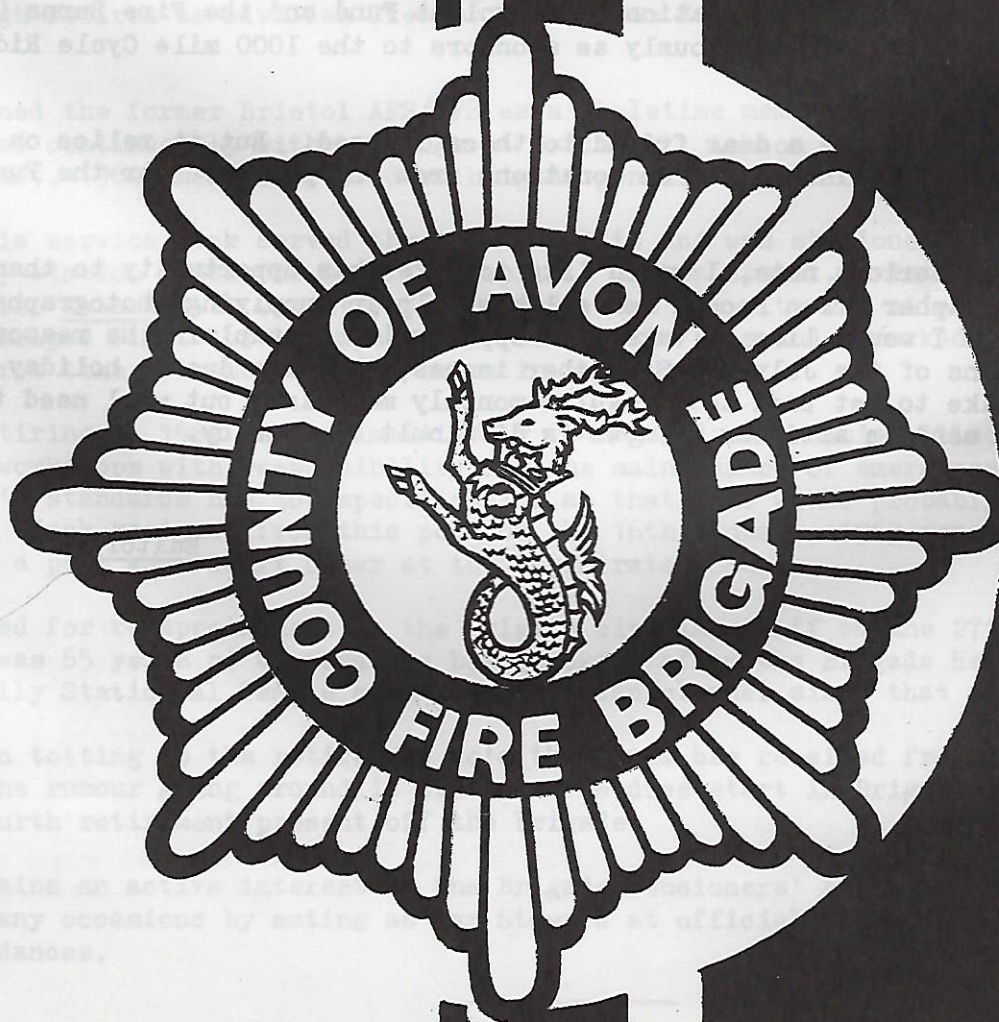


# SPORTS & SOCIAL

OCTOBER 1978

## NEWS



October 1978.

EDITORIAL

'Reports are coming in that two firemen have been killed and four others have been injured fighting a blaze at Chatham Dockyard in Kent. It is understood that the firemen were fighting the fire in a bedding store when an explosion occurred ...'

That was the news which, four years ago, greeted radio listeners as they tuned into their early news bulletins one wintry morning in November.

It was news which threw a cloak of silence over fire stations throughout Kent, as the country's firemen mourned for their lost colleagues. It was news which brought to reality the dangers which fire fighters face every day of their lives. (Remember this could have so easily been somewhere in Avon).

And it was news which alerted the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund, for the Fund was set up to help dependents of those injured or killed during the course of their duties.

It is with this in mind that I ask you to read the article further on in the magazine, on the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund and the Fire Burns Unit, and help both Funds by giving generously as sponsors to the 1000 mile Cycle Ride, by Kent Firemen.

The fund has become a dear friend to those in need. But it relies on it's own firemen to raise it's income and on donations from the public. For the Fund, every penny counts.

On a less serious note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Brigade Photographer Brian Pocock for all his help in supplying photographs for the magazine. Also I would like to take this opportunity to explain the reason why there were no editions of the July and September issues, this was due to holiday commitments. I would now like to get back to a regular monthly magazine, but will need the assistance of readers to send in articles as news is difficult to come by.

Editor.

## RETIREMENT



Pictured above Jack Gough receiving his presentation gift and the best wishes for a happy retirement from the Deputy Chief Officer, Mr. F. Ponsford.

Jack Gough retired as Civilian Cleaner at Brigade Headquarters on the 21st September, 1978.

Jack joined the former Bristol AFS/NFS as a wholetime member on the 28th July, 1940 and served continuously with postings at Bridewell, Ashton Drive and Brislington until 24th August, 1964 when he retired on brigade pension.

During his service Jack served through the Blitz and was stationed at the time in a temporary station under the General Hospital, Guinea Street, Bristol. During the war he was also detached to Coventry for 3 days, when the city was attacked by enemy bombers. He also helped fight the Avonmouth Oil Fire in the 50's and remarked, "There was no relief from other firemen every 3 hours in those days".

After retiring in 1964 he was immediately re-engaged as a semi-skilled fitter in brigade workshops with responsibility for the maintenance of emergency (AFS) appliances. By today's standards his job specification at that time would probably merit Technical Grade 6! Jack resigned from this post on the 16th January, 1969 consequent upon having obtained a post as a Court Usher at the Magistrates Courts.

He applied for re-appointment to the Brigade civilian staff on the 27th August, 1974 when he was 65 years of age and has been looking after the Brigade Headquarters and principally Station Al Temple area as a civilian cleaner since that date.

I've been totting up the retirement do's that Jack has received from the Fire Service, and if the rumour going around is true, and he does start in Brigade Stores, he will get a fourth retirement present off the brigade.

Jack retains an active interest in the Brigade Pensioners' Association and has helped out on many occasions by acting as Bar Steward at official functions, and also many station dances.

## THE FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

After several months as the Chief Officer's representative at Benevolent Fund Meetings, I have had my eyes opened as to what the Fund does for people and what it will do for all members connected with it.

It was with this in mind that I asked Chris Deverill of A3 Avonmouth, who is the Honorary Secretary of the Fund to write an article so that new members of the Brigade and also older members are made more aware of the excellent assistance the Fund gives us.

The Benevolent Fund had its origin in 1940 when with assets of £12. 10s. 0d. the London Fire Service Benevolent Fund was launched. About that time many other similar local Fire Service Benevolent Funds were started up and down the country. Some were very small, but all assisting in the alleviation of hardship and distress of firemen and their families. Each individual fund assisting according to its means.

The present fund was inaugurated in 1943 when the N.F.S. came into being and was a spontaneous amalgamation of almost all these local funds throughout England, Scotland and Wales. With its resultant comparatively substantial capital, it was at once able to render help to firemen and their dependants, wherever they might be, on a much more generous and uniform scale than most of the previous local funds had been able to do.

The Fund is now the official Benevolent Fund for all fire brigade personnel in all Brigades in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It exists to help serving and former members of the Fire Brigade, their dependants and civilian personnel employed by the Chief Fire Officer, when in hardship or distress. We are honoured to have Her Majesty The Queen as our Patron.

We are an entirely voluntary organisation in every way. There are no entrance fees, membership subscriptions, or any form of fixed payment to "join". We help any person or persons falling within the categories mentioned above, without qualification. The whole of the work carried out by the fund is voluntary. It is run by serving and former Fire Service personnel, none of which receive any remuneration whatsoever for all their work. The only persons whom the fund employs are the very small permanent staff at Marine Court, Littlehampton, Sussex. We are pleased to say that this fund is unique in that all administrative costs are covered by interest on investments and therefore, ALL income received is donated to the objects of the fund.

At the present time we have on our National Register no less than 601 Widows without children and a further 263 Widows with a total of 405 orphans. Besides help to children, of course, we make a great many injury, sickness and hardship grants to serving and former members of the Fire Brigade and or their dependants. We also help those totally incapacitated by injury and those incapacitated by prolonged sickness.

Those members of the service and former members needing convalescent rest, can spend free of charge, a period of two weeks at any time throughout the year at Marine Court, Littlehampton, together with their families or unaccompanied.

If a member of the service is killed on duty his dependants can receive up to £2,000. If he dies at a fire from natural causes £1,000., and death due to natural causes whilst off duty £500. Former members who die from the sickness from which they were discharged can receive up to £350. Each case is treated entirely on its own merits. Such a standard of grants can only be maintained by the continued support of all members of the Fund.

We are now an established organisation and it is the duty of every member of the Brigade to give every support possible to their elected representative in order to maintain this excellent fund.

You may never need the funds help, but there are many that do. Don't turn a blind eye to giving a helping hand to assist those of our colleagues and or their dependants in their time of need. Please contact your representative should you know of any person who may need assistance from The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

C.A. Deverill.  
(Hon. Secretary)  
Brigade Council.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

On Friday 15th September in the bar at Station Al Temple, the Chief Officer received a cheque from Sub. Officer Sleight and the men of Red Watch who did most of the work (greatly helped by other members of the station) to raise the sum of £1,030 for the National Benevolent Fund. At the same time the Chief Officer handed over a Certificate of Appreciation (very rarely given) on behalf of the Fund.

The money donated to the Fund will be used specifically to furnish the new kitchen of "Munson House" the new wing of 'Marine Court' at Littlehampton, built especially for single members of the Fire Service. A commemorative plaque will be fixed to the door of the kitchen with the inscription, "This kitchen donated by the men of Station Al Temple, County of Avon Fire Brigade."



The Chief Officer pictured above with Sub. Officer John Sleight exchanging 'Certificate of Appreciation' and cheque for £1,030.

## "SAFE" RELEASE

I have just received a letter from the Officer in Charge of the two appliances that were called to release two lads from Al Temple, who were stuck inside a lift in Swansea town centre last month. Apparently the lift stopped between floors, while they were delivering to one of the offices.

The two men were led very sheepishly from the lift and disappeared very quickly into the crowd without leaving their names.

P.S. The Officer has asked me to contact the men concerned and tell them if they want the "SAFE" that they left behind, to get in touch with him as soon as possible as it is now cluttering up his office.

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## FIRST AID FUNNIES

The following were answers in a First Aid Quiz at a local school:

For head colds:	"Use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in the throat."
For Nose Bleed:	"Put the nose lower than the body."
For Snakebite:	"Bleed the wound and rape the victim in a blanket for shock."
For Fractures:	"To see if the limb is broken, wiggle it gently back and forth."
For Fainting:	"Rub the person's chest, or if it is a lady, rub her arm above the hand."
For Asphyxiation:	"Apply artificial respiration until the victim is dead."

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## FIRST AID COMPETITION

On Sunday the 10th September the First Aid team took part in the William Searle Competition at Monks Park School. During the morning a qualifying round took place in which the team successfully qualified. The afternoon comprised of four individuals and a team test. In the individuals Stn. Officer Underhay 'A' Division F.P. was placed second, L/Fm. Haydon C5 Bedminster and Fm. Causon B6 Speedwell third, with the first place going to L/Fm. Mike Smith B6 Speedwell.

The team therefore won the competition by gaining  $477\frac{1}{2}$  marks out of a possible 600 and took the first prize The William Searle Rose Bowl, and also The Bristol Baths Committee Cup for the team test.

Second	West Mercia Police	462 $\frac{1}{2}$ marks
Third	English China Clay, Cornwall.	456 "

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## QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

A good meeting is no  
Substitute for progress

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This month I would like to feature one of our female members of the staff Miss Gwen Rowe of 'C' Division Headquarters, Weston. This lady is one of the quietest and most shy persons on the pay-roll, and although she answered all the questions I asked, was reluctant to say too much. What Miss Rowe lacks in words, she more than makes up for in work. Divisional Officer Hayman has told me that Gwen has been his 'right hand' both at 'C' Division HQ and with Benevolent work, for many years.

Gwen joined the Somerset Fire Service as a clerical worker in Administration on the 15th February, 1960. She is also one of the longest serving members of the 'C' Division Benevolent Fund Council, where she takes the minutes of the meetings. On occasions where there is a fund raising effort anywhere in the Division, Miss Rowe is only too willing to do all she can.

Gwen lives at Worle near Weston-super-Mare with her married sister, and likes gardening and walking, when able to do so. She is a member of Weston Technical College Club where she plays tennis. One other interest Miss Rowe has is collecting Capodimonte Porcelain. This is the art of modelling in Porcelain, with such exquisite detail, which has existed in Italy since

the early 18th Century, and the tradition is being continued by the present Masters.

### SOLID GOLD

On Sunday 10th September at the Lionel Kibble Dancing School, Winnie Avery the most famous cook in Avon passed her Gold Medal for Latin American dancing with an average of 73 points over four sections namely Latin, Jive, Cha-Cha and Rumba.

Winnie told me that she keeps being pestered by a fellow called John Travolta, who wants her for his partner in his next film.....

### OBITUARIES

It is with great regret that I have to publish the recent deaths of two former colleagues.

Ex Fireman Albert (Sam) Sampson who retired from the Bristol Fire Brigade and died after a short illness. Sam will be remembered by many Bristol Firemen, especially those from the old Bridewell Station.

and

Ex retained L/fm. Ronnie Hill who was stationed at Cl Weston, who will not only be missed by his Fire Service friends, but being a well-known figure in Weston will be missed by many local people.

# Fire Burns Fund

For most people, a phone call at 5 o'clock in the morning is an alarming experience in itself. But for burns surgeon, John Bennett, a call which awoke him at that unearthly hour nine years ago, brought with it an alarm which no ordinary member of the public could possibly ever want to experience.

The message was simple and brief. A person on the other end of the line, gasping between breath, said, "Come to the hospital quickly. Prepare the burns unit and expect 50 casualties. There's been a plane crash."

Still not properly awake, and somewhat stunned by the message, John Bennett wanted to think it was just another of those hoax calls; someone playing a joke on him. But, being the dedicated and devoted surgeon, which he is, he was dressed in seconds and soon driving through the empty, dawn lit streets of Sussex, on his way to East Grinstead Hospital.

The staff nurse, who was in charge of the burns unit that night, was surprised to see Mr. Bennett come bustling through the ward doors. However she immediately got to grips with the situation and started the transfer of patients, already in the unit, to the main hospital, while Mr. Bennett pounded the phone calling in extra doctors and staff, bedding and bandages. In minutes everybody involved with the burns unit was informed that they had a major incident on their hands.

A fleet of ambulances ferried the crash victims to the burns centre and, although the casualties weren't as great in numbers as first expected, John Bennett and his team had all those that arrived assessed, dressed and treated for shock within two hours. In fact, when John Bennett threw off his bloodstained surgical coat, and took a refreshing sip of hot tea, he tuned into an office radio in time to hear the first main news bulletins of the day and the seven o'clock reports on the plane crash.

"That indicates the standard of work at this specialised unit," he says. "I was extremely proud of the staff that night. Not one of those patients died, even one little boy who was suffering from 65 per cent burns survived."

That plane crash may have been a major disaster, but major or minor, every patient who is taken to the McIndoe Burns Unit, which is part of the Queen Victoria Hospital, will receive the same skilful, efficient and devoted service.

Burns are shocking injuries, but never a day goes by that doesn't involve the staff at the McIndoe centre being faced with yet another person who has been subjected to them. Victims of industrial fires; road, rail, sea or air accidents, or domestic incidents involving children who have fallen on to open fires, or people who have tipped scalding water over themselves.

Run by a staff of 40, the centre has eleven wards, one receiving theatre and a main operating theatre. On initial arrival, four surgeons will work together on a patient in the main theatre, and they lay claim to the fact that they will have a major burns victim of, say 30 per cent burns, treated within an hour. Then it will be a matter of careful treatment over a period of days, or weeks to nurse that patient back to hopeful recovery. The centre can further help the victim back to normality by providing plastic surgery if required.

The unit is run under the National Health system. But if it wasn't aided by public donations, the centre wouldn't have half the up-to-date modern equipment which it has today. Sophisticated equipment like, close circuit television which monitors every patient in the centre; equipment to change the air in all the wards every five minutes, equipment for skin grafts and equipment which registers how much blood comes off a surgeons gown after an operation so that he knows how much blood his patient has lost.

Recently Mr. Bennett, who is now consultant surgeon in charge of the centre, revealed that if it wasn't for cash donations, the Burns Unit could not possibly

provide the highly specialised brand of surgery which burns injuries demand.

So it was with this Burns Unit in mind the intrepid firemen from Kent embarked on a 1000 mile cycling ride round the South and South West coast and then up to Liverpool to raise money for the Unit and for the National Benevolent Fund.



Pictured left to right Dave Pang, Jack Bell, Nigel Raymond, and Pete Addie from Cl Weston who greeted the cyclists on the Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare.  
Below The Chief Officer with the cyclists at Al Temple.



## SPORTS NEWS

### BADMINTON

Once you've tasted victory, you're hungry for more, and this was the frame of mind that swept the Headquarters team to a 9-0 thrashing over Yate Badminton Club last month. By the time that Janet Greaney and Gordon Jennings were on court for the last match to complete the whitewash, the opposition had wilted.

Overall team performance was steady, with Margaret Thomas showing more aggression than in earlier matches. This competitive edge must be carried into the next encounter, which will be against Clifton Badminton Club. The team for this match has yet to be selected, but no one can take their place for granted.

In fairness to Yate, it should be made clear that their team was made up from last seasons new entrants who had little experience of competitive play.

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### GOLF

#### Avon v Hereford & Worcester

Tracy Park Golf and Country Club was the venue for the 1978 match, played on the 8th August, the prize, The Challenge Trophy played for annually, was regained by Avon.

The match was played over 36 holes, Fourball better ball matchplay over 18 holes in the morning, and singles better ball matchplay over 18 holes in the afternoon. It was a very tight contest with Avon coming out the victors by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  matches to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

Both parties were very impressed with the standard of the golf course which has been attained in a very short period.

It is hoped to play next years match at Ross-on-Wye.

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#### Individual Stroke Play Championship

The second County of Avon Fire Brigade Individual Stroke Play Championship was staged at Henbury Golf Club on the 15th August, 1978. The competition was run over 36 holes. Stroke play with a maximum handicap of 18 being introduced for this one event. Sixteen society members took part, handicaps ranging from 4 to 18.

After 18 holes last years winner John Dowse (A5 Patchway) was the clear leader with a nett 67 (16) from Les Watts (Al Temple) on 72 (11) and Pete Yeates (Brigade HQ) 73 (15). So with the competition still wide open, there was everything to play for over the final 18 holes in the afternoon.

Weather conditions changed from being ideal tranquil golfing weather in the morning, to more than a stiffish breeze in the afternoon, this was reflected in the scoring and final positions which were as follows: (Par for the course 70)

Sixth	J. Dowse (A5 Patchway)	Nett 67 and 86	Total 153
Fifth	I. Taylor (Formerly 'A' Div. F.P)	Nett 76 and 76	" 152
Fourth	L. Watts (Al Temple)	Nett 72 " 78	" 150
Third	B. Love (Bl Bath)	Nett 76 " 74	" 150
Second	P. Yeates (Brigade H.Q.)	Nett 73 " 76	" 149
First	A. Craig ('A' Div. H.Q.)	Nett 75 " 66	" 141

A.C.O. Steeples very kindly came along in the evening to present the trophies, this gesture was appreciated by all the competitors. Henbury Golf Club should also be congratulated on the excellent hospitality they provided and complimented on the condition of the course.

## AVON v WILTSHIRE FIRE BRIGADE

This fixture was played at Filton Golf Club on Tuesday 5th September. A party of ten Avon players attended and encountered a tough struggle against both adverse weather conditions, and a skillful Wiltshire team. The match result was 2½ to 1½ games in Avon's favour.

The highlight of the days golf was a "Hole in one" during the afternoon round. This feat was achieved at the short, 146 yard, par 3, second hole, by Barry Cross (B4 Brislington). It was Barry's first ace and in keeping with golfing traditions he acted as host at the 19th hole.

It is hoped to play a return fixture against Wiltshire during the 1979 season.

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## ATHLETICS

The athletics team has just finished a very busy spell of races taking in Swanage, Worcester, Portsmouth, Gateshead, Newport, Reading, Bolton and even as far away as Henbury during August and September. Dave Hayward (A5 Patchway) also managed to fit in a 40 mile race around the Isle of Man, a 36 mile race in Scotland and a 40 mile run from Woodford (London) to Southend, the latter with Andy Eddy (C1 Weston).

We also managed to collect our first team prize by winning the Fire Services Southern Counties 5.2 mile road race at Portsmouth and had 3 runners in the first 5. The result was:-

1st	R. Adams (Hants)	26 mins	50 secs.
2nd	J. Cocker (Al Temple)	29 "	04 "
3rd	A. Lawson (A Div. F.P.)	30 "	01 "
4th	M. Pike (Hants)	30 "	13 "
5th	D. Hayward (A5 Patchway)	30 "	20 "
16th	M. Mullany (H.Q.)	33 "	09 "
45th	K. Harris	39 "	18 "

While we were competing in the Fire Service Track and Field Championships at Gateshead, Geoff Smith a fireman from Liverpool was winning his first international vest for England at Crystal Palace and came 4th in the 10,000 meters behind Henry Rono the world record holder, Vainio the European Champion and Bernie Ford an established England runner.

Changing the level slightly, a surprise runner in the Sun Life 5 mile road race was Graham (I'm not small, but you are tall) Burchell A Div. F.P. who completed the 5 mile plus course, "just for fun" which is what it must be all about.

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## RUGBY

As the new season opens the Rugby Section has more players than ever before and competition is hotting up for all positions. Already the first fixture has produced an excellent performance with a 16-3 victory over the Post Office without several of the best players.

The fixture Secretary has done a marvellous job in obtaining some strong matches for the season. Any persons wishing to join the club should contact either Pete Holland 'A' Div. F.P. Ext. 217 or Dave Appleton Al Red.

### RUGBY

We played against Cornwall Fire Brigade in the Final of the South West District of the Sports Association Knockout Cup on Sunday 24th September. Unfortunately due to a combination of cancelled releases and personal circumstances, the Brigade were forced to take the field with no less than four of the five backs out of position. However, the side played very well indeed considering and were unlucky to go down 17 pts - 4 pts. The Brigade's try was scored by John Lymposs who had an outstanding game in the pack.



### HOLE IN ONE

Pictured left Barry Cross, B4 Brislington, with his hole-in-one trophy presented to him by the Brigade Golf Club. For people unaware of the tradition, if you approach a person who has recently achieved an ace, tap him on his shoulder and say "Hole-in-one", he will then buy you a drink. Remember though you can only do this once.

### FOR SALE

Yellow Peril! 'R' Registration Honda C70, excellent condition, only 1900 miles on the clock. Complete with panniers, cheap to run and more reliable than public transport! £190.00 o.n.o. Contact Sandy Stewart, Brigade Control.

NEW STYLE CALENDAR  
FOR STANDARD MONTH  
IN NEW DECIMAL BUSINESS YEAR

NEG	FRI	FRI	FRI	THU	WED	TUE
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16	14	13	12	11	10	9
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
32	29	28	27	26	25	24
39	38	37	36	35	34	33

This is a special calendar which has been developed for handling rush jobs. All rush jobs are wanted yesterday. With this calendar a client can order his work on the 7th and have it delivered on the 3rd.

Everyone wants his job by Friday, so there are three Fridays every week.

There are eight new days at the end of the month for those end-of-the-month jobs.

There is no 1st of the month - so there can't be late delivery on end-of-the-month jobs on the 1st.

A "Blue Monday" or "Monday morning hangover" can't happen, as all Mondays have been eliminated.

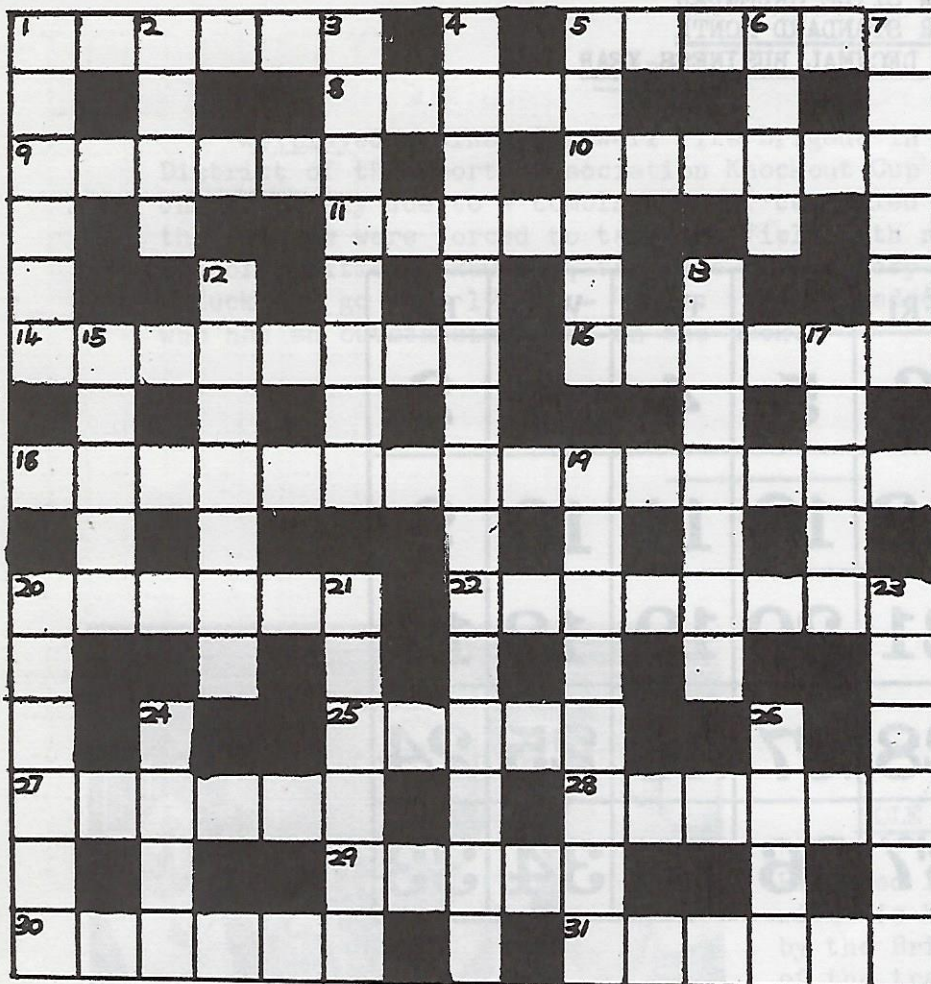
There are no bothersome non-productive Saturdays and Sundays - no compensatory leave or overtime to worry about.

With no 15th, 30th or 31st, no "time-off" is necessary for cashing salary cheques or paying bills - in fact, there's no salary cheque either.

There's a new day each week, called Negotiation Day.

The decimal business year comprises ten equal months (350 days). The 15 days difference from the conventional year is used for holidays which do not interfere with working time.

# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



## Across

1. Fondly embrace a chauffeuse? (6)
5. The sort of silver everybody's after? (6)
8. They start off like real pearls but may finally be false! (5)
9. Do his stories of financial hardship always hold water? (6)
10. Straighten out and relax (6)
11. The Frenchman outside is on the qui vive (5)
14. It has almost all its wee petals disarranged (5-3)
16. A broken trap on board for catching mackerel (6)
18. What the star insists on having as a stand-in for the gambling film? (6,2,7)
20. Backbites the artist inside and it's rather hurtful (6)
22. All students must perform it but not all on the radio (3,5)
25. Sappy thing! It shows I've had a good wash! (5)
27. Can it be taught only the usual nonsense? (6)
28. Raft I'd made no longer moored (6)
29. Court noblemen in London (5)
30. Does it cause friction between Bridge players? (6)
31. Sort of meal that makes you feel expansive? (6)

## Down

1. We're told the tea chests outside are Indian (6)
2. Doesn't sound the sort of word a child should learn in maths class! (4)
3. Have tea, Spike, or perhaps something to eat? (5-3)
4. Getting on extremely well without this? (5,1,5,4)
5. Sounds as if one fires things down them (6)
6. How you'd worry if the butcher gave you tough meat? (4)
7. Gets out of the way of Ed's dog (7)
12. Rib Sean about being a foreigner (7)
13. Old-fashioned curved structure - well before 100 (7)
15. Which of us going to work gives a delighted cry? (5)
17. What to get when not up to much! (5)
19. Though not in form, put the others to shame (8)
20. A meal or the one it's intended for (6)
21. Talk that would be smarter if I were included in it (6)
23. Delighted to find the man unpunctual getting in (6)
24. What the dishonest schoolboy will do in bed (4)
26. Dismiss like a shot! (4)

# FILL IT IN

## 3 Letters

Ear  
Era  
Far  
Ran  
Rye

## 4 Letters

Arch  
Grit  
Here  
Iron  
More  
Odor  
Ogre  
Over  
Port  
Rare  
Rate  
Rear  
Ride  
Rime  
Road  
Roar  
Taro  
Tear  
Tree

## 5 Letters

Alarm  
Arbor  
Aroma  
Horse  
Liver  
Merge  
Opera  
Order  
Radio  
Raise  
Ready  
Refer  
Riser

## 5 Letters Continued

Rival  
Roger  
Shirr  
Smear  
Start  
Tepee  
Terms  
Trail

## 6 Letters

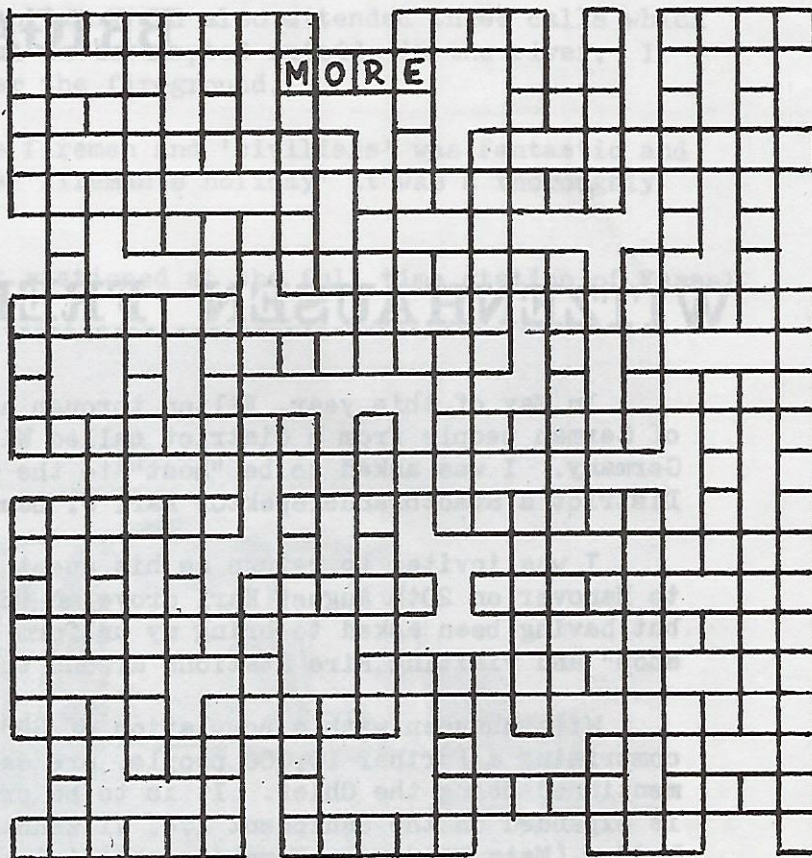
Assort  
Braise  
Drafty  
Either  
Horror  
Merits  
Rattan  
Ravage  
Relate  
Remain  
Rigger  
Stroll  
Throat  
Vulgar

## 7 Letters

Artiste  
Empower  
Errands  
Garrote  
Organdy  
Ravioli

## 8 Letters

Abrasive  
Intrigue  
Martinet  
Radiator  
Rehearse  
Revenger  
Riparian  
Vertical



## TARGET

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least one eight-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names.

N	o	t
	o	i
c	a	v

TARGET: 9 words, good  
14 words, very good  
19 words, excellent.

(Answers on back page)

# BRIGADES AROUND THE THE WORLD

## WITZENHAUSEN FREIWILLIGEN by Station Officer Brian Freegaurd.

In May of this year, Filton through a "Twinning" scheme was visited by a party of German people from a district called Witzenhausen, in the district of Hessen, West Germany. I was asked to be "host" to the Chief Fire Officer of Witzenhausen and District a Stadtbranderspektor Karl W. Baumbach.

I was invited to return as his guest in August of this year and having flown to Hanover on 20th August Karl drove me to his home. I was shown the local 'sights' but having been asked to bring my uniform I spent the majority of my stay "talking shop" and visiting Fire Stations around the area.

Witzenhausen with a population of 8000 and the surrounding fifteen villages comprising a further 10,000 people, are served by a Volunteer Brigade, Karl as already mentioned being the Chief. It is to be presumed the saving by the Council on salaries is expended on the equipment i.e. Witzenhausen Station has a 30m. Hydraulic Turntable Ladder (Metz ladder on Mercedes chassis), 2 Water Tenders, 1 Medium Pump with Portable Unit, 1 General Purpose V.W. Combi, 1 20 k.v. Lighting/Cutting Vehicle with 9m. Hydraulic Lighting Platform with 8 x 2 k.v. flood lights and a 2 man cage and 1 Trailer Pump and Salvage Unit. The senior officers carry 7 band portable radios linked to the Police and the general alarm is by siren. The available man power at Witzenhausen is 60 men plus 20 juniors and the surrounding fifteen stations has a total volunteer list of 540 men plus 100 juniors with 1 pump on each station. Included in next year's budget are 'Pagers' for the most readily available personnel.

Mid week I was taken to Kassel (220,000 population) which is the Headquarters of the district of Hessen. This is a full time Station. The building is similar to Temple in construction but with 2 engine houses and four storey offices and the control room. 36 fire appliances and cars which includes 2 x 30m. Metz Turntable Ladders, 2 Rescue Tenders, and because in Germany in addition to firefighting and general emergency rescue together with general medical aid among their calls, every fireman has fairly extensive hospital training, so included in the appliances at Kassel H.Q. are two mobile operating theatres and their own ambulance. One particularly striking appliance was the Mobile Control Unit. This is on a large coach chassis and the equipment includes a computer, 42 channel radio, G.P.O. telephone link, Video equipment, photo copier and many other refinements. (The cost of the computer alone was some £85,000. There's an average rider strength of 50 with the shift system similar to our own.

The Volunteer Fireman undertakes at least one week's residential 'refresher' course each year at a Training School in Kassel (separate from the training school of the full time men).

The Fire Service there is not so conscientious about returning to the scene of a big fire to make sure it has not re-ignited, though of course they will quickly return if called. Also they do not attempt any tidying-up etc. Fire Prevention is kept to a minimum with little legislation and causes of fire are investigated solely by the Police.

Whilst at Witzenhausen I attended a press engagement and made the front page of a local newspaper, together with a carefully posed photograph of me in uniform discussing the merits of a new Turntable Ladder with their Chief Officer.

I was driven around the area in this appliance and also attended three calls which my host received by radio, two fires and one attempted suicide in the river. I also flew in a Piper light aircraft over the fireground.

The hospitality shown to me by the firemen and 'civilians' was fantastic and even though my visit was something of a 'fireman's holiday' it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Pictured below is the Control Unit stationed at the full time station of Kassel.



A young cowboy received a shining new gun on his eighteenth birthday. After practising for some days he decided it was time the town were made to see that he wasn't a kid anymore. He rode up to the saloon, burst through the doors and put a bullet straight through the ace on a card that a man was holding in a poker game.

Striding up to the bar, the young cowboy put the gun on the bar and shouted to the barman:

"Gimme a whisky," he said.

The barman gave him his whisky and picking up the gun said:

"You know if I was you I'd take this gun and I'd file a little bit off the hammer just here. Then I'd take a wee bit off the trigger, and just a tiny bit off the sights. And then I'd smear the whole gun with grease."

"Why would I want to do that?" said the cowboy, "I'm fast enough already."

"Well," said the barman, casually, "that guy whose ace you put a bullet through just now. He's Big Black Jake, and as soon as he's finished his card game he's gonna come over here and stick that gun right up your . . . . . !"

A plainclothes policeman arrested a young transvestite who was soliciting; but being a decent sort of chap, he decided to take the young man for a cup of coffee before booking him, and find out how he had gone astray.

"Tell me exactly how it all began," said the policeman.

"Well, it was like this, I was looking into a shop window, when this fellow came up to me and asked me for a light for his cigarette. When I gave him one, we stood talking, and he explained that he was a stranger in town and very lonely; would I like to go up to his hotel room and join him for a drink?

I wasn't doing anything that evening so I agreed."

"Yes, then what?"

"Then he suddenly started interfering with me in his room."

"Well," said the detective, "When he was obviously doing something wrong why didn't you run like hell out of the place?" "What," said the young man, "in high-heeled shoes?"

A rich old lady storms into the offices of a local newspaper with a complaint: "It's two days since I asked you to advertise a £20,000 reward for the person who finds my lost puppy - and the notice still hasn't been printed."

"I'm sorry madam," replies the receptionist, "but the staff are still out trying to find your dog."

Two tramps are passing from door to door along a street in a posh area of town. As the first tramp comes out of the front gate of a house, his friend is looking longingly at a gleaming Rolls Royce.

"I'll bet you'd like to be in that bloke's shoes," he says.

The second tramp raises one foot to show an equally gleaming boot: "I am."

"Look," said the young man to his recently acquired girlfriend, "why don't we go Dutch tonight, I'm short of cash."

"Why not?" came the husky reply.

"You pay for the food and drink - and the rest of the evening will be on me."

After making various tests on a sample of her urine, the doctor broke the bad news to the unmarried girl.

"But I can't be pregnant," she wailed, "I've never been with a man in my life."

"Never?"

"No. I've never allowed a man to touch my body at all."

The doctor stood up, walked over to the window, and anxiously scanned the sky.

"What are you doing now?" the worried girl asked.

"The last time this happened, three wise men appeared and a light shone in the east - I'm certainly not going to miss it this time."

The Irishman was making a complaint to the policeman about all the planes that kept landing in his back garden.

The policeman replied, "You should try switching off your landing lights."

Did you hear about the Irish schoolboy who broke his teeth whilst trying to eat his dinner money.

BRIGADE BULLETIN (GENERAL)

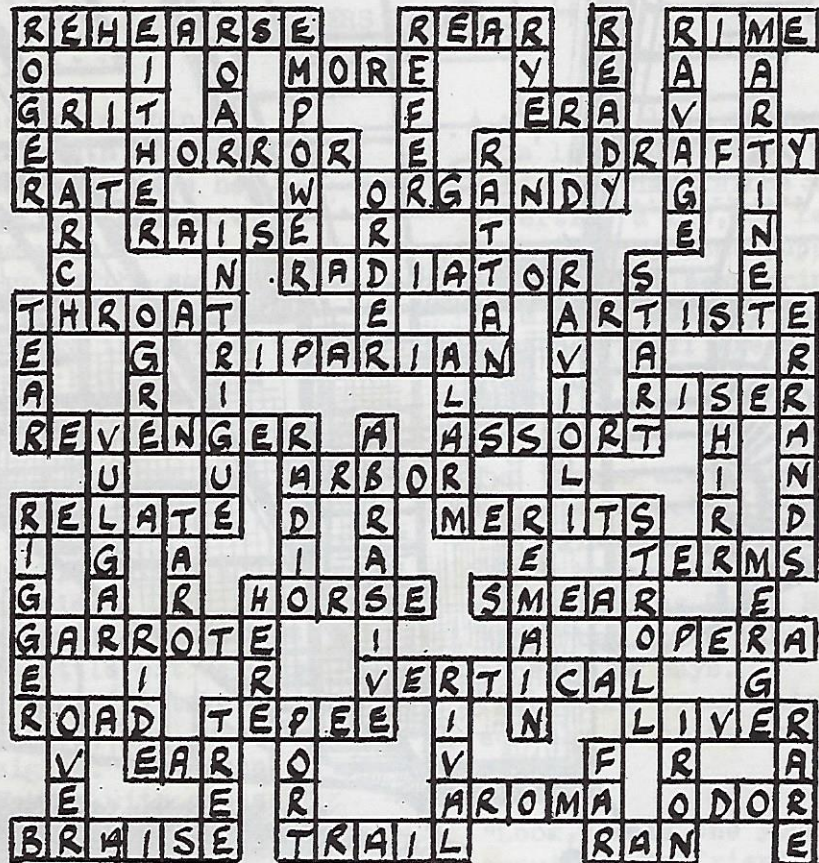
H.M. PRISONS - SELF LOCKING DOORS

**CELL BLOCK  
10**

"WADA'YA MEAN - YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT FOUR TO  
MANY BUT CANT TELL MY LADS FROM YOURS?"



# ANSWERS TO "FILL IT IN"



## ANSWERS TO CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### Across

1. Car-ess
5. Chased
8. Teeth
9. Sponge
10. Unbend
11. Alert
14. Sweet-pea
16. S-prat-s
18. Double or nothing
20. Sprain
22. Set piece
25. Towel
27. Par-rot
28. Adrift
29. Earls (Court)
30. Rubber
31. Spread

### Down

1. Cas-T-es
2. Rood (rude)
3. Steak-pie
4. Never a cross word
5. Chutes (shoots)
6. Stew
7. Dodges
12. Serbian
13. Arch-AI-C
15. Who-op
17. Ton-IC
19. Out-class
20. Supper
21. Natt(I)er
23. E-late-d
24. Crib
26. Fire

## ANSWERS TO TARGET

Action action antic atonic cant canto cation coin coyin icon into onto  
ovation tain tonic toon vain vint VOCATION.