

ROUGH GUIDE

TO THE

U.K.



RIDING THE EDGE TO 2020'S BRITAIN

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *The Rough Guide to the U. K.* This handy guide will tell you what you need to know to get around in the British Isles. It won't give you nice demographics on the population—but it will tell you the cheapest place to eat and drink, give you info on the places to see and avoid and what you must or mustn't do in each area.

This is an exciting time in the U.K.—especially with the recent downfall of the military government and return of the Monarchy. This is a country in transition, and while we try to confirm all information within this publication, in fact, some articles may seem to contradict each other. This is because of the difficulty of finding out what's going on in certain areas. We have tried to separate the "wheat from the chaff" but where this is impossible we have included as much information as we can, and leave you to judge for yourself.

Therefore, we accept no responsibility for loss, injury or inconvenience as a result of information contained in this guide.

Finally, in the words of Britain's legendary band, Spinal Tap—"Have a good time, all the time" and remember if you can't be good—be careful!

INTRODUCTION: A Brief Recent History Of The U.K.

The United Kingdom has been going through some turbulent times recently. The Scottish uprising in 2016 started the rot; as the MLA cracked down on resistance, but found that the tighter their rules became, the more resistance grew.

People draft-dodged as conscientious objectors arguing that, while they'd gladly join up to defend their country, suppressing the Scots was not what they had in mind. The influx of refugees into NOREASTMARLAUTH weakened the already shaky relationship between the various military districts.

Lord Fairbanks and Lord Edwards from NORWESTMARLAUTH started campaigning for greater help from the other Council members. It was not forthcoming. Fairbanks became desperate and he started relocating the transients out of his district. Other council members protested, but Fairbanks said he had no choice as supplies were running low.

The other members stated that they all had their duties and said that Fairbanks was looking after his district. They then refused to handle the refugees and returned them to NOREASTMARLAUTH. Fairbanks closed his borders, leading to refugee camps along the NOREASTMARLAUTH / MIDMARLAUTH border.

At this point Lord Hill made an impassioned plea to the others not to forget the Scottish command. The Council resolved to send more troops to the Scottish theater—and also to Northern Ireland where violence had increased in response to internal bickering on the Council. To counteract IRA and INLA incursions the Council also declared the formation of a demilitarised zone around Ulster.

MARTIAL LAW PROVISIONAL COUNCILS

(see *Eurosource*, page 11):

NORWESTMARLAUTH = Northwestern Martial Law Authority

NOREASTMARLAUTH = Northeastern Martial Law Authority

MIDMARLAUTH = Midlands Martial Law Authority

MLA = Martial Law Authority

When Fairbanks only sent a handful of men north, claiming he needed the rest to try and stop the flow of refugees, many soldiers deserted, stating that they didn't want to fight their brethren. The Council started bickering again as to what to do—abandon Scotland, return to a version of press-ganging in order to bolster their dwindling armies, or ask the E.C. for help (God forbid). While this debate raged, another fly landed in the ointment—a pretender to the throne, Victoria, emerged, reminding the Britons of their glory and life in the "good old days."

With a campaign harking back to the heady days of Elizabeth I, (the original) Victoria, and the British Empire, the Restoration movement gathered momentum. Realising that the MLA was stretched to the breaking point, the Pretender made a plea to all involved with an impassioned speech that was very well received. Her campaign platform (apart from bringing back the "good old days") also stated that Britons shouldn't oppress other Britons. At first, the actual campaign was small—word of mouth, slogans sprayed on walls, pirate radio and TV, broadcasts, and the occasional netrunner insert on millions of bills.

Again, the Council bickered about how to combat the threat of a Monarchist rebellion, and their indecision enabled the campaign of civil disobedience to gain a foothold in many of the major conurbations.

Major Corps started to get behind the campaign—some covertly, others overtly. The U.K. market had always been run with an iron rod by the MLA and few companies could get a foothold. They sensed a chance to open up a market that had been denied by the Council, and threw their lot behind the Restoration. One or two Corps decided to back the MLA in the hope they would be awarded a lucrative defense contract once the Restoration failed. The major backers for the Restoration were Imperial Metropolitan Industries and the Hilliard Corporation who, while they were main contractors to the MLA and therefore "quids in," were always mindful of the Council's power and ability to withdraw contracts and virtually ruin companies overnight. They also felt restricted from other markets they might wish to exploit (and we mean exploit).

Areas like North Wales, the Borders, parts of the Wash and Cornwall became totally independent from the Council, who found themselves almost powerless to react as a cohesive unit. Then the Council fell apart—it became every man for himself.

Some set up as kings of their regions, whilst Hill and McKenzie threw in with the Monarchists hoping they would find the help and credibility they needed. Other areas to throw in with the Restoration

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Those wishing to enter the United Kingdom must have the following:

- A valid visa
- No criminal record
- A valid Tourist Ticket or
- A Corporate or Military Pass

Visa requirements vary depending on which country you are from but they are relatively easy to obtain for citizens of the United States. The actual requirements are the same as those needed to visit any member state of the E.C. and in fact for those wishing to visit Britain from the E.C. or vice versa, no further permits are required.

If you are entering the country for employment purposes then you must have a job already lined up in which case your employer will give you a pass that enables you to enter the country. This pass will, depending on your job, allow to move around the country to varying degrees.

Those of you who are on holiday then the English Tourist Board can provide with a Tourist Ticket that will give you the opportunity to visit Britain. Depending on how much you spend, the ticket will give you access to other areas of Britain.

There are, of course, other means of getting into the country—smuggling for instance or just good old bribery but be very careful if you intend to use nefarious means to enter the country.

were Lympstone and the Poole/Bournemouth area—old Royal Marine bases that had never really accepted disbandment and had been a thorn the side of the government. It looked as though the U.K. was heading for a second Civil War when a spate of assassinations took out virtually all major players opposed to the Restoration. This was followed up by the disappearance of leading members of the Scottish and Northern Irish separatist movements.

During the next few months, the fate of the nation hung in the balance and violence escalated to almost all-out war. Various armed factions tried campaigns of terror, culminating in the bombing of certain London Underground lines and the Thames flood barrier—which put half of London underwater in the space of a day (due to high tides and global warming). This offensive (the culprits have never been discovered) had the effect of paralyzing London in one fell swoop. It put paid to any organized resistance and the capital quickly quieted.

As the only remaining representatives of the "legitimate" government of the U.K., Hill and McKenzie announced that the MLA had seen that conditions in the country had "returned to normal" and that it was time for the country to return to its pre-marital law state.

With full ceremony at Westminster Abbey, the Monarchy was restored to Britain for the second time in its history. Queen Victoria II announced that Lord Hill would become the first Prime Minister of the new democracy and that Lord McKenzie had been appointed Chief of Staff to the various Military services which, in turn, were to be returned to the control of the people by privatization. Thus, Lord McKenzie became the Chairman and Managing Director of British Combined Forces, PLC, aka, BCF.

To ease the transition to the new Democracy, the Corps and the military cracked down hard by introducing a state of emergency (and the same restrictions that had caused the uprising in the first place).

The MARLAUTHS were abolished to make way for districts based on the old kingdoms—including Wessex, Mercia, Sussex and Cornwall. Movement between various regions was severely restricted. This did much to calm the situation, although pockets of resistance still existed in North Wales, most areas of Scotland and parts of East Anglia.

For backing the Restoration, the Corps demanded something in return—a laissez-faire style of government that let them do whatever they wanted (within the confines of law, of course). Lord Hill invited various corporate executives along with selected members of the general public to sit on constitutional subcommittees whose brief was to look at the whole system of government. These various committees would report to the Democratic Government Committee—the DGC, chaired by Lord Hill, who would then approve any suggestions before taking them before Queen Victoria II for Royal assent. Finally, this tortuous process came up with a solution to the first problem—that of electing Members of Parliament.

An elected central Parliament was to be set up, but with its members coming from the local governments around the country. Anybody could stand for a local government seat as long as they could raise the £50,000 needed for a deposit and were backed by five responsible members of the public (this means doctors, members of the law professions, Officers of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and high-ranking Corporate officials). The elections for local government were to be by the old "first past the post method" rather than any form of proportional representation. This created a huge uproar up and down the country, with many saying that minorities would be left out and suppressed because they didn't have any say in government. Another committee came up with a directly-elected Parliament with proportional representation. Both suggestions went before the DGC, which, at press time hasn't produced its final report yet. In fact there is a growing number of political activists who say it has no intention of reporting, thus leaving both the Military and the Corps with as much leeway as they want.

During this time, many of the old military companies were privatized—such as the Royal Ordnance Factory; food and many other local agricultural companies became part of Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture. Other companies were acquired by the Hilliard Corporation.

At present the "first past the post" method is used to elect members to local government, and this method will continue until a decision is finally made regarding the overall system. Slowly, some normality returned to the U.K. and people were allowed to move around the country as long as they had the paperwork allowing them to do so. Not that travel was easy; many of the major roads were either in a bad state of repair or subject to a severe toll. The rail network had also been severely curtailed as a way of restricting movement; as yet no investor had come forward to get the trains moving again to many parts of the country. The skies are fairly unrestricted as long as you keep out of certain areas—after all, whoever could afford to fly must have corporate or military backing, right?

Terrorist attacks still occur—many backed by Scandinavian eco-terrorists who try to eliminate acid rainfall caused by British industry. Despite all this, many companies are investing in Britain as a cheap and easy way to get into the huge EC market without having to put up with the tortuous regulations that abound within the rest of the EC.

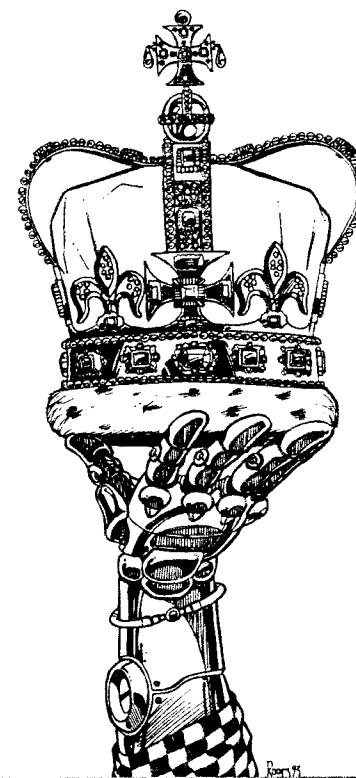
There are the beginnings of another uprising in the derelict urban sprawls and poorer rural areas, as many begin to suspect this government has no intention of giving the power back to the people.

This is the state of the U.K. at the moment—the old military dictatorship has gone, but though a Queen now sits on the throne, the lot for the ordinary people is still very much the same—the rich have much and the poor have nothing.

The Monarchy

Operation Cromwell was launched by D.I.5 (the Security Service) immediately after the short-lived anti-MLA revolt led by King Charles III and the Royal Marines. Its job was to eliminate any possibility of the re-establishment of the monarchy by tracking and terminating any possible heir to the throne. Unfortunately for the MLA, this operation was flawed from the beginning, for after Charles's death, people with connections to the Royal family went to ground and though the determined and ruthless agents of D.I.5 eventually tracked them down, two of the most legitimate heirs were already far from the grasp of the MLA.

Charles' brother Andrew had been a ranking member of the Royal Navy when the MLA swept to power. He had been with his brother at Devonport when the last stand of the Monarchy had taken place, and like the King, he too had been liquidated in the interests of national stability. Andrew's family were herded up and dealt with, but, unlike Charles, Prince Andrew had been married before. He had divorced his first wife in 1994 and she had gone to the U.S.A. with their two daughters and her financial advisor/lover. At the time, the divorce had been a bitter blow to the already unpopular Royal family, and court officials had been diligent in making the separation as quiet as possible, providing a quantity of Royal treasury to assure that the Prince's former wife did not mix with the media.



D.I.5, of course, knew of the first marriage, and though a squad of ARMINTAC fops were swiftly dispatched to the U.S., they found that others had beaten them to the punch. Sarah Ferguson, ex-Duchess of York—and more importantly the Royal Princesses—were gone.

The Security Service knew that some organisation was sheltering the heirs, but at the time they had no idea who. There were numerous possibilities, but after lengthy meetings it was decided that due to mounting strains on the budget, D.I.5 would not pursue a pro-active approach in tracking down the missing heirs. Instead, they would eradicate all mention of them and maintain a policy of disinformation on the lines of succession. Like the Hitler Youth book-burners of decades before, D.I.5 ruthlessly purged great libraries and universities, destroying every mention of the Royal line. All the

treasures of the Kings and Queens of England were locked away in underground bunkers, creating massive secret storehouses of English heritage. The Security Service was clinically effective. In the space of months, not a trace remained of the Royal tradition that had been a part of the country for so long. Only memories remained and they soon passed into apathy.

However, D.I.5 had not been quite as effective as they had thought, for although they had hidden the great treasures, converted the stately homes to barracks, eliminated the Royalty, outlawed the scholars of the monarchy and burnt the ancient books, there was one area that partially escaped their grasp. That was the huge collection of media archive data covering the country's obsession with its monarchy. From the microfiche records of the nearly-redundant newspaper offices to the video vaults of the various tabloids (even the nominally-controlled BBC hid some away) lay a wealth of information, information that would become critical propaganda in the struggle that was coming.

The Cartel

Though not actively hunting the missing heirs, D.I.5 still had agents around the world attempting to discover what had happened to them. They formed a small intelligence unit whose brief was to theorize the nature of the threat the heirs posed and to determine what individual, government or corporation had managed to spirit them away. In 2012, the unit produced a report that detailed the activities of an organization they called "the Cartel". It was a name for want of any other, for D.I.5 had no idea exactly what the Cartel was. Any attempts to trace back rumors of Cartel operation always drew a blank. Whoever was behind the Cartel obviously had the money and the influence to cloak their presence. In fact, the Cartel was created by two corporations, IMA and the Hilliard Corporation. As the two most powerful corporations in the U.K., they had formed an alliance for mutual protection of their profits. They knew from all the civil unrest that the MLA could not last. They also knew that if it fell, the resulting turmoil could well cause the collapse of the corporations as well. Unless, of course, they engineered the downfall of the MLA on their own terms.

It was decided the best way was to engender a desire in the populace to see a return of the Monarchy. The Hilliard Corporation had already located a viable heir to the throne, and now proceeded to contact her and arrange for her eventual return to Britain. On the home front, IMA began covertly financing some of the more successful pirate news services that had begun broadcasting in recent years. As the pirates began to rely more and more on IMA funding, they listened more to IMA's suggestions as to broadcast content.

It was not long afterwards that the pirates began the call for the Restoration of the Monarchy, a call echoed by the public. The Cartel could sit back, justifiably pleased with themselves. It had found an heir and it was influencing the populace so that they would wel-

come their Queen when she returned. All that was needed was the occasional push in the right direction to ensure that events kept moving at the proper pace. With continuing civil unrest, and the troubles in Northern Ireland, the MLA found itself stretched, both militarily and financially, then IMA decided the time was right to make its move. Without warning, IMA's troops invaded the Bristol conurbation, and in a brief but bloody battle with MLA forces stationed there, seized control. This was the straw that broke the camel's back. It was only a matter of weeks before the MLA finally collapsed.

The Restoration

It was not long before the public began worrying what was going to happen to them now. With the MLA gone, who would run the country? As the feeling of panic increased, IMA and the Hilliard Corporation made their move. They began spreading the rumor that there was an heir who had survived the MLA's purging. As the public's cry for someone to lead grew louder, amid much publicity, Queen Victoria II flew into the United Kingdom, setting foot in the country of her birth for the first time in over twenty years.

Victoria II was born Beatrice, eldest daughter of Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, and Prince Andrew, Duke of York. Her parents divorced in 1994, and she went with her younger sister, Princess Eugenie, to live with their mother in America. During the "removal" of other members of the Royal Family, they were initially overlooked. By the time D.I.5 agents tracked them to Texas, the Cartel had already moved Beatrice and Eugenie to a new secret location, somewhere in the Caribbean. There, the Cartel briefed Beatrice about what was going on in the U.K. They arranged blood tests and DNA matching, readying themselves for the inevitable doubters, and they arranged for her name to be changed to one that would strike a chord with the British public.

What exactly Queen Victoria II was told, it is unlikely we will ever know. She arrived home, and her coronation was arranged a week later. She gave television and newspaper interviews condemning the MLA, and praising the indomitable spirit of the British people. She thanked the IMA and the Hilliard Corporation for the support they had given her since her return. Victoria is a beautiful and charismatic young woman and the people listened. She announced there would be an elected government once more (and the corporations chose the candidates). IMA and Hilliard were ecstatic; it had worked better than they had ever expected. The people loved the Queen, the Cartel controlled her, and through her, the people. Only, recently, the Queen has not been as pliable as she should. She shows signs of a keen intelligence that the Cartel had not counted on. It seems she really does care for her people, and because of the love that they have for her, the corporations need to be careful, as she could turn the populace against them. They are learning that the Queen is, in fact, becoming a two-edged sword.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT



AS WE MENTIONED IN OUR INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDE THE ACTUAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO BE DECIDED ALTHOUGH THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REVERT TO SOME SORT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.

Britain itself is divided in to sixteen Local Government Districts (see map). These districts are bordered by major access roads where possible. Movement between these various districts is restricted by the use of various travel permits—both local and national. These permits must be presented when crossing a district border on an Access road; however, it is possible to cross borders if you stick to minor roads, the only problem is that the roads are deliberately left unmaintained and there is always the possibility of running into a border patrol.

At the moment each local government is directly elected from constituencies within that district and holds office for a term of two years. The actual head of the District, the Administrator is appointed by the government in Westminster and is supposed-



THE QUEEN ON WALKABOUT

ly there to oversee the transition to democratic rule. Whether or not this actually happens remains to be seen.

Each district, except for Northern Ireland and Scotland, is given a set budget from the central government and is allowed to allocate these funds however they please. Unlike the old District and County councils however, they do not fund the police force; that is done centrally to prevent local government corruption says Lord Hill (to keep the police state in control say most other people). This budget is allocated by a complex formula that takes into account such diverse elements as population, area, average income and law code. Districts can also apply for relief funds if facing trouble—both East Anglia and North Wales have applied for monies from this central fund due to the huge problems they face.

Both Northern Ireland and Scotland are still, begrudgingly, controlled directly from London and, of course each has a much higher overall budget than the formula would dictate.

Each District is responsible for controlling its own borders, apart from the Scotland/Lindisfarne border which is patrolled by the British Combined Forces, the Districts therefore employ their own Border Patrol Security Teams whose job is to monitor and control all cross-border movement and also have the remit to look after all essential nonaccess roads.

As is often the case, the Government claims to control all of these Districts but in reality does not. All of those around London and as far north as Lindsey and Deira are pretty much under control (apart from small pockets). The one exception is East Anglia. Only a small portion of this district is pacified. Parts of Middle Anglia are also highly dangerous. The further north and west you go the less control the government seems to actually have.

The government has a good working relationship with most of the Western world in keeping with its old image. However, certain things are beginning to concern many foreign administrations. The first and most serious thing is the second Cod War. While hostilities have not actually been declared, this is as close to a real war as you can get. Its cause was British trawlers moving their fishing fields further north in search of ever depleting fish stocks. Iceland objected on grounds that their own stocks were being wiped out by foreigners. Britain just pointed out that they were in international waters and it was going to carry on fishing. Iceland responded by declaring a 500 mile exclusion zone around its shores. Britain refused to recognize this and hostilities began. British trawlers fishing within the exclusion zone are protected by fast patrol boats and frigates from the fisheries division of the BCF. Many countries in Europe expressed concern over the rapidly deteriorating situation but have declined to take any action. It may be the fact the Britain is the largest supplier of fish to the E.C. that is stopping them.

Britain has a long history of paying lip service to the E.C. and that is continuing. Many people moan about being mem-

bers and that the Germans are running it all but the Brits are quite happy to keep it as it is, thank you very much. They get most of the benefits but at half the cost to its industry in terms of various regulations. As the European bank (or Glistening bank as its was nicknamed in the 90's due to its opulent construction) is based in London much of the E.C.'s monetary policy is run (quietly) by Britain. This, obviously, shouldn't be the case as the directors are nominated by the various countries but Britain has used the current State of Emergency to revoke the free movement of E.C. citizens. Britain only seems to let in those members who sympathize with Her views on monetary policy. Again, the other countries are quietly concerned by this but have made no formal complaint yet.

Britain has good relations with the African states and has recently started an investment program in many countries—a quick look at the list involved shows that the states involved are the old outposts of the British Empire and, again one or two of the African states is quietly concerned.

Another area that Britain is looking towards is South America. She has started a major investment program in the former British Honduras which is beginning to worry many of the states there too.

That special relationship which the United States faltered along with the union but both the MLA and the new government has been sensible enough to keep on good terms with all the various administrations—especially those looking for arms. Royal Enfield and Heckler & Koch, UK are, literally, making a killing out in America.

Britain's relations with the Far East range from good (Singapore, Japan and Taiwan) to bad (China). The relations with China rapidly deteriorated when Chris Patten was appointed as the Governor to oversee the return to Chinese rule of Hong Kong. His insistence of the introduction of democratic reform severely annoyed the government in Beijing. The final hand over of power in 1997 rendered scenes reminiscent of the American pull out from Saigon with people scrambling to get out of Hong Kong in any way that they could.

The heavy-handedness used by the Chinese created the problem of the Hong Kong boat people which created a major political row back home. These people were British subjects and should be allowed to enter the U.K. The government only intervened when Chinese gunships started firing on escaping ships. The political scandal created by this whole affair was one of the reasons behind the military takeover. The MLA saw an opportunity to divert attention away from what was happening in the U.K. by forcing the issue in the Far East. Both Japan and Taiwan backed the British "humanitarian" efforts with money and supplies. Finally the U.N. had to step in to prevent a major war. The ensuing treaty allowed most of the former British subjects to settle in Taiwan, Japan and Singapore where their willingness to work at low wages was utilized (exploited) in return for economic aid for China.



LORDS HILL AND MCKENZIE

MONETARY MATTERS

The British are fiercely loyal to their currency and the Pound Sterling (also known as a quid) has returned as the national currency of choice. The actual exchange rate has been fixed at £1-00 = 1Eb. All those people entering the country are required to make a minimum purchase of £100-00 even if the stay is only a stopover at any one of London's five airports.

Most shops, theaters and restaurants in the cities will accept Eb's, but once you venture outside the major urban areas you'll find that people tend to prefer Sterling.

Once out of the cities it is best to carry cash or sterling traveller's cheques as very few banks have branches in the rural areas. The main banks are Citilloyds and Barclay-Deutsche.

The U.K. is still part of the E.C. Single Market and as such all companies can conduct their business in any country as though it were in Britain. The E.C. itself is the most profitable market in the world.

British business itself is booming as many companies are moving their European operations to this country. There is one major reason for this—cheap labor. As the U.K. had opted out of

the Social Chapter of the Maastricht treaty in the early 1990's its business didn't have to worry about things like maximum working hours or minimum wages—just making large profits. While business took a down turn during the reign of the MLA the new open market along with a cheaper work force than the rest of the E.C. means that business is flooding into the country.

Another advantage is that while Britain is part of the Single Market, its business regulation is not as labyrinthian as the rest of Europe thereby lowering company overheads even more. Add in many Government incentives (i.e., bribes) and you can see why companies are flocking to the UK—to them it's the most attractive market in the world.

The Government is very pleased with this and says that this will bring prosperity to the country as a whole, although many pundits advocate that high company profits doesn't help the country and that a decent wage paid so that the people can spend it on other services is what really counts.

British companies themselves have, traditionally been very aggressive business-wise and have continued to be so (in all senses of the word).

The main players are, of course, the Hilliard Corporation and Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture (we will detail these corporations later) although many others are expanding rapidly both in Europe and worldwide. In fact, many are looking toward the old British stomping grounds of Africa and the Far East as ripe for the picking—especially India with its cheap workforce and large fertile plains.

SPECIAL NOTE: ALL PRICES HEREIN ARE EXPRESSED IN EUROBUCKS (€).

CORPS

Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture, PLC

"GIVING THIS DAY, YOUR DAILY BREAD."

Known Corporate Profile

Headquarters: Bristol (SW Conurb)

Regional offices: Southampton, Poole-Bournemouth Conurbation, London, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Glasgow, Dublin, Berlin, Paris, Lisbon, Rome, Montreal, Toronto, New York, Kansas City, Rio De Janerio, Capetown.

Name and Location of Principal Shareholder: Sir Ranolph Christmas KBE, Bristol, holding 31.6% of total shares

Employees:

Worldwide	Troops	Cover
130,000	17,500	??

Equipment and resources: IMA has an immense amount of land to protect and is extremely well equipped to deal with any threat. IMA maintains a fleet of some 125 AV's of varying class, fifty helicopter gunships and numerous armored land vehicles. It is rumored to have several squads of battle-suited troops but this is as yet unproven. In addition to this military hardware IMA has twelve corporate jets. Each office has at least two heavy AV's, two helicopters and a surgery-capable infirmary. IMA has very high access to British military hardware and maintain a standard platinum premium credit account with the British Combined Forces.

Background

The Old adage "Bread and Circuses" is one that the Martial Law Authority definitely subscribed to; they firmly believed that as long as the population was fed and entertained they would ignore, or at least be apathetic to, whatever government ruled their daily lives. In order to deal with feeding the people of the United Kingdom the MLA decided to form the Army Franchise Agricultural Development Committee which would place the country's food requirements under nominal Army control. The committee was staffed by a group of planning experts and headed by Sir Ranolph Christmas, an ambitious young MLA commander who had a good deal of Corporate experience under his belt prior to the ascension of the new government.

Christmas and his fellow committee members had a free hand to do what ever was required to keep the people fed and content, and under his guidance the ARFRAGDEV ruthlessly purged and controlled both Agricornp and small farmer alike. Any resisting corporate effort was silenced either by seconded ARMINTAC troops or by life terms on the Isle of Wight Penal Colony. Of course, as the MLA carefully watched over the media these atrocities went largely unnoticed by the general public and by 2009 the committee controlled all of the country's food requirements from production to retail commodities.

Christmas had most certainly fulfilled the mandate set for him by the MLA government and he swiftly moved to take advantage of his good standing, initiating a greater, bolder plan that he had prepared long in advance. Christmas and his committee produced an ambitious report that tempted the MLA with the possibility of solid revenue as well as continuing to feed the masses. He reported confidently that great trading opportunities existed if only the ARFRAGDEV could form itself into a legitimate Corporate identity which would be acceptable to the world of commerce.

In a meeting that reportedly lasted just fifteen minutes the MLA regional commanders gave their unanimous support to his "plan for progress," and within days Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture was formed. As an additional token of their support the



RANOLPH CHRISTMAS

MLA provided the company with a section of ARMINTAC personnel to act as a market research unit and two regiments of MLA troops complete with AV support that could form the basis of a security force, a force which Christmas had eloquently argued was necessary to secure IMA farmland from itinerant damage, namely nomads. It would be, he stated unfair and unwieldy to expect MLA forces to be at the beck and call of the new corporation, especially with the many other security matters that the government had to attend to. The MLA had been totally duped and with one foul swoop naively created a Corporate monster which they would never control and would eventually have an active hand in their ultimate destruction.

In the years that followed, more terror was wrought by the IMA Corporate machine, to the extent that any U.K. business involved, however loosely, in food production and sale was potentially at its mercy. If a company peaked the interest of the IMA boardroom, it was instantly doomed, as before long security forces would descend in droves to seize company premises and equipment while cruelly efficient market intelligence agents eliminated the previous ownership. From that moment on the company became another asset in the IMA empire. It was more than a hostile takeover; it was an invasion from which there was no right of appeal and no legal recourse, for the IMA carried the authority and support of the MLA.

IMA also sent Agricultural Potential Teams all over the countryside. Their job was to assess all currently under-utilized farming land and after said assessment make a "forcible land purchase" which was yet another concession that the MLA had foolishly handed to IMA. Any land then selected, including what in some cases had been previously national parks or common pasture, was claimed by the corporation and made ready for seeding. Topographical features were laid waste by dedicated land clearing and deforestation squads, local populations found themselves evicted and moved to the rapidly growing metropolises and conurbations, which of course pleased the MLA who were eager to keep

the U.K.'s population in large, easily controlled cities. With frightening speed Britain's traditional villages all but vanished to make way for massive, flat expanses of arable farming land.

It is clear then that IMA gained assets and thus wealth for little or no investment of its own. The end result of which made the corporation extremely cash and stock rich. In the UK it had no rivals and corporations in nearby mainland Europe were warily watching it. Soon IMA was expanding its security force and doing battle with lesser Agricornps on the international market as well. Notable coups in this period of rapid growth were the purchases of large tracts of the Canadian province of Alberta and portions of the Amazonian basin. In the latter case IMA completely wiped out the South American Agricornp that dared oppose it. Eventually IMA did not just prey on selected U.K. corporations. As it grew more ambitious, safe behind its government mandate and support, IMA began to pillage other markets and soon no U.K. corporation was safe from this robber baron company. IMA expanded its portfolio of corporate rape with a dazzling variety of businesses, until even larger corporations such as the massive Hilliard Group prudently struck trading deals to avoid expensive and crippling conflicts.

Despite the fact the IMA owed its existence to the Martial Law Authority, Ranolph Christmas foresaw that the government could not hold on to power, plagued as it was by civil strife and nationalistic up-risings. Christmas knew that the country was being starved of overseas investment, as corporations wished to trade with a country that still had a non-corporate controlled government. But the problem was that if the MLA felt it was likely that IMA would fall with it. A clandestine meeting was held with Lawrence Hilliard of the Hilliard Corporation regarding the fragility of the U.K. government. During the meeting Hilliard casually announced that his corporation had secured the safety of the remaining heirs to the throne; a deal was then struck to work together, plotting the downfall of the MLA, while protecting their own mutual existence.

The truce with the Hilliard Corporation still stands today with the two CEO's reportedly good friends and good partners. Such an

unholy alliance has sent shivers down the spine of nearly every boardroom in the world. Should the two Corps ever decide to truly work together they would be nearly unstoppable. (A fact that Petrochem and EBM intend to rectify.)

IMA today is a facet of everyday life in the U.K., as practically every ounce of food consumed by the citizens of the U.K. has been planted, grown, nurtured or slaughtered, packaged, and in some cases even served by Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture. The corporation has subsidiaries in nearly every British market from cloth production to cyberware and from children's toys to body armor. However, as these wholly owned subsidiaries never bear the name IMA, only a broad knowledge of business will reveal any connection, and that is just the way IMA wants it. As to its history of formation and its link with the MLA, it will lie, cheat and kill to prevent that slipping out. Just your everyday Mega-Corp really!

Sir Ranolph Christmas, KBE

Ranolph is a relatively young CEO at forty-two years of age, he is a vibrant personality and an extreme patriot almost to the point of zealous nationalism. He harbors a special distaste for German industry and is keen for his corporation to make as many damaging in-roads to the German economy as possible. This has made him enemies of Rudolf Muller (chairman, EBM) and Erich Kessler (chief executive, IEC), not a pair to get mad at you...

Though charming and glib, Ranolph is sadistic and would rather nip out your lungs than tell the truth.

The Hilliard Corporation

"BIGGEST, BEST, BOLDEST, BADDEST"

Known Corporate Profile

Headquarters: London

Regional offices: Every capital in Europe has at least one HC office while the U.K. has them in Aberdeen, Bolton, Cambridge, Dublin, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Newcastle and Reading. As for the rest of the world, there are offices in Alaska, Boston, Chicago Port, Vancouver, Washington D.C., Cairo, Nairobi, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Brisbane, Sydney, LEO (Crystal Palace)

Name and Location of Principal Shareholder: Sir Lawrence Hilliard MSc, PhD, London, who holds 63.16% of all shares.

Equipment and Resources: Almost anything that money can buy. Reportedly equal to that of IEC (Corpbok 1), possibly greater.

Background

Sir Lawrence Hilliard MSc, PhD, was a physicist working on the J.E.T. fusion reactor project when he developed a working form of magneto-hydrodynamic generator (MHD), for steady non-mobile power production. From that point on the name Hilliard has become synonymous with innovation and technical excellence and the man himself heralded as the greatest scientist not to win the Nobel Prize. Using capital raised on his reputation he setup Lawrence Hilliard Innovation Ltd. in early 1996 and began assembling one of the finest development teams outside of the Pacific Rim. A year later their first product, the LHI C-1000 industrial energy cell, was launched amid an avalanche of media speculation and became an overnight success.

The rest as they say is history. Renamed the Hilliard Corporation in 2001, the business continues to grow at a remarkable rate and now has interests in just about every area of the technical arena. By the end of the millennium Sir Lawrence had already achieved his first aim, namely, to break into *C Magazine's* Top 100 list within 10 years, number 93 to be precise. When interviewed by the *Times Business Supplement* he was asked if he was satisfied with the corporation's performance and replied "Hardly. I won't feel that my job is done until we sit atop the food chain as the single most powerful, tenacious fish in the Corporate ocean." Do you have a time scale for this goal? "As long as I am alive to see it, I don't really mind, but if I was forced to put a limit on such things I would have to say 'Not more than 30 years...'"

The company has interests in just about everything, but the closer it is to the cutting edge the more likely it is that HC will be sniffing around. More than anything it acts as a holding company for its ever increasing stockpile of assets. Such assets include a large number of smaller concerns that it has taken over. The actual number of such acquisitions is hard to calculate but if the company continues its current policy it should reach around 730 by the end of the year.

The business is only successful on the World Stock Exchange because of the massive profit margins that it regularly achieves, 41.8% last year. That combined with the more the generous and regular dividends ensures a shareholder loyalty that is the envy of the rest of the Europe. As a consequence the often shady methods by which the company achieves its aims are overlooked in favor of growth. If Hilliard goes down, then so does IMA and if that happens the knock-over effects on the European economy could be disastrous. Better to leave them to it and hope that they don't come after you.

In the U.K., circa 2022, only IMA is larger and it is unlikely that either will do anything to jeopardize their highly profitable relationship, at least not until they have to. Until that day the pair are content to use their combined strength to further their collective and individual aims. HC has reached 51 and are still climbing but as to whether or not they can realize their founder's dream only the great god 'The Market' knows for sure.

As for Hilliard himself, what can you say. He is a genius, accomplished businessman, loyalist, egomaniac, psychopath with his hands firmly around the throat of neo-Britain's future. Like a U.S. Marine Corps Colonel, he decides on his battle plan, gives his orders, and his army of technicians carry them out with the kind of blind loyalty that you only normally see in the military. He is a hard taskmaster who leads from front and if you 'fall off a run' you had better be prepared for the consequences. The U.S.M.C. has "Unit, Corps, God and Country" as their creed whilst employees of HC have simply "Hilliard and the Queen". His Knighthood is the man's most precious accolade and he reveres the monarchy with a passion rarely seen in this day and age. It was Lawrence Hilliard who was the driving force behind the return of the Royal Family and it is Lawrence Hilliard that will protect them with every fiber of his being.

All that may sound a bit noble, but that is not surprising for Hilliard is a man in the old colonial mold. He is proud to the point of arrogance and struts around like a lion after a kill. When it comes to anything that is dear to him he is ruthless and thinks nothing of using violence and murder as a legitimate tool for accomplishing his goals. He is pleasant to talk to and gentle in his manner but just be careful what you say because to him a gentleman's word is his bond. Break a contract with the Hilliard Corporation and you'll be dead before you take another breath.

The only organization that the man respects is Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture who he views as a kindred spirit. Together they all but own England and are capable of just about anything. It is unholy alliance that neither is anxious to break, at least while there are other fish to fry. It is perhaps inevitable that at some point there will come an adversary inside England that is capable of taking these bastards on but at the moment they sit alone as masters of all they survey.



LAWRENCE HILLIARD

Background

The English Tourist Board was traditionally a fully government funded agency whose relatively simple goals were the promotion of tourism throughout England. Due to the crippling effects of worldwide recession in the 1990's coupled with the country's rapidly falling international image, the tourist industry was dying on its feet, starving the hard-pressed government of a vital source of ready and reliable revenue. In an effort to revitalize the industry it was decided to privatize the English Tourist Board operation, hoping desperately that the dynamism and vision to be found in the private sector could turn things around.

When the offer was initially announced the government was delighted when they were swamped by corporate bids; however, all the bids were from overseas consortiums and the media had a field day whipping up a nationalist outcry. Embarrassed and keen to appease, the government agreed to only sell the board to an English company, almost predictably there were no bids forcing the government to drop the price considerably and put a good deal of ministerial leg work into selling the package. Eventually a buyer was found and a sale was agreed and the English Tourist Board passed into the control of the London based leisure firm Famihol U.K. Ltd.

The English Tourist Board

THE CROWN JEWEL OF ENGLAND!

Known Corporate Profile

Headquarters: London

Regional Offices: Bristol, Southampton, The Heart of England Tourist Reservation, The Magic of York Tourist Reservation, Ancient Devon and Cornwall Tourist Reservation, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Paris, Berlin, Washington D.C.

Name and Location of principal shareholder: Derek Trotter, Peckham, London holding 19.7% of total shares.

Employees:

Worldwide	Troops	Covert
5,500	1,250	35

Well-Known British Companies and their Fields of Influence

ADCO	Food retailers
Allied Resources	Fuels and geological resources
Allen, Schrader & Hem	Entertainment and publishing
Amerkline	Pharmaceuticals
Berestoni & Common	Contractual Corporate Cleaning
British Aerospace	Aircraft, military hardware, automobiles and electronics
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)	Broadcasting
British Combined Forces	Military services
British United Tourism & Travel	Travel infrastructure
Cornish Tin Mines	Mining
Corteks Integrations	Cybernetics
Emerson & Emerson	New Age products and aids
English Tourist Board	Tourism
Fineway	Food retail
Flashnet	Courier services
Galaxy	Chemicals and pharmaceuticals
Gerald's Fine Jewellery Inc.	Retail budget jewellers
Goldstein-Floydd	Banking
Hammond-Wu Foundation	Bio-geneticists
Hilliard Corporation	Holding company for a multiplicity of firms
Heckler & Koch, U.K.	Ordnance
Imperial Metropolitan	Agriculture and food production
Agriculture	
Independant Broadcasting	Broadcasting and entertainment
Network	
Info-trans Express	Courier services
Langford Sweet	Publishing
Lombard Farwell	Banking
Lockite	Security
MacLaren/Jaguar	Automobiles
Magic Fowl	Publishing
Mark & Sainsbury	Retail goods
Marconi-Ferranti	Cybernetics and electronics
McNally-Greenhill	Construction
National Power	Electricity
Red Barrel	Brewing
Royal Enfield Ordnance	Arms and military vehicles
Sellsoft	Computer software
Silver Arrow	Computer software
Top Cloth	Fashion
Triton U.K.	Motorcycles
Team 8	Security
United Breweries	Brewing
United Kingdom Telecommunications	Telecommunications, electronic mail and broadcasting
Vosper & Wolf	Shipbuilding

Famihol had been one the United Kingdom's few genuine success stories, a vibrant company that had grown from virtually nothing to a place among the top U.K. firms in under ten years. Most of the remarkable success was due to the cunning and vision of the managing director and owner, Derek Trotter, who after winning a national lottery in 1991 had made several key investments which had made him a very wealthy man. He had in turn used his wealth to create two vast theme parks, one in the south of England and one in the north which were the foundation of Famihol U.K. In the years 1994 to 1999 Famihol developed large resort complexes around these theme parks and offered value for money holidays aimed distinctly at families. The resorts in turn provided Famihol sufficient capitol to be constantly flexible and competitive. After the purchase of English Tourist Board, Famihol U.K. easily had the largest share of the leisure industry.

The rise of the Martial Law Authority could have spelled disaster for tourism and the English Tourist Board knew that only too well. Almost as soon the regional commanders were in place, a meeting was arranged with the objective of securing the Tourist Board's position, luckily for the ETB and Famihol U.K., the MLA had already realized how important tourism was to the country and they were eager for the English Tourist Board to continue its efforts of selling the country to the international traveller. Famihol was granted permanent all-area transit permits as well as the appropriate licences to raise and arm a private security force. Finally, yearly grants would be provided as long as tourism figures stayed healthy. With this support the ETB managed to stay afloat during the years that followed. Though it was certainly not a boom time for tourism, the Tourist Board (like Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture) found that government backing had its advantages, and used its position to expand its portfolio with no actual investment. It took control of nearly all of the disbanded National Trust and English Heritage properties and sites. It also sold both of its theme park resorts to the IMA and used the massive capitol injection for secret tourism infrastructure investments.

Derek Trotter with his customary vision had foreseen that the Martial Law Authority could not last. He had guessed correctly that the United Kingdom was full of nationalist reactionaries. It might take some time but the MLA would fall and the people would want their national heritage back. That in essence was the theme of the ETB investments during the rule of the MLA, to re-capture the feel of old England. Trotter had called his philosophy the Victoriana effect, and in the end he was proved right.

ETB Today

With the fall of the Martial Law Authority the English Tourist Board had moved with staggering speed to recoup the fruits of its investment program. It has saturated the world-wide advertising

market with slick promotions depicting England in all its stately glory and is ready to make a fortune. Unfortunately the years of constant investment has taken its toll on Famihol U.K. and the word on the international stock market is that the company is about ready to take a fall. Rival corporations are waiting to swoop on to what would be very rich pickings, indeed.

The Board of Famihol U.K. are only too aware of their fragile financial situation but are banking on stabilising their position quickly. To these ends they are making doubly sure no nomad group, crime gang or rival corporation makes a dent in its slick image. As such Famihol U.K. (trading as the English Tourist Board) is a very aggressive organisation indeed.

The ETB London Heritage Tour

Tammi Lockyear (noted travel commentator) writes...

"MY OPINION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD, I ADMIT, BECOME CONFUSED, WHAT WITH THE MLA AND ALL THAT. WAS IT STILL A LAND OF CASTLES, PAGEANTRY AND HISTORY THAT I ROMANTICIZED ABOUT OR INSTEAD WAS IT JUST THE SAD AND HOPELESS RUINS LEFT OVER FROM A PSYCHOTIC DICTATORSHIP? I SUPPOSE THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, AT LEAST THAT IS WHAT MY EDITOR THOUGHT WHEN HE TOLD ME TO PACK MY BAGS AND JOIN ONE OF THOSE ENGLISH TOURIST BOARD HERITAGE WEEKENDS THAT HAVE BEEN SATURATING OUR TRAVEL AGENTS JUST RECENTLY.

"WELL, I SURVIVED, YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR, AND I BROUGHT BACK MY ITINERARY, A RARE ITEM INDEED. SO TO GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF WHAT THE U.K. IS LIKE, I PRESENT THE SAID ITINERARY AS WELL AS MY COMMENTS WHICH TELL YOU WHAT THE TRIP WAS REALLY LIKE...ENJOY."

Day One

Arrival at London Heathrow Transit station, where you will be met by your friendly English Tourist Board representative and swiftly escorted to our purpose-built 360° holo-theater for a presentation of a twenty minute introductory experience which will give you just a taste of the delights that await you on your tour of stately London.

"THE SHOW WAS VERY GOOD AND THE ETB REPS ARE VERY SLICK...SO FAR I WAS IMPRESSED"

At the end of the show you will meet your dedicated tour security manager who will provide a short advisory lecture on interaction with this exciting energetic country.

"EXCITING! ENERGETIC! I KNOW CYBERWARE WHEN I SEE IT AND THIS GUY WAS PACKING THE LOT. HE WAS DIPLOMATIC FOR SOMEONE SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE. HE NEVER STATED THAT ANY TRAVELLER WOULD BE IN DANGER...BUT I ADMIT I WAS SUSPICIOUS."

Don't worry about immigration, passport control or your lug-

gage for that matter as our personnel deal with those concerns, you just have to make a short walk to your luxurious, air conditioned, fully armored hover bus and relax, as our experienced driver whisks you to the London Crown Hotel for your first night in England.

"THE BUS WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE I HAVE TO ADMIT, BUT THE FULLY ARMORED RIT!, I MEAN WHAT WERE THEY EXPECTING? LATER IN THE TRIP, I GOT THE DRIVER TO EXPLAIN WHAT SECURITY MEASURES THE BUS EMPLOYED AND THIS IS WHAT I LEARNED. TO START WITH, THE BUS IS COVERED IN WHAT HE CALLED A TASER SHOCK GRID WHICH KEEPS ITINERANTS FROM GETTING TOO CLOSE OR SO HE SAID. THE BUS APPARENTLY HAS CHAFF AND FLARE DISPENSERS TO PREVENT MISSILE ATTACK. AT THIS POINT, I WAS STRUGGLING TO LOOK CALM...FINALLY THE SLEEK HOVER BUS APPARENTLY HAS A SMOKE DISCHARGER AND SIX COMPRESSED-AIR GRENADE LAUNCHERS, WHICH HE PROUDLY BOASTS DELIVERED DEADLY ARMAMENTS SLAP INTO THE MIDDLE OF ANY POTENTIAL THREAT THE BUS FACES. ALL WITHOUT DISTURBING THE OCCUPANTS.

"ANOTHER MINOR DETAIL I NOTICED WAS THAT THE BUS WINDOWS WOULD OCCASIONALLY POLARIZE AND IMAGES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD WOULD BE REPLACED BY ETB CORPORATE ADVERTISING. IT RAISED THE QUESTION, WHAT DIDN'T THEY WANT YOU TO SEE?!"

Day Two

You awake bright and early, ready for a fun packed day touring old London Town. First stop today is the exciting, thought-provoking and all new, improved British Museum. Tour hundreds of magnificent exhibits many of which are interactive or a trip down "memory lane" where miniature red buses will take you on a magical trip through time from the occupations of the Romans to a gruesomely realistic recreation of the execution of evil MLA despot Lord Beavoir whose timely death allowed the Restoration of the Monarchy.

After you have taken your fill of this marvellous attraction, we speed you across the city to the fabled Houses of Parliament which stand sedately in the shadow of Big Ben. Easily London's most famous landmark, this huge clock tower still keeps perfect time despite two world wars and three terrorist bombs. You'll have lunch at the brand new "Roundhead Restaurant" The English Tourist Board has spared no expense converting what were originally parliamentary offices in to a plush eating experience that truly manages to capture the atmosphere of the old House of Commons, so you are bound to enjoy yourself whatever your "order order!"

"THIS WAS ALL VERY ENTERTAINING; ONE THING'S FOR SURE, THE ETB CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO LOOK AFTER THEIR CLIENTS."

In the afternoon we step back in history once more. Boarding ETB's very own hydrofoil we transport you in perfect comfort along the mighty Thames to the infamous Tower of London. Due to the rising water table not all of this mag-

nificent building is accessible but but take our word for it, this attraction is one not to miss. You'll see the recently reclaimed and restored Crown Jewels as well as a breathtaking collection of arms and armor without a smartchip or trace of kevlar in sight. The nearby English Tourist Board's fully interactive history thrill tour "Crime and Treason" completes a thrilling day.

But it isn't over yet, because with an ETB tour the fun never stops. This evening the neon glow of the West End beckons and we've arranged exclusive tickets for the latest Webber-Schofield theatrical spectacular. Perhaps you will get to see *Dogs*, *Brindancing* or one of the classics like *Phantom of the Opera*. Whatever it is, we guarantee you'll go to sleep with a smile on your lips.

"SMILE...I WAS SMASHED. TAKE A WORD OF ADVICE, LEAVE THE REAL ALE WELL ALONE, IT'S WORSE THAN DORPHIS."

Day Three

Your last day in London and we have saved the very best for last. The English Tourist Board is proud to present "The Royal Procession."

First stop is Clarence House, once home to King Charles III's grandmother, sadly this glorious residence also became the headquarters of the infamous and much feared ARMINAC throughout the dark days of the Martial Law Authority. As you enter the house you will first get a glimpse of the "Command Center." Marvel as automations, holograms and realistic sounds and smells provide an amazing insight into the workings of the dreaded secret police. Then step into the house's Royal past as our expert guides give a moving portrait of the ill-fated House of Windsor. Move quietly through room after room and splendour after splendour, gaining a deeply personal view of a Royal Family complete with their private letters, family photos, even their clothes. The Clarence House tour gives you an ideal opportunity to get a feel of the family of our glorious, orphaned Queen and the perfect taster for the highlight of the procession.

The English Tourist Board now takes you to the heart of royal pageantry and status, Buckingham Palace. After completing a few simple security checks you pass through golden gates and into another world.

"SIMPLE SECURITY CHECKS; ARASAKA WOULD BE PROUD OF THE BRUTES BRITISH COMBINED FORCES HAVE MANNING THE GATES OF THE PALACE. EVERY BAG, POCKET AND ORIFICE WAS SEARCHED...LET ME TELL YOU IT REALLY DETRACTED FROM THE MAGIC OF THE DAY."

Within the palace fabulously adorned footmen usher you like visiting dignitaries into a splendid throne room that words cannot adequately describe, toward elegant gold and velvet seats where you will be astounded by a special greeting from the Queen herself. Our perfect holographic regent gives a warm and personal welcome to her realm and her home.

"WILD...NOW THIS WAS REALLY GOOD. I HAD TO SIGN A DISCLAIMER PREVENTING ME FROM GIVING THE DETAILS OF WHAT QUEEN VICKY SAID BUT IT WAS DEFINITELY INSPIRING...EXCELLENT."

Immediately after your Royal audience a fantastic tour begins on which only the most private apartments are off limits; there is simply too much to detail in full but some of the highlights include art and treasure troves, state rooms and the option of a meal served in the Royal banquet hall.

"I HAD THE MEAL...VERY NICE ALL FRESH, NO PREPACK OR KIBBLE HERE. ALL ELEGANTLY SERVED BY IMPASSIVE-LOOKING SERVANTS...I FELT REALLY OUT OF PLACE."

The English Tourist Board is additionally proud to announce that a strictly limited number of Royal bedchambers have been secured for our clients use, so if you wish an extra special night, see your representative for details.

"NEEDLESS TO SAY I ASKED ABOUT THE OFFER, AND WAS STAGGERED TO LEARN THAT JUST ONE NIGHT WOULD SET YOU BACK 2000 POUNDS STERLING (OR EURO TO THE COLONIALS). THAT'S US BY THE WAY. ALSO GET THIS, YOU ONLY GET A ROOM SUBJECT TO BRITISH COMBINED FORCES SECURITY VETTING. I STILL HAD BRUISES FROM THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE GATES, SO I PASSED ON THIS OFFER."

After your magical trip to the seat of Royalty we take you to the graceful, splendor of Westminster Abbey, where you will get a chance to pay homage to the fallen martyrs of the House of Windsor, who have been recently lain to rest in this gallery of heroes with full, if belated, honors.

Then finally, it's back to the London Crown Hotel for your last night in the capital of England.

"MY FINAL THOUGHTS? WELL, IT IS VERY SICK AND SUPREMELY ORGANISED BUT YOU ARE DEFINITELY NOT SEEING THE TRUE FACE OF THIS TURBULENT COUNTRY AND THAT, OF COURSE, COULD BE A GOOD THING. HOWEVER, I COULDN'T HELP FEELING WRAPPED IN COTTON WOOL BY THE EVER PRESENT CARE OF THE ENGLISH TOURIST BOARD AND IT GOT A LITTLE CLAUSTROPHOBIC AT TIMES, THOUGH SAYING THAT, I THINK THAT ENGLAND AT LEAST IS CERTAINLY ON THE MEND AND THERE IS DEFINITELY LOTS TO SEE HERE. THE PRICE, WELL AS ANY GOOD HARROD'S ASSISTANT WILL TELL YOU 'IF SIR HAS TO ASK THE PRICE, SIR CANNOT AFFORD IT'...SEE YOU."

LAW AND ORDER

The following sections detail some of the more important things that you, as a visitor, should bear in mind on the subject of law and order.

Perhaps the greatest problem facing a new regime is that of public order. How to strike the happy balance between crime prevention, law enforcement and the prosecution of its more boisterous citizens. For the power puppeteers of the corporations it was, until recently, a headache that would not go away.

Consider the problem. The reasons that prompted the Corps to move against the military and reinstate the Monarchy

in the first place. Under Martial Law they were severely restricted in what they could achieve both at home and abroad. It is true that, some made huge profits from servicing the wasteful needs of the military machine, but they were the minority. With that said, there was only a finite market for the lucky few to exploit and so it was in everyone's interest to remove all obstacles to their success.

So you've disposed of military rule and installed a new Monarch of your own, what do you do about law enforcement? If you rebuild the old publicly-accountable *ISay what?* Ed.I constabulary system you are just letting loose a watchdog that will more than likely spend most of its time watching you. No one Corp could take on the job by itself, and who would want to work that closely with their rivals? Thus it was decided that, in the spirit of the almost-free market, they would divide the country into sections and put the law requirements of each out to tender. Being the central force behind the demise of the MLA, it is IMA and the Hilliard Corporation who are primarily responsible for the awarding of the various contracts. Their principal concern is to ensure that no one interest gains much influence or grows too powerful for comfort. Impromptu alliances are not uncommon in such circumstances so the two principals keep a very close eye on who talks to who.

There is at least one tender for each area in England and Wales, with the award generally going to the highest bidder. The contract is valid for an initial period of ten years and subject to annual review. The contractor is given a budget tied to the size of area covered and the previous years offense to arrest ratio. In addition they are granted access to a central resources pool which each can utilize on a first come first served basis.

All this ensures four things. Firstly the Corps can remove anyone who gives them too much of a headache by simply withdrawing all support and asking the next in line to take what is rightfully theirs. Second, they can control the various contractors via budgeting and resources. Third, the Offence/Arrest ratio ensures that no contractor will do too good a job *If there is no crime, there is no need for law. If there is no law, the people will spend too much time concerning themselves with other things.* Ed.I Last and as a result, the people will be grateful to pay the taxes that make it safe to walk the streets at night, provided, of course, the streets are in a Corp-sponsored zone.

As for Scotland and Eire, there is nothing so gauche as the above. The volatile nationalist movement in each means that the Corps cannot use their new found governmental influence to install their own controls. Law enforcement is still in the hands of the people. That is to say, a traditional constabulary financed by the national pseudo-parliaments and accountable to the man or woman on the street. Some would say that there is little difference in the two systems but they would be wrong. Neither of the Celtic forces is competing for resources in the

same way as their Anglo equivalent. Their budget is set, non-negotiable and the pay is not performance-related. This all means that the police are left to do their job. *If they want to.* Ed.I As for which system is best, who's to say. Each is as good as the people involved; if you commit a crime and get caught, then you should expect to get punished.

Northern Ireland, simple—there is effectively no law apart from the law of jungle, so don't worry about anything apart from your own neck and its continued connection to the rest of your body.

The Civic Order Bill—2022

Before any tenders could be processed however, the Corps ensured that they were protected by repealing the Criminal Law Act of 1978 and replacing it with their own Civic Order Bill (2022). This bill reclassified offenses into 5 bands ranging from Drunk and Disorderly at the bottom of band I to Industrial Espionage at the top of band V (see the following page for details). The bill is prosecuted on a local basis in the traditional way, but is presided over by a circuit judge. There is only one method of appeal which is very, very expensive and involves the evidence being reviewed by a minimum of five senior magistrates, who then make their decision on a majority basis.

There is also provision made for repeat offenders. Each crime has a point value attached to it equivalent to its band. When a person is convicted the band value is added to any previous crimes and the sentence assessed on the resultant value. I.e., being found guilty of a band II crime after a band I crime would mean that the defendant would be sentenced according to the band III guidelines. If at any time an individual's *Criminal Conviction Count* (or 3C for short) exceeds 10 points, then public execution is mandatory.

There is no age of accountability in the new bill and the only concession made for minors is that no child may be sentenced beyond the scope of band II until the age of sixteen. This does not mean that they cannot be executed or given life imprisonment, just that it takes longer for their 3C to reach the 10 point threshold.

As a result of the above the ordinary man on the street can see no perceivable difference between the Civic Order Bill and Martial Law, but the massive influence of the Corps ensures that their operatives are free to protect their interests.

A brief summary of the major crimes and how they are banded is provided for your reference but you should read the "Don't Wake the Lion" section for details of the more serious no no's.

CRIME CATEGORIES

BAND V

Industrial espionage
Treason
Computer crime
Fraud
Embezzlement
Malicious damage
Theft of information
Smuggling (chrome)

BAND V—Execution in most areas or at least mandatory life imprisonment and behavioral correction.

BAND IV

Violence against the person

Murder
Manslaughter
Wounding
Rape
Grievous bodily harm
Actual bodily harm

BAND IV—15 to 20 years in prison, behavioral correction or execution depending on area and details of the case.

BAND III

Burglary
Robbery
Criminal damage
Fraud and forgery
Sexual molestation
Assault

Smuggling (contraband)

BAND III—Up to 15 years in prison or behavioral correction.

BAND II

Theft and handling stolen goods
Gambling
Prostitution
Motoring offenses

BAND II—4 to 12 years in a community program and/or behavioral correction.

BAND I

Violation of:
Labour laws
Revenue and taxation laws
Transport Acts
Education Acts
Vagrancy
Illegal occupation
Drunk and disorderly

BAND I—1 to 5 years in a community programme and/or behavioural correction.

Don't Wake the Lion

Besides the rather generalized list above, there are a few things that you should be wary of. Perhaps most important of these is gun control. The British still fiercely maintain their traditional opposition to publicly-owned firearms. More specifically the Corp sponsored government were gently persuaded that a transitional state of emergency existed, and a stricter form of gun control was called for.

All concerned knew that there was no way to staunch the flow of munitions onto the open market and so concentrated on the prosecution of related offenses. In addition, they made it illegal for a weapon to be carried without a gun camera fitted. Evidence from such a device is now the only means by which a plea of self-defense can be substantiated. Without it you're sunk and the only alternative is to not get caught in the first place. That's not all, in some areas even the possession of any weapons is strictly prohibited (see the Law Code section for details), so be very careful if you don't want to find yourself in a behavioral correction program or worse.

A side issue and almost as important to the meatocrats of the Commons is that of offensive cyberware. Rippers, micromissiles and just about everything else cyber are all about as far as these idiots are concerned. *Don't they know neat is useless? Ed.* There is no real legislation, but such armaments are considered unsporting and a very dim view is taken of their use. That is not to say that you can't equip yourself as you see fit, just keep a low profile about it.

Related to both the foregoing is smuggling. You with your innocent, cherub-like face, will probably get away with the odd piece of illegal equipment but if you're caught trafficking in the stuff, then you can kiss this world goodbye. The best way to avoid this is to arrange to pick up all your equipment after your arrival. One thing, however, the quality and availability of cyberware and weapons are probably not what you are used to. The only easily accessible source is the black market where you should be prepared to pay more for inferior equipment. The best stuff is reserved for the cream of the Corporate armies and very hard to come by. On the plus side the population are crying out for better weaponry and chrome so, if you're willing to take the risks, there is a fortune to be made out here.

Netrunners, you will notice from band IV of the crime classifications that computer crime, of all types, carries some particularly harsh punishments for those who are dumb enough to get caught. It all depends on where you make your run but be especially careful if you intend nosing around in the data fortresses of the City of London. These guys are underwritten by more money than the gross national product of most countries. Their handsome donations to NetWatch afford them a certain elite status and their anti-



POLICE IN STREET ACTION

intrusion defenses are probably the best in Great Britain. *laid are pretty good for Europe, Ed.* The City aside, there is a bit of, comparatively, poorly protected data to be found in the Net outside London. There is more than one way to skin a fat cat, so try to find a back door rather than ringing the bell and waiting to die.

Finally a word of warning to any would be offenders. The law in the U.K., like that in most countries, is not averse to a bit of good-natured corruption but is by no means universal. Bribery to one man may mean your freedom—but to another may seal your fate faster than a reaper round through the eye. Be careful.

So there you have it, nothing that could put off a hard-core international operator like yourself.

If you're not such an individual, then you better go home before you get terminally acquainted with the boys in blue. *(Well, black generally, but you know what we mean. Ed.)* There is one point that ought to be made before we move on. The whole of Law and Order section deals with what hap-

pens when you break the law in a place where they still hold such an outmoded concept close to their hearts. What about the countryside or the free fire zones? Well it's like this, you'll probably be dead before you know what you did wrong, so why worry?

The Law Code

The actual penalties involved for the convicted vary from region to region and are expressed in a 3 digit code predictably called the Law Code. In order, each number means the following. First, the band if any, for which the death penalty would be considered other than band V. Second, the area's stance on firearms and armor and last, the aggression/tolerance level of the local cops. *(This last digit was added by us as a joke in our last guide but was so popular that it has become part of the Law Code. Who said nothing changes? Ed.)* A more detailed description of the meaning of each digit follows.

n1/ n2/ n3

n1 Ranging from 0 to 5, 5 being the norm, this reflects the band for which execution is considered. If zero, then the area is a free fire zone and no laws apply.

n2 Ranging from 1 to 5 this digit reflects an area's stance on weaponry and armour. i.e.,

1—No Weapons or Armor of any kind are permitted and all visitors should register the presence with the local sheriff.

2—Only body pistols, knives and light armor.

3—Light assault weapons, heavy armor, but gun cameras must be fitted and working.

4—Heavy assault weapons, any armor and gun cameras.

5—Anything goes (free fire zone). You must be crazy to come here but if you're going to go, then be prepared.

n3 The aggression/tolerance level ranging from 5, *what're you lookin at?* To 1, *bang! what yo lookin at!?*

Police Structure

Once a given contractor is awarded the contract to police an area they are obligated to set up operations in a standardized way. Failure to provide the various required services puts their contract in severe jeopardy and will almost certainly bring about a messy end to their career in law enforcement. Each force is divided into 3 self-sufficient divisions headed by a divisional commander and directly responsible to the Chief Constable for the area.

Community Division

Traditional law enforcement in the community and representing the caring side of the operation. Did I say caring, well, at least they arrest you before they kill you. No, it's not quite that bad but almost. Go quietly and you'll be okay; put up a fight and it could be your last. Whatever the circumstances of your arrest, it is much wiser to cooperate and try to sort out the mess later.

The CDiv spend most of their time on patrol and can be a useful guide if you're in an unfamiliar area. Most officers are

briefed to assist travellers of the tourist variety and are quite prepared to advise you on the safest routes, local night spots etc. If the area's Law Code requires you to register your arrival it is the CDiv watch commander that you should ask for.

Traffic Division

These are the guys that you are likely to run into first when you arrive in a new area. They are responsible for the policing of all road and air traffic, operating toll gates and protecting the humble traveller. *(You seen The Hitcher? Ed.)* Included among their ranks, is the local Corridor Response Unit, useful guys to have around if you run into Jackknife trouble. All rather chummy really, as long as you stay on the right side of the gray area that passes for law in these parts. Cross the line and look out, it may take weeks for the rain to wash the stain off the carnage way.

A word for the airborne. As you may be aware, there is a country-wide paranoia when it comes to your aerial antics. Once a flight plan is registered, stick to it, unless of course you want to see what happens when an AV hits the dirt from a thousand feet. This is especially true when traversing district boundaries, borders *(BCF Border Patrol, double ouch! Ed.)* or the cities of London and Westminster. Miss a way point and you'll be hit by so much firepower that it's doubtful if there will be enough debris left to hit the dirt in.

Tactical Division

The senior division with responsibility for just about everything else. If there is any situation that is likely to require any form of tactical response then these are the guys that they call. This doesn't only include the traditional roles of the SWAT and psycho squads but a few less obvious scenarios. District customs control, surveillance, computer counter measures, drug enforcement and mob busting are just a few of the more usual tasks that this bunch of maniacs are called on to perform.

If you're lucky you will never encounter them, but if you do then you had better have a decent runner with you. Like most remotely coordinated units the key to victory lies in disrupting their communications. The only alternative to this is an all-out firefight and if you lose, you can forget the idea of a Trauma Team coming to your aid. By the time they arrive it will be all over, and not even Dr. Frankenstein could bring what's left of you back to life.

Police Equipment

When it comes to weaponry, armor and other equipment there are no guidelines to be followed. Each force is free to purchase what ever they feel appropriate and that they can afford within the confines of their budget. Some have even taken to having

the more expensive capital items sponsored by the public sector. Most famous of these is Saffron Security who hold the contracts for Manchester and Leeds. The Corps are anxious to ensure that this practice be curtailed by legislation before the potato gets too hot to handle. Saffron, being the biggest, is regarded as the yardstick by which all others will be measured. If Saffron behaves themselves then IMA and the Hilliard Corporation are inclined to keep them on a long leash rather than go through the headache of replacing them. Anyway, back to the point. Any given police force can buy what they want but since most are run by ex-forces personnel they tend to buy from 3CF surplus or direct from the suppliers. This means that most are just as well equipped as any force, anywhere and a few are equipped better than most armies.

Justice and the Judiciary

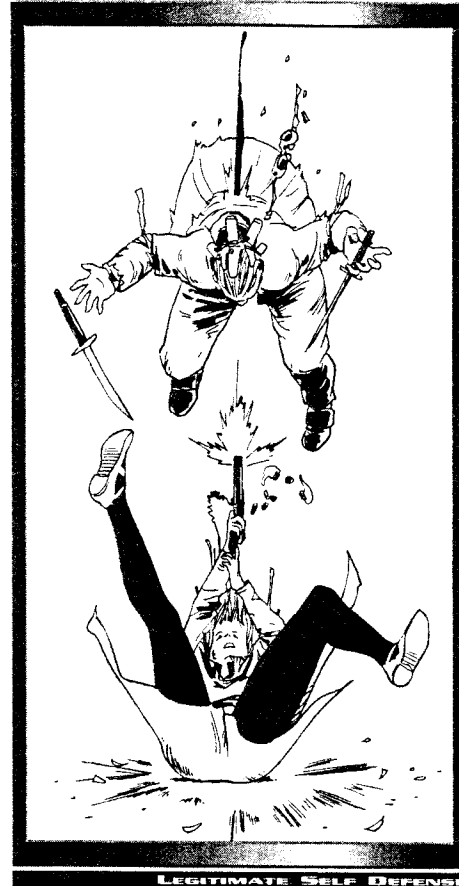
As mentioned previously the trial procedure is pretty much the same as it has always been. A defendant is entitled to a trial by a jury of his peers and if convicted expects sentence from the presiding judge. Nowadays, however, little remains of the old Lord Chancellor's department and there is distinct lack of qualified legal personnel of all disciplines. This means that most cases are prosecuted in a circuit court and defendants are required to represent themselves. There is no longer any Legal Aid system and unless you can afford the astronomical fees of a proper lawyer you are more than likely to be found guilty. *(So much for justice, Ed.)*

If you do not have such resources then your best bets are either bribery or escape because in most provinces a conviction means quite often one thing, public execution. The circuit judges are ruthless and tend to take special pleasure in making examples of naughty strangers who talk with funny accents. Most notorious of these is Senior Justice Louis Graves, nicknamed "The Undertaker" he holds the single day record of 103 death sentences during the Weymouth bombing trials of 2017.

I don't mean to be a scaremonger, but that's the way it is over here; but, like most things, your chances vary depending on the situation. For instance the major cities offer far fairer proceedings to those you can expect in the provinces. My advice to you is simple, namely, don't break the law and if you do don't get caught.

Customs & Excise

Not really a part of law and order but this is just as good a place as any to talk about it. As discussed in the "Don't Wake the Lion" section, the U.K. is a dangerous place when it comes to the illegal importing of banned materials. It is the job of the Customs and



Excise Regiment to enforce the law in this area. Part of BCF PLC, the regiment was formed to take over the roles of both Customs House and H.M. Coastguard and is made up of elements of the special forces. Based at the Special Boat Service HQ in Poole, Dorset they rank with the Border Patrol as one of the toughest outfits in the BCF.

All type of international traffic, in or out of the U.K. has to be cleared by the CER before arrival or departure. Any unscheduled traffic can be challenged anywhere within 100 miles of the coast. Interception times vary from 6 to 20 minutes and any evasive or offensive action is met with ultimate force. If you're not carrying

any dubious cargoes you have nothing to worry about and may as well do as you are instructed. If, on the other hand you're not exactly contraband-free then you may as well fight because if you get caught you're likely to be executed anyway. *If you think he's kidding...Angh! Thank you for playing. Ed!*

Prisons—Isle of Wight

As for prisons, there is only one, the Stockade on the Isle of Wight and my advice to you is to avoid going there at all costs. Originally established by the MLA, it is perhaps the most repulsive place outside the Middle East. A tanker accident in 2009 left the entire island unfit for human habitation for three years before a not entirely successful clean up operation brought things to some semblance of bio-normality. The MLA stepped in and took over the area for use as its one, centralized, penitentiary.

It is not a prison in the traditional sense. There are no wardens, no watch-towers and no perceivable regime. Apart for a small maintenance staff there is no official presence. The central compound takes up most of the island and is enclosed by a 50-foot wide, 40-foot deep moat which is then surrounded by a 40-foot high perimeter wall. Inside the fence up to 60000 inmates at a time are allowed to live however they feel fit. Food deliveries are regular (if a little erratic) and mark the only contact the prisoners have with the outside world. Truly dangerous, hard-core inmates are kept in a brandance facility separate from the main compound.

Some would say that escape would be easy from such a place; the frequent murders and cannibalism if nothing else, certainly make it desirable. After all, moats are there to be forded and walls built to be scaled. However, it is not the physical barriers that keep the population contained but a rather devilish operation that each receives when they are convicted. A small capsule of a hemal-reactive compound is implanted near the carotid artery, connected to a transceiver and subdermal display in the convict's neck. The display shows the subject's name, case number and time remaining on sentence. If an inmate attempts to leave the compound before his sentence clock reaches zero the transceiver loses contact with the prison's transponder net and the capsule is detonated releasing the compound into their bloodstream. The ensuing reaction evolves hydrogen at a rate of 1000 molar weight/sec and causes them to explode into painful, fatal Bends in around 0.2 seconds *(Sometimes even explode for real. You've all seen the old Bond flat-screen Live and Let Die night? Ed.)* In addition, any inmate can be terminated by remote control at any time and can be tracked by satellite to an accuracy of ten meters.

So how do you get out if you're unlikely enough to find yourself inside? Well there are only three options here, none of which happen often. First, like many similar institutions worldwide, if you survive long enough you may come to the attention of a Corp

who may then buy off your conviction and recruit you. Second, find the money to buy off your sentence yourself, and let's face it, if you had those kind of assets you wouldn't have been convicted in the first place. Or lastly, there is EscapAID—the twice monthly top-rated cable show that sets man against a nation in a 48 hour race to avoid death.

EscapAID

As mentioned above EscapAID is a highly popular (if slightly sick) game show which is syndicated throughout Europe and runs for 48 hours twice a month. The game is very simple and was based on Richard Bachman's *The Running Man*, a book and flat-film of the late 1980's. EscapAID, unlike the work that inspired it, pits four teams of five convicts against a nation of amateur and professional bounty hunters. Each team is deposited on the mainland at a point of their choosing, given a 1 hour head start and challenged to survive for 48 hours. In the way is an army of bounty hunters led by the show's own elite unit "Bloodsport" and their leader Venom. For every contestant captured or killed the hunter receives a bounty of between £10,000 and £100,000 plus a bonus for the speed with which they track them down.

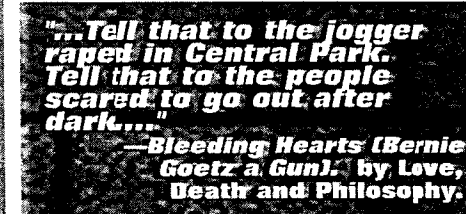
In order to be eligible for the show you must have been on the island for no less than 3 months after which you can apply for inclusion on the waiting list. Once on the list an applicant can wait up to a year before getting their shot. Administered by an elected committee of senior prisoners and network officials the waiting time can be shortened by any number of methods but bribery works best.

The main prize awaiting the prisoners is a pardon for their current crime, any previous convictions and cancellation of outstanding warrants. That's it unless of course they kill one of the other contestants (on a competing team), in which case they are entitled to the bounty like anyone else. Experience has shown that there is no way to survive unless the teams are given help and here we come to the kicker. In order to improve ratings the producers sweetened the pot by allowing participants aid for killing a competing escapee. This assistance can come in a number of different forms, i.e., weapons, transport, cash or the crucial satellite blackout, awarded dependent on the result of a yes/no viewers poll.

There are only a few rules. Namely that they cannot stay in any one place for longer than one hour. If they do, their location is transmitted to the watching millions thanks to a satellite fix of their transceivers. The only weapons they can use are those acquired on the way whether by theft, award or combat. No contestant can deliberately endanger the life of a member of the viewing audience. Apart from that anything goes.

As for the chances of survival well that really depends on the watching masses. If they feel sympathetic to you, then, with a lit-

tle luck, you might just make it. On the other hand, if the viewers don't like what they see when your record is transmitted then, watch out, it is doubtful if you'll make it past the first day. It is surprising the amount of pedophiles, rapists and ex-tax collectors who have expired in the first few hours. The quickest ever kill, came in Gam: 29 when former Member of Parliament, turned bigamist, the Rt. Hon. Justice Pion was splashed by his first wife in 1 minute, 5 seconds. The former Mrs. Pion was also the first hunter to successfully escape following her subsequent conviction for the murder of what she called "the other woman" if Mrs. Pion can do it then so can you. *(Honestly...Not. Ed.)*



Crime, Organized and Otherwise

Having discussed Law and Order it seems only logical that we devote some time to the subject of crime. After all laws are made to be broken.

There have always been organized crime syndicates, the Cosa Nostra, Yakuza, Triads are probably the most notorious and we shall get to them shortly but first, a bit of background. Yes, there is law in the form discussed previously but the British Isles have just gone through a constitutional maelstrom. It will take quite some time before all the dust settles and the time is ripe for the enterprising law breaker of the 21st century. The Civic Order Bill is in place but most of the newly contracted law agencies are still on the learning curve. Their are weaknesses: to be exploited and until the situation stabilizes the crime figures will continue to climb. It is not just the bigger organizations either, gang membership and everything that goes with it is also on the increase.

The Syndicates

Gangs there may be but the top of the tree still belongs to the organized crime families. Run like a business they use legitimate fronts to conceal their activities and launder the proceeds from the various operations. Gambling, prostitution, protection, robberies, drugs and extortion are their main sources of income but these highly structured groups are capable of

just about anything. The current state of confusion permits them a previously unknown level of freedom and as a result they have all been actively trying to expand their operations. This in turn has led to an upsurge in the level of violence between the rival factions as each tries to take overall control of the country.

The Firm

The traditional face of organized crime in England; the Firm, after a period of low activity, are once again stamping their mark on the underworld. Based in the slum areas of East London their influence spreads from as far south as Devon to just north of Newcastle. Of all the rival factions the Firm is probably the most dynamic, a newly-found unity between the various bosses allowing them to pursue their collective aims. The Firm want only one thing—namely, everything. In their eyes there are too many foreign interests taking a slice of their cake and it is about time that the British crime scene was restored to its rightful guardians. There is a kind of perverted national pride involved; British violence is the best, the highest evolution of the art and consequently should only be in the hands of the people that perfected it. Bring on the Americans, Italians, Chinese, Japanese and anyone else who fancies their chances, this time the Brits are ready.

The Mafia

The Americans, like the others, see things just a little differently—and the mob intend to get their point across in no uncertain terms. A spin-off from the old Sicilian Cosa Nostra the Mafia have been expanding across the pond since the late 1930's. The modern day mob are no longer the oppressive force that they once were. Instead of terror they use their massive resources to bribe public officials into turning a blind eye. The other factions see them as a soft target and have been sniffing at their heels like a scavenging dog, but they may be in for a shock as the mob readies itself to bite back.

The Yakuza

Like the Triads and Cosa Nostra, these guys have been around for centuries. Steeped in tradition and mythology, they hold their massive membership's loyalty with the ancient doctrine of Giri Ninjo (strong obligations). Once excepted into a clan the soldier has effectively signed their life away, as the only way to leave is death. They have a strong code of ethics that must not be violated which includes such things as total secrecy, no personal use of drugs and unthinking obedience to their superiors. The Yaks



TRIAD GOONS

do not suffer failure lightly and still maintain the finger cutting ceremony (Yubitsume) to maintain performance. This involves a clan member severing a finger or knuckle and sending it to their superior as an apology.

Originally from the Osaka region of Japan, the Yaks now have a global presence and are currently the fastest growing syndicate in Europe. Easily identifiable by the intricate tattoos that take the place of gang colors, they are probably the most violent group outside of the Triads. Like most of the main movers they have their fingers *lah-ah, Ed!* in every part of the criminal pie but drugs are their speciality. They are the most likely to challenge the Firm as they (like the Brits) have an almost nationwide influence in the U.K.

The Triads

Originally from Hong Kong and Taiwan, the Triads are the militant side of the 'ong controlled Chinese community. Like their brothers in the U.S it is likely that they will soon move against the more pedestrian regime and grab control of the community for themselves. Concentrated mainly in Scotland and a small enclave in London, the Triads are of little worry to the others but if they ever stop fighting each other they could pose a major threat to anyone. Their strongest forces are concentrated across the Channel in the Netherlands.

The Cosa Nostra

The blueprint for all of the Western outfits; the Cosa Nostra have been making moves outside of Italy for some time now. Some would say, what is the difference between them and the Mafia, well, quite a bit in the eyes of the Sicilians. The American Mob have gotten away from the old ways and no

longer command the respect of the Italian families. The current state of British law and order has prompted them to move into one of the world's most buoyant crime markets and they intend to stay for a long time. It is possible that they will help the Mob in the fight against the rest and wait for their opportunity to teach them a lesson in the Sicilian way.

The South Americans

Led by the Colombians, most of the old South American drug barons have now moved into more diversified areas of crime. Driven by the need to escape the suffocating effects of poverty and unemployment, many have sought a living in the lucrative corridors of the underworld. Subtlety is not their strong point and many of their operations involve excessive violence. Poorly organized, they do not present much of a threat, but on their day are capable of taking on anyone in a stand up fight. Besides the usual interests they are one of the few remaining sources for the white slave trade, making them of particular concern to the unwary traveller.

See pages 50 to 54 of *Protect and Serve* for more details on Organised Crime.

The Gangs

For those used to the gangs Stateside, the British variety may come as a nasty surprise. They seldom have fixed territories or wear identifying colors. *Unless its match day, Ed!* The most obvious and prevalent form of gang violence is the soccer hooligan. Football aside there are other forms of more familiar gang violence. Though there are no poser gangs as such there is still the traditional clashes between hordes from the myriad of different youth movements. Mods, rockers, punks,

romantics, grungers and ravers are a few of the more common adversaries. *See the old video Quadrophenia for information. Ed!* The motive behind the aggression is always the same, you like one thing and we like another so were going to stove your skull in. Finally there are the territorial gangs, of a sort that you may be used to, we will go into them shortly but first a word on soccer and youth culture violence...

Soccer Violence

The world (infamous British disease is still very much in evidence and has gotten steadily worse over the last decade or so. Despite the authorities' best efforts it is a problem that refuses to go away; the main reason being that soccer's gangs are not restricted to one strata of society. Bankers and bandits are united by a common love for their teams (and a damn good scrap). Every Saturday somewhere there is going to be a war. The other reason that the authorities have failed to curtail the violence lies in their inability to predict where and when the next incident will take place. Months beforehand, all the interested parties sit down and thrash out the details with a military precision that is disquieting to the casual visitor. Deaths are rare, however, with most disputes being settled with knives and hand-to-hand fighting as opposed to firearms. *If you kill all the opposition who are you going to fight next week? Ed!* This does not mean that there are not considerable risks to the innocent bystander; when two thousand people start kicking the living daylights out of each other you do not want to be in the middle of it. The visitor to the U.K should be wary of pubs and clubs around soccer grounds if there is a match that weekend. If you're sensible, you shouldn't have any trouble. This statement is just as valid anywhere in the E.C. where the level of soccer violence if anything, is not as bad as that found here. *And always has been, Ed!*

Youth Culture Violence

Similar in nature to the soccer variety, this form of conflict springs from the lifestyle cultures of the 20th century. The youth of today have grown tired of the continuous stream of overdubbed pop that passes for music and have adopted the sounds of an earlier era in an effort to be different. *Well, everything is relative. Ed!* They collect aging recordings and adopt them as bibles of social comment and prophecy. They dress up in the image of their heroes and fiercely defend their chosen style against all challengers. Mods fight rockers, grungers fight romantics and punks fight everyone else. Unlike soccer violence, deaths are common in these quasi-religious conflicts as each side is prepared to do whatever it takes to prove their side superior.

Gang Violence

Last, there are the territorial gangs. Based mainly in the slum areas of cities like London, Glasgow, Bristol and Manchester they operate in a way just like that of the Stateside brethren. The youth of the ghetto, with no prospect of anything apart from life long unemployment, turn their energy towards violence. They feel abandoned by society and form together in tribes for reasons of self-identity and protection. Centered around a given patch or turf, they involve themselves in petty crime as a means to survive. Their are frequent, excessively bloody, wars between rival actions as they compete for bragging rights in the community. Some in both the police and organized crime circles can see the day coming when the gangs may unite against the system that spawned them. If that day ever comes, then look out, for anarchy will finally have a voice in the youth of Britain.

The visitor should be careful not to leave the beaten track while in the cities. If caught away from the protection of the bright lights and the nice police with their shiny cars and polished tatons (buttons. Freudian slip, Eh? Ed! then beware. You will be a soft target for the gangs and no one will come when they hear you scream.



STREET PUNK



There is one particular form of gang that the visitor should be especially wary of, namely those which specifically target tourists. In their first few hours in a strange place a tourist is easy prey to the vultures of gangland. They will often follow their victims from the moment they arrive, waiting with mantis-like patience for their opportunity to strike. The wise will travel by protected transport, i.e., CombatCab instead of by hire car as the distinctive registrations of the hire car fleets only serve as a beacon for the hunters to follow. If you do choose to travel by hire car, don't stop for anything, not even the police. If they really want to stop you they will, so if you're unsure, keep going. Once you have reached the hotel and given yourself time to acclimatize then you should have nothing more to worry about as long as you stick to the more secure areas during your stay.

If travelling in the countryside, especially in the North, beware of Jackknife gangs. Like the highwayman of the old days but without the friendly manner, these are groups of unaffiliated wanderers who prey on road traffic. The arterial roads to the borders are their favorite hunting grounds so be prepared.

BRITISH COMBINED FORCES, PLC

"Alright you 'omble lot, let's get the introductions out of the way first. My name is RSM (that's Regimental Sergeant Major to you) McNutt. I've been asked by the editors of this guide to tell you about Her Majesty's Armed Forces and how they look today.

"Back in 2001 when the so-called 'Army' had their Coup, one or two important facts were left out of the history books; the main one being that the average squaddie was just following orders and didn't know that they weren't coming from Westminster. By the time we knew what was going it was too late. The only boys with a bit of savvy were the Marines and they pulled a fast one, alright. Okay, they were disbanded, but it was bloody suspicious that towns like Poole and Lympstone had their own security forces by the following day. Why do you think that those towns were the safest in the U.K. during the Troubles? The number of undesirables that ended up in Poole Harbour with concrete wellies is nobody's business.

"But I digress. As well as disbanding the Marines, the Martial Law Provisional Council removed the Regimental system from the Army, and, in order to keep better control, combined the Army, Navy and Air Force into one unified command. The British Combined Forces (BCF) were supposedly a cohesive force, but in reality it was just one big snafu. We actually had interforce raiding between old army, navy and air force units. Just how the hell did the government expect footsloggers, wetbacks and fly-boys to work together on that scale?

"In theory the BCF should have solved the military problems of Northern Ireland and Scotland but the backstabbing and con-

stant bickering within the service put paid to that. It was a complete waste of time—we may be the best trained troops in the world but its means buggler all if we can't work together.

"Things have changed a bit now with the Restoration of the Queen and us becoming a Public Limited Company (blimey, even my missus has a few hundred shares!) Considering the state of the country and the lack of respect in the Military, it was a brilliant public relations coup (no pun intended) to make the Armed Forces more accountable to the general public by floating the company. Mind you there are some rumors that most shares are owned by the government and certain large corporations.

"Today the BCF looks more like the British forces of the 1980's and 90's—in fact I actually feel proud to be a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces again. Yes, we do have to fight for 'clients' now, but as long as they pay on time and don't do anything to hurt the British people, we don't particularly mind.

"Working for other Countries and Corporations gives me the opportunity to compare the various private sector competition, and I'll tell you one thing for free—one group I don't mind working with is the Lazarus Group (even though they are our rivals). Those boys are almost as good as us and are true pros. But as for Arasaka—don't mention 'em to me. They're the worse sods around—I know for a fact that they're supplying arms to the Irish and Scottish Nationalists (I wouldn't mind betting they've got their fingers in East Anglia as well.) When a provo starts opening up with a Light 20 questions have to be asked. (Preferably of an Arasaka exec in a soundproofed room!)

"Although Lord McKenzie was a member of the MLPC (Martial Law Provisional Council), his appointment as Chairman of the Board of BCF plc was a good idea. He's old military and knows how to run an army as well as deal with the politics. It was his idea to introduce free fire zones in Northern Ireland (OK, we're not supposed to be there but have you ever noticed how many of the Ulster Defense Regiment have English accents?) He's a man after my own heart. He also re-introduced the regiments, albeit in a limited way, and to top that, he reformed the Royal Marines. It'll take an awful lot of clout to remove him from office should the need ever arise.

"With all the arms around in the U.K. at the moment, nearly all assignments are dangerous but the most lethal are Ulster, the Scottish Borders and Highlands, and East Anglia. East Anglia is especially bad; if you remember your history well, you may remember a place called the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam 'Police Action' in the 1960's and 70's. Well this place is worse—with the flooding and various terrorist attacks on pumping stations, the whole region is just one big waterlogged delta from Ipswich to Grimsby with thousands of bloody islands teeming with either booby traps or pirates.

"The Navy guys would give their right arms not to have to go in there (in fact some have, come to think of it, but only after going in!) Many Forces personnel desert in the area, and many others



have relatives in the area, so keeping an eye on the other members of your patrol is must. Of course, this doesn't make for a very high morale. Add to this the fact that you can't tell with East Anglians which are loyal and which aren't, you've got one major nightmare scenario. Many an enemy has been made from a loyal subject over a simple mistake in this area.

"East Anglia is really the domain of the Navy, Marines, and Special Boat Service (SBS). The fly-boys have lost too many choppers in there. Most overflights have been stopped unless escorted by Kestrels—and talking of the Bird of Prey—don't mess with them near the Scottish Borders, they'll stomp you into the dirt and when they're finished there won't be enough to bury. I've got to admit it those lads in the Scottish Border Patrol are grade one 'ard bastards. When you've seen those Kestrels of theirs dive out of the sun and start an attack run you really wonder how those nomads up there survive at all. *Arasaka weaponry, probably. Ed.* Lord McKenzie may have admitted before the Restoration that the Scottish problem couldn't be solved, but with the Kestrels and the rest of the boys of the Border Patrol we can sure contain it.

"While the headquarters of the BCF are situated at Sandhurst, all the military and police regions of the United Kingdom have their own regional HQ's and military bases. To give each region its own identity and 'family' feeling, a regiment named after it was formed from BCF troops and stationed there. To further regimental loyalty and trust with the residents of the area, most of the new recruitment for that regiment is done there.

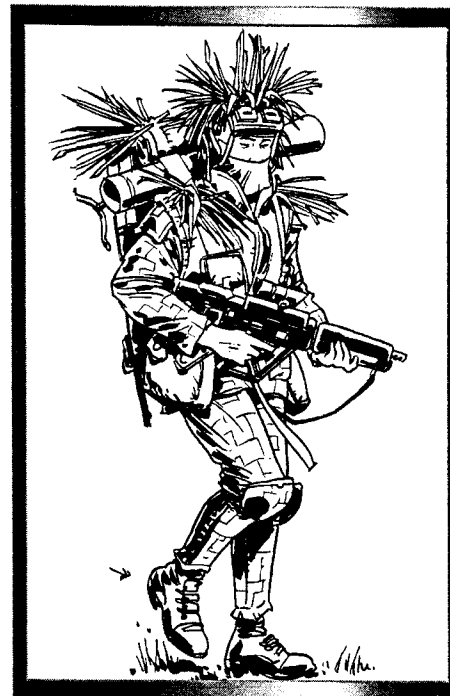
"The regimental command centers for the UK (and their Regiments) are situated in the following locations:

"The command center for the Wessex region is situated in the town of Newbury. Its resident regiment is the 1st Royal Wessex under the command of Colonel Nicholas Hardy. The Colonel has the nickname of 'Old Nick' owing to his violent temper and his like for fuel-air explosives.

"The Devon and Cornwall Command Center is based in the Naval dockyards at Plymouth. Because of the joint responsibilities of the Army and Navy in this region the command center is under the joint command of Colonel Elizabeth Ryding and Commander Harris Channell. One of the three naval task forces is permanently based here with the 1st King's Own Devon and Cornwall. In the past there has been some friction between the Army and the Navy here and so there is a strong military police presence within the town. This is definitely not a town to be out in on a Saturday night.

"Situated at Guildford the Sussex Command Center and its Regiment the Queen's Sussex Rifles are under the command of Colonel Sir John Travers. Travers is famous for his 'accident' in ordering his troops to shoot down an English Tourist Board Blimp. Relationships between the ETB and this unit are particularly strained.

"One of the most dangerous commands in the BCF is that of East Anglia. The base at Colchester, while quiet in itself, oversees the flooded rivers of the Wash and Fens. Although there is still a



PRIVATE SOLDIER, QUEEN'S OWN

large land area here, the region is under the command of the Naval Riverine Patrol. Ground support for the patrol is provided by the Anglian Grenadiers. The base and military region are under the command of Rear Admiral David Nelson. Nelson, living up to his namesake, lost his eye and arm in a river ambush two years ago. With his cybernetic replacements, he is an imposing figure who has sworn to rid the area of pirates.

"Mercia, though the home of the BCF, also has its own Regional Command Center at Peterborough. The Royal Mercia Guards are often used by the Riverine Task Force in search and destroy missions around Peterborough. Their commander, Colonel Robert Brown, has been pushing central command for more assets (especially SBS) in order to pacify the northeast area of this region.

"The Middle Anglia Command Center at Doncaster is one of the few bases under air force supervision. Centrally located in the U.K., the airbase there can respond to any threat in any direction. The ground forces in this region are led by the Royal Lincoln Green jackets. The commander for this area is Wing



REAR ADMIRAL DAVID NELSON

Commander Jenna Holmes. One of the first women to achieve command rank in the British Air Force.

"The Lindsey Deira command area has strong elements of all three branches of the military. Always strongly independent, this region has always had an intense rivalry with its neighbor, Northumbria. The White Rose Regiment based at Darlington is in a constant state of friendly war with the Red Rose Regiment of Kendall. The rivalry between the two regions and regiments is historically-based, originating with the medieval Noble Houses of Lancaster (Lancashire, the Red Rose) and York (Yorkshire, the White Rose). The commander for this region and regiment is Colonel Eric Boycott, a keen cricketer.

"Northumbria command is situated in the town of Kendall. Its regiment is top of the inter-regimental cricket league and this has led to some serious riots between the regiment and its rival from over the border in Lindsey Deira. The military police always make a strong turnout at cricketing fixtures when the two regiments are scheduled to play each other.

"The Lindisfarne combat region is under the sole command of the Scottish Border Patrol. The main base for the SBP is the fortified compound at Carlisle. A series of rapid response fire bases are situated along the line of Hadrian's Wall (Carlisle, Halfwhistle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne). These bases are heavily fortified con-

structions with a flight of Kestrels permanently stationed at each. The overall commander of this region is Brigadier Colonel Sir Colin Harris. Harris, known as 'Bomber' to his troops, insists all his combat aircraft carry cluster munitions in case they come across 'invading Picts' as he calls border runners. Originally South African by birth, Harris is the first colored soldier to achieve such a high rank in the British Forces.

"Scotland with its continuing troubles is still a major problem for the BCF command. Originally its troops were there as an army of occupation. With the transition from a military government to a civilian administrator the military nature of the Scottish operation has changed from one of occupation to one of peacekeeping.

"The task of rebuilding trust between the Scots and the armed forces has been made easier with the BCF becoming a limited company. As a company, the BCF has been able to recruit loyal unionist Scots to form Scottish Regiments. This policy has been received very well in the Unionist West of Scotland, while being heartily condemned by most of the Separatist East. If Scotland is ever given its independence, the BCF will be in an ideal position to offer its services with homegrown troops. Rather than divide Scotland into separate military commands, the BCF decided to have one central command and two subcommand centers.

"Scottish command is situated at Inverness, the home of the 1st Highland Fusiliers. Their commander Colonel Angus Bruce insists all his men are trained in the use of the Clamore sword. Many people believe that this quirk of his is really a sign to the Separatist that he partially supports their claims.

"The 2nd Highland Fusiliers under the command of Colonel Margaret McDonald are based at Ullapool. This unit is well-versed in waterborne operations, as one of their main concerns are the Western Isles. To reinforce an old tradition and national pride the Black Watch Regiment has been reformed in Edinburgh. As well as its military duties, the regiment is concerned with a lot of public relationship ceremonial duties. The commander of this unit is the flamboyant Colonel William Connolly. The two other significant military bases in Scotland are Holy Loch (the home of Britain's Nuclear Deterrent) and the armed firebase compound of the Aberdeen Combined Forces Regiment Aberdeen (being the main base of the Scottish Nationalists) is a town under permanent martial law. It is the most dangerous military assignment in Scotland after Glasgow.

"The final two military regimental areas on the U.K. mainland are in Wales. Wales has been divided into North and South commands. Based at the Northern Command Center is the castle at Caernarvon is the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment. The commander of this regiment, Colonel Owen Thomas, is a fiery-tempered individual and a veteran of Northern Ireland. His regiment (with its proximity to the Irish Sea) acts as a rapid deployment force for Northern Ireland. Stationed with this command are heavy-lift air assets and troop-transport water assets. The

Queen's Welsh Guards based at Swansea (in South Wales) can trace their history back hundreds of years. It was their ancestors who fought the Zulu army at Rorke's Drift.

"The Welsh Guards, living up to its proud history, is one of the top three fighting forces that the BCF has. Its commander, Colonel Arwel Williams, (although not your typical looking officer having a beard) is often seen on recruitment vids with his dress uniform, combat ribbons and medals. It is this unit that is sent to new clients in order to impress them.

"The Northern Ireland Command Center is a purpose-built bunker complex situated at St. Johns Point overlooking Dundrum Bay in County Down. Having moved the headquarters outside of the major towns has allowed for better security and safety. The command center has a regiment, a Kestrel wing and naval patrol boats stationed there. Overall command for Military Forces Northern Ireland falls to General Harold Percival. Two other regiments are permanently based there, split between numerous fire bases around the province.

"But enough of the background—who (and what) make up BCF plc? First we have the boys the government doesn't like to admit exist—the Special Air Service (SAS) and the Special Boat Service (SBS). These guys are the closest thing to licensed state terrorists you'll ever find. If you looked at one of these guys you'd see an ordinary man—he probably doesn't even look like he's in the Forces. They don't load themselves down with cyberware—in fact you'll need an advanced medical scanner to find any. Biowear is the order of the day with cyberware being limited to reflex booster, smart gun links and a cyberop-tic.

"All their advantages stem from their intensive training and their state-of-the-art equipment. For instance, the normal ammo carried by them is the Reaper Round—a .44 magnum armour piercing pre-fragmented positive kill shell. I've seen what a Reaper can do to a body and it's not a pretty sight. They say it has a 90% kill ratio and I can bloody well believe it!

"If you tend to cause trouble in the U.K. don't do it in Hereford or Poole as the SAS and SBS are based there respectively. The average SAS team in the field consists of four troopers and a command element. This element can vary from one man upwards and is usually in direct contact with either Hereford or the Ministry of Defence. There may be only four per team but who says that they're only deploying one team? Going up against these guys usually means coming home in a body bag (assuming they don't leave you to rot where you fell).

"While the SAS deals with land ops, the SBS deals with the waterborne ops. One of the main missions is the protection of Britain's oil and gas production platforms in the North Sea and the Atlantic. Only once has a rig been taken over to date and the SBS took out the perpetrators with no loss on their side and with little collateral damage to the rig itself. The mission took just four minutes from start to finish.

"Among their more mundane duties, the two units also undertake undercover intelligence in such places as Ulster, Scotland, East Anglia and also the less troublesome areas such as London and even, rumor has it, Tokyo. These guys don't mind laying underneath floor boards for weeks on end if the mission requires it. Be it assassinations, recon work, hostage rescue or all-out warfare, these boys can handle it.

"The other elite force that the BCF has on its books is the Armored Assault Suit unit (AAS). These men and women are recruited from the other special forces units and the Royal Tank Regiments. Unlike other countries, the AAS is used for highly dangerous limited warfare operations. These units are definitely not for standard battlefield use. I should bloody well hope not—I saw the unit cost breakdown of these units and nearly had heart failure.

"The records show that the BCF has only twenty-four suits and considering the budget restraints that's twenty-four too many. Mind you, from what I've heard on the grapevine these suits are virtually undetectable hence their nickname of Wraiths. The twenty-four members are arranged into six rapid response units. Rumors say that a unit is based at Hereford, one at Poole and one in Central London. Where the other three are is anybody's guess.

"The 'Army' section of the BCF is set up along standard military lines with armored units, mechanized units, the infantry, supply corps plus all the usual logistical structures and units. The main headquarters (with special regard to the Army) for the BCF is Sandhurst, Berkshire in the Home Counties Militarized Zone.

"The Zone encompasses such places as Farnborough Air Base, Aldershot military compound and numerous other resettlement camps, research establishments and supply depots. The Zone is really the hub of the BCF and is a Restricted Access area with regular ground and air patrols as well as many electronic sensors and robotic sentry units. It's not particularly difficult to get into the Zone but to get into the actual compounds is a nightmare.

"The Zone is still under Martial Law and, if you are found in the Zone without a valid reason ultimate force may be applied. All support arms of the BCF are situated here as well as many of its airborne units.

"The Navy section of the BCF is set up around a core of surface fleet vessels. There are three task forces each built around a VTOL/Helicopter carrier. Three task forces are named after their flag ships, *Ark Royal*, *Invincible* and *Endurance*. Considering these ships are getting on for forty years old they really are seeing a bit of action. Mind you with all the upgrades they have had, they can take on anything that you care to throw at them. As well as its Task Forces, the Navy control the Coast Guard cutters (now part of the Customs and Excise Regiment), the Air Cushion Beach Landing Unit and the East Anglian Riverine Navy.

"The 'Air Force' comprises eight full-strength squadrons and at least another thirty independent flights. A flight can range from

two to six aircraft. At least four flights of six Kestrels are permanently stationed at the Hadrians Wall Rapid Response bases on the Scottish border. The squadrons are made up of four fighter/interceptor, two strategic bomber and two bomber/ground attack. Most of these squadrons are held, under heavy security, at bases inside the HCM zone. Over half of the remaining flights are assigned to ground support missions with the various law enforcement agencies.

"The transport and protection of personnel to and from near orbit is handled by another arm of the Air Force. The British Combined Orbital Forces deal exclusively with orbital and interface transport and combat. The mainstays of their equipment are shuttles and interface cutters which are based at Orbital Air's two U.K. facilities, the London spaceport and the Midlands Spaceplane launch center. If you think the normal fly-boys are bad wait till you meet these vacuumheads. These lunatics actually enjoy 3-gee landings and playing chicken with orbital debris. Scary stuff to think about when you're sitting in the cargo bay on final approach to a hot drop zone.

"Right, lets talk about the average BCF soldier. It has always been said that the British soldier was the best trained and most professional in the world. In these days of constant change this statement is one of the few things that stills holds true. I should know, I am one, and if anyone wants to argue about, they can contact me through the NAAFI (that's the BCF post office to you lot).

"Now the average squaddie has the following skills and training. As you can see from the following list, the training given is really second to none.

Basic Training

"All BCF personnel have to go through this basic training whether they be officers, pilots or plain old squaddies. In some cases, especially pilots and support staff, the rifle training is changed to either Submachine gun or Handgun. The BCF does not teach Brawling; any army that does is not worth mentioning."

Basic Training

There are 16 career skill points.
Basic Training gives all British Soldiers:
(Out of the 40 Career Points)

- Rifle +4
- Martial Arts +2
- First Aid +2
- Endurance +2
- Awareness/Notice +2
- Heavy Weapons +2
- Athletics +1
- Swimming +1

Advanced Training

"After basic, the recruit is sent to branch college where they are given extensive training in their chosen field."

Because of the extended training period requirements by the BCF, an extra 5 career skill points are allocated giving 25 to be spent on advanced training. As well as the advanced training, extra training can be taken in the core skills.

Army AT

Operate Heavy Machinery

Drive: Car
Truck
M/C

Pilot: Hovercraft
Remote
ACPA

Heavy Weapons

Basic Tech
(Aero or AV) Tech
Leadership

Expert (Tactics)

Wilderness Survival

Weaponsmith

Programming

System Knowledge

Handgun

Electronics

Interrogation

Demolitions

Melee

Navy AT

Operate Heavy Machinery

Drive: Car
Truck
M/C

Pilot: Hovercraft
Remote
Ship

Submarine
AV

Water Vehicles

Hy Weapons

Basic Tech

(Aero, AV or Naval) Tech

Leadership

Expert (Naval Tactics)

Navy AT

(CONTINUED)

Wilderness (Sea) Survival
Weaponsmith
Programming
System Knowledge
Handgun
Electronics
Interrogation
Demolitions
Melee

Marine AT

Operate Heavy Machinery

Drive: Car
Truck
M/C

Pilot: Hovercraft
Remote
Fixed Wing
Gyro

Water Vehicles

Heavy Weapons

Basic Tech

(Aero, AV, Gyro or Naval) Tech

Leadership

Wilderness Survival

Expert (Tactics)

Air Force AT

Drive: Car
Truck
M/C

Pilot: Remote
Fixed Wing
Gyro
Shuttle

Expert (Air or Zero-G Tactics)

Weaponsmith

Programming

System Knowledge

Handgun

Electronics

Interrogation

Space Survival

Melee

Zero-G Maneuver



ARMORED ASSAULT TROOPER

"Alright you 'omble bunch of layabouts, let me introduce you to a friend of mine. He is, what you might say, the typical British squaddie. Step forward Private Palmer. This 'ere is Private Harry Palmer, known to his friends as 'Mad Mike,' who is an infantryman in the 2nd Queen's Own Regiment."

Private Palmer, 2nd Q.O.R.

INT 5 REF 6
TECH 5 COOL 5
ATTR 5 LUCK 4
MA 6 BODY 7
EMP 8/7 Humanity 69

Skills: Combat Sense 4, Rifle 6, Martial Arts 4, First Aid 2, Endurance 3, Awareness/Notice 2, Heavy Weapons 3, Athletic 2, Swimming 3, Drive (Truck) 4, Basic Tech 4, Wilderness Survival 4, Melee 4, Cyberware: Skinweave.

Equipment: Field kit, flak vest and pants, smart-equipped nylon battle helmet, LPA1 battle rifle, 6 hand grenades, combat knife (bayonet).

"If Harry is given the dubious honor of carrying the squad support weapon instead of his rifle, he'll be holding a Cockerill Assault cannon possibly, if he's bloody lucky, with a gyro mount!"

"Right, enough of Private Pamer. Step forward if you would, Sir. This is Flight Lieutenant (that's pronounced Left-ten-nat for all you colonials) David Thomas-Williams, BCF Air Force. The Lieutenant is a Kestrel pilot stationed on the Scottish border."

Flight Lieutenant Thomas-Williams, BCF Air Force

INT 7	REF 8
TECH 4	COOL 6
ATTR 6	LUCK 4
MA 4	BODY 5
EMP 8/6	Humanity 57.5

Skills: Combat Sense 6, Pilot Gyro 7, Navigation 4, Gyro Tech 3, Wilderness Survival 3, Drive (Car) 1, Handgun 4, Martial Arts 3, First Aid 2, Endurance 3, Awareness/Notice 2, Heavy Weapons (aircraft) 6, Athletic 1, Swimming 1.

Cyberware: Ferranti (Sandevistan) +3 Speedware, Neural Processor, Vehicle Link, Interface plugs x 2, Cybereyes (with Times Square Anti-Dazzle and UV, Skinweave).

Equipment: Spitfire battle pistol, survival combat knife, light armored jumpsuit, nylon smart-linked HUD pilot's helmet, standard tying kit.

"Thank you for your help Lieutenant. Now, let's not upset the Navy, so here's Chief Petty Officer Tracy Fletcher. The Chief is based at the Riverine Patrol Base at Peterborough and unfortunately it's one of the most dangerous assignments anyone in the Navy can have as the patrol is responsible for policing the area from East Anglia and as far north as Grimsby."

CPO Fletcher, Royal Navy

INT 6	REF 6
TECH 5	COOL 5
ATTR 4	LUCK 5
MA 6	BODY 7
EMP 6/6	Humanity 53.3

Skills: Combat Sense 4, SMG 5, Swimming 4, Water Vehicles 6, Pilot Hovercraft 5, Navigation 4, Basic Tech 1, Wilderness (Sea) Survival 3, Athletics 1, Heavy Weapons 3, Awareness/Notice 2, Endurance 2, First Aid 2, Martial Arts 3.

Cyberware: Skinweave

Equipment: Armored life jacket (SP20), H&K MPK-11 SMG, nylon battle helmet, distress flares, emergency dye markers.

"Right, for bleeding obvious reasons we haven't got got anyone here from the SAS, SBS, or AAS units here today so to help out all you prospective recruits I've drawn up basic profiles of Privates X, Y, and Z.

"First up is Private X of the Special Air Service. As part of his basic and advanced training, X is placed on the unit's training program. He's one hard bastard—don't let his appearance fool you. You will not find a more remorseless killer this side of a Cyberschizophrenia ward. You will notice that Private X has high attributes—only the best get a shot at the coveted Sand Beret—and some have died trying.

Private X, SAS

INT 7	REF 10
TECH 6	COOL 9
ATTR 5	LUCK 6
MA 7	BODY 9/11
EMP 10/8	Humanity 76.5

Skills: Combat Sense 8, Handgun 8, Rifle 8, SMG 8, Heavy Weapons 7, Martial Arts 8, Martial Arts 6, Endurance 6, Swimming 5, Athletics 5, First Aid 5, Awareness/Notice 5, Drive Car 6, Wilderness Survival 6, Interrogation 5, Resist

Torture/Drugs 7, Hide/Evade 5, Demolitions 5, Electronic Security 5, Melee 6, Stealth 6.

Cyberware: Muscle & Bone Lace, Skinweave, Ferranti Speedware, Neural Processor, cordless Subdermal Induction Loop Smartgun Link (SILS), Cybereyes (with Targeting Scope, Infra-red, Anti-dazzle and UV), Pain Editor.

Equipment: You name it, he's got it—it all depends on the mission. For personal defence a Spitfire battle pistol armed with Reaper Rounds is used along with a mono-knife and flash grenade. The generally tend to wear a medium armored jacket.

"Private Y from the SBS is more of a traditional Commando. His skills reflect stealthy military raids and reconnaissance rather than undercover work."

Private Y, SBS

INT 6	REF 9/11
TECH 5	COOL 8
ATTR 6	LUCK 4
MA 8	BODY 10/12
EMP 9/7	Humanity 62.5

Skills: Combat Sense 8, Handgun 8, Rifle 7, SMG 7, Heavy Weapons 7, Martial Arts 8, Melee 7, Endurance 7, Swimming 8, Demolitions 7, Resist

Torture/Drugs 5, Stealth 8, Hide/Evade 6, Wilderness Survival 5, Sea Survival 6, Electronic Security 4, Electronics 4, First Aid 5, Awareness/Notice 5, Water Vehicles 6, Drive Car 3, Athletics 5.

Cyberware: Muscle and Bone Lace, Gills, Skinweave, Ferranti Speedware, Neural Processor, cordless Subdermal Induction Loop Smartgun Link (SILS), Cybereyes (with Targeting Scope, Infra Red, Anti Dazzle, and UV)

Equipment: Again, pretty much as the mission demands. Of course, a lot of the equipment is treated to avoid being affected by immersion water. Personal defence weapons are pretty much the same as his SAS counterpart.

Here's Private Z of the AAS.

Private Z, AAS

INT 6	REF 9
TECH 7	COOL 7
ATTR 6	LUCK 5
MA 8	BODY 6
EMP 8/7	Humanity 68

Skills: PA Combat Sense 9, Heavy Weapons 7, Melee 6, Martial Arts 5, Rifle 6, Athletics 6, PA Tech 4, Endurance 5, First Aid 4, Awareness/Notice 6, Swimming 1, SMG 6, Dodge and Escape 4, Drive Truck 4.

Cyberware: Skinweave, Neural Processor, Vehicle Link, Interface Plugs.

Equipment: AAS Wraith Unit, Personal-Spitfire battle pistol and light armored jumpsuit.

"One thing you may have noticed is that all of the people we have discussed have Skinweave as part of their cyberware. This is because the government spends a lot of dosh on their training and doesn't like seeing its investment bite the pavement the first time they're hit by a piece of shrapnel. Just think, if you pin up today you'll be safely armored by the end of your basic training.

"If you need cyberware for your job, then the BCF will pay for it, but remember that when you sign up the minimum period of enlistment is six years. If you want to advance through the ranks in the BCF you'll have to re-enlist for at least a second term or you can sign up for a longer term straight from the word go. If you do so then the promotion prospects and benefits are considerably improved and your pensions much better as well! Look at

me—I'm a lifer, and when I go back to Civvy Street I'll have a nice little nest egg to retire on, thank you very much!

"Mind you, to get that far you'll need skill, good back-up, state-of-the-art equipment, and luck. In some respects it's a good thing the ICF is a relatively small Army in a fairly wealthy Western government. Of course, we have a budget to stick to but we do have some of the best equipment going thanks to the MLA (that's about the only good thing they did). For instance did you know that Royal Ordnance actually co-owns a branch of H&K? Not a lot of people know that. So with both Royal Ordnance and H&K on our books we can get just about the perfect weapon for the job."

**We need bigger guns!
Bigger fraggin' guns!!**

**—Dick Durkin,
Split Second**

BCF WEAPONS

• STANDARD PISTOLS:

12mm Spitfire battle pistol
10mm Browning "3 Spot" police issue

• STANDARD SMG'S:

9mm H&K MP-9
10mm H&K MP-20 B3
12mm H&K MPK-11
H&K MPK-2020

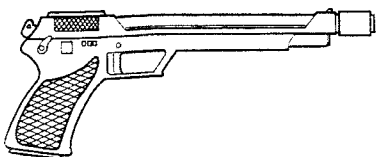
• STANDARD RIFLES:

5.56mm SA 80
7.5 mm LPA 1

• SUPPORT WEAPONS:

H&K G-6 advanced squad automatic
Various miniguns
Cockerill assault cannon
Militech mini-grenade launcher
H&K oneshot grenade launcher
Milan-C light ATGM
LAWS
Various mortars
H&K CAWS II
Rhinemeall EMG-85 aigun

"The special forces teams can have anything they want and often use enemy equipment on black ops—it can be quite a shock for an enemy commander to find that his troops have been killed by their own weapons."

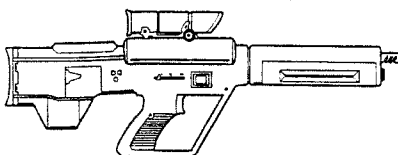


ROYAL ENFIELD ORDNANCE

Spitfire 12mm Battle Pistol

P	+1	J	P	4D6+1	12
1(2)	VR	50m	550Eb	(700Eb)	

The Royal Enfield Ordnance Spitfire battle pistol is a high quality long-slide counter balanced military pistol designed to replace the aging Browning automatic. Using composite plastics and ceramics the Enfield factory has managed to produce a smart chipped high capacity 12mm pistol of unrivalled accuracy for its class. The SAS and SBS versions of this pistol have been further modified to allow double tapping of a target (2 shots per round).



ROYAL ENFIELD ORDNANCE

7.5mm Liquid Propellant Assault Rifle LPA1

RIF	+1	N	R	Special	2x45
1/3/20	VR	500m	1800Eb		

The LPA1 is a twin magazine, liquid-propellant, variable-velocity assault rifle. Designed as a multi-

role small arms weapon system it is now entering limited test service with the 3CF. The LPA1 is laid out in the traditional bullpup configuration with the liquid propellant store in a self-sealing armoured cassette in the butt. The twin helical magazines are situated on either side of the receiver. Each magazine holds 45 caseless rounds giving the rifle an immense 90 round ammo supply. With dual magazines it is possible to carry mixed ammo types.

The rifle comes with three velocity settings which can be selected either manually or by smart-link command. The settings are: 1- Low-riot/2D6+1; 2- Medium-urban/4D6; and 3- High-full combat/6D6. Because of the high recoil on full velocity, a hydro-pneumatic recoil camper was built into the length of the rifle. The liquid propellant, which is a derivative of ESA shuttle fuel is injected into the breech under computer control. The amount injected depends on the velocity setting and range of the target. This information comes from the integral Marconi SUSAT cyberoptic sight situated on top of the receiver.

The LPA1 can use most ammo options and can support rifle-fired grenades with a small muzzle modification.

One special round developed for the SAS is the Wasp Flechette. The 7.5mm round holds 3 darts each packed with Royal Enfield B5 high explosive. Roll to hit as normal and for each round that hits roll a 1/2D6 (1-3) to see how many darts impact on the target. Each dart does the velocity setting in D6 damage with soft armor having no effect and hard armor at half SP. Armor is damaged two levels per hit. This is the (in)famous Feaper Round and is so nicknamed because of its kill ratio.

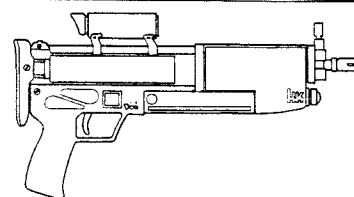
H&K

MPK-2020 12mm SMG

SMG	+2*	L	P	4D6-1	60
30	ST	200m	75CEB		

*Laser Sight

The Heckler & Koch Maschinenpistole-Kurz (MPK 2020) is a descendant of the MP5 and the G3 assault rifle. About five years ago special forces units in Europe were looking for a replacement for their main short range assault



ROYAL ENFIELD ORDNANCE

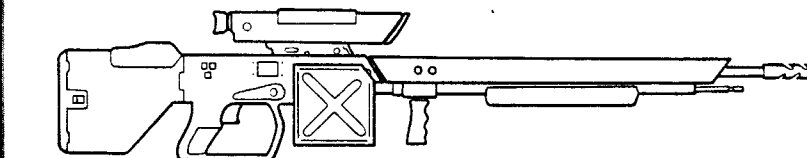
25mm Cockerill Assault Cannon

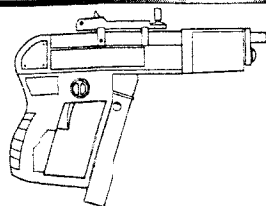
HVY	+1	N	A	5D10+10	25mm AP
12	1	ST	1500m	7400Eb	

The first in a new range of anti-light vehicle weapons designed to complement/replace the LAW 80 and the Carl Gustav. The Cockerill cannon is a slightly scaled down version of the 30mm weapon used in the Scimitar armoured vehicle.

To offset the immense potential recoil, the Cockerill uses low-pressure, rocket-assisted rounds. The round is fired from the muzzle by a reduced charge. When it travels 2 meters from the muzzle, the rocket motor ignites, boosting it to just over 800m/s (2623fps). Rounds for this weapon include AP (Armor-piercing), HEP (cratering), and APF (Anti-Personnel Flechette). The AP round is Pen 5; the HEP round is Pen 6. Against personnel HEP does 1/2 real, 1/2 stunning damage, armor is no effect and loses 2 SP. The APF round is treated as a shotgun round with a maximum range of 100m. The pattern starts 2m in front of the muzzle and the sizes are 1m at close range, 2m at medium range, and 4m at long range. Damage is 1D6+3 hits to anyone in the pattern, each hit does 1D6+1AP.

Because of the firing system it is possible to fire the cannon from the hip—although it is not recommended (WA drops to -1). Only people with sufficient size (BOD of 8+) can do so, others must use the bipod. It requires a minimum BOD of 6 to carry and use this weapon due to its size and weight (encumbrance value +2).



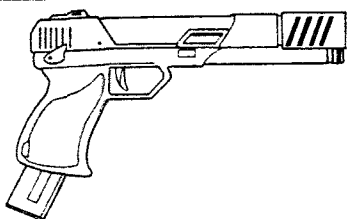


BERETTA 1010 10mm Machine Pistol

SMG -2 J C 2D6+3 30
15 ST 100m 475Eb

This model is a highly compact machine pistol designed for undercover security work and protection duties. In its basic form the Beretta is somewhat inaccurate but with the addition of either a laser or smart-sight it becomes ideal for its chosen role.

Compact and thin, it produces no unsightly bulge in your real-wool designer Italian suit when you're out on the town or escorting your employer when she's out shopping. For further compactness a smaller magazine can be fitted (15 rounds) and the barrel shroud removed. This has the effect of lowering concealeability to a large pocket; rating P (how large a pocket the GM can decide).



FN BROWNING 10mm Machine Pistol (3 Spot)

P -1 J C 2D6+3 24
1X3rd burst ST 50m 425Eb

The 3 Spot machine pistol is designed for law enforcement duties in the more dangerous parts of Europe. Set for purely accurate fire suppression, the pistol, with each pull of its trigger unleashes a three

round burst of 10mm caseless slugs. The magazine holds 24 rounds allowing eight shots. This pistol is in use in the U.K., France, Belgium and Italy.

Small Arms Common in the United Kingdom:

•STERNMEYER TYPE 35

P O J C 3D6 8
2 VR 50m 400eb 11mm

•BERETTA PLAS 9 FASHION GUN

P -1 P P 2D6+1 10
1 ST 50m 200eb 9mm

•H&K MP-2013

SMG +1 J C 2D+3 35
32 ST 150m 450eb 10mm

•H&K MPK-9

SMG +1 J C 2D6+1 35
25 ST 200m 520eb 9mm

•H&K MPK-11

SMG 0 L C 4D6+1 30
20 ST 200m 700eb 12mm

•H&K MPK-20

SMG +2 L P 4D6+1 60
30 ST 200m 775eb 12mm

•H&K CAWS 11

SMG +1 N R 4D6 30
10 ST 50m 800eb 12 gauge.

•L85A1

RIF +1 N C 4D6 30
20 VR 500m 500eb 5.56mm

•H&K G-6 SAW

HVY +1 N P 5D6 100
30 VR 900m 2050eb 6mm

•MILAN-C

HVY +2 N P 12D10 AP 1
1 VR 3000m 3000eb Anti-Tank
Missile

Older Weapons using Cased Ammunition:

•FN-FAL

RIF 0 N C 6D6+2 20
21 VR 500m 450eb 7.62mm

•L2A3 STERLING

SMG 0 L C 2D6+1 10/34
20 VR 200m 200eb 9mm

•FN HIGH POWER

P +1 J C 2D6+1 14
2 VR 50m 150eb 9mm

•WA 2001 SNIPER RIFLE

RIF +3 N R 6D6+2 10
1 VR 1000m 900eb 7.62mm

•DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUN

SHG 0 N C 4D6 2
2 VR 50m 200eb 12 gauge.

•SAWN-OFF (WHIPPED) SHOTGUN

SHG -1 J C 4D6 2
2 VR 10m 100eb 12 gauge.

•FN-MAG MACHINE GUN

HVY 0 N R 6D6+2 100*
30 VR 1000m 1500eb 7.62

*or optional 250 round belt.

BIRMINGHAM ARMS COMPANY LTD

Reactive Body Armor

The BACL reactive armor system is a self-contained warning system that allows its wearer to be alerted if he/she is acquired by either a laser or Smartgun aiming system.

A series of multi-spectrum receptors are woven into the vest and connected into a nylon/kevlar smart helmet. When a receptor detects an aiming 'spot' the system displays all relevant information (such as acquisition method and direction) onto a heads-up display unit in the helmet. This system allows boosted individuals to possibly dodge incoming fire and

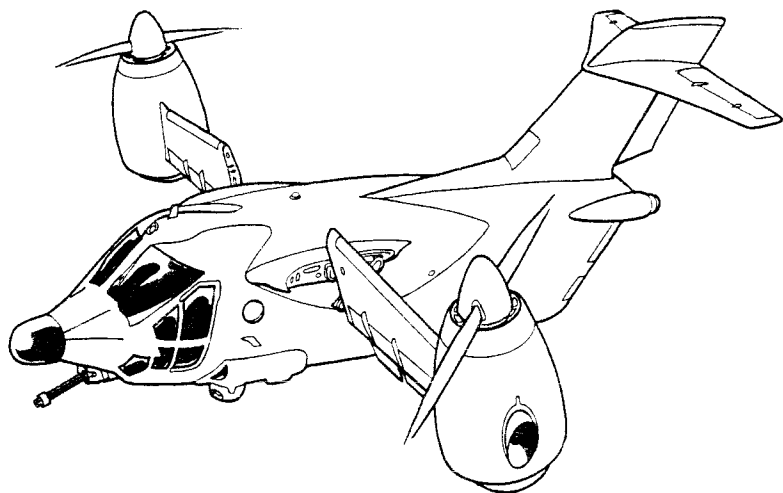


acquire unseen targets (in game terms the vest removes the Ambush modifier if laser or Smartgun systems are used to target the wearer. A character with boosted reflexes can also make a dodge roll to avoid being hit. The roll must be higher than the hitroll).

This system is in use by British special forces units. The British version is a 20SP Flack Vest with EV +1 and a 20SP fully enclosed nylon battle helmet. The helmet comes complete with a respirator (Anti-Gas), smart goggles, UV imaging, anti-dazzle, infra-red and closed circuit military communication system. For certain missions a direct-feed video system can be installed on the left side of the helmet. The complete system is extremely rare and costs 4990Eb.



BCF VEHICLES

BRITISH
AEROSPACE/WESTLAND

Wyvern

The Wyvern in all its versions is a common sight the skies over Britain. Its tilt-engine design has allowed it to become the premier form of transport in the crowded metropolises and is also a firm favorite with the military and private security forces.

The Wyvern has palatized cabin and cargo spaces, allowing it to be produced in many versions—everything from a simple cargo carrier or a corporate executive transport to the Military's heavily armed gunship variants. Apart from a flight crew of two the Wyvern's cargo compartment can, depending on configuration, can carry up to twenty passengers or five tons of cargo and equipment.

The Wyvern is as maneuverable as a helicopter but much faster and has earned its keep in such trouble areas as Scotland, Northern Ireland and East Anglia.

TYPE: Osprey
TOP SPEED: 315 mph
ACC/DEC: 10/20 mph
CREW/PASSENGERS: 2 + 20
RANGE: 1200 miles
SP: 20 (Armor 1)
SDP: 120 (Body 6)
MANEUVERABILITY: 0
MASS: 15 tons
CARGO: 20 spaces, 5 tons
COST: 407,000Eb

Special Equipment:

Pilot and co-pilot ejection seats, crash control for crew and passengers, chaff and flare dispensers, fire extinguishers, long-range radio, auto-pilot with navigation system, light amplification, terrain-following radar, two space turret, and infra red.



IMA

Titan Prime Mover

The Titan is IMA's immense ground clearer and farm preparation vehicle. Stretching well over twenty meters in length and over five meters in width, the Titan is the largest land vehicle in the U.K. Equipped with industrial planer lasers and tungsten grinders the Titan can level small hills, woods and scrub land without resorting to explosives or any damaging defoliants.

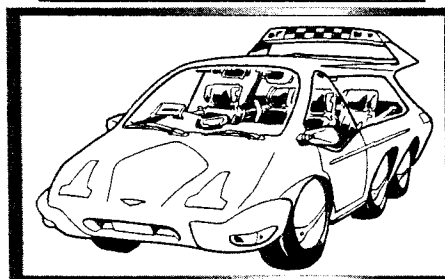
The Titan is A1 computer-controlled and can work around the clock without supervision. The vehicle has its own offensive security system in the form of a radar controlled minigun with 4000 rounds. In its history only one Titan has ever been lost—really lost. It just disappeared into thin air...

TYPE: Super-heavy Construction Vehicle
TOP SPEED: 30 mph
ACC/DEC: 5/10 mph
PASSENGERS: 0 (2 in inspection cabin)
SP: 30 (Armor 1)
SDP: 500 (Body 25)
MANEUVERABILITY: -1

COST: 1.75MEb (estimated)

Special Equipment:

Ground and air radar, 762mm minigun (Combined skill 12+D10 roll). Due to its low speed and size, few control rolls are needed when operating in normal conditions.



BAE

Police Pursuit Cruiser

When the situation warrants speed (and style) British police wheel out their pride and joy—the BAE Pursuit Cruiser. Using space-derived plastics



and ceramics, the vehicle is the state of the art in police enforcement.

To promote overseas sales BAE have given the British government a substantial discount in return for advertising and on the job testing.

The vehicle is mainly deployed along the major Access Roads to discourage the Jackknife gangs and to respond to emergency situations. A number of the Police Cruisers have also been used for ceremonial duties within the London Metroplex.

TYPE: Car

TOP SPEED: 160 mph

ACC/DEC: 25/50 mph

CREW/PASSENGERS: 2+2

RANGE: 300 miles

SP: 25 (Armor 1, composite)

SDP: 100 (Body 5)

MANEUVERABILITY: +2

MASS: 4 tons

CARGO: 2 spaces, 500kg

COST: 490,000 Eb (approx)

Special Equipment:

Crash control systems, environment control, long-range radio, +1 gunnery computer, auto-pilot, cyberlink, image enhancement, light amplification, radar, navigation system, security shocker system, halogen headlights, and searchlight.

BAE

Electric Metro 2

The British Aerospace Metro 2 is an extremely common sight on the roads of Britain. A four-passenger electric car the Metro accounts for over thirty percent of the current market in the U.K. The car is basic in design and as such is usually the first car bought by any up and coming Corp brat (or their parents).

TYPE: Car

TOP SPEED: 100 mph

ACC/DEC: 15/40 mph

CREW/PASSENGERS: 1+3

RANGE: 300 miles

SP: 10 (Armor 0)

SDP: 25 (Body 1)

MANEUVERABILITY: 0

MASS: 1 ton

CARGO: 1 space, 200kg

COST: 7500Eb

Special Equipment:

Crash control systems and auto-pilot.

GKN

SANKEY-LANDROVER

Police Control Cruiser

The Sankey-Landrover first saw action way back in the early 70's in Northern Ireland and with the decline of law and order on the mainland its use has spread. With nearly fifty years of use the Control Cruiser is one of the most reliable vehicles in the world.

The vehicle of today is equipped with crowd control and criminal elimination devices. From capturing to perpetrator justification (killing, but don't use this word in front of the Press) the Sankey-Landrover can handle it. With its reliability the Landrover could well see another half century of services.

TYPE: Pickup

TOP SPEED: 70 mph

ACC/DEC: 10/30 mph

CREW/PASSENGERS: 2+6

RANGE: 300 miles

SP: 24 (Armor 1)

SDP: 60 (Body 3)

MANEUVERABILITY: 0

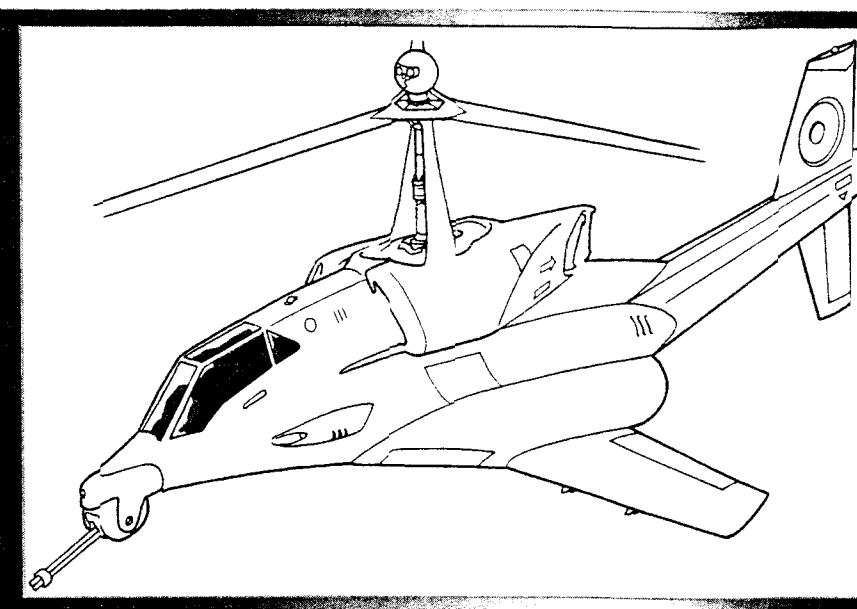
MASS: 2.4 tons

CARGO: 0

COST: 65,750Eb

Special Equipment:

Crash control system, fire extinguisher system, smoke launcher (tear gas), military radio, infra red active systems, light amplification, searchlight, shocker tazer grid, two space stabilized turret for weapons.



KESTREL

Border Patrol/Crowd Control Helicopter

The Kestrel, or Bird of Prey, as it is known in the Border area is a single-seat advanced tactical battlefield helicopter. A single cyber-augmented pilot can control the ground and air space around him up to a fifty mile radius. It has been given its nickname due to its habit of clinging on to a target once it has been acquired. Designed to protect the U.K. borders, the Kestrel has also found a home with the police in a crowd suppression role. The payload of the Kestrel is truly frightening as it can carry up to eight tons of external ordnance and cones complete with a highly accurate turret-mounted Gatling-type cannon.

TYPE: Medium Helicopter

TOP SPEED: 150 mph

ACC/DEC: 15/15 mph

CREW: 1

RANGE: 400 miles

SP: 20 (Armor 1)

SDP: 80 (Body 4)

MANEUVERABILITY: +2

MASS: 8 tons

CARGO: none

COST: 1,780,000 Eb

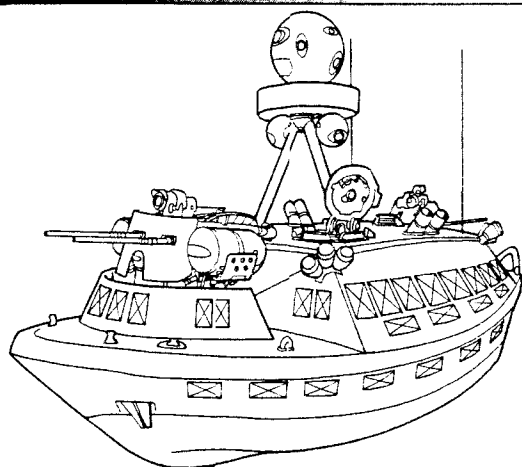
Special Equipment:

Down-firing ejection seat (safe height 300ft), damage control systems, environment control system, chaff and flare dispensers, +5 gunnery computer system for the cannon, long-range military radio, auto-pilot with navigation system, military radar with terrain-following system and radar detection subsystems, thermal imaging/thermograph, light amplification, laser communicator, laser detection system, infra-red sensors, image enhancement, active galling anti-missile system, cyberlink, ECM & ECCM, Searchlight, multitargeting, anti-laser aerosol, and telescopic optics.

Weapons:

Stabilized turret with 20mm Gatling cannon (1 extra magazine), two weapon wings with eight ton capacity (four tons each—must be balanced or suffer a penalty to maneuverability rolls)



**VOSPER/WOLF****Riverine Patrol Craft**

Taking the basic idea of the PBR used in Vietnam, Vosper/Wolf have produced a modern design suited for work in Britain's flooded coastal areas. Using a mixture of fiberglass and ballistic nylon V/W have produced a light weight non-metallic armored hull. All the crew stations are under armor and fully environmentally sealed. The boat is inherently buoyant and when punctured will still keep afloat. Designed for shallow water work the boat does become very uncomfortable at sea. Owing to the dangers in the areas these boats patrol, the boats themselves are extremely heavily armed. In the forward deck turret there are twin BRG 15mm stabilized HMGs with targeting computers and twin Milan-C antitank missiles. The aft turret contains a single 15mm HMG and twin 40mm auto-grenade launchers. To repel boarders the outside of the craft is fitted with tamped directional Claymores. Even with all this hardware a number of these boats have been lost on patrol.

TYPE: Small Craft/Patrol Boat
TOP SPEED: 25 knots (30 mph)
ACC/DEC: 15/10 mph
CREW/PASSENGERS: 5+1

RANGE: 400 miles
SP: 40 (Armor 2)
SDP: 100 (Body 5)
MANEUVERABILITY: +1
MASS: 5 tons
CARGO: 1.6 tons
COST: 600,000Eb

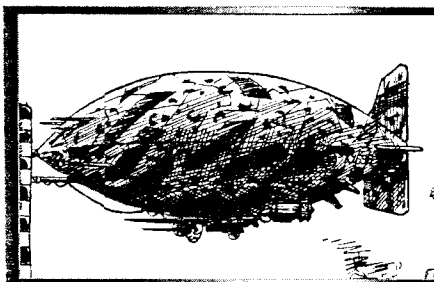
Special Equipment:

Chaff, flare and smoke dischargers, military long-range radio, satellite uplink, scrambler, radar, radar D, radar detector, thermal imaging/thermograph, infra-red sensors, auto-pilot with navigation system, magnetometer, ECM and ECCM, damage control systems, environment control system, +2 gunnery system for the HMGs, light ATGMs, and auto-GLs.

Weapons:

Stabilized turret with 2x 15mm HMGs; twin Milan-C launcher. Stabilised turret with 1x 15mm HMG and twin 40mm auto-grenade launchers. Anti-personnel grenade anti-boarding system.

15mm BRG-15	+1	7D 10AP	500
	100	650m	2800Et
40mm AutoGL	0	4D 10AP	50
	20	1600m	2500Et

**GOODYEAR****ETB Blimp**

The Goodyear English Tourist Board blimp are used for advertising, regional patrol and area denial. The outside of the gas balloon is covered by a flexible video display screen. While in flight the screen shows PR material and contact numbers for the nearest ETB office. The dirigible is crewed by five ETB troopers: a pilot, a commander, two gunners and an ECM officer. The ETB blimps are a feared and hated sight over the countryside, loathed by all Nomads and noncorporate rural residents.

TYPE: Dirigible
TOP SPEED: 70 mph
ACC/DEC: 5/30 mph
CREW/PASSENGERS: 5+1
RANGE: 1500 miles
SP: 20 (Armor 1)
SDP: 200 (Body 10)
MANEUVERABILITY: 0
MASS: 10 tons
CARGO: 2.5 tons
COST: 300,000Eb

Special Equipment:

Long range radio, Scrambler, Anti-laser aerosol, Chaff, flares, 2x +2 Targeting computers, Mini-galley, Damage control, Environment control, Radar, Autopilot with navigation system, ECM, Image Enhancement, Infra-red sensors, Light amplification, Radar detector, Thermal imaging, Telescopic optics, 5x ejection seats.

Weapons:

2x 7.62 miniguns in 2x stabilised turrets.

"It's so grey in
 London town.
 With a panda car
 crawling around.
 Here it comes
 Eleven o'clock
 Where can we go
 now?"

Can't make a noise
 Can't get no gear
 Can't make no
 money
 Can't get outta here"

— The Clash,
Remote Control

THE NOMADIC MOVEMENT



HISTORY

EVER SINCE TIME BEGAN THERE HAVE BEEN ITINERANTS, THOSE PEOPLE WHO FOR REASONS KNOWN ONLY TO THEMSELVES HAVE PREFERRED TO MOVE AROUND AS THEY WISH, LIVING IN A SIMPLE NOMADIC CULTURE. IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, BRITAIN BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE AN UPSURGE OF SUCH PEOPLE. BUT WHERE IN THE PAST THEY WOULD TRAVEL INDIVIDUALLY, OR AT LEAST IN SMALL GROUPS, THESE NEW NOMADS BEGAN TO BAND TOGETHER. THEY BECAME KNOWN AS NEW AGE TRAVELLERS. THE MAJORITY WERE PAGANS, WORSHIPPING THE OLD GODS, OBSERVING THE SOLSTICES, AND HONORING NATURE ITSELF. MANY PEOPLE CONSIDERED IT TO BE A REBELLION AGAINST OVER-INDUSTRIALIZATION AND POLLUTION.

Ordinary citizens were concerned at the travellers' lifestyle and became apprehensive whenever a group turned up. This led to confrontations with the police, a situation that became worse and worse, until by the last decade of the 20th century news broadcasts commonly carried reports of extremely violent conflicts with the authorities, as nomad groups arrived determined to worship en mass, only to be confronted with large numbers of police officers equally determined to drive them back.

As publicity of such events became more and more common and the number of travellers continued to grow as more people, especially the younger generation, began to realize that perhaps a simple life was preferable to existing in an ever more synthetic world, the police were given greater powers to intercept and break up convoys and disperse large gatherings. Such attempts nearly always ended in violence, and in retrospect it is quite surprising that no one, on either side, was killed in these confrontations.

But then the situation worsened. The clashes between the travellers and the police became more and more commonplace and not restricted to the festivals that the travellers wished to observe. The government decided that it would have to take a firm stand once and for all, and make an example of these people. With the approach of the summer solstice, Travellers from all over the country began moving toward Stonehenge. The government saw this as an ideal opportunity to bring in new laws restricting the movement of the nomads, and to this end ordered the Army to guard the monument from incursion. Unfortunately, many of the soldiers assigned had freshly returned from the troubles in

Ireland, where the situation was very tense. The violence that ensued was like nothing that had been seen before inside England. Live ammunition was used, and by the end twelve Nomads had been killed, dozens more wounded.

For the first time on British television, the general public saw, live, these unarmed travellers being shot by the Army. The public was outraged. The media was ecstatic. Repercussions of the tragedy were front page headlines for weeks to come. It also had the effect of, probably for the first time, bringing sympathy behind the travellers. After much debate and political embarrassment, the government was forced to back down on its nomad restrictive legislation.

The aftermath was to have devastating repercussions, not least of which was that many of the travellers began to arm themselves with black market weapons. They were determined that should the government ever try anything like this again, they would have the means to defend themselves.

Shortly after, several of the most influential leaders of the various groups of travellers met to discuss their future



ANTI-TRAVELLER BRUTALITY

and how to deal with events such as that which occurred at Stonehenge. The majority of the travellers were against violence (but were prepared to use it in their defense), and wanted a way to voice their opinions peaceably. The result was the formation of the Natural Faith Union. Its aim was to fight against persecution in a non-violent manner and to provide access to legal aid for travellers who fell foul of the law. In a comparatively short time, the NFU had successfully united the majority of the New Age religions.

The NFU's first major success was the purchase of tracts of land in the Cheviot Hills up near the English/Scottish border. The Government was still reeling from the public and political backlash of the Stonehenge Massacre and was desperate to restore some credibility and confidence in itself. The only way it was able to do this was to concede something to the travellers. Therefore they agreed to the sale, but on one condition, that residents of the NFU land were not entitled to claim any social security from the state. This was agreed and it was not long before many travellers began arriving to settle the land.



MANANNAN'S BARN CLAN MEMBER

As the various groups of travellers began to gather in the Cheviot Hills, they began to form themselves into clans, and soon began to tribalize the borders, becoming the fore-runners of the tribes that we know of today.

MLA Days

With the introduction of Martial Law, life becomes even harder for the many nomads who are still on the roads. Instead of the former confrontations, now pitched battles are fought between armed nomads and the MLA. Particularly, it is the Transit Police who bear the brunt of the the nomads' anger. Casualties are heavy on both sides, but the cost in manpower becomes too much for the MLA to sustain the conflict. To try and diffuse the situation, the Regional Commanders are given sanction to negotiate with the nomad leaders in their region in an attempt to quell the continuing violence, which met with varying levels of success. The main stumbling block was a lack of trust between the opposing factions.

The situation then immediately deteriorates even more. The NFU declares Glastonbury in Somerset to be a sacred site. It demands that the MLA recognizes native access rights and lifts all travel restrictions on nomads who wish to make a pilgrimage there. The MLA refuses this demand outright, and outlaws the NFU.

The nomads react to this angrily and decide to take the war directly to the MLA. Its' disorganized Agricultural Authority is badly hit by a newly formed eco-terrorist group, RAGE (Revolutionary Army of Grandmother Earth). With continuing violence in Eire, Wales and Scotland, and now in England itself, the MLA find themselves harder pressed to maintain order. RAGE attacks continue in intensity, and reach epidemic proportions. Hardly a day goes by without news of another attack. Despite news censorship, it still somehow manages to reach the public, undermining the MLA even further. The MLA strikes back hard, targeting known nomad encampments, under the excuse that they are harboring RAGE personnel, but despite this, the attacks continue unabated.

Eventually the MLA realizes that it will not be able to crush RAGE by force of arms alone. It contacts imprisoned leaders of the outlawed NFU and asks them to negotiate a peace settlement with RAGE. As an act of good will and in an attempt to win their acceptance, the MLA agree to legitimize the NFU and give pardons to its imprisoned leaders.

One of the people incarcerated was Sophia Brightchild. Her parents were among those killed at Stonehenge, when she was fourteen. She soon became active in the original NFU, but emerged as a respected and powerful leader of the newly legalized NFU. In an incredible show of bravery which

could well have cost her her life, Sophia declared publicly that she saw no reason why the NFU should intervene in the conflict while free access to nomadic sacred sites was still being denied.

Coincidentally at this time, RAGE steps up its campaign against the MLA. Finally, in desperation, the MLA concedes to the demands of the NFU. Amid much publicity, the MLA gifts control of Glastonbury to the NFU, who officially rename it Avalon. In addition, the MLA grants special Transit Dispensation to selected sites claimed as sacred by the NFU. The NFU welcomes the announcement, and reiterates the viewpoint under which it was first formed, that there is always a peaceable solution to any problem and that violence should always be avoided wherever possible. Shortly after, in another remarkable coincidence, terrorist attacks by RAGE radically decline, giving the MLA the breathing space it so much needed.

However, this was not the end of the MLA's continuing struggle with the nomads. Shortly after the amnesty was reached with RAGE, a splinter eco-terrorist group, "Morrigan's Fury," forms amongst the Cheviot tribes. It is comprised mainly of Scottish and Irish terrorists. The Furies have never stated any political aims and while RAGE concentrated their attacks on Agricultural Authority installations, Morrigan's Fury seem to have no compunction about eliminating people. Even the NFU have publicly denounced Morrigan's Fury, believing that it is influenced by outside sources such as the IRA and radical Scottish national groups, and the NFU have organized raids into Fury territory in an attempt to remove them but with little success.

Today, the nomads have yet another battle on their hands, this time to keep all that they have won over the past twenty five years. The newly formed Agri-Corp IMA is beginning to enforce land requisition. It practices enforced relocation of residents and the nomads occupy some of the most fertile land in the country. The struggle to maintain their way of life is not over yet and does not look to end in the near future.

What is Paganism?

Paganism has flourished in the United Kingdom, drawing more and more adherents as the 20th century came to a close. Not all travellers were Pagans, although the Triple Moon Clan is made up entirely of those who believe. In simplistic terms, Paganism means a feeling of love and kinship to the Earth and to Nature. The creed is both simple and profound: An' it harm none, do as you will. Pagans believe in polarity of the divine, worshipping both a god and a goddess. The God is regarded as the consort of the Goddess. He represents action and intellect, while the Goddess is



EARTH MOTHER COMMANDO

viewed in a triple aspect of child, mother and crone, governing dreams, introspection, fertility and death. The name of the Goddess varies from tribe to tribe. If you hear mentioned Danu, Isis, Ceridwen, Brigantia, Sophia, Phoebe or Hecate (to name a few), they refer to the same. The God too has several names, with Cemunnos, Herne and Dagda being among the most common.

The Pagan calendar consists of five main fire-festivals when great celebrations commemorating different events are held. The first is Imbolc, Candlemass or the Quickening, held on February 1. This festival represents bringing light into darkness, celebrating the fact that the winter is turning. Then comes Beltane or the Coupling. Celebrated on May 1, it is a fertility festival, where you will find Pagans singing, dancing and other things. Then comes Lammass, Lughnasad or the Birthing. Held on August 1, it celebrates the coming harvest. It is a time to give thanks for the bounty, and a time to harvest something fresh for your life. Then there is All Hallows Eve, Samhain or the Death Time. Celebrated on October 31,

it marks the coming of the winter. It is also a time to respect and honour the dead, and reputedly it signifies when the veil between our world and the spirit world is at its thinnest. It is best to avoid Pagan areas while they are celebrating Samhain. Finally there is Yule, held on December 21. Pagans do not celebrate Christmas, but instead harken back to this ancient festival where friends would gather, give gifts and light fires to tempt the sun back to the world.

In addition, you will also be able to see large Pagan gatherings at the sacred sites at the equinoxes and solstices held throughout the year.

Sophia Brightchild and the NFU

Sophia Brightchild is the current leader of the Natural Faith Union. Because the nomads rarely bother to register births or deaths with the government, her exact age is unknown,



SOPHIA BRIGHTCHILD

although she appears to be in her mid- to late twenties. She was around fourteen years old when her parents were killed at the Stonehenge Massacre, one of the pivotal events that led to the formation of both the MLA and the NFU in its original form.

With the travellers, there comes a philosophy of community, therefore with the death her natural parents, Sophia was raised by the entire tribe. She became a symbol against the violence of the authorities and the oppression of the travellers. In the aftermath of the massacre, Sophia's picture appeared in almost every newspaper and on every television station. Even now, the poignant shot of this young girl wandering amongst the bodies of the slain travellers, only to find the bloody corpses of her parents (while in the background, the the Henge is silhouetted against a blood-red sunset), is still one of the most famous images of recent journalism. It was even turned into an antigovernment poster with the caption "The Blood of the Earth is on Their Hands." Much to the dismay of the government, this poster began appearing everywhere, ensuring that people did not quickly forget about the massacre.

Within two years of the massacre, the NFU was founded. Sophia was to prove very active in the original organization, travelling around and raising money to finance their aims of providing for any travellers who wished to avail themselves of the NFU's resources. It aimed to provide medical aid, legal advice and even simple necessities like food for those who needed it. It was setting itself up as an alternative to state benefits for the travellers.

In a major public relations coup, the NFU was able to persuade the MLA to sell the Cheviot Hills, almost as an apology for the Stonehenge Massacre. Many travellers began congregating there to begin lives without harassment. However, the MLA was less enthusiastic when the NFU declared Glastonbury (see Regional Guide: Wessex) a sacred site and that all people should have right of access regardless of their religious denomination. The relationship between the MLA and the NFU, which had up until now at least been civil, if not exactly friendly, rapidly deteriorated with demand, refusal, counter-demand and so forth, until the MLA lost patience and summarily outlawed the NFU. Because of the swiftness of the decision, the majority of the leaders were arrested and imprisoned before they could escape. Sophia Brightchild was among them.

The leaders of the NFU were incarcerated without trial on the Isle of Wight Penal Colony for "an indefinite period." Normally such a sentence means a lifetime exile.

For the rest of the travellers, these people became living martyrs. And Sophia Brightchild's name became a rallying point once more. The MLA, however, had thought that they had solved the worst of their nomad problem.



ACCOSTED BY LONGBOATMEN

Unfortunately, the troubles were only just beginning. Within a few months of Sophia and the other NFU leaders being imprisoned, the MLA had to deal with a newly formed eco-terrorist group, RAGE.

It is a testament to the strength of Sophia Brightchild that she survived her imprisonment on the Isle of Wight. Three of the original NFU leaders died, but Sophia remained calm, strong, and dedicated to the cause of the travellers. She and her surviving comrades were to spend just over ten years on the colony before a reprieve was granted. Even today, she never speaks of her imprisonment, except to say that it was a Trial of the Goddess. When her release came, it was with the news that the MLA had agreed to allow the reformation of the NFU on the condition that it became active in attempting to stop the attacks of RAGE which had been going on now for over a decade.

With her release, Sophia became the head of the NFU, a position that no one questioned. It was almost as if she had been born to it. She immediately began renewing public awareness to the plight of the travellers in general. Then the MLA arranged a meeting with Sophia. It was during this meeting that Sophia made her now famous speech refusing any aid to the MLA as long as they continued to persecute Pagans by refusing them access to the various sacred sites around the country.

Desperate now for an end to RAGE, the MLA reluctantly agrees to gift Glastonbury to the NFU, and provide special Transit Dispensations for those who wish to make a pilgrimage there. Sophia accepts the MLA's offer, and in an historic speech, she officially renames Glastonbury as Avalon, and decries those who resort to violence to achieve their aims.

Within a few weeks, the attacks of RAGE come to a virtual halt. Today, Sophia is regarded as the Mother Guardian of all travellers. She is the sole head of the NFU. Her word has become virtual law amongst the nomads. Sophia is based in Glastonbury, but because she needs to be mobile, she travels around the country in an armored half-truck accompanied by her honor guard of travellers known as the Guild of Stag Dancers, a band of primarily male warriors whose creed is to safe-guard travellers. (These Dancers are not to be underestimated, as they are very well armed with late 20th century ex-Soviet weaponry smuggled in from the Baltic states, and, occasionally, the odd piece of ex-MLA equipment finds its way into their possession.) However, there is a rumour among the echelons of the new government that there is a growing movement within the travellers for Sophia to fulfill the Triple Aspect. She has been the Child, and now she is the Mother. Many believe that it is time for her to become the Hag Destroyer. The NFU deny all knowledge of this movement, but it is making the government very uneasy, which could possibly lead to renewed conflict between the authorities and the Travellers once more.

**"Long distance information...
Just tells me where the manholes steam...
A little girl waits on my station...
With a new machine...
...on Detonation Boulevard..."
— Sisters of Mercy, Detonation Boulevard**



PIRATE GIRL

A GAZETTEER OF TRIBES

The Children of Danu

Taking their name from the Tuatha de Danan of ancient Irish Mythology, they are found up around the Penines and the north west coast. As a tribe they tend to be peaceable, but this is believed to be a cover, as it is rumoured that the tribe has in fact been infiltrated by Irish terrorists as a base of operations in the U.K. While they are not violent in themselves, they have made it clear that they wish to be left alone, and are therefore very insular. Approach at your own risk. Identified by a black shamrock or a golden sickle (the latter often mistaken by the ill-informed as some kind of communist symbol).

The Guild of Stag Dancers

The Guild are largely drawn from members of the Triple Moon Clan, but this does not preclude them from coming

from other tribes. The Guild could loosely be described as a police force. They take it upon themselves to protect nomads from harassment, and to protect and prepare sacred sites around the country prior to religious festivals. Sophia Brightchild herself has a personal bodyguard drawn from members of the Guild, as do other high-ranking members of the NFLU. On rare occasions, the Guild has even been known to take action against travellers who have been causing problems and giving nomads in general a bad name. They never get involved in clan warfare, as they do not see it as their concern, unless it begins to affect other travellers who would be otherwise uninvolved. They can easily be identified by emblems of the stag. Of all the tribes, these are the most likely to carry cyberware, although it is usually low-key.

The Longboatmen

Taking their name from the old Viking raiders, they are an organised band of smugglers. Dominate the north east coast, from Whitley Bay and Tynemouth. It is the Longboatmen who are thought to be the largest arms dealers, monopolizing in ex-Soviet weaponry which many other clans use. They have few enemies amongst the Cheviot Hill clans and Scottish Nationalists, as all rely on their services. Because they operate on the north coast near Newcastle, little else is known about them. It is not known what identification the tribe use.

Mannannan's Bairn

From Stranraer to Anglesey, the west coast of Britain is under the total control of this pirate fleet leaving the Isle of Man only accessible by air. They are largely responsible for all the disruption of shipping from the west of Britain to Ireland. Not much is known about them because of their limited area of operation. It is believed that they tend to wear tattoos depicting cresting waves or horses. For safety, it is recommended that contact is avoided.

The Pendragon

Taking their name from Britain's greatest mythological hero, they are based in Wales (which they always refer to as Cymru), whose flag depicts a red dragon. They are largely Welsh nationalist. There is a tendency to clash with the Round Table Knights, a poser gang based in Bristol (see Eurosource). While they are violent, they are generally too focused on the one cause to have any other interests, or to pose much of a threat to outsiders (unless you are unlucky). Identified by dragon tattoos on their forearms.

Ravens and Rats

Almost a contradiction in terms, these are city travellers, congregating in the urban sprawls of all the major cities. They are a major problem for the Tourist Board who are are trying to clean up certain cities like London. The R&R provide street entertainment on the one hand, and organized petty crime such as pick pocketing on the other. They often find themselves in conflict with established crime families as well as the authorities. They are loosely organized, thus making it hard for the authorities to track them down and eradicate them. Because of their nature, they do not wear identifiers.

The Sacred Hoop

Tend to follow the philosophy of Native American Shamanism. They travel in small groups, and are usually peaceful. They are identified by their clothing, which is usually simple and colorful, and often includes feathers and bone attached to their clothing somewhere.

Spiral Tribe

The antithesis of the Triple Moon Clan, the Spiral Tribe are probably the second largest of the tribes, and just as wide spread as the Triple Moons. The Spiral Tribe, however, manufacture and supply drugs, and then proceed to organize rave parties at which their drugs are sold. They are extremely violent, especially when defending their business. Noone knowingly crosses them without a very good reason. They are easily identified by a pattern of concentric rings, often sewn into clothing, although it is often tattooed on their bodies as well.

Triple Moon Clan

These are the largest of all the New Age travellers' groups, and are generally peaceable. The majority are followers of Pagan and Wicca and believers in the Triple Goddess. Sophia Brightchild and her parents were of this tribe. They travel around in large groups, setting up markets and festivals, where they sell their craft and provide old fashioned services such as tinkers and cobblers. There is hardly a part of the country that does not host at least one tribe of the Triple Moon Clan. They can be usually identified by rainbow and psychedelic painted trucks and vans. Individually, they tend to wear pentagrams, as either earrings, rings or pendants.

The Wild Hunt

A large Biker gang, akin to Hell's Angels. They are feared, but not usually violent unless provoked. During time of the

MLA, they made a name for themselves by their constant goading of the Transit Police. They are concentrated on the roads of the south and the midlands, although they are no where near as dangerous as the Jackknife gangs to the north. This does not mean, however, that they are not dangerous. They usually wear the furs of dogs, and carry depictions of wolfheads on their bikes and clothing.

The New Highwaymen

A relatively new phenomenon in the rapidly fragmenting north of England, and the prime targets of the new beefed-up Transit Police, the so called Jackknife gangs are high speed high-jackers, most commonly found on the main north bound arterial roads such as the A1, M1 and the M6. Anyone travelling further north than Leeds in the east or Blackburn in the west on either the M6 or the A1(M) do so at their own risk. The city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne has now become virtually isolated, with the Longboatmen controlling



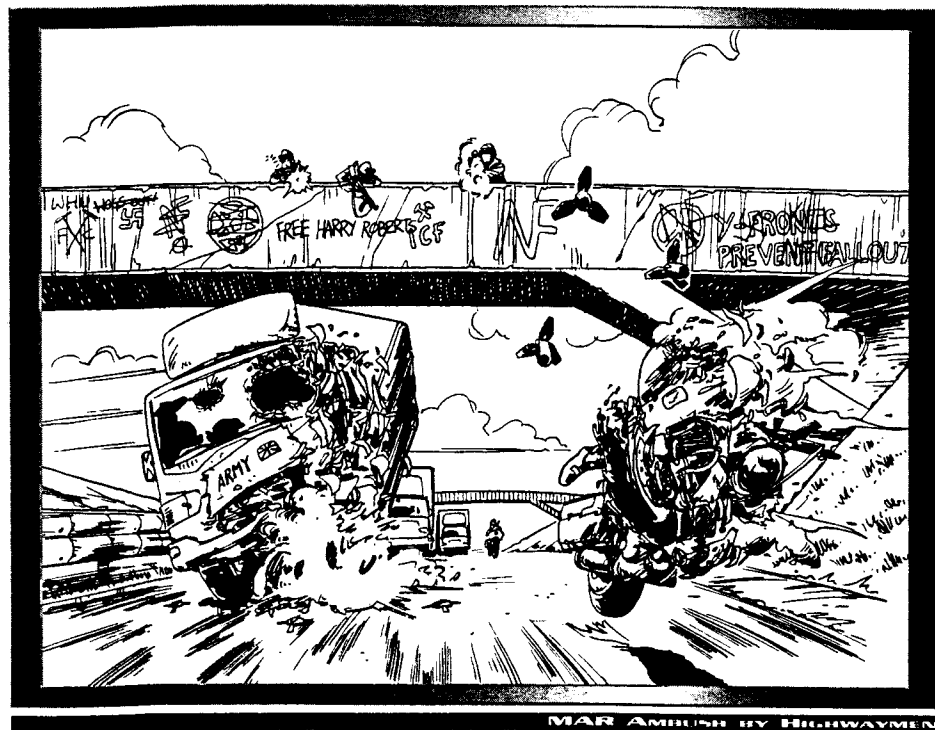
SPIRAL TRIBE NOMADS

access by sea and the Jackknife gangs controlling the roads, leaving only the air routes reasonably secure (and even a few aircraft have been shot down approaching the city, although no one knows by whom). The Jackknifers employ hit and run tactics, using a whole host of weaponry from machine guns and rocket launchers to rivet guns fired at the wheels of vehicles. They vanish quickly after each attack, hiding out in the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the West York Moors National Park, making them almost impossible to find. Gang names such as Road Rats, Max Madness and Screaming Speed, are becoming part of popular culture—much to the chagrin of the new government in London.

The Cheviot Hills Clans

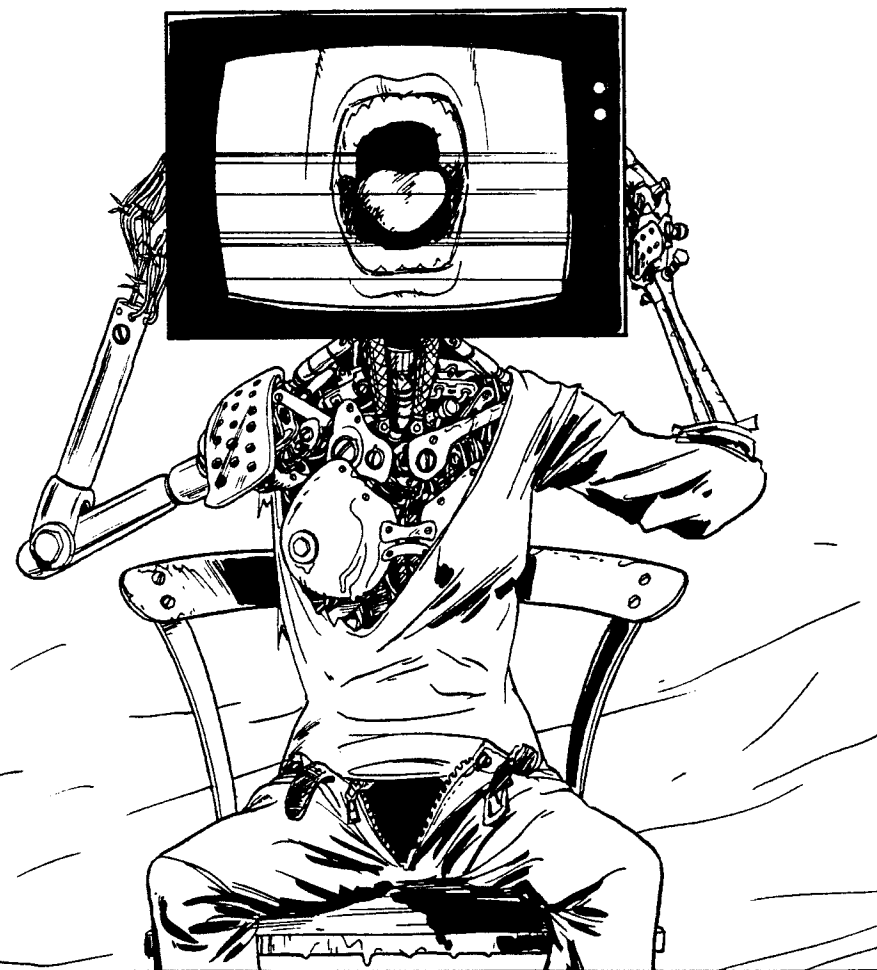
Since its inception some seventeen years ago, The Cheviot Hills has now become the primary domain of the

born-again Celts in all their rumored blood-drinking and human-sacrificing glory. It has to be stressed that nothing is truly known about this area. People who enter uninvited do not come out again, including, a much-publicized undercover UKT investigative reporter. It is this total ignorance of what really goes on in the hills that generates the most fear. Even the most street-hardened solos of Newcastle refuse jobs that involve contact with these clans, no matter what money is being offered. Among the more popular development of modern folklore includes tales of druidic sacrifice, head-hunting thanes and cannibalism. The government is now so desperate to control the hills, that they are on the verge of asking the NFU to intervene on their behalf. The only thing holding them back is the fear of what the NFU will demand in return for their services this time. One belief is they will require complete control of the New Forest to provide a haven for travellers in the south.



MAR AMBUSH BY HIGHWAYMEN

THE MEDIA



LIKE MANY ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE MEDIA IS UNDERGOING RADICAL CHANGES AT THE MOMENT, REVEALLING IN ITS NEW-FOUND FREEDOM SINCE THE ENDING OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY. HOWEVER, THIS FREEDOM HAS TO BE TREATED VERY CAREFULLY. MANY OF THE CONTROLS OF THE OLD MLA ARE STILL IN PLACE, OTHERS ARE UNDERGOING REVIEWS BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES, AND THE VARIOUS BROADCASTING COMPANIES ARE BEING CAUTIOUS LESS AN INDISCRETION ON THEIR PART SHOULD BRING THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE MORE SEVERE CENSORSHIP THAT THEY HAD TO SUFFER UNDER THE RULE OF THE MLA.

THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

As in the United States, the media in the United Kingdom has always enjoyed what has colloquially been termed "freedom of the press," despite the lack of an equivalent to the First Amendment to actually guarantee this right under law.

During the end of the 20th century, both television and newspaper reporting came under heavy governmental criticism and review for certain journalistic "scoops," most of which concerned themselves with intimate revelations of the private lives of many public personages, including members of the then-in-power government, and the old Royal Family. (The mother of Queen Victoria II was one of these that suffered from these indiscretions being made public.)

Despite the failure of several earlier attempts, by the end of the century legislation had finally been introduced to curb such disclosures being made public in the future. This legislation was largely possible only due to the fact that all printed news was compiled under data- and word-processing systems. It was comparatively simple to have electronic copies of the days' papers sent to the offices of the National Press Overview Committee, where the "papers" were read, edited where necessary and then retransmitted back to the editorial offices of the newspaper concerned, prior to physical printing. (This is something that no one has ever been able to adequately explain—Why, in this era of data-terms, do the British still like to read a traditional newspaper?)

Television was a little harder to control. Instead, the associate National Broadcasting Overview Committee became responsible for the scrutiny of all documentary, political and news broadcasts. The television companies were required by law to provide the committee with video tape of all programs

falling under the brief of the committee for review and censoring. This virtually ended all live broadcasts of a topical nature. Even institutions such as the BBC's Nine O'Clock News was now recorded around three in the afternoon, to allow the committee time to view and censor the tape and then to allow additional "harmless" news to be recorded to make up the length. Then, in 1999, barely a year after the MLA had come to power, the NPOC and the NBOC were amalgamated to form the Public Information Office, whose task it was not merely to censor the media but to actually provide approved news to the public.

With the abolition of the Monarchy, and the introduction of Martial Law, the PIO became one of the most important departments of the new protectorate. Travel became more and more restricted until it was virtually impossible to leave one community and travel to another without numerous permits. Because of this, Britain became more and more akin to medieval times, where villages waited eagerly for travellers to come, bringing with the news from other communities, especially the cities. In the early 21st century, instead of travellers, the public relied totally upon the news service for information. Thus, by controlling the media, the MLA was able to ensure that the public knew only what the authorities wanted them to know.

However, it was not long before underground news bulletins were set up, mainly on data-terms and other electronic news networks, although a few illegal TV stations also began transmitting. Many top journalists, frustrated at not being able to report accurately the news, risked their careers (not to mention their lives) by moonlighting for these pirate news services. This eventually led to another department being formed within the PIO, whose sole function was to shut down all pirate news transmissions, and arrest those associated with them. Right from the outset, stiff penalties were introduced for those found guilty, beginning with a minimum five year sentence on the Isle of Wight Penal Colony.

While many of the smaller pirate organizations were shut down, and extreme punishments passed as an example to others, several of the bigger studios were able to survive undiscovered. This was largely due to secret corporate financing. Many of the corporations found that martial law severely affected their profits, and thus began working to overthrow the government in order to allow their business to thrive once more. Under a collective, which the MLA termed as "The Cartel" (the MLA were never able to find out much more about this mysterious organisation), they began first of all by secretly financing the more successful pirate stations and then by beginning movements to find a legitimate heir to the British throne in order to re-establish the Monarchy. It did not take long for the pirate stations to support this move and begin the call for the restoration of the Monarchy, as they too saw it as a way of overthrowing the government and the abolishment of Martial Law.

THE MEDIA TODAY

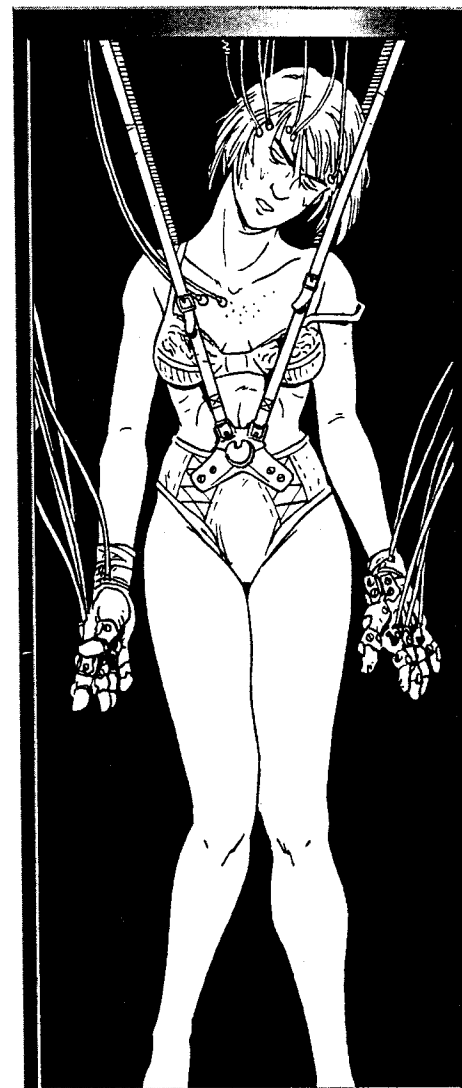
Ironically, the pirate stations became the victims of the very thing that they were set up to combat. Either they were unaware of, or chose to ignore, the fact that they were being manipulated by their patron corporations. Granted, it was not as overt as the PIO simply telling the official news stations what they could or could not broadcast, but it was there nonetheless. Because they had become completely dependent upon the money (and sometimes equipment) made available to them by the corporations, they tended to listen to the "suggestions" made to them by the corporations as to what should be included in their broadcasts. At the beginning, the pirates broadcast genuine, accurate news and apart from decrying the censorship that brought them into being, they avoided overt political opinions from coloring their bulletins. However, after a few years they became more and more critical of the MLA and became strong proponents of the re-establishment of the Monarchy. This shift in broadcasting policy was undoubtedly due to the influence of the corporations.

With the recent collapse of Martial Law, the media has once again been freed from many of the constraints under which it has been forced to operate under the last quarter of a century. However, as yet there is still no proper freedom of the press and the various broadcasting and publishing establishments still have to be careful about what information they convey to the public.

The more powerful corporations who now control the Monarchy have not yet abolished the PIO. Initially they wanted the news services firmly on their side and so allowed them virtually a free hand in their transmissions. Of course, many of the broadcasters voiced their relief at the ending of censorship by praising the corporations and detailing extensively how life undoubtedly improve under the benevolent guidance of corporations like the IMA. However, the corporations were not quite ready to allow complete freedom of speech, but at the same time they did not wish to alienate the press in the same manner that the MLA had done. The PIO no longer issues news but still censors it. However, this is done "in the public's interest" and not "in the interest of National Security." In addition, the corporations are openly very supportive of the media and feed them the scoops and exclusives that they want the public to know about.

The News in Print

There are numerous local newspapers which cover the news for individual cities or the various regions of the United Kingdom. These papers, weekly, are printed and distributed locally, but are available nationwide via data-terms, usually costing between £0.50 and £2 to access them electronically (add approximately £2 to the cost for a hard-copy). There are only three national newspapers in circulation. These too are available on data-



1EN NETRUNNER AT WORK

terms, but for those who wish hard-copies of the paper, the publishers provide a fax service where the entire paper will be faxed to the subscriber, who only needs to fold the pages in half to have a "proper" newspaper.

The U.K. Bulletin

The first of these is the U.K. Bulletin. It is published daily and costs £1.50 to view at a data-term or £4.75 to have it faxed. The Bulletin was the "official" newspaper of the MLA. It was published with full PIO approval, and always supported the MLA in everything it did. Despite its hard-line attitude, it was very popular simply because it was the cheapest of all the national papers. The Bulletin is still published although its popularity is waning. While no longer openly supporting the now-abolished MLA or what it stood for, it remains the least enthusiastic about the restoration of the Monarchy and the greater political influence of the corporations. However, the general public, tired of years of Martial Law, are not interested in reading about "how good it was before." They would rather spend a little more of their hard-earned cash and buy a paper that contains the sort of news that they want to read.

It is said that the only reason why the Bulletin has not been closed down is that the current government want at least to give the appearance of supporting a democracy. Therefore, by allowing the continued publication of a paper that is ostensibly against them, democracy appears to be served. In addition, the government is a little frightened that if they tried to ban it outright, those that genuinely wish the return of the MLA would take it underground. The government has already seen to its benefit how effective a pirate news service can be, and so that would be the last thing that was wanted. They would rather keep it in the open where the Bulletin can be monitored.

The Guardian

The Guardian is published weekly, and takes its name from a newspaper published during the late 20th century. In its current form it began life as the most popular of the pirate news services. During Martial Law it was only available via data-term at a cost of £3. It constantly criticized the MLA and its policy of censorship. The name was chosen as the publishers saw themselves as "the guardians of truth until the day comes when it can be spoken openly once more." Five of its journalists were sentenced to the Isle of Wight Penal Colony, where one of them died under mysterious circumstances. Within a year of the Monarchy being restored, the four survivors were released by Royal decree among much publicity and promised that The Guardian would continue publishing, albeit openly.

The newspaper today has a very strong following and costs £7 from a data-term or £11 for a fax. The paper still takes its

name seriously, and while it generally approves and encourages many of the changes that have occurred recently, it is still not above criticizing the corporations or the government when it feels that they have done something wrong. Because of the overall favorable support of the paper, however, the PIO usually turns a blind eye, although it has censored the paper a couple of times in the recent past. Instead of replacing the censored items with other news, the Guardian has left the relevant pages blank, ensuring that the public knew that it had been the subject of censorship.

Recently The Guardian has bought itself a television news service, Guardian News, so it can bring the news to those who cannot read. It hopes that by putting pressure on the PIO from a second outlet, it can bring an end to all censorship once and for all.

The Royal Times (formerly The Times)

The Times is Britain's oldest national newspaper and it continues to this day. It takes pride in the fact that it has printed the news for several hundred years, and through all sorts of crises, both foreign and domestic, including two world wars. It sees its history as being synonymous with integrity. During Martial Law, many of its top journalists moonlighted for the pirate news services, and were among the strongest supporters of the corporation's plan to re-establish the Monarchy. While The Times followed PIO guidelines to the letter, the Underground Times did everything it could in print to undermine the MLA. On the day of the coronation of our long-awaited Queen, the paper changed its name to the Royal Times to mark its approval of events.

It remains the staunchest supporter of the Monarchy, the new government, and the corporation's plans to build "a greater prosperity for a Greater Britain." Its critics (mainly the Bulletin) maintain that the paper is being controlled by the PIO, although this has never been proven. The Royal Times, however, insists that they are completely independent of any outside editorial control, printing the news as they believe it should be printed and voicing opinions that they think are the best for the country.

The Royal Times is published daily, and costs £5.50 from a data-term or £8 for a faxed copy. It is the most financially secure of the three nationals, and it demonstrates this by frequently donating large amounts of money to various corporation sponsored charities. It is the most popular of all the papers, and this popularity was given another boost recently when the Queen officially approved its name. Before this, the addition of the word "Royal" was seen as presumptuous by its rivals; now The Royal Times comments on their pettiness at picking on a name, rather than on real issues.



EXTREME CLOSE-UP!

The News in Vision

Television broadcasting did not have as many pirate services as the newspapers. This was because it was far easier for the PIO to trace TV transmissions than it was to try and track down the papers. However, there were two mobile TV stations that managed to survive throughout the control of the MLA and many of the journalists of the legal TV stations did their own share of moonlighting for the pirates.

Television today is highly specialized, with different channels concentrating on a particular type of programming, such as news, light entertainment, music and so on. Competition between rival channels with similar programming styles is quite fierce, with each station vying with the others for the best ratings.

The B.B.C.

The British Broadcasting Corporation is the oldest broadcasting establishment in the world. It has always prided itself on objec-

tive reporting, pride that took a blow under the auspices of the PIO. It was decreed that because of its very name, the BBC should become the official voice of the MLA. This angered many of its journalists, who began working anonymously for the pirate stations, while parroting the official news for the BBC.

The Beeb (as it is affectionately known) has five channels. BBC1 is the main news station, providing news updates every hour on the hour, with major bulletins at 9am, 1pm, 6pm and 9pm. In between the news, pro-royalty features are broadcast, utilizing the wealth of archive footage that the BBC has at its disposal going back almost one hundred years. BBC2 concentrates on light entertainment, originally approved by the MLA to keep the population content, and which has not really changed with their collapse. Too many of the shows proved genuinely too popular to be cancelled. BBC3 provides twenty four hour music, while BBC4 caters to those who enjoy sports. BBC5 is dedicated to documentaries of all types, whose content is also monitored by the PIO for anything that ought not to be transmitted.

A Typical TV Listing

Listed below is a complete day's television for two of Britain's television stations. BBC1 is a news station, and UKT2 is a light entertainment station.

BBC1

- 05.55: National Anthem, played over a photo of Queen Victoria II.
- 06.00: **New Dawn, New Day:** Wake up Britain, with Annie Allen and James Irving as they bring to you all the morning news and light entertainment to start you on your day.
- 09.00: **News A.M.:** Our first major bulletin, with Fiona Mason and Thomas Archer.
- 10.25: The Weather, including smog and acid rain forecasts for the day.
- 10.30: **City News:** Stocks, shares and investments. All the latest from the Market with William Reynolds.
- 11.00: **News Headlines** with Annie Allen and James Irving.
- 11.10: **News International:** Overseas reports with our foreign correspondents from all four corners of the globe. Presented by Jeff O'Brien.
- 12.00: **News Headlines** with Annie Allen and James Irving.
- 12.10: **A Message from our Queen:** Queen Victoria II addresses the nation.
- 12.30: **Compass Point:** Regional News for your area. With Cassandra King.
- 13.00: **News 13:** The one o'clock bulletin with Fiona Mason and Thomas Archer.
- 14.25: Weather Update.
- 14.30: **A Treasured Crown:** Today features the wedding of Queen Victoria II's mother to Prince Andrew. Vintage footage from 1986. With Richard Lowe.
- 15.00: **News Headlines** with Fiona Mason and Thomas Archer.
- 15.10: **Travel Today:** Thinking of a journey? Find out any current restrictions, permit requirements, or gang trouble, and plan your route accordingly. Presented by Grant Morgan.
- 15.45: **In Parliament:** From Westminster all the latest political news. Presented by Jeff O'Brien. (Please note that the transmission of this program is subject to PIO approval. In the case of an abridged transmission, or a cancellation, we will show again—by popular request—that historic moment when our glorious Queen returned once more to her country).
- 16.30: **KidNews:** All the day's news specially presented for our younger viewers. Presented by Melinda Stewart.
- 17.00: **News Headlines** with Cassandra King and Grant Morgan.

- 17.10: **A Message from our Queen:** Queen Victoria II addresses the nation. (Shown earlier at 12.10).
- 17.30: **Public Service Broadcast.**
- 17.40: **Focus on Royalty:** Part Twenty Three of our in depth history of the British Monarchy. Tonight, Queen Victoria I. Narrated by James Archer.
- 18.00: **News at Six:** The early evening bulletin with Cassandra King and Richard Lowe.
- 19.30: **NewsQuiz:** Quiz show when contestants have to answer questions on the preceding week's news. Among tonight's star prizes includean ETB permit for two to a tourist reservation if your choice and a year's supply of IMA vouchers. Hosted by Bob Preston and the ever-lovely Linda Ash.
- 20.00: **City News Update:** William Reynolds brings you all the day's financial news from the city.
- 20.20: **20/20 Vision:** Slowly but surely, life continues to improve under the new government, guided by our Queen. Melinda Stewart looks ahead at the good times in store for us all.
- 21.00: **News Tonight:** The main evening news bulletin bringing you all the latest news from home and around the world with Cassandra King and Grant Morgan.
- 23.00: The Weather, tomorrow's forecast.
- 23.05: **News and Faith:** Topics discussion on today's news. Tonight your guest presenters are the Reverend George Matthews from the Church of England and Bridgit Starwind from the NFU.
- 23.55: National Anthem, played over a photo of Queen Victoria II
- 00.00: **Classic Royalty:** A chance to see classic moments in the history of our Royal Family, including the entire coronation ceremonies of Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III, and our own beloved Queen Victoria II. Ends at 05.55

UKT2

- 05.00: **Wakey Wakey:** Join Colin Spencer, Madeleine Griffin and Jennifer Mallowan for four hours of fun-filled madness (with the occasional bit of news) to whet your appetite for the day to come.
- 09.00: **Hopscotch:** The popular quiz show that tests contestants' wits and agility. Hosted by Jay Chatworth.
- 09.30: **Holiday '22:** Planning your vacation? Today's program focuses on the delights on offer from the ETB; with Judith Chambers.
- 10.30: **Coronation Street:** We continue to show a double episode of this classic TV series from the twentieth century.
- 11.30: **EuroQuiz:** How much do YOU really know about Europe? EuroQuiz has all the answers. Hosted by Remyard DuPont and Alison Murray
- 12.00: **Midday News:** What's going on at home and in the rest of the world. Presented by Claire Bennet and Mark Talbot.
- 13.00: **U.K. Afternoon:** Spent another pleasant afternoon in the company of Max Ferguson and Beverly Mitchell. Tired of pre-pack or lobbied? Learn how to prepare a traditional English roast with Margaret Astall (cookery equipment kindly supplied by IMA).
- 15.30: **Corporate Talk:** We all know the corporations are involved in many new innovations and projects, but which will affect you and how? Jolie Croft looks at what we can expect to see in the near future.
- 16.30: **Children Only:** Kids, send your parents out into the kitchen. The next two hours are for you only. Cartoons, jokes and lots of other fun and games with Andy Moore and Willy the Wolf.
- 18.30: **Evening News:** Claire Bennet and Mark Talbot with the latest news and weather.
- 19.30: **Nature Alive:** A fascinating documentary on British animals in the wild today. You won't believe what could be living just round the corner from your house.
- 20.30: **Music Scene:** What's cold, what's hot, what's hip, and what's not! Steve Savage brings to you all the best and not so best in today's music. Phone in for a chance to have your favorite classic played on air. Dial 071 381-273-6565-2554 and leave your request.
- 21.30: **Dear Mums, I'm in the M.L.A.:** Farical comedy set at the height of the M.L.A. Tonight's episode: Jo has trouble in his new assignment when he mixes up orders regarding effluent disposal in LONDURB-MARLAUTH. As the problem escalates, something begins to smell...
- 22.00: **Night News:** Claire Bennet and Mark Talbot with a final round-up of the day's events.
- 22.30: **Film '22:** A look at what's currently playing at the cinema with Barry Norman, Jr.
- 23.20: **Night Owl:** For all you insomniacs out there, a whole night of films and classic U.K. and American TV programs. Tonight's classic choice—Dalla Ends at 05.00.

Independent Television

There are several regional independent television stations all of which have a single channel which combine the various programming styles provided by the BBC and the three national independent stations. These three nationals, sometimes together, more often on their own, try many techniques (some legal, others not) to attempt to win ratings from the BBC. With the abolition of the MLA, many of the pirate anchor-men were keenly sought by the independents. These men and women had become household celebrities, and were offered enormous salaries to turn legitimate. It was believed that they would woo viewers from rival channels. This has been reasonably effective although recently, opposing channels have resorted to smear campaigns, implying that these reporters are not as clean-cut as their public image has made them out to be.

U.K. Today

UKT is the largest of the independent nationals. It has three channels, and is currently bidding for a fourth. It has a strong rivalry with the new Guardian News, not least because GN obtained the last channel that UKT were after. UKT1 is a news and documentary station. It transmits three one-hour bulletins throughout the day at noon, 7pm and 10pm. Like BBC5, its documentaries have to be passed by the PIO, although it is generally more complimentary to the corporations than the BBC. Because of this, it receives far more assistance from the corporations for favorable reporting. UKT2 combines light entertainment and music, while UKT3 is the sports channel, showing traditional British sports, as well as the ever popular EscapAID.

The Independent Broadcasting Network

The IBN was formed from the remnants of the old Independent Television (ITV) network of the late 20th century. It controls all of the regional stations, as well as running two national stations under its own banner. IBN1 is classified as general entertainment, broadcasting all categories of programs, including news updates. IBN2 is the full time news station, providing twenty-four hour news. It is currently in a contract war with the BBC, as it is attempting to poach Cassandra King, one of the Beeb's most popular anchorwomen.

The Guardian News

The newest of the independent nationals, GN has at the moment only one channel, although it is bidding against UKT

for a second. It began broadcasting only seven months ago, and it only broadcasts news, but its station is becoming more and more popular. Drawing as it does from its newspaper division, GN provides a balanced look at the news in probably the most objective fashion of all the nationals. In addition, having three ex-pirates anchoring its twenty-four hour broadcasts, the public seem to have really taken to GN when they wish to watch the news.

WORKING IN THE MEDIA

For a determined reporter, the current climate is as close to journalistic heaven as they are ever likely to get. Whether it is a story of corporations forcing people out of their homes for land redevelopment, trying to infiltrate a nomad pack for an in-depth report on their lifestyle, or travelling north to the border lands to investigate reports of mysterious disappearances, a reporter needs to be alert, capable and where possible have very good back-up.

A standard reporting team consists of the reporter and two technicians. The station will usually assign them either an armored van or an AV unit containing all their equipment such as hand-held cameras, mini-cams for covert filming and a satellite up-link for direct transmission to the studio. At least one of the technicians will usually have a good firearms and unarmed combat skill in addition to his technical expertise.

However, back-up and support is not always available. If a reporter is going into a story undercover, then they will only have their own wits to rely on, in addition to the relatively small amounts of personal equipment that they might be able to smuggle in with them. In such cases, a contact point is usually arranged in advance, where the reporter can get in touch with the studio to relay information or call for help. If a scheduled contact is missed twice in a row, the studio will begin planning an extraction, but because this means the investigation will be blown, they try to avoid this wherever possible. The scoop is everything and the risks are part of the job.

A very good example of the risks involved in working in the media occurred only a couple of years ago. For several years now, the clans who had made their homes in the Cheviot Hills have had rumors build around them. Stories of extreme acts of violence, including blood-sacrifice, have become almost legendary.

Much of the speculation arises from the fact that nobody who enters the area uninvited (and few are ever invited into the area) ever return to tell of what really goes on within the dense woods. In an attempt to get to the bottom of what exactly is going on within the Hills, UKT decided on an ambitious undercover operation. One of their top reporters, Carol Lewis,

"Thank you all for your support during my 'detainment.' It's nice to know that being a Royalist is in vogue again. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a story to file on prison conditions ..."

— Cassandra King, aka. Sandra Royale, upon her release from the Isle of Wight

tegan a daring operation. Initially she spent a year with the Triple Moor Clan, learning their ways and beliefs in order to give herself a good background. Then she headed north to the Cheviot Hills. One report was made, saying that she had contacted one of the tribes within. Carol Lewis has never been seen since.

UKT organized an extraction. A party of solos was dispatched to get Lewis out of the area. Only one returned. Jameson Blade reported that his comrades had been killed. He refused to say anything more about what had happened. Shortly after, he retired from the solo business and it is rumored that he now lives in Glastonbury (Avalon). UKT was unable to arrange another attempt. After news of the first failure reached other solos they began demanding more money than UKT was prepared to invest in rescuing one missing reporter.

As to what happened to Carol Lewis, many rumors now surround her. The majority say that she was killed, either straight out or as the living sacrifice in some ancient and barbaric ritual. Another rumor, less common (but with greater weight), is that Lewis has been adopted by one of the tribes. Her time with the Triple Moon Clan altered her way of looking at things and she has settled in the Hills, married to a Celtic warrior, with fine children to succeed their father. But, of course all these are rumors. As to what really happened, it is unlikely that anyone will ever know...

Media Personalities

Annie Allen

Annie Allen is the main host of the BBC's *New Dawn*, *New Day* breakfast program, along with James Irving. Chosen because of her (some might say) excessively lively personality, her trademark is her long blonde hair which tends to be a little unkempt, looking as though she has just got out of bed, despite her otherwise immaculate appearance. She lacks the air of seriousness required to present the later news programs, but copes well enough reading the headlines. Annie was originally in the Beeb's Research department, and still has many friends there. She is well aware of how she appears to others, but she desperately wants to be taken as a serious reporter. Her ambition is to crack some big story wide open, allowing her superiors to recognize her talent as a thorough investigator. To this end, she still spends a lot of her free time in Research, trying to piece together the possible leads to the story that will get her abilities recognized.

Claire Bennet

Claire Bennet co-presents all of UKT2's news bulletins with Mark Tabot. Quite young, she only broke into broadcasting

during the last days of the MLA, originally working with the BBC. UKT liked her innocent approach, and offered her the chance to actually present their news, rather than just being one of numerous reporters for the Beeb. This opportunity arose after another popular UKT reporter, Carol Lewis, disappeared while investigating the Clans in the Cheviot Hills. She has proven very popular, but UKT are still losing the ratings war against the BBC. It is rumored that as soon as they can find a replacement for her, UKT are going to give Claire her own program, *Bennet about Britain*, confirming their faith in her abilities.

James Irving

James Irving partners Annie Allen in hosting *New Dawn*, *New Day*, the BBC's early morning breakfast show. Being a very stolid, sober man, he is the perfect foil to Annie's more bubbly persona. Originally a pirate during the days of the MLA, he first began working for the IBN network, before being offered a large salary to co-host the morning show. He reads the more serious news headlines and handles technical crises with aplomb, while Annie tends to collapse into hysterical laughter. Because of his time as a pirate, James has a highly developed sense of morality regarding cover-ups and censorship. He despises both, and will always assist anyone who can prove that such a cover-up is taking place.

Cassandra King

Without a doubt the most popular of all the pirates who have turned legitimate, Cassandra King has a very large following of fans who tune in simply to see her. Incredibly attractive, without any biosculpting (despite some malicious rumors to the contrary), she is also quick and intelligent. Under the alias of Sandra Royale, she led the pirates in the call to restore the Monarchy. Arrested in 2019 and sent to the Isle of Wight Penal Colony, she spent nearly two years there before receiving a royal pardon. While incarcerated, Cassandra found that Sandra Royale had become a virtual living martyr. She is honest, inquisitive and tenacious. Her program supervisors usually allow her to go her own way as long as it is not going to cross the PIO. In addition to presenting the BBC's evening news and their regional news programs, she also investigates her own stories. Whenever she is absent for any length of time, her viewers know that when she returns, she will have a scoop well worth waiting for. At the moment, she is caught in a contract war with UKT. They want Cassandra to present their news programs, but she has refused their offer so far. No one knows whether it is out of loyalty to the Beeb, or whether she is waiting for a more lucrative offer. However, Cassandra has never been heard to complain about her salary from the BBC.



THE BBC'S A. ALLEN AND J. IRVING

Mark Tabot

The only ex-pirate working for UKT, Mark Tabot is the channel's biggest celebrity. With Claire Bennet, he presents all the news bulletins for UKT2. Mark is generally level-headed, but not above taking a few risks for the sake of a good story. He used to work with "Sandra Royale" during the days of the MLA and this is one of the reasons why UKT is trying to poach Cassandra King from the BBC. They believe that if they can reunite these two ex-pirates again, this time working legitimately, they will have the perfect formula to win viewers from the Beeb. Mark himself has publicly expressed a desire to work with his friend Cassandra again, and while Cassandra has so far expressed no interest in moving, she has been reported as saying that if she did decide to switch, it would be good to work with Mark Tabot once more.

THE UNITED KINGDOM: A VISITOR'S GUIDE



IN A MOMENT OF CONSCIENTIOUS MADNESS WE SENT OUT A GANG OF INTREPID EXPENSE ACCOUNTS TO DISCOVER WHAT THEY COULD FIND IN AROUND BRITAIN. "USE YOUR IMAGINATION," I SAID, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DID. SO HERE IS THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS, WE CAN ONLY PRAY THAT IT IS OF SOME USE AND DOESN'T BRING ABOUT YOUR UNTIMELY DEMISE. — EDITOR

The Guide is divided into two main sections, general information about travel, geography, food and drink, music and the arts; and local information in which we take you on a tour around the regions of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland and their metropolises. GOOD LUCK!

TRAVEL

Getting around the U.K. is hard—deliberately so. The M.L.A. did not maintain many of the minor roads and rail links so that the population could be more easily controlled. The motorway system, along with various 'A' roads, were designated as Major/Military Access Road Systems (MARS) or Corridors. These were kept in good condition by the military along with the main line rail network for the fast deployment of troops. All other roads and branch lines were allowed to fall into disrepair. Both the Corridors and the MARS rail lines are controlled by British United Tourism and Travel plc and are run for profit—a toll is charged on all main roads.

Aero-vehicles are also required to fly on set routes which normally follow either the Corridors or the main lines. This is ostensibly to avoid mid-air collisions with any military or commercial aircraft. Others say they don't want people seeing what's happening in the nomad areas. All vehicles are required to file flight plans—any deviation from the flight path will be considered an offence—in certain areas (Scotland, Borders, North Wales and East Anglia) this will be met with by ultimate force.

Those who stray off the Corridors aren't treated nearly as harshly—if you're dumb enough to stray off the main road in your nice shiny Jaguar-MacLaren XJV50 then you're too stupid to bother about!

Obviously all this wealth bombing up and down the motorway at high speeds keeps those Nomads nice and interested. They regularly ambush drivers in the more remote areas, so be careful. British United Tourism and Travel keep fast response units at the various service stations up and down the country to counter any trouble. These BUTT-heads, as they are known by Nomads, are fairly well equipped and can call on the Police Corridor Tactical Response Unit if things get a little dicey. In the Border areas, North Wales and East Anglia, this role is undertaken by the Combined Forces.

The problem is that while the British Government claims to have total control over these roads, this is not the case. Most MARS in southern Britain are safe along with those near any district administrative center or sensitive site (such as Holy Loch submarine base or Dounray atomic power park). However a lot of the roads elsewhere are not so secure. A Major Access road is maintained to as near perfect condition as is possible so that if a relief convoy needs to be sent, the state of the road can be relied upon (in theory at any rate). Those looking for jobs can easily find one as a guard to one of the road crews repairing the carriageway in the more dangerous areas. Techies can also find a job maintaining the equipment needed to repair the road.

Each road is given a safety rating—a value ranging from one to five with one being totally safe. These ratings are given to the traveller when he pays his toll to join the MARS. This is printed on the back of the receipt and gives the status of the MARS in 250 mile radius of your present location. If you travel outside that radius, then you can easily obtain one at any of the MARS service stations for a nominal fee.

The main roads to avoid are (again) those in North Wales Scotland/Borders and East Anglia. These roads are only safe around such areas as Holy Loch (near Glasgow), Dounray atomic energy park (near Thurso), Peterborough and Holyhead. If you need to travel these roads, its best to travel as part of a convoy (either private or military). If you can't, then I suggest you just floor it and hope for the Gods to favor you.

All access into Scotland is restricted as only one MARS enters from England. All those wishing to enter must either have the relevant Military or Corporate pass or the Full Tourist ticket.

This position is mirrored in London especially since the bombing of the Thames Flood Barrier has resulted in half of East London being underwater, thereby closing down most of the Underground system. Most roads inside what used to be the M25 are actually designated as MARS, but of course, that is just too many to actually control. Generally those to the East of London are unsafe—especially after dark.

As for the Underground—a few of the lines remain in operation, specifically the Waterloo & City, Piccadilly, Victoria, Jubilee, and Bakerloo lines (i.e., those that go nowhere near the East End and didn't require much work to repair and isolate from the other lines.) BUTT is implementing a reclamation policy and regularly sends survey teams into the old Underground system—a lot don't return. The British Rail network (now operated by British United Tourism and Travel) in London was less affected and along with a relatively new tram system is now used to get around the city.

The military and some of the major Corps also use the old Post Office private system to move their more sensitive goods around — along with their troops.

Vehicular access to the city has been restricted since the early 1990's and private cars are now banned from Central London (this does not, of course, include those on official corporate or government business). This ban also extends to Aero-vehicles and any unauthorized vehicle flying over the Cities of London or Westminster will be shot down. (They obviously don't worry about the damage caused by the crash!)

The rail links are used mainly for military and corporate private use. No regularly scheduled services run. The English Tourist Board does offer places to people wishing to travel around Britain on one of their many excursions. These excursions are made in a state of luxury that rivals the legendary Orient Express. As you can imagine prices are high and this is only for the rich or those with an understanding company accountant. Each train carries a full complement of ETB troops on board for added protection.

GEOGRAPHY, FLORA AND FAUNA

The majority of Britain's geography has shown a return to how it must have been during the Dark Ages, both in the state of the land and its people.

Whilst the government likes to think it controls the land, most of the population only pay lip service and have returned to a form of feudalism communism (although don't use that phrase in front of them). What this means is that a village or number of farms or small holdings will form a small community who help one another at various times (such as harvest) or if under some sort of threat such as bandits or even a forcible corporate buyout.

Global warming, along with years of neglect, has helped much of Britain's coastline return to its old look, with many of the old marshes returning, along with new ones created by excessive rain fall and poor drainage.

The exception to this semiferal Britain is the so-called "Larder of Britain" which consists of the old shires of Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire. These counties being relatively flat and conveniently located between London and Birmingham have been turned into one huge factory farm owned by IMA who claim to use only traditional farming methods *freed, right, Ed* and are always looking for farmers who can no longer run their farm and might be interested in moving on.

Britain has been spared from the worst ravages of acid rain due to the fact that most of the island's weather systems arrive from the Atlantic and Ireland takes the brunt of any harmful affects. However, Britain's (and always has been) a major cause of the acid rainfall that has plagued most of Western Europe for the best part of a century. This rainfall has

already devastated most of the Scandinavian forests along with the Black Forest. Some ecological groups have now formed paramilitary wings (they'll deny it of course) with the sole purpose of eliminating the cause of the pollution. This, of course, leads to retaliation by the aggrieved company using either their own Black Ops units or in certain circumstances BCF special forces units (you know, those guys in the fetching black outfits that don't exist).

Paper is no longer the predominant medium of communication, having long been replaced by the humble electron. This, combined with a lack of woodland management, has allowed the once mighty forests of Northern and Southern England to return to some semblance of their former glory. An annual increase in both the mean temperature (2.1 degrees Celsius) and Winter rainfall (49 inches) has combined to bring about a subtle change in the ecosystem and the type of life that it is capable of supporting. The diversity of such life is too expansive to detail here, but there are a few species that should be of special note to the traveller.

Mammals

The Wolf (*Canis lupus*): Once again the great forests of England quiver with the howl of the wolf, that most elegant and cunning of European predators. The partial resurrection of its habitat and patronage of the New Age theologies means that, since their re-introduction in 2011, the wild population has been allowed to grow without persecution. Initially concentrated in the northern forests, the wolf has gradually spread south and while still not common can be found in just about every one of its old hunting grounds.

Wary of man, this powerful carnivore is of little danger to humans unless threatened or confined. Preying on anything from small boars to deer, they only venture into the open in Winter as hunger forces them to extend their range.

Many men still hold a misguided fear towards them born out of ill-conceived folk-lore, mythos and legend. Some feel the need to actively seek out this ancient baby-snatcher and hope to exterminate it once again. They are in for a severe shock. Many nomad tribes revere the wolf in their religions and will do anything to protect them and punish all who threaten the "teacher of the wild."

The Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*): Like the wolf, the brown bear was re-introduced a little over 10 years ago and like the wolf is protected by the shamanistic nomads. Unlike the wolf they are still only found in the north, though there have been sightings as far south as the Wash. They rarely stay put for any length of time, preferring more mountainous areas such as that found in the Cairngorms. Food supplies (roots, berries, fish, sometimes carrion) and other less natural elements have so

far combined to keep them from migrating further. Occasionally they may hunt small livestock or plunder hives for honey, bringing them into contact with man. Normally, they are dangerous animals and should be avoided if at all possible. Cantankerous, short-tempered beasts that change from placid to aggressive in a matter of moments, bone and sinew are no match for these immensely powerful omnivores.

The Lynx (*Lynx lynx*): Larger than the common Wild Cat, the Lynx's body is raised high above the ground on long legs, its short tail and tipped ears giving it an appearance not unlike that of the Bobcat. Lynx are of little threat to man and can be found nationwide, anywhere they can find an adequate food supply of livestock, hares and rabbits. Their passion for sheep and other small livestock makes them the bane of the farmer's life.

Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*): Ancestor of the domesticated pig, the wild boar has only recently been re-introduced to the English countryside. A foraging beast, it uses its snout to dig through the earth for all kinds of vegetable matter. No one knows quite how the boar found its way back from mainland Europe, but whatever the cause they have become a pest to the arboreal farmers and agricorps. They are docile and only dangerous when their young are threatened, in which case a charging boar can easily break a leg.

Ship Rat (*Rattus rattus*): The ship (or black rat) is infamous as the source of the bubonic plagues of the Middle Ages. It has grown in number throughout the southern wetlands, preferring dark, dank areas, but living anywhere that its mortal enemy, the brown rat, is not found. Eats anything from grain to carrion. Not as strong as the more urban-based brown rat, this rodent is one to be avoided unless you want to go through the unpleasant business of contra-plague treatments.

Venomous and Exotic

Moccasin (*Agkistrodon halys*): Related to the rattlesnake, the Halys moccasin is a pit-viper, smaller than, but similar to, the cottonmouth of North America. Originally from Asia, it has gradually spread west, and although still rare can be found along the south coast of England. The moccasin prefers open hillsides and the bottom of slopes where there are plenty of rocks and boulders. As snakes go it's not aggressive, but if excited, it will strike, injecting a very potent venom. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately. Without prompt treatment the effect can be fatal.

Ursini's Viper (*Vipera ursinii*): Like the Halys moccasin this viper has spread west from mainland Europe. With a maximum length of 50cm it is hardly an imposing sight, but should not

be taken too lightly. Though generally not dangerous, take care as its venom is also highly poisonous. If a bite is not to be fatal, an injection of serum is essential. Its common habitat is the fields, grasslands and high mountain slopes.

European Black Widow Spider (*Latrodectus t3-guttatus*): A notorious member of the *Therididae* family; it is easily identified by its black, spherical abdomen which is dotted with 13 bright crimson markings. Mostly found in scrubland areas, it is not as dangerous as its American cousin, but can still be fatal to the very young or infirm.

The European Black Bee (*Apidae*): The black bee has been spreading throughout the E.C. since the early 1990's. It is dangerous for its hornet-like behavior patterns rather than the potency of its sting. This bee attacks in swarms when a nest is disturbed; even the death of one worker being enough to set them off. One sting is not serious but the cumulative effect of a swarm attack can be fatal in some cases.

Fungi

There are a lot of vastly different fungi to be found in the countryside. Most are edible but a significant proportion are toxic and in some cases, like the *Amantia* family, deadly. Unless you are absolutely sure, do NOT touch or consume any. One thing to look out for are any that stain yellow when cut or bruised and smell of carbolic.

Birds of Prey

The 21st century has seen a rise in the populations of some of the larger species, specifically the golden eagle, osprey and peregrine falcon. These majestic hunters can be seen in the more remote areas of Scotland. Though by no means as prevalent as they once were, they are well on the way to recovery.

Sharks and Killer Whales

With the changes in the gulf stream and global warming, the mean sea temperature is beginning to increase around the British coast. This has encouraged some never-seen shark species to begin cruising further north in the pursuit of food. The Great Blue, Mako, Thresher and Smoothhound sharks have been joined by the Great White and Atlantic nurse shark as the main predators in the depths. A corresponding rise in seal populations has seen more and more schools of killer whales off the north eastern coast of Ireland and Scotland.

The above are just a few of the more interesting species to be found in and around the British Isles, there are others. For instance it has always been the vogue for high flying corporate execs to keep exotic pets, many of which are later released when they become too much to handle. Add to this the zoo and wildlife park collections which, due to recent events have been left to fend for themselves, and you should expect to see just about anything on your travels.

FOOD AND DRINK

"...LET US EAT AND DRINK; FOR TOMMOROW WE SHALL DIE."
(ISAIAH 22:13)

A bit strong maybe, but in this day and age who knows what is waiting around the next corner and it is far better to meet your maker on a full stomach, at least that is what Great Aunt Frieda used to say. *He must have been a-battered-child. Sorry, couldn't resist it.* Ed.] Some would say that eating is in itself a religious experience but then they're the same ones who have no concept of what it is like to be truly hungry. However there are two sides to the culinary coin, the gourmet extravaganza with its fine surroundings and unpronounceable menus or fastfood with its low cost, sociable hours and indegestion. We shall attempt to cover both as well as examining some of few examples of British fare that have found their own special place in the tastebud tantalizing world of international cuisine.

Fastfood

The term "fast-food" is by definition exactly what it says, cheap quasi-nourishing meals at the speed of a tortoise. When the fast or convenience food chains first invaded the U.K. in the fifties, the British got a little confused. For some reason fastfood was translated to mean "let's take all day, who the hell wants to eat anyway" service. This meant long queues of famished Corp execs, screaming kids, old age pensioners passing out and ten quintillion foreign students all clamouring for a burger, fries and a thick shake. Oh and don't forget the free, that's right FREE, gift — usually a poxy model car or bloody dinosaur.

First there was the pizza, then the Chinese take-away, Southern fried chicken, every other kind of take-away, and then finally the highest evolution of the art, the burger bar. All have their various merits, and most will at least not cause food poisoning, but none can compare to the original, the blueprint from which all others sprang, the quintessentially British, fish 'n' chip shop. In 1865 the Brits adopted the humble "pommes frits" from the French, decided to combine it with fried, fresh fish and unwittingly invented convenience

food. So the next time that you're starving hungry, waiting for your quarter pounder with cheese, extra relish, salad and toenail clippings of dubious Scottish heritage, don't blame the Americans, blame the Brits.

Nutri-Till's

You may be pleased to hear that things have moved on quite a bit since, and the British now lead the world in the realm of Fast-food technology. *[They still can't make a Pot Noodle that tastes any good!! Ed.]* The latest rage are the Nutri-Till networks. Finally fast-food is fast—really fast. A swipe of a card, a few button presses and your stomach's desire is delivered to you in seconds, piping hot and tasting like the real thing... well, almost. The process itself is a closely guarded secret and none of the manufacturers that we approached were prepared to comment on it. Whatever the mystical mechanism behind it all there is no denying the system's appeal. If you are in a hurry and just need something to tide you over then this is simply the best alternative available. Meal prices vary from 5 to 15Eb and the tills can be found in most major city centers.

Eating Out

Sit Down and Pay Up.

Some would think that the advent of the Nutri-Till would spell the end for the more traditional burger bar. Nothing could be further from the truth. The number and diversity of such places has actually increased as indeed has the quality of their food and service. By changing their policy from "food for the masses" to "food for the discerning client who was too late to get a reservation at Javier's," the Fast-food chains have managed to find a very lucrative new market.

The masses, hard working people like you and I, use the tills while the rest gorge themselves in the neo-nineties atmosphere of plastic seating, polystyrene cups and disinfectant. You see, the truth is that hardly anything has changed. All they have done is changed the marketing, using use thirty year-old adverts to evoke a nostalgic desire for food from a bygone era. At first, the bigger chains toyed with newer technologies, ordering terminals on every table, waitress service *[Did he say new? Ed.]* and ergonomically designed seating that automatically adjusted for the optimum eating conditions. This was a blunder, a complete waste of time and money; what people really wanted were all things that were so detested in the first place. "We want the real thing," they demanded and they got it, squeaky boxes and all. Prices at such places are about three times that which you now pay at a Till, but at least you can see how they cook the stuff.



CHIPS ON PROMENADE

Sit Down and Pay Up (Through the Nose)

The U.K. is home to a myriad of different restaurants, from high class establishments like the world famous Javier's to the sleazy pubs and bars. Since you're reading this, it is probable that you are more likely to be frequenting the latter but, just in case, we shall first have a chat about the more polished end of the market.

Over the last decade or so the restaurant has become a far more, personal, mind blowing and integrated experience. Here at least technology has found a home and much of that developed and then discarded by the fast-food industry has been adopted. Each table has a small console which permits the customer to configure their eating environment in just about any manner they wish. *[Well, usually, these things have a mind of their own. Ed.]* Lighting, temperature, music and even smell can be dialed up at the touch of a button; however, if you want candles and romance you better try another century!

Waiting staff in these places are still traditionally women and these unfortunate creatures are generally encouraged to use any means necessary to entice customers. *[With some of the company sponsored sculp jobs available it is no wonder the places are always full. Ed.]* Built in serving attachments and order recording equipment have made a visit to the local bistro a much more efficient, sorry, pleasant experience. The humble waitresses are also often required to double as house security and most are licensed to carry weaponry of some description. A perfect, well-practised smile can conceal a lot about a person, so if they make a mistake and you feel like having a good winge, then here's a word for the wise. Such errors are easily remedied these days, so unless you want your brain to end up on the menu,

it might be wise to remember that the customer is NOT always right.

The range of restaurants for the discerning palate is quite literally enormous and encompasses styles from every corner of the globe. No matter which city you are in there will always be something to suit your requirements as long as you are prepared to pay through the nose for the privilege. Everything is relative and prices range from around 5Eb per person to closer to 1000Eb. I have a theory that the cost of a meal can equated, exponentially, to the amount of unrecognizable courses on the menu and quality of the napkins.

Basket Cases—The Pub Grub

An alternative to the restaurant is the pub. Basket meals and the like are as popular as ever and most establishments offer some form of catering. If it is traditional British fare that you want then the humble pub is by far the best bet. Having said that, eating in the wrong establishment can be just about as dangerous as arguing with a bunch of Jack-knifers. Rising temperatures, an unstable water table and poor quality control combine to make the lower standard kitchens a perfect breeding ground for bacteria. These fast acting toxins can be very unpleasant and fatal if not treated properly. Add to this the number of unscrupulous people who are quite prepared to sell you off meat or produce and it is obvious that you should use discretion when choosing where to eat. As a rule it is best to stick to the pubs that cater specifically to the tourist trade. Such places are easy to spot by the number of union jack hats, "I escaped the Tower" tee-shirts and bulging shopping bags. Again, prices vary but range from 20-60Eb per person.

Food Analyzers and Supplements

With the above concerns in mind it is no wonder that the tech-nomongers have come up with a solution. Food analysers come in the form of a probe connected to either a sub-dermal display or wrist watch. Simply dip the probe into any food before consumption and wait for the verdict which ranges from "Unbelievable, it's a miracle!" to "Yuck! Shoot the chef, he's trying to kill you." Though by no means infallible, these cheap and cheery devices are an essential addition to the travellers survival kit, and at only around 200Eb they have got to be a sound investment.

With the standard of water in the U.K. at the moment it might also be wise to buy or hire a water purifier. There are many types to choose from but I recommend Eureka 101 from Crystal Purification Ltd. At 300Eb to buy, it is slightly more expensive than you would normally expect to pay but is by far the most effective. If you cannot afford to buy, hire one instead, charges start from 10Eb per day plus a small deposit.

If you find yourself in a situation where fresh, hot, food is unavailable then Chowcaps™ are the thing for you. One capsule, three times a day, gives you all you need to keep going until you can find something more substantial, but be warned—extended use can lead to intestinal damage in some cases. Okay as far as they go and by no means perfect, but at 1Eb for a day's supply, who's complaining.

British Food

As mentioned in the Introduction, there are very few foods that the British can claim as their own and even some of those are dubious. So, in order not to limit ourselves too much, we shall now go over the more popular delicacies to be found in the U.K.

Basket Food: The original power lunch consisting of chips, chips, chips and still more chips with a sausage, chicken (not a whole one, you understand) or scampi thrown into the bargain. Bargain it is at an average of 12Eb, the basket meal probably represents the best overall value.

Burgers: As you should know by now, you can get these bloody things everywhere, and all over the country you can find non-biodegradable polystyrene boxes containing a mashed up mess that once claimed to be a four-legged creature living in a field. Cover it with a tomato, a piece of lettuce, corchette and wack it in a bap with some relish, and voila, a culinary masterpiece. Alright if you like that sort of thing and personally I don't, I much prefer my meat to at least look like it came from something on this planet. Still, it could be worse, they could be named after a place as well, "I'll have the Bognor Special Super Deluxe with cheddar cheese and a Cumberland sausage on the side."

Cheese: The Brits have always had a thing for cheeses, well cheddar anyway, which has become something of a national institution. There are others, and yes, they are mostly named after towns and regions, but it is cheddar that reigns supreme at the top of Britain's dairy hillcock. It is yellow in colour, hard textured and varies in taste from dry and mild to acidic and biting, lovely. Aside from cheddar there is Caerphilly, Cheshire, Derby *I Tastes like old hats. Ed.*, Gloucester, Lancashire, Stilton and Wensleydale. Of these Stilton is perhaps the best and if you like hard, white cheese full of furry blue mold, then you won't find any better, anywhere in the world. Of course, if none of the above tickle your fancy, there is always the bizarrely named Lymeswold, the British version of such creamy imports as Camembert and dolce latte. If I were you, I'd stick to the cheddar, the Queen eats nothing else. *In public, anyway. Ed.*

Fish 'N' Chips: If there is anything that the British can claim as their very own then this it, still the most popular convenience food in the nation. There are many outlets for England's national dish but there is still only one way to eat it properly. Cover your newspaper-wrapped purchase with rock salt, vinegar and HP sauce, stand against a lamppost on a rainsoaked corner of Grimsby and enjoy the full olfactory and taste experience. It is cheap, typically 6Eb, filling, nutritious and doesn't require any washing up.

Haggis: Take a sheep's stomach, stuff it with its heart, lungs chopped with oatmeal, suet, onion, etc. and boil. Despite what you might think, this Scottish dish is quite delicious, though I must admit it is bit of an acquired taste. At around 12Eb per portion, it is good value for money and as good an excuse as I can think of knocking back a bottle of malt.

Kebabs: Not of British origin, but has nevertheless found a home among the masses of Britain. The idea goes like this: if you can ignore the lumps of God-only-knows-what with spittles up their arse long enough to order, you consume one (about 10Eb) after quaffing 18-20 pints, probably nearer 6 but we don't want to deflate any egos *for anything else for that matter. Ed.*, in order to induce simultaneous, 40ft, projectile vomiting sessions and general hilarity. An absolute must for anyone who wants to participate in that great British tradition, the Friday Night Spray Fight.

Nouvelle Cuisine: An antiquated idea about food from France based on the erroneous, biologically-impossible theory that people eat with their eyes. Beautifully presented it may be, but its small portions and expensive cost make it a no-no in my book. However, if you've got a wedge in your pocket and like the idea of a piece of lettuce and sliced carrot arranged to look like a tree with Dutch Elm disease and you aren't hungry anyway, then this will do fine.

Drink

Now this is a completely different subject. A word of warning for those who have never experienced British alcohol: this stuff will probably kill you. If there is a rival to the German's claim as the test brewer in the world, then it is Britain. As for spirits there is no contest, British is best.

Ales: There are far too many to go into to here but don't let ignorance put you off, when it comes to slapping a few hops about the Brits are among the best. There are some absolute gems to be sampled, especially in the semi-peaceful villages of the countryside but be warned, some are more effective than the aforementioned curry, if you know what I mean. Prices vary dependent upon the region but anything less than 5Eb for a pint should be considered a good deal.

Unlike most, the British breweries, well at least the small ones, allow the yeast to ferment on the top and leave the beer to mature in old oak casks. This gives ale the distinctive smooth, nutty taste that baves the knowledgeable drooling with pleasure. It is unfortunate that this traditional art is now in somewhat of a decline. The big brewers prefer a more stable, listless product and shoot it about with electric pumps and carbon dioxide. One by one, the independents are finding it harder and harder to compete with the giants, leaving the great British real ale on the brink of collapse. Enter the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) which has been lobbying on behalf of the small brewer for some time. From its quiet roots as the closest male equivalent to the "feminist movement," CAMRA is adopting a more aggressive stance in a last desperate effort to save the industry from extinction. I hope they win!

Cider: Now this particular little apple concoction is a definite must for the hardened drinker. If you're smart though, you will never go and see how they make some of the stuff. The Ye Olde Conish and Somerset scrumpies are based on recipes that make allowances for the odd rat drowning in the vats. Lord knows what it does to your insides, but if you want to find yourself stark naked, face down in a gutter at 3am and not knowing anything—apart from the fact that you must have a damn good time, then this is the cyanide-tipped tipple for you. 5 to 7Eb per pint.

Lager: Known the world over for its ability to take a group of normally stable teenagers and turn them into a rampaging mob, lager is the national drink of the young. Cheap it isn't at around 7Eb per pint but cheery it certainly is; if you consider a drink that lowers your I.Q. to that of a tabloid journalist cheery. Most of the British lagers are at best gassy, bloating and at worst damn right awful. One thing though, in a mind-expanding break from tradition they are very rarely named

Pizzas: This and pasta, I assume, are what the Brits consider to be the staple diet of all Italians. Well maybe; like most traditional foods it has its ups and downs. If you don't mind a piece of well-baked dough that's been tossed around in sweaty hands and stuck to the ceiling a few times, then try this. The advantage is that you can choose any number of interesting toppings to your own personal taste and on the whole they are reasonably priced at around 20Eb.

Sausages: Whether it be in the guise of "Bangers and Mash" or "Toad in the Hole" the humble British sausage is one of the finest in the world. The spicy, fragrant Cumberland, veal-laced Oxford *[Not more bloody place names! Ed.]* or the mutton-filled Aberdeen, are all wonderful and represent the upside. On the downside there are the cheaper alternatives which rank with the kebab as a primary cause of food poisoning. I think it was Orwell who said "...When the bangers are off, something is rotten in the state of England..." How right you were, George, but that does not stop this from being one of the most popular foods in the U.K. Ranging from 3 to 30Eb per pound, they are easily affordable.

The Sunday Roast: The focal point of the British week is the traditional Sunday roast. The whole family congregates at the ancestral home—or more than likely the two up-two down hovel that passes for it—and eagerly awaits the product of mother's toils. Take a hunk of animal, roast to taste with potatoes, and serve with millions of vegetables and the appropriate sauce. Serve in massive portions with vast quantities of alcohol then fall asleep in front of the soccer match to sleep it off. Price variable.

The Best of the Rest

Of the rest, perhaps the old, reliable Vindaloo curries are most worthy of note. Like the Turkish kebab, the Indian curry has found a special place in the hearts of the British people. There is nothing quite like rolling out of the pub and staggering headlong for the nearest Tadori and choking down a plate of tooth-numbing, super-heated (and poorly disguised) turbo-laxative. The Anglo-Saxon intestinal tract was not designed for such riches and on any weekend morning the dawn chorus is regularly shattered by the sound of a million cheek-burning bowel movements as the hung-over masses are quickly reminded of the previous night's indiscretions. Because of its popularity the "British-Indian curry" is probably the best that you'll taste outside of India itself, and at between 30 and 90Eb per person, is an absolute must for any who have a desire to experience the real thing.

after anywhere on the U.K. mainland. If you want my advice, stick to the imported variety *(Unless it's that nutless Mexican rubbish. Ed.)* they may cost a buck or so more, but at least your taste buds won't follow your brain cells into the pit of oblivion.

Tea/Coffee: Most people swore off these in the late 90's due to the caffeine health scare, but with what could kill you these days, I say "Sod it!" drink it anyway. One thing though, unless you're using bottled water, get a purifier. Even boiling can't kill some of the weird and wonderful microbes that are to be found in the tap supplies.

Whiskey or Whisky: First things first, if you ever have the occasion to spell the word in front of a Scot or an Irishman, make sure you use the right spelling; whisky for Scotland. Secondly, never order an Irish whiskey in Scotland or vice versa. Third, don't show ignorance by asking for a mixer or ice, especially if you are drinking malt. Failure to observe the three simple rules could have grave and possibly terminal repercussions, unless of course, you are a woman.

As for the stuff itself, what can one say, but—necar. There are literally hundreds of different brands to choose from and each has its own particular character. There are the blends, delicately balanced combinations of the finest quality, and there are the malts, pure, silky-smooth, pleasure-giving perfection. Prices vary considerably between the two, from around 4Eb for a shot of blend, to 10Eb for a shot of a good malt. At 12Eb per shot, the 15 year old Glenlivet is probably my own personal favorite. [Bloody sassench! Ed.]

For those of you used to corn liquors, the 80 proof (40%) label may put you off and give you the misinformed idea that you can whack it back like water. Having sampled both, I have come to the conclusion that the British distilleries use a different scale than the rest of the planet. If you do treat this stuff like the local water, it will have exactly the same effect—namely, it will probably kill you. On the upside, if you do actually survive, at least you'll have a brain left in the morning. Highly recommended.

The Rest: Apart from those listed above, Britain, as a nation of hop-heads, is home to just about every form of alcohol known to man and a few that defy classification. So no matter what your favorite tippie is, you can rest assured that you'll be able to find it here. If, by some weird quirk in the space time-continuum, you can't, then tell the local publicans and they will move Heaven and Earth to get it. Just imagine that, a brew that none of the punters have heard of. That means I can stick a poxy piece of lime in it, call it something like Cripplecrock and charge them a bloody fortune."

Pubs and Clubs

Nostalgia is big business in the U.K. of the 21st Century and just about every club you enter is themed upon some period which is dubiously referred to as the "good old days." This is not surprising. If there is anything the Brits like better than looking backwards, it is dressing up. At the moment the 80's are big; bleached blond hairdressers with white stillettos, handbags and bottled tans accompanied by shades-wearing "Miami Vice" look-alikes, all hoping to bump into David Icke. *(Some sad git who thought he was the Son of God. Ed.)* So if you want to do a bit of impromptu time-travelling than you will have plenty of scope for experimentation here. If, on the other hand you want to find out what is going on today then you had better try a pub.

The live music, youth and fashion scenes are all pretty much concentrated in the pubs and private member's halls. This is where the 20's pulse is strongest and the best place to find out what is happening in the now. Be warned, the patrons of such places do not warm easily to strangers *(You seen American Werewolf in London? Ed.)* so if you see a guy standing at the back with a grenade launcher and a pissed-off pitbull, I'd scarp if I were you... With that said, don't be put off, if you stay cool and keep a low profile you won't be bothered, and remember, it is not the bikes outside, but the bikers inside that you have to worry about and they're (to quote Douglas Adams), "mostly harmless."

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The U.K. has been in the forefront of popular music for nigh on seventy years now. The country that gave the world the Beatles, the Stones, Elton John and Queen carries on dominating the airwaves of the world in a way that seems way out of context with its population.

Unlike the U.S., a specific type of music is not associated with a certain location (Nashville for country, Chicago for blues etc.) although certain cities seem especially adept at producing popular bands (these are Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and, Birmingham) with no one type dominating their output.

The resurgence of the Nomadic way of life along with a return to a more feudal system in the countryside has sparked off a revival of the more ancient forms of music. This hankering for a bygone age of music has also led to a resurgence for many pirate radio stations playing music from the sixties and seventies with bands like Pink Floyd and Yes still enjoying huge success.

In the cities the music has a harder edge to it which accurately mirrors life in the cities. Heavy rock, garage and indie still flourishes. Some groups have combined many of the various styles to great effect.

Ever since the brief flowering of punk rock in the late 1970's, British music has always had a strong political ele-



WELCOME TO THE PUB

ment and today is no exception—indeed, it is due to such bands as **Society** and **The Long Riders** that the recent changes gathered pace. Society (who have since disappeared) were the first to tour the country as part of the underground movement, playing free gigs where they could, or setting up their own illegal radio station where they couldn't. Their songs attacked British society in general and are very popular among those that refuse to belong. After the Restoration they continued in the same vein claiming that only the titles had changed (not the actual government), adding to their list of targets the Corporations; who they saw as the new MLA. This annoyed those Corps who until then had tolerated Society as a means to an end, and in some cases actually aided their avoidance of the MLA. Now the group not only had the military after them but also Corporate hit squads, along with various solos, as a bounty was placed on their heads. Their concerts became few and far between and Society haven't been heard of for over eighteen months. As with any case like this, various rumors are flying around; most deal with the ways that the group was disposed of. Others say that the group is still going and is planning a comeback gig.

The Long Riders, taking their name from the legendary James Gang, also toured all over the U.K. but seemed more adept at moving about—one day they could play in Penzance the next in Sheffield. At the time this ability was not questioned due the lack of communication, but many have since started to question this. One theory is that the Long Riders were not so much a group as a movement that consisted of many different lineup's all over the country—this could explain why the MLA never caught them despite having a much higher profile than Society.

Others have suggested corporate backing for the group, again citing its astonishing ability to move quickly. These rumor mongers have gone on to claim that the Long Riders use subliminal messages on their albums suggesting that we should bow down and live the good Corporate life. They go on to suggest that this is taken a stage further at their huge live gigs and claim that people are slowly brainwashed with a combination of gases, lights and subliminal messages on both backing and video tapes. The Long Riders have refused to comment on this and all other rumors that follow them around.

Sampling is still rife and the various media Corps continually try to crack down; although they have succeeded in

eradicating it from the main radio stations, their attempts to stop it on the myriad Pirate stations is not meeting with a great deal of success.

Another method of selling your music is via the Net, as many computers have CD quality sound on them. For a nominal fee you can have a song sent to you via the Net. You can then run the song from your hard disk or just download it to a DAT tape or an optical disk and play it in your own hi-fi. This has brought about a very specialized form of 'Runner—the Sampler. They break into the media Corps' various data banks looking for stuff they can use in a song—it could come from the latest hit sitcom on BBC1 or the latest number one from Talking Sticks. These 'runners mainly work on their own but one or two are now employed by some of the larger groups to steal demo disks from their rivals. One such case involved a 'runner for Steel City 'acquiring' a demo disk for Blue Streak's latest single. He then downloaded it to their own disk and changed all relevant dates. The group then embellished the song and called in their lawyers. This piece of quick thinking enabled Steel City to successfully sue Blue Streak for infringement of copyright, claiming they wrote the song first!

Another element of British pop culture is the street poet. This subculture was made popular in the late 1970's and early 1980's by such people as John Cooper Clarke and Attila the Stockbroker and that tradition carried on through the MLA's dictatorship. Even harder to trace than a group, single performers would just turn up anywhere—a high street, a shopping mall or at a concert and start performing. The greatest of these—the legendary Christie—even had the gall to perform his famous poem about the Isle of Wight Prison, *Wight Wino*, at Speaker's Corner in the center of London. This feat placed him at the top of the MLA's most wanted list of political subversives along with Society and has endeared him to a great many people (including those who don't necessarily agree with his political views but just admire his steely nerve). Little has been heard of Christie since the Restoration. As with Society and the Long Riders, many rumours are flying around the most interesting of which is a huge free gig at Finsbury Park along with Society sometime in the Summer. If this happens be there at all costs—it would be a day to remember (just be ready to leave very quickly should the authorities get nasty).

The charts themselves, as they are run by the Corps (they deny it of course), tend to be conservative with all sorts of styles featured at various times.

The rest of the arts are facing an uncertain future. The many orchestras up and down the country such as the London Philharmonic and the Halle are facing a cut in funding along with many of the provincial theatres. All the arts

flourished under the MLA in keeping with most totalitarian governments—it give them an air of respectability you see. The trouble is that while the Corps would like to garner their own air of superiority no one wants to foot the bill. Many campaigns have started trying to keep the various institutions going, some are turning nasty—witness the recent assassination of the Minister for Arts at the renaming ceremony for the Arts Directorate.

Many other artists are just leaving Britain for other countries in the E.C. in an artistic brain drain, and many countries (such as France) are loving every minute of it claiming that the British are a race lacking in artistic talent. If that's the case how come a large part of the Paris art movement is actually British?

TOP TEN ALBUMS (as compiled by British Media Research Bureau)

1) *SEX WITH YOUR EX*—THE STILETTOS ★★★★★

The oldies revival continues with this latest compilation of the mega-group's early career. Smart and sassy rock with a killer image (check out the singer—who needs bio-sculpting?). Absolutely Tart-tastic mates!

2) *THE LONG ROAD BACK*—THE LONG RIDERS ★★★

The latest offering from the controversial darlings of the Restoration movement. Have they lost that hard edge? Yes. Is it bad? No. They have matured into thoughtful lyricists, however it is not their best.

3) *SALICY JACK/SONGS IN D MINOR*—VARIOUS ARTISTS ★

The tribute to Tufnel & St Hubbins (who both died in a bizarre gardening accident at Tufnel's retirement home in Scotland) continues to sell well. Why?

4) *TALKING STICKS*—TALKING STICKS ★★★★★

Imaginatively titled third album from the Manchester-based folk rock band. Nice solid, dependable stuff and not a song about the potato famine.

5) *HEADLESS*—HEADLESS★★

First studio disk from the new masters of industrial thrash. O.K. but do these guys sound like the Ministry to you?

6) *I'VE FOUND CARRIE*—CLIFF RICHARD ★

Yep. another recording from the Peter Pan of Pop. The granny market are lapping it up, and doesn't he look marvellous at nearly ninety without a trace of Biosculpting? Yeah right.

7) *LIBERTY'S FLIGHT*—LOVE, DEATH AND PHILOSOPHY ★★★★★

Out on the Connoisseur label yet another compilation this time from the mid-nineties prog rockers. Excellent songs—head and shoulders above the rest.

8) *I PLAY THE SONGS*—RICHARD PLAYDOMANN ★

Yet another entry for the granny market this time from the master of the piano, nice sweater and cheesy grin. Come back Sacha Distel, all is forgiven.

9) *NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! #134*—VARIOUS ARTISTS ★★★

Another compilation of the latest chart hits. Great for parties and for the car stereo.

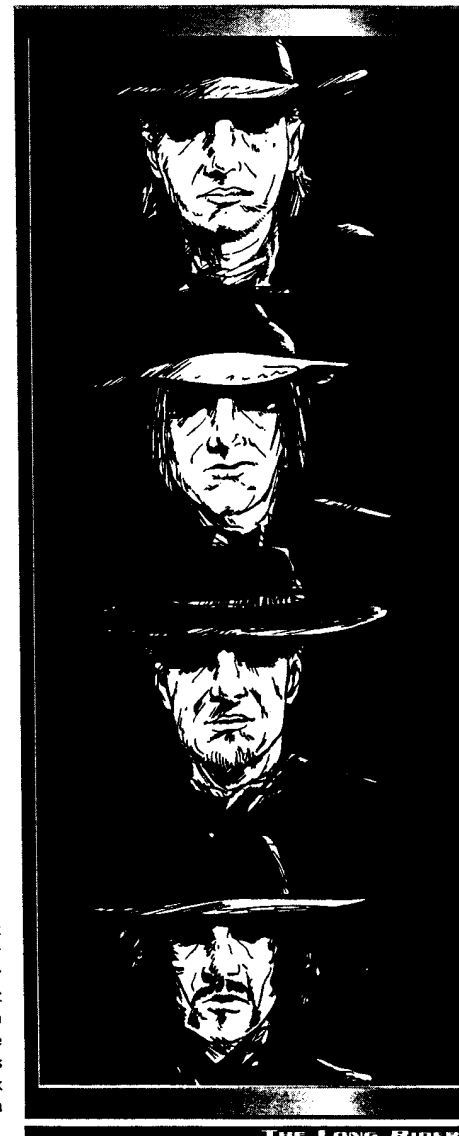
10) *EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK*—VARIOUS ARTISTS ★★★★★

Yet another compilation (is Christmas coming or what?) this time of the hottest rave sounds. Its all here—House, Garage, Kitchen and Bedroom (my favorite...) Excellent for those mini-raves where you can't be asked to do your own mixing.

Slang

Although it would be useful for this book to explain many slang words used in the British Isles, it would, in fact, need another work of comparable size to do the subject justice. Slang is very localized and can vary enormously from town to town, and from the city center to the countryside that may only be three miles away.

Some British slang words have been around for centuries while others can come and go in the space of a few scant years as the fashion changes (witness the fad for "Waynespeak" in the early nineties). As such, it is advisable for visitors to the U.K. to stick to the Queen's English and try not to use any slang words until you know exactly what they mean in that area—for example, the word "fag" can mean someone of homosexual proclivity, a cigarette, or someone who is employed to do a menial task—depending on who you speak to. You have been warned. Remember to engage your brain before putting your mouth into gear!



SPORT

Soccer

Still the number one game in the United Kingdom, and no cyberware is allowed. Crowd violence still exists outside games, but trouble inside games has been all but eradicated due to the installation of automatic guns. Any disturbance in a section is met by ultimate force. A cyber-enhanced version (close to combat soccer) also exists, but the pull of the old clubs such as Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester Utd. has not diminished.

Most of the old football league teams folded over the years due lack of finances—it was bad enough updating the grounds during the 90's but to install a security system as wanted by the Sporting Directorate of the MLA just proved too costly. Some of the teams still survive, but as feeder teams to those big teams in the Championship League. This



CYBERFOOTBALL (SOCCER)

league contains the famous old clubs of English soccer along with certain Scottish clubs (Glasgow Rangers, Celtic, Aberdeen, Dundee United and Hearts). Obviously a league of this nature has a good deal of grudge matches (Rangers-Celtic, Leeds-Manchester Utd. etc.) and on those days security is extremely tough.

American Football

The country has two NFL franchises—the London Ravens and the Glasgow Lions. The NFL has been shrewd enough to continue to schedule games on Sundays so that clashes with the soccer league (in both senses of the word) can be avoided. A semipro league also exists with the leading team being the Bournemouth Buccaneers. This semipro league still plays the old eleven-man-a-side version of the game.

Horse Racing

Still very popular up and down the country, but with a few changes. The main changes involve drugs and the use of the whip. Firstly, drugs—the Jockey Club's ability to keep on top of the doping of horses was always one step behind that of the crooks' ability to drug that horse. In the end they simply gave up and opened up the sport of kings to all types of drugs that enhance performance. Obviously crooks still use drugs that will restrict a horse's showing and this cocktail of various drugs severely curtails a horse's career.

For a while in the mid-90's the Jockey Club curtailed the use of the whip on horses but again this was hard to enforce—how could you define what was excessive use of the whip? There were only two courses of action left to them either ban the whip completely or allow a free use of the whip. The jockeys would never give up use of the whip, so the latter course was chosen. Nowadays, however, the whip is used not only on the horse but also on opposing jockeys if they get too close. In the more Celtic areas where buggy racing has a hold, this has resulted in races looking like the classic *Ben Hur* chariot contest where fatalities are common.

Horse racing still encompasses both the Flat and National Hunt (a race over fences) seasons with each being very popular with their proponents. Many National Hunt courses now have automated fences that allow the steward to vary the height of the fence depending on the race requirements (some races allow the heights to be changed during the course of the race).

Security at many courses is similar to that at league soccer grounds so don't cause any trouble, even if you have just lost 200 quid.

Golf

Golf is still played by a very great number of people—especially the Scots (after all, they invented it) and the game has changed very little except that those playing with cyberlimbs or chips are supposed to register them first. Once this is done the level of cyberware is assessed and a penalty is ADDED to that persons score (just imagine a John Daly type with a stronger cyberarm and a neural processor that helps maintain the best possible swing). Players were regularly driving the green on holes of 500 yards or more and therefore scores were becoming ridiculously low—something had to be done. Therefore the Royal and Ancient Golf Club came up with a new, revised handicap system to allow people to play each other no matter what their cyberware. Some golf clubs have built monster courses of ten thousand yards or more for the cyberwareer rather than add or subtract shots. These courses are few and far between, but as the usage of cyberware increases then perhaps the number of courses catering for that type of player will increase in number.

Cricket

Cricket has split into two forms (very much like rugby Union and League). One is very much the classic English game still played the world over in such places as India, Pakistan and Australia. The other is professional Cyberleague where fast bowlers use their cyberarms to catch out the batsmen, who, with their smart-linked bats and targeting scopes are trying to smash the ball for six runs—not a game for the purist although the rules are very much the same.

Caveball

A highly lethal variant of ice hockey and gaelic football that is establishing itself as the most popular arena sport in the U.K. It's got everything, violence, blood, fast, explosive action and frequent, messy deaths. It is the sport of the ghetto and is threatening to steal supporters from the soccer clubs.

Each team can have six players on the field and can only substitute personnel following an injury or death. There are three runners or "footmen" two motorcyclists or "knights" and a goalkeeper or "caveman." Like most such games the object is to score goals and to prevent your opponents from doing the same. The one who score most wins. Apart from that the rules are far too complicated to go into here but it is enough to say that the referee passes judgment from the safety of an armored observation booth that is suspended above the arena. For more information contact the British Caveball League office in London.



CYBERCRICKET

METROPLEXES,
CONURBATIONS AND
SPRAWLS IN 2022

Introduction

The whole country is in the throes of change and nowhere is that more obvious than in the sprawling urban nightmares that cover large areas of this land. So why is the United Kingdom one of the most urbanized countries in the world?

It all started in the 80's when the British government of the time decided to set up City Action Teams (CAT's) to coordinate government urban development programs and to regenerate the degraded infrastructure of the inner cities. These bureaucratic teams were designed to make sure that the millions that the government poured into the cities was spent for the good of the people. But as you can probably guess, many of the eight CAT's members were more interested in what this new scheme could do for them.

Because the 80's were a bad time for the property market, the big players were falling over each other trying to get themselves awarded the fat, juicy government contracts that the CAT's were empowered to give out. Corruption meant the company that could give the biggest back-hander got the contract. The allocated money was mostly spent on developing new urban areas and extending the already existing areas of suburbia, whereas only a small amount was spent on regenerating the run-down, inner-city districts. The knock-on effect of this was that more and more decay set in, and slums became widespread. At the same time the money that was being poured into new developments meant that the city boundaries were eating further and further into the so-called "green belt".

As time passed, the media now and again turned up stories of the urban ghettos. Areas like Moss-side in Manchester once again came to public attention. While crime figures steadily rose, including a horrific rise in firearm-related crime, the government looked on, worried about their public image. Nothing quite gets a politician's bowels moving like a downward trend in the opinion polls. So, after one media scandal too many, the wheels of power moved again, only to make a very profound mistake. They set up the eleven Urban Development Corporations, the purpose of which was to reverse the ever increasing levels of large-scale urban decline. The first two to be established were London Docklands Reclamation Project, and Merseyside UDC. By the early nineties the Docklands Development Corporation had received £1.1 billion in government grants and secured private investments in excess of £8.5 billion.

The UDC's, while in the process of reclaiming massive areas of land, created thousands of jobs. This was made very easy with all the aid that the government gave the UDC's: huge tax concessions, simplified planning requests and a reduction in the amount of paperwork they had to complete in order to initiate any new development. The upshot of this was, of course, that UDC profits soared. Within five years of their creation, the Corporations had amassed large reserves of capital and began to look outside their immediate spheres of business and influence for other products and services into which they could expand. It was only a matter of time before the eleven UDC's clashed with each other. Initially this took the form of fairly standard business practices, but escalated in late 2009 into a covert war between the Docklands and Merseyside UDC's. At the end of the following year a number of mysterious explosions destroyed several Merseyside UDC installations, and in 2011 The Docklands Reclamation Project merged with the four remaining independent UDC's to form the Equinox Corp...

It was to the advantage of the Martial Law Authorities to keep the inhabitants of the country in large groups. The control of the people virtually relied on the vast urban sprawls that had spread like cancer across the face of Britain. The abject poverty and crime was partially controlled by the MLA but not total-

ly eradicated, as it gave the masses something to keep them occupied while the military consolidated its hold over the whole of the country.

But that time has passed. Now a democratic(?) government is back in power and they have to look after their image again. However, the state of the cities—both inner and outer—is unbelievable because after twenty years of neglect, poverty, disease, famine, rioting and open warfare the streets of Britain are a dangerous place to be...even during the hours of daylight.

So here is a brief guide to the Metroplexes of the U.K. Player's contacts have been omitted simply because they are too numerous to mention.

For more on the Law Codes, see pages 19-20.

Southern Welsh Conurbation (pop 670k 139.2 sq miles)

LAW CODE 5-1-4

Compared to the other major conurbations this place is clean, beautiful and friendly. There are some parts of this place that are really quite pleasant. You will find large, high quality housing projects and community services strategically placed near small conservation areas. Even the slums are home to a better class of rodent.

You will find life a little quiet as there is a large police presence in the SWC. The police contract in the SWC is held by Allied Resources Security. ARS's presence is due to the fact that they have their Corporate head office in the SWC (plus they own around three quarters of the area). They are also the conurbation's biggest employer and like to look after their low-paid, and thus valuable, work force.

Other points of interest in the SWC include the Severn Estuary Tidal Barrier (this multi-billion pound installation was constructed in record time in 2017 and is a popular tourist attraction), and the recently built Queen Victoria II Bridge, which replaces the old Severn Bridge that was destroyed by Welsh nationalists in 2019. The new bridge is guarded by British Combined Forces PLC. There have been a few flare-ups with the nationalists over the last two years, but the poorly armed radicals were soon quashed by either British Combined Forces or Allied Resources Security.

As far as trouble goes there isn't very much of it around this area. If you're looking for a rumble, then you are looking in the wrong city. The only known gang operating in this area are the Grail Guild. From what I know of them they seem to be a quasi-religious clan that don the apparel of knights of yesteryear. They have a fierce animosity with the Round Table Knights from the

Bristol Metro. Fights infrequently take place in parts of the conurbation, and Guildsmen go "questing" for the RTK and Pendragons (see pg. 52) in the hills and valleys surrounding the SWC.

If you want any illicit goods during your stay, you can try to attend one of the rare black market auctions in the abandoned castle at Pembroke. These infrequent events only happen when a passing pirate or smuggling ship has excess cargo and wishes to make some extra cash. Once the serious business of buying and selling is completed, an almost party atmosphere usually sets in (BCF and ARS permitting, naturally) and you can often pick up useful snippets of information you'd be unlikely to hear elsewhere—as long as you stay sober.

Getting around the SWC is easy as there are no ground travel restrictions, but you may find that certain air sectors are controlled by Allied Resources Security, so make sure that you log all flight plans with them. Public transport is cheap and efficient and the related crime rate is only 3.5%. Average costs are one pound per mile.

As far as accommodations are concerned there are plenty of boarding houses, bed and breakfasts and youth hostels. For bed and board at a basic place, you can expect to pay between 10 and 20Eb per night.

London Metro (pop 9566k 1276.1 sq miles)

Although it is the capital of the U.K., London is only the second largest conurbation in the U.K., but having said that, it is the most diverse; from the almost Euro-style West End and the ultratight security of the Cities of London & Westminster (the corporate and government capitals respectively) to the flooded East End (which looks as if it's gone through a time warp back to the Middle Ages). If, as a discerning cyberpunk, you are looking for action, then this is the place for you. Most visitors to Britain intending to go to London or the South arrive at the new Bigglesworth Aerospace Port.

There follows a description of each of the major zones of the capital, including areas of interest and potential meeting places should you need to cultivate any contacts.

Central London (the City of Westminster and the City of London)

LAW CODE 5-1-2

The City of London (usually known simply as the City) is the Corporate hub of Europe and arguably the world. Any Corp that thinks it's an international entity has some sort of representation here. It has changed very little in appearance over the last two

hundred years due to many of the buildings being protected as they have a unique place in British history. Of course, many Corps wanted new, ergonomically-designed buildings that gave them the optimum amount of space and so the Docklands were renovated for this very reason. Unfortunately, the bombing of the Thames Barrier put most of that area under water, so a lot of the Corps want to move back to the City, bringing about a clash of interests. New buildings can now be built as long as they fit in with the surrounding architecture. (Or if you pay the government enough, maybe they don't.)

If you haven't got Corp ID, then forget it. You just won't get into the City, let alone get around. The Corps and the military have this whole zone under complete control. No ground vehicles or aircraft are allowed in this area without Corp ID. Anyone caught driving in the City without ID clearance must therefore, by definition, be doing so illegally, and no amount of protestations of innocence/ignorance will prevent summary execution. If, however, you do have Corp ID, you can expect to find yourself in surroundings not dissimilar to those of 21st Century Paris. To most punks this place will make them think that they have died and gone to hell. The streets are clean, there are no drunken bodies lying in the gutter, and no graffiti sprayed on the walls. (Strictly speaking the latter is not true, but the offending artist is very quickly either in a maximum security holding pen to await a stay at Her Majesty's pleasure on the Isle Of Wight, or, if he resists, very dead!) The place even smells nice! Gleaming towers rise majestically from the executive-filled streets.

This is the true seat of power in the country. All the major international Corps have a Headquarters in London. But the biggest buildings in this zone belong to: the Hilliard Corp, British Combined Forces plc, Imperial Metropolitan Agriculture, the European Bank (the Glistening Bank), BarclayDeutsche, and the Equinox Corp. These buildings look more like huge palaces than Corporate headquarters.

Getting around is pleasant due to the new showcase Tram system used to replace the mostly defunct underground and rail system (for further information, see the section on Travel).

The City of Westminster contains the various government offices including the Houses of Parliament and diverse Ministerial buildings where, it is said, the Civil Service actually runs the country and not the government (who just like to think they do).

Apart from the British government, many other countries also have representation in the City of Westminster through their various embassies and legations. As the Troubles worsened, many countries closed down their regional consulate offices around the U.K. and therefore London is the only place where help for visitors can be obtained.

As can be imagined, security in this part of the City of Westminster is extremely tight and any kind of trouble is dealt with most severely.



An area of Westminster where security isn't as tight is the West End. This is where the nightlife is—the place is teeming with pubs, clubs and theaters. If you've got the money, then they've got the fun, as everything here is very pricey. The West End is an amalgamation of Euro-Chic and Night City pizzazz offering everything the young Corporate playboy can possibly want in a night out.

As a result of the Arts drain to Europe most of the Theatres now deal with mainstream, audience-pleasing shows as demonstrated by the Garrick Theatre's record breaking Tribute to Lloyd-Webber season highlighted by the World Premiere of his last work; *Dogs*. Other successful shows include *Five Gals Named Maureen* (a show about a 1960's soul group), *The Merchant of Venus* (an updated Shakespearean parody), and *The Mousetrap* (an Agatha Christie whodunit which has now been running for high-on seventy years).

Theatres in the West End include the Apollo, Dominion, the Comedy theatre, London Palladium, and the Shaftesbury. There are a few others, but many fell on hard times during the tenure of the MLA and have since re-opened as night clubs or shopping malls.

Major night clubs include the Hippodrome (which attracts the lower Corporate classes), Anabel's (only minor Royalty and above, Corporate elite and their guests, etc. need apply), and Fantasia—a venue where the suits and ties can act out their rockerboy fantasies with the aid of the latest virtual reality and brandance equipment, or simply get trashed on exclusive imported drinks and designer drugs. These clubs are not for the Edgerunners among you!

In complete contrast we have...

The East End

LAW CODE 0-5-1

Now if Central London is a cyberpunk's idea of hell, this place is heaven. Most of this part on London has been flooded since the bombing of the Thames Flood Barrier (to which no less than seven separate terrorist groups claimed responsibility), and thus is officially abandoned with no residents. But we can show you several thousand people who'll tell you that the East End is theirs and always will be. The unwanted dogs of our society thrive in this environment. Unfortunately, it is a very dangerous place to be; if the river pirates don't get you then the numerous diseases probably will. So as a precautionary note take as many jabs as you can before you start wading through the large cesspool that is the East End.

The major form of employment in this area is smuggling and counterfeiting. River smugglers and pirates can be occasionally spotted in their longboats. But whatever you do don't be tempted to try and interfere with what they are doing, because

they consider themselves to be one large family—pick a fight with one of them, you pick a fight with all of them. Do not take this warning lightly—I have known many people to just disappear after pushing their luck once too often (or, indeed, just once).

The upshot of all this smuggling is that the imported goods cause the East End to be one of the best places in the country to buy whatever you want. The only drawback to this is that you will have to go down into the Underground to buy it! Most of the Underground lines that ran through the East End were flooded; the parts that weren't have become home to the black marketeers.

These desperate people aren't worried about what they sell or to whom they sell it. The only thing that they worry about is someone going down there and trying to stop them from making money. They have taken plenty of precautions to prevent this. It is believed that even the military and police have given up sending troops down there, as they all seem to get lost and never come back to the surface.

Enterprising imports from abroad include cyberware, weapons, drugs, slaves and some say, even spies or Corporate execs—so no matter what it is you are looking for, you will find someone in the Underground who will have what you want or will get it for you at the right price. A word of warning: the traders don't always want money, sometimes a favor or promise can get results—but be careful to what you agree. The most open place to go is the huge subsurface market that never closes. Situated in the tunnels and on the platforms of the old Whitechapel Underground station, this is the best place to get anything you want.

The other point of interest in the East End is the Docklands Free Fire Zone. This area was once the pride of the Equinox Corporation, but after the destruction of the Thames Barrier, this once-prosperous area fell to the raging hordes. Now all that's left are the burnt-out shells of the vast tower blocks where commerce once thrived. Organized crime has made this place its headquarters. The Firm watches what is going on in the capital and wages its wars against the "Outsiders" from its many hideouts here. Don't be caught anywhere near this place when the London boys have a scrap with the Nabobs (an historical posegang; such scraps are highly popular and televised events).

South London

LAW CODE 5-2-3

South of the Thames is what can only be described as an area on the brink of war. There is still enforced ghettoization in certain areas, like Brixton, in which large numbers of immigrants and London's poorer residents are forced to live. Non-native organized crime is rife here. And sometimes when two fac-



IT GETS ROUGH IN THE CONURBS

tions meet the body count can rise to well over a hundred. This is a very dangerous part of town for unprepared visitors to go, so if you insist on sampling the dubious pleasures of the ghettos, then do so only if you're tooled up in a big way.

Nightlife in this area caters for the less upwardly mobile of London's residents. Among the more notable clubs you can find are Damage, a post-punk/death metal venue where the most vital piece of equipment is a pair of heavy-duty ear plugs, The Last Resort But One which tends to be frequented by devotees of doom-laden electropop, and Fantasia. (Note the spelling: this is as opposed to Fantasia in the West End, and is a rip-off of said smart venue, offering the same VR and brandance delights but with far more primitive facilities in an uncontrolled environment—you jack in at your own risk!)

What's Left of London

LAW CODE 5-1-4

The vast majority of London consists of tightly-packed residential areas. These areas vary in their overall attractive-

ness. Of course this depends on the finances of their inhabitants. The northern parts tend to be better off (apart from the extreme northeast which suffers from its close proximity to East Anglia) and so the area is better policed. Most of West London is taken up for housing for the British Combined Forces personnel and their families as part of the HCMZ (Home Counties Military Zone, see BCF section pg.26, for more detail). As such, security here is very tight so don't cause any trouble—even if you think you can get away with it.

The major venues for sport and music in London tend to be located centrally and include the Wembley Complex, consisting of the stadium (used, as ever, for sporting internationals and domestic finals, and major rock tours), the arena (a smaller rock venue and adaptable for indoor sporting events—the first National Caveball Championship took place here in 2017), the Conference Center (Corporate conferences, major political events and the like) and the London Wembley HoloPark, where you can go and live out your fantasies of being a warrior or a wizard in a carefully-controlled "live-action Role Playing Game" using the latest in robotics and hologram technology.



One other site of note includes the Town And Country Club (recently re-opened, a smaller venue but used by major rock acts to warm up before embarking on full-scale tours).

Bristol Metro (pop 518k 169.2 sq miles)

LAW CODE 5-2(3/4)

This was once a very beautiful part of the country, but now most of this area is flooded due to the effects of global warming. Although the area is known for its farming there is quite a large Corporate concentration. The Corp zone is the second biggest in the country (after London of course). Nearly all the major Finance and Banking Corps have a center here. This is because of the Major Access road between here and London allowing safe transit of goods to and from these two metroplexes. As most of the area through which the M4 runs is part of the Home Counties Military Zone, the motorway has been well maintained at the insistence of British Combined Forces, plc.

The main sources of revenue are farming and the port facilities. There is also a considerable amount of money made due to smuggling.

Many of the Nomad packs, especially the Rats and the Ravens, like to hang out in Bristol when things get too hot in London. If you see any street entertainers performing while you are here then the chances are that they belong to either of these packs, but their particular form of entertainment and the effects it has on the surrounding community are not always welcome by the authorities.

Many of the Hong Kong refugees that have been rehoused from London are now taking making large profits from the cultivation of rice in the wet lowlands outside the metro area. They have organized themselves into rough townships built on pylons above the water level—this is mainly to protect themselves against the not-uncommon racially motivated attacks by armed neo-Nazis. Their fan-assisted boats are very much a common sight throughout the area.

Birmingham Metro (pop 1196k 223.7 sq miles)

LAW CODE 5-2-4

The most significant feature of the Birmingham Metro is the heavy pall of smog that hangs over it. The city has been abused by heavy industry ever since the air quality laws were

relaxed in 1997. There have been numerous so-called "Smog Riots" over the last twenty years, and only since the Restoration of the Monarchy, which has promised cheaper breathing masks and improved medical care, has anti-government sentiment fallen. Despite this, a home-grown eco-terrorist organization, inspired (and possibly sponsored) by the Scandinavian "Sons of Free Air" (SFA) have achieved folk hero status locally. Their popularity is not what it once was due to the widely held belief that they were behind the Birmingham Scramjet crash that killed over 1100 people in 2018, and another 1700 in the riots that followed. Security levels since then have been oppressive.

Britain's major military space port is in this Metroplex. The Midlands Orbital Air facility is, due to the Scramjet crash in 2018, very heavily guarded. Such a facility is a major employer in the area with both the spaceport and surrounding spin-off industries doing extremely well.

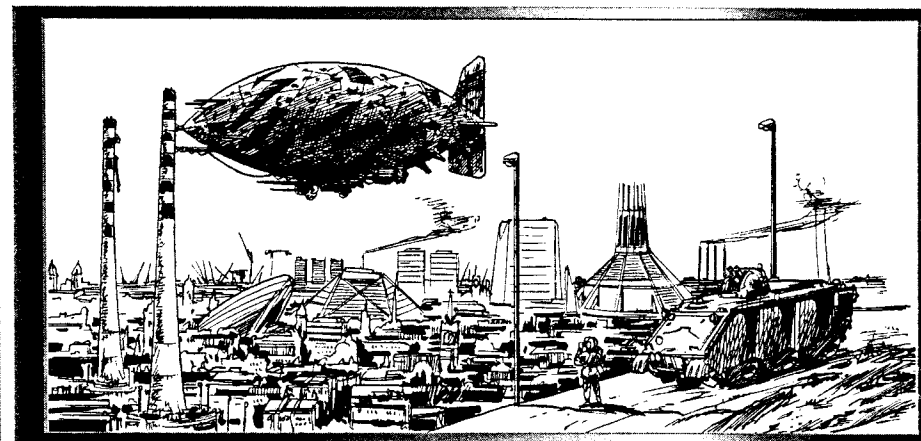
Another large employer is BAe (British Aerospace) who have most of their vehicle and aerospace manufacturing plants here. Like many other manufacturing companies, they are transferring what assets they can from the besieged metroplex in Tyne-Tees to this one.

Cheshire Plains Conurbation (pop 7968k 1593.72 sq miles)

LAW CODE 5-2-5

The Cheshire Plains Conurbation is not only the biggest of its kind in the United Kingdom, but also the biggest in Europe. Unlike London, its UDC-sponsored program of urban expansion was not curtailed by disasters and other outside influences, and this has allowed its growth to continue unchecked for over twenty years. It currently extends inland from Liverpool and onto the west side of the Pennines as far as the towns of Chesterfield and Sheffield. Instead of the old mountain passes that used to run over the Pennines (and were invariably blocked by snow every winter), a tunnel now runs under them, connecting Manchester and Sheffield. It takes in three major cities, Liverpool on the coast, Manchester and Leeds further inland. All three remain bitter rivals, and this rivalry can spill over into crowd violence when their respective soccer teams clash. The Pennines themselves are slowly but surely succumbing to the slow advance of new housing estates for mid-level Corporate executives.

The Liverpool Metroplex has become a major port, with the main user being BCF, which supports the Belfast garrison through the port. Any troops destined to serve in Northern



THE LIVERPOOL SKYLINE

Ireland have to take a one month urban combat course on the Liverpool Army Training Ground. This in the past has often taken the form of troops looking for (and causing) trouble for the residents of the metroplex. The actual death toll from the training exercises over the last decade remains highly classified.

Recent events have made the port crucial to the BCF. The planned Liverpool-Isle Of Man-Dublin transit tunnel that would have run under the bed of the Irish Sea was never finished because the MLA ran out of money and there were seventeen unsuccessful bomb attempts on the tunnel before someone finally did the job right and blew it up.

Like the Birmingham Conurbation to the South, Cheshire Plains has a problem with air pollution from its various heavy industries. This looks set to be a continuing problem until the new air quality regulations can be enforced, always assuming the government keeps its promise and actually wants them enforced. Doing so might cripple British industry, which would send her economy into further decline and the new Monarchy's position might not look so rosy! This area has seen a recent influx of refugees from the Tyne-Tees Conurbation, and industry has seen this as a new source of even cheaper labor.

Both Manchester and Liverpool have their Downtown Militarized Zones. In Liverpool it literally surrounds the docks, and there are gang fights daily between the various factions vying for control. The more traditional British criminal gangs are loosely allied with the Mafia against the highly ruthless Triad and Yakuza clans. That leaves the Jamaicans and Colombians to kill each other. A lot of these gangs have their home ground on the other side of the Mersey in flooded towns

like Ellesmere Port and Birkenhead; making these towns extremely dangerous places to visit.

The Moss side area of Manchester has been all but walled off. It is a constant battle to keep this area cut off from the rest of the conurbation, and so far none of the previous attempts has had any real success—as fast as the barricades go up, they are quickly removed by one of the two feuding gangs that rule the Alexandra Park Militarized Zone. They can be identified by the color of the bandanas that they wear. The "Goochies" wear red and "Doddies," blue. Both run rackets based on drugs, extortion, prostitution and violence amongst the warren of dens and tunnels that infest the area. Pitched battles between the two are not uncommon, with pistols, SMG's, machetes, knives, chains, shot-guns and fire bombs being the weapons of choice. For the BCF this is usually a "no-go" area, but occasional sweeps are made.

One major problem dogging the battle against the various gangs is that the conurbation falls under the jurisdiction of four districts. This makes efficient pursuit of criminals almost impossible. Because of this gangs tend to run for the nearest border every time they create any trouble.

In the southwest of the conurbation, the town of Chester has been turned into the area's Corp zone. Most of the surrounding district is, naturally, flooded, and plugging of the still standing Roman walls has turned the town into a natural island. For most corporations it is the site of their northern offices, and it is heavily protected. Construction has already begun on a dome over the town, providing it with the perfect environment all year round. Latest projections show that this will be complete in about three years time. For further information on Chester see the section on North Wales.

As a place to visit, this area is one of extreme contrast. Both Liverpool and Manchester have thriving music scenes and are fairly cosmopolitan in nature. Like anywhere in the United Kingdom, locals will fleece you for all you are worth if you're not careful.

TYNE-TEES CONURBATION (pop 720k 138.7 sq miles)

LAW CODE 0-5-1

Getting into the Tyne-Tees Conurbation alive makes a very interesting journey. The entertainment for the trip is usually provided by the Jackknife gangs that stalk and bring down prey on the only two land routes (M6 & A1) into this city. This would not be so bad for the local populace if they could get goods in via the sea—but the waters surrounding them are filled with pirates and smugglers. These Longboatmen (as they are known) play merry hell with anybody stupid or unlucky enough to try and get through without their say-so. This leaves aircraft as the only means with which to supply this conurbation.

The area is on the brink of collapse due to starvation, and low morale. Although Belfast may be a more dangerous place to be, it's certainly easier to scratch a living. Nobody likes to live in a besieged city. The few goods that can get in are very heavily rationed by the military. Because of this (and the state of disarray) the military are still in control of this conurbation and there is no likelihood of this state of emergency being lifted in the near future.

This once-proud industrial area is now reduced to a state where they are far too worried about day to day survival and where the next meal is coming from to even be bothered by other events around them. While goods are easily available through the thriving black market they are extortionately priced. Life for those that can currently afford such prices will become very difficult when the last of the Corporations abandon their facilities (as they are in the process of doing), and they lose their jobs and incomes.

There are increasing, although as-yet unsubstantiated, rumours that tell of residents turning to cannibalism, so desperate are they to supplement their already meager diets.

Any tourists going here had better have a really good reason! You may be a real tough guy back home, but you are still going to go down under a mob of people who see you as either a way out of the city or as someone who has something they can sell for food...or even (God forbid!) as a potential Sunday roast—and they can always sell your cyberware afterwards.

LANARK-LOTHIAN CONURBATION (pop 656k 208.1 sq miles)

LAW CODE (AS PER INDIVIDUAL CITIES)

The largest single conurbation in Scotland, this metroplex spreads all the way from Glasgow on the Clyde, east to the capital in Edinburgh. The unstable political situation in the country is most noticeable here and urban conflicts between the loyalist and nationalist factions are common. The only things that are keeping the violence under some semblance of control are the presence of the National Assembly and the "Black Watch," both of which are in Edinburgh. They represent the first tangible signs of progress that the people have seen on the subject of an independent Scotland. However, a significant portion of the community see them as nothing more than smoke screen designed to forestall the country's exit from the union and is this belief that makes the area such a volatile place to live.

Glasgow

LAW CODE: 3-4-2

Established in AD 543, the city of Glasgow cast off its medieval past during the industrial revolution and grew to consume the small towns that satellite around it. This trend has continued ever since to the point where it is almost impossible to recognize the old district boundaries. Paisley, Renfrew, Bearsden, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs, Clydebank, you name it, they have all been gobbled down by the ravenous eastern expansion of the sprawl.

The traditional industries such as steel, ship building and textiles have now given way to information technology and electronics. Cheap land prices and incentives made Glasgow the flagship of the U.K.'s voyage out of recession in the early 90's and established the region as one of the premier investments in Europe. With foreign capital there came jobs and opportunities and for the first time since the 19th century the youth of the city's ghettos had something to look forward to. It is unfortunate that events in other parts of the world should have burst the bubble but that is life.

Some cities would have given up and let the economic currents wash them where they would but not the people of Glasgow. Now, with the emergence of the E.C. as the dominant market in the world, the ever-industrious population are finding their way back to the head of the pack.

It is not all sweetness and light, though; gang violence and random mayhem are still very much the norm. Only a fool would walk down Gorbals Street or through Alexandra Park

during the day, let alone at night. The poorer areas, like any large city around the globe, are a dangerous place to get lost. Govan and Partick for instance, are especially nasty, their proximity to the Clyde Tunnel making them a flash point for many a bloody drug war. Currently, a combination of BCF and Corp security forces are in the process of clearing the area of undesirables. The Corps want it for its real estate value and are prepared to pay through the nose to get it.

As far as the SRA and SLF factions (Scottish Republican Army/Scottish Loyalist Faction, see pgs.117-118) go, it is fairly simple. The Nationalists hold control in most areas north of the Clyde, while the Loyalists hold the areas to the south. This only adds to the dangers that surround the Clyde Tunnel and when combined with the trigger happy, embattled residents can only lead to one conclusion—keep away.

If you decide to avoid this advice and are looking to earn some drinking vouchers, then Central Station is the place for you. If you need anything you'll either find it here or in Glasgow Green. Just go to either and wait, someone will come ask you what you want before long. One thing you should bear in mind is that you should never break eye contact when making a deal. This is a sign of mistrust amongst the short-tempered members of the local underworld and is likely to get you killed. One more thing—a handshake is enough and once given is exclusively binding. Break a deal, and your chances of avoiding a water grave in Loch Lomond are extremely remote.

Edinburgh

LAW CODE: 2-1-1

If you stand on the top of "Arthur's Seat," the extinct volcano that stands guard over the city, take a deep breath and close your eyes, you can almost taste the blood of a city on the move. Scotland's capital has seen Kings, Queