aptly expressed it.

Incidentally, the writer of this article had an interesting experience at this luncheon . . . the waiter mistook her for a troopie, obviously wondered how on earth she had gained entrance to the "Holy Of Holies" and made several valiant attempts not to serve her! That's Women's Lib for you.

Arriving back at Sarum three days later, after dark and decidedly crumpled, the Team bade each other a hearty "Good night, and let's do it again as soon as possible." A success all round and those who will benefit most are those who need it most, Rhodesia's Defence Forces.

*Lady Graham and Superintendent Phil Halkin talk to Police at Chipinga.*



by  
CAPT. N. MANN, M.C., Rhodesian Army

*"When you go home  
Tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today".*

(2 (British) Division Memorial)

Although the towns of Imphal and Kohima are some eighty miles apart, the Battles of Imphal and Kohima were strategically one — an Army battle, rather than two Corps battles. However, for reasons of space, it is proposed to consider Kohima in some detail, while keeping the reader in the picture as regards the simultaneous fighting going on further South.

The British-American planning for 1944 envisaged a push in North Burma by Stilwell's American-Chinese, supported by Wingate's Chindits, a limited advance into Central Burma by 14 Army, and an advance in Arakan by 15 Corps. For these purposes stores were being stockpiled in the Imphal Plain and at Comilla, behind the Arakan front.

On the other side, the Japanese planned an offensive in Arakan (Operation Ha-Go) by 55 Division of 28 Army, with the aim of drawing down General Slim's reserves. Some weeks later they would then launch a massive attack across the Chindwin with 15 Army's three divisions (Operation U-go) with the aim of taking the Imphal Plain with its dumps, and securing the passes into India, including the only tarmac road, at Kohima. With the onset of the Monsoon, any proposed British advance into Burma would be frustrated for many months, and their reserves would be tied up in the Arakan.

Although there was a certain amount of propaganda about the forthcoming "March on Delhi," and there was a 700-strong contingent of the renegade "Indian National Army" accompanying 15 Army, General Sato's (commanding 31 Division) orders were to take and hold Kohima. No doubt once this aim had been achieved, together with the capture of the Imphal Plain, there would have been exploitation forward to the railway line at Dimapur, and hopefully the INA presence would stir up rebellion in Bengal and the North Eastern part of India, but this was not the primary aim.

On 4th February "Ha-Go" got off its startline, for a right hook round the flank of the two Indian divisions, heading for the "Admin Box" at Sinzwaya. The plan, based on previous experience and contempt, was that, once encircled, the British would withdraw and be cut-up in the process: as a result, Slim would be forced to send



reinforcements from Imphal area. The possibilities of Allied air superiority did not occur to them. The encirclement took place, but the divisions stood firm, and the Admin Box held. The R.A.F. transport aircraft, standing by with loads already packed, flew in, day after day, dropped their supplies, and returned for their next loads. By the 24th the Japanese had admitted defeat and pulled back the 3 000 men left out of an initial 8 000. Apart from the resulting upsurge in 14 Army's morale, their comparatively quick defeat created a longer time-gap before "U-Go" could be mounted on 7th March.

Meanwhile, patrols had identified a fresh Japanese division on the Chindwin 15. All the pointers were to a Japanese offensive, and Slim gave orders that the divisions deployed forward for the advance into Burma should be prepared to draw back to concentrate for the coming battle that he foresaw for the Imphal Plain.

15 Army's plan was to take Kohima with 31 Division, cut the Imphal-Kohima road with 15 Division, which would then swing South to attack the Plain, and from the South, via Tamu and Tiddim, destroy the divisions holding the approaches to Imphal. 14 Army staff did not consider that it would be possible for the Japanese to maintain more than a regiment (brigade) in an assault on Kohima, because the tracks over the mountains could not carry wheels. The fatal Japanese mistake here was that they were entirely relying on capturing the British dumps: each man carried twenty days rations and there was no provision for resupply. In the event 14 Army staff was proved right — it was not possible to maintain a division at Kohima, on such an L of C as the Japanese had.

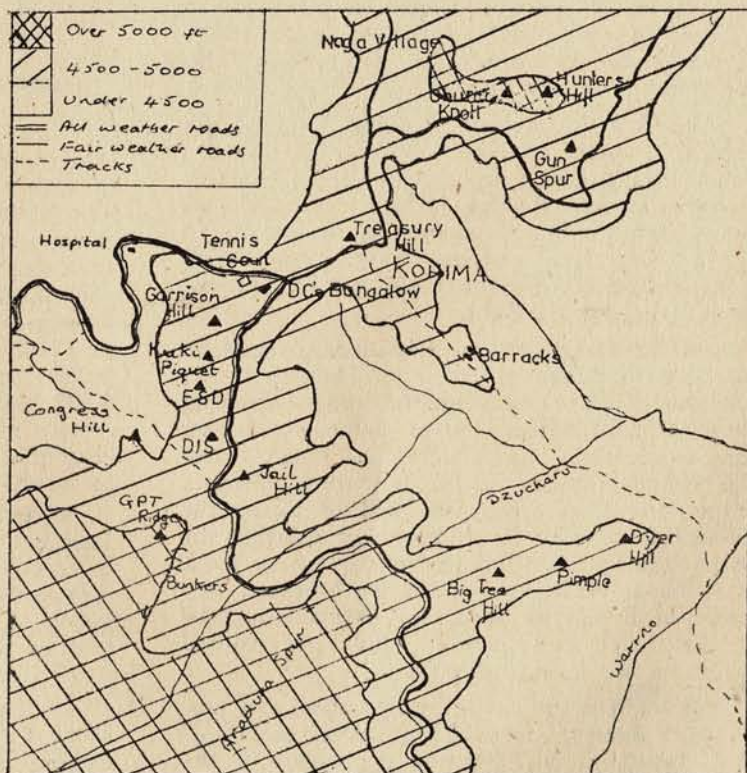
Slim was now caught temporarily off balance. 4 Royal West Keents (TA) had been sent to Kohima to reinforce the meagre garrison. Ap-

preciating wrongly that the Japanese objective was Dimapur, he informed the local commander that his aim, primarily, was the defence of the town, and the West Kents were withdrawn, only to be returned at the last moment when the picture was clearer. The soldiers' comments on the Staff can be imagined. When they arrived there, the rest of the garrison consisted of about 100 men, all more or less sick, from the Convalescent Depot, and a Nepalese State battalion of doubtful quality. They dug-in where the main road crosses the Kohima ridge, at the junction with the Merema Track. 31 Division was meanwhile pushing back patrols of the Assam Rifles along

yards across, centred on the District Commissioner's bungalow, across whose tennis court the opposing sides were hurling grenades at each other. It was here that the Japanese established themselves in a field bakery: L/Cpl Harman attacked with a Section, and when the enemy took cover in the ovens, despatched them by opening the oven doors, flinging in a grenade and quickly closing them again. He subsequently attacked an MMG position, killed the crew, and was himself killed carrying it back; he won the V.C. The garrison's survivors were finally relieved on the 18th, after an heroic defence, short of water and food, unable to move their wounded,



KOHIMA &  
GENERAL AREA,  
1944



the Jessami track, East of Kohima. The siege began on 5th April, the day the RWK arrived back. Eight days previously, 161 Bde of 5 Indian had started to arrive at Dimapur from Arakan, and 2 British, 23 LRP Bde and HQ 33 Corps were on the way from India. Over all the wide front 14 Army was fighting steadfastly and efficiently. Slim was now presented with the opportunity he had wished to devise for himself — large enemy forces, at the end of bad communications, on killing ground suitable for the use of his armour and air.

At Kohima, 5 Bde of 2 Division, pushing up the road from Dimapur, made tenuous contact with the garrison, whose perimeter, under continuous attack, was reduced to about two hundred

filthy and unshaven, but knowing they had beaten an entire division. 250 West Kents were still on their feet.

General Grover, commanding 2 Division, having sent 5 Bde up the centre pushed 6 Bde over the Zubza River to take the heights round Merema, with the intention of taking Naga Village on the Japanese right. He then sent 4 Bde right-handed over an appalling succession of high ridges, to cross the highest and last between Pulebadze (7532 ft.) and Japvo (just under 9000 ft.), to outflank 31 Division's left.

The march took about a week, with no air supply for security reasons. Re-supply was by volunteer teams of Naga porters, the men having started with three days' light scale rations. When

the flanking brigades reached the battle area, the fighting became, if possible, more intense, for the Japanese became desperate when pushed to their limits. Once the battle was joined, virtually the whole division was on air-drop, and it says volumes for the devotion of the R.A.F. air-crew that, while everyone was hungry, no-one went short of the absolute necessities.

Sato would not yet admit defeat. His Army commander, Mutaguchi, ordered him to send a regiment to reinforce 15 Division at Imphal. By great good fortune a cyclist carrying a copy of this order was shot by an officer of the Camerons, and when this information was passed to Slim he ordered the pressure at Kohima to be increased to the maximum. Sato consequently disobeyed his orders, as he could not disengage a regiment. This no doubt delayed 33 Corps' advance for a few days, but ensured the virtual destruction of 31 Division. On 1st June the gallant Sato could hold on no longer. His division had captured no food at all and the survivors were starving. He signalled his intention to withdraw to Mutaguchi, who replied, "Retreat and I will Court Martial you". Sato answered, "Do as you please. I will bring you down with me" — and withdrew. He was relieved of his command at the end of the month. Mutaguchi was relieved of his in December.

While 5 Bde took Naga Village and GunSpur,

5 Bde hung onto the Garrison Hill Feature under continuing, but weakening, attack, and the two battalions of 4 Bde, 2 Royal Norfolk and 1 Royal Scots (1/8 Lancashire Fusiliers had been lent to 6 Bde) battled on down GPT Ridge in great discomfort, having dumped their packs for the attack. This dragged on for days in the face of determined resistance; the ground was by this time reminiscent of the battlefields of the First World War, having been subjected to heavy artillery fire. Trees were reduced to three-foot stumps, bodies and equipment lay everywhere. Captain Jack Randle's Norfolk company was reduced to the CSM and 17 men when finally relieved, and he himself died winning the V.C.

Finally, six or seven weeks after the battle started, the remnants of 31 Division pulled out. They had been beaten by their own contemptuous belief that they could feed off a defeated enemy by air power, better generalship, and better soldiers.

To give an idea of the intensity of the fighting, 2 Division and 161 Bde lost 4 000 men, roughly 300 a battalion; 2 Division lost — in three brigades — two brigade commanders killed, and two wounded. The Japanese losses were phenomenal — out of 115 000 men sent on these operations they lost, on their own estimate, 65 000. As a result of this battle, the greatest defeat in the history of the Japanese Army, they also lost Burma.

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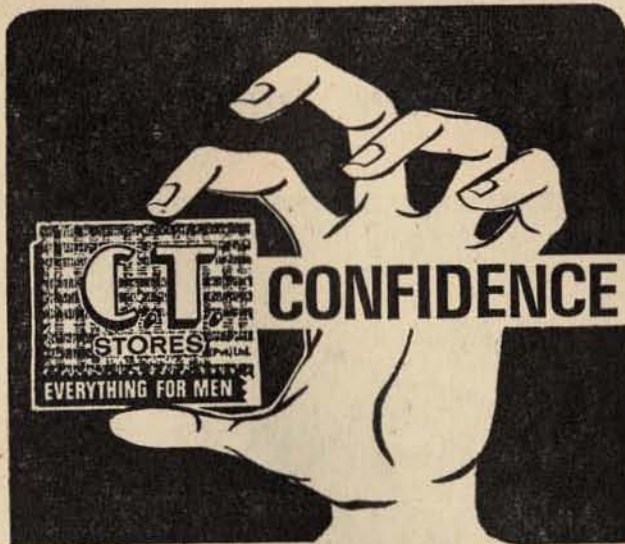
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# AS CHARGED . . .

I was fortunate in the course of my ferreting around for factual information to come across a complete set of military orders, dating from 1704 to the present day, which contained details of all courts martial and the findings of the various courts. These orders provided the basis for my research and, taking stealing as the standard charge, here are some of the more interesting examples of how things have changed indeed:

1775

- a. Accused: Private Soldier.
- b. Charged: Stealing a pair of plated shoe buckles and other articles from a local merchant and a certain quantity of plate from the Regiment's Mess.
- c. Finding: Guilty.
- d. Punishment: To receive 1,000 lashes on his bare back with a cat of nine tails, the last 50 of which to be given by the hands of the common hangman, and then to be drummed out of the garrison with a halter about his neck.

(Note: He was found not guilty of stealing the plate).

1826

- a. Accused: Private Soldier.
- b. Charge: Stealing a watch valued at £3 and a silk handkerchief valued at one shilling from the Commissariat Department.
- c. Finding: Guilty.
- d. Punishment: To be transported as a felon for the term of 14 years.

(Note: He was found not guilty of stealing the handkerchief).

- a. Accused: Private Soldier.
- b. Charge: Stealing one towel, one pair white drawers, one handkerchief and one razor from a civilian.
- c. Finding: Guilty.
- d. Punishment: To suffer penal servitude for the term of seven years.

1925

- a. Accused: Private Soldier.
- b. Charge: Stealing goods, the property of a comrade.
- c. Finding: Guilty.
- d. Punishment: To undergo detention for 112 days.

1969

- a. Accused: Lance Corporal.
- b. Charge: Stealing property contrary to Section 45 of the Army Act. 1955.
- c. Finding: Guilty.
- d. Punishment: To undergo detention for 56 days.

You may notice that the trend is for punishment to halve every 50 years or so. In 100 years, therefore, it could be assumed that stealing will attract 13 days' detention and in 200, only three and a half days. Is it a change for the better? WHO CAN TELL!

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## EXTRACTING THE DIGIT . . .



*Students on the recent I.C.L. Systems Course from the left Mr. R. Stassen (Barclays); Mr. T. Schley (Barclays); Cpl M. MacLaughlin; Sgt A. Gibb; Mr. M. Hillier; Col D. T. Hopkins; Lt Col B. Barrett-Hamilton; Capt J. Tulley.*

"The Army is at present devoting considerable attention to the streamlining of its administration procedures. The only way to achieve this is to introduce a considerable level of modernisation and professionalism. The key to this is training of this type and the maintenance of high level of professionalism and attention to detail". As one senior officer put it rather more succinctly, "the Army is moving into the Twentieth Century."

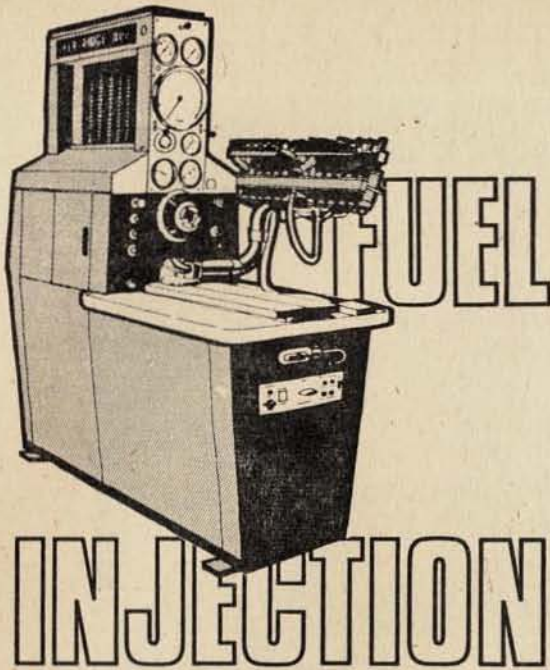
Traditionally a conservative stronghold the Army has in the past few years been moving steadily towards implementing new administrative techniques and in several instances these include the use of computers and their programmes.

Selected Army personnel now attend an intensive five week course run by International Computers Limited (ICL) which has been developed over many years by ICL to meet particular local requirements and has been the basic training course for a large number of the country's senior systems analysts. The objective is to train candidates to do systems work under the supervision and control of a senior systems analyst. The course covers all aspects of systems investigation, analysis, design and implementation. It lays particular emphasis on the fact that the basic and fundamental requirements of a systems analyst is to be able to gain the confidence of,

and communicate successfully with the users of computer systems regardless of whether they are technically orientated or not.

The first four weeks of the course is dedicated to intensive training in technology and systems techniques. The students are then handed an extremely demanding exercise designed to simulate all the problems they would be likely to encounter during the implementation of a computer system. Since in real life this can take up to two years or more, and the students only have four days, their ingenuity is taxed to the full. Their solution to the problems posed is presented to a panel of judges who act in the capacity of a non-technical management panel. Great emphasis is laid on the utilisation of lecture aids and strict adherence to computer input and output content. If the students' presentation contains a high level of reference to the technical aspects of computing they are marked down.

The course is an extremely demanding one, leaving the students little or no free time, particularly in the final weeks where teamwork, communications techniques and sheer hard work are the only solution if the final presentation is going to pass scrutiny. The lessons learned from both the exercise and the presentation itself are probably the most vital part of the entire course.



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# Hallingbury School and the war effort

In so many places and in so many ways the people of this country are trying to show their appreciation of the sacrifices made by our men in the bush. One such occasion was a small ceremony at Hallingbury Primary School at Mabelreign, on Friday, 27th May. It all started when Mrs. Reta Symington, a lady with the most charming Canadian accent, got her Standard V girls on to knitting balaclava helmets. Not to be outdone some of the mums got in on the act and the result was one hundred and twelve beautifully knitted helmets, just the job for the cold weather. In order that the non-knitters and the tinies in K.G. could add their bit a plea was sent out for goodies for the Troopies. The result was tremendous . . . in two days six boxes of tinned goods, sweets, cigarettes, books and magazines had been accumulated and these were handed over in a simple but moving ceremony to Maj Richard Stannard, the Army PRO. The Headmaster of the school, Mr. Jackett, reminded his pupils not to clap themselves when showing appreciation of all the good work done. This resulted in some of the very small children getting somewhat confused and starting to clap only when all the rest had finished. Then the school choir sang the National Anthem which must have brought a slight prickling of the eyes to more than one adult present.

As always, though, at these rather solemn occasions there were some lighter moments . . . one small girl had brought her hairbrush to school and all her friends made use of this to "tidy up" before getting into line in the playground . . . they'd obviously heard of muster parades! Then there was the little moppet who arrived on THE day in tears. When asked what the matter was she replied that she had been unable to bring any goodies but did the teacher think the soldiers would like her lunchtime sandwiches. And last but not least the small lads who were having one of those "anything you can do I can do better" conversations where being told that the father of one of them had killed a terrorist, the other remarked that his

father had killed two terrorists. He knew this to be true because his father had brought them home as trophies — it's quite amazing where the children obtain their information.



*Eric Robinson of Hallingbury School models one of the balaclava helmets presented to Maj R. Stannard for distribution to Troopies.*

*(Courtesy: Rhodesia Herald).*

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# HOOTERVILLE HERALD

Hooters is still covered by a cloud of dust as the new brooms make their clean sweeps. Officers are no longer queuing at Doc Warton's door with strange ailments as the "higher-achy" have abandoned the weekly PT sessions.

The last few weeks have seen the passing out of both 155 and 156 National Service Officer Cadet courses. We trust that all members arrived at their respective units with hangovers well under control. Once again we congratulate all members of both courses, and wish them all the best of luck in their new posts.

RWS training is still under way and during the last few weeks training has included the SMG, Assault Course and Map reading.

The highlight this month was the visit by the Minister of Defence, Mr. Mark Partridge, Secretary for Defence, Mr. B. A. Page, MLM, and the Army Commander, Lieutenant General J. S. V. Hickman, OLM, MC. The Minister and the Army Commander visited the various Wings and spoke to members on courses. After tea in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, the VIPs attended the Prayer Meeting in the Officers' Mess.

## SPORT

Once again the S Inf rugby side acquitted

itself well by beating POLBAC and RISCO. We congratulate both Rfn Vincent and Rfn Hoffman on being selected for Midlands' open rugby side. The S Inf managed to get nine members selected for Midlands' Junior Rugby side as well.

Our best wishes go with Capt Hean with his Springbok Scuba Diving trials in Durban.

## SHOOTING

Two shoots were held at the S Inf on the weekend of the 21/22 May, 1977; one being the inter-services pistol shoot. The men's section overall winners, S Inf. The individual winner, WO 2 De Beer from Thornhill. The ladies' pistol shoot was won by Thornhill, the individual winner being Mrs. Cox, Thornhill. The rifle shoot "A" Class was won by a Police Reserve "A", the individual winner being Potential Officer Pelser, S Inf. The "B" Class shoot was won by Thornhill, the individual winner, R. Bezuidenhout, Thornhill.

## FAREWELLS

We said farewell to Vic Thackwray and wished him the best of luck in his new post. It was nice having you here as an instructor and look forward to having you again as a student.

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## CAPTION COMPETITION

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1st July, 1977



### LAST MONTH'S WINNER:

*"They're Booby-Traps, one look and your wife blasts you."*  
115396 Smm Vivier M. E., 3 Platoon, 2 Independent Coy., Rhodesia Regiment  
P/Bag 2020, Kariba.

Runner-up

*"Darling, you're meant to kiss the Bishop's ring, not bite his finger."*  
Capt R. P. Wilkinson, 4 Sig Sqn.

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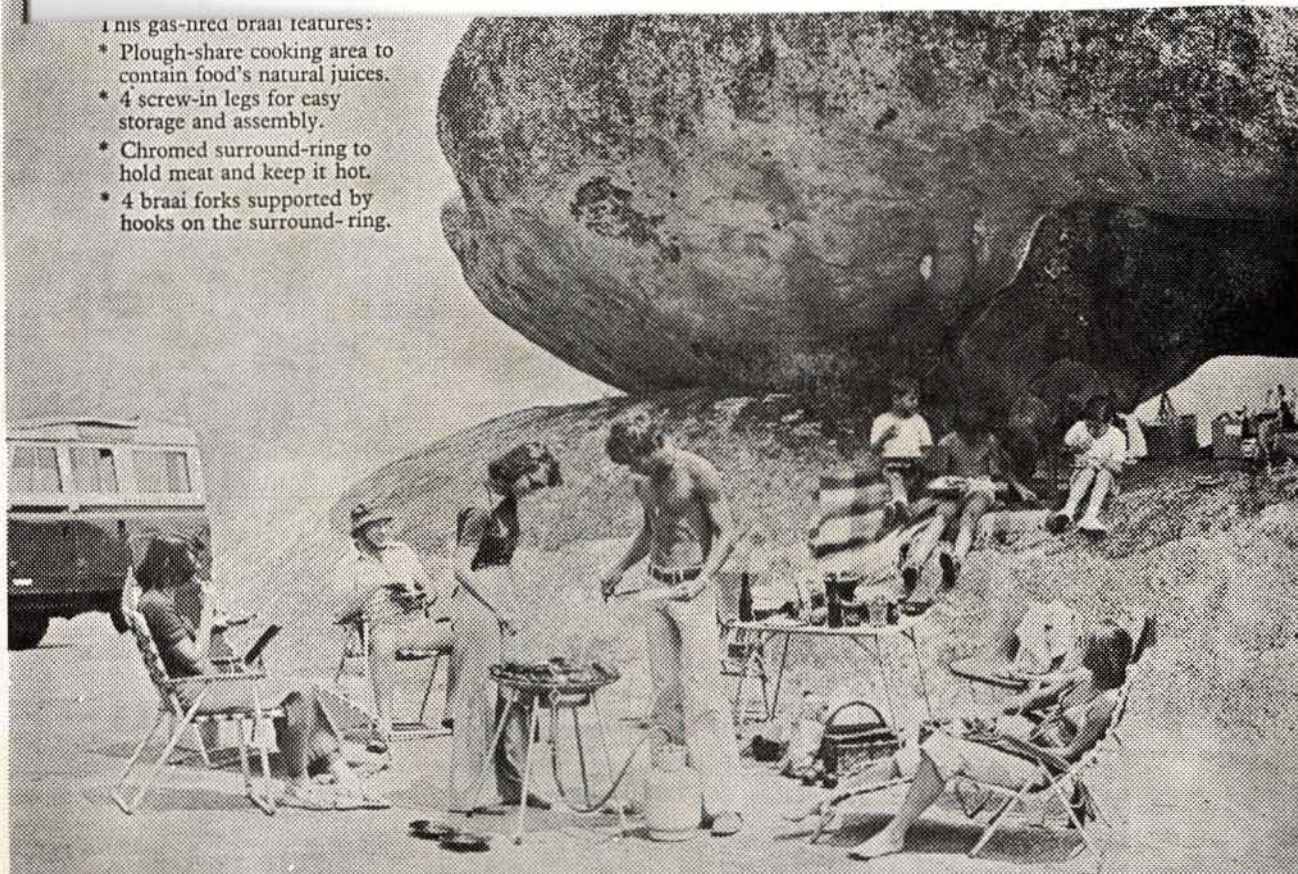


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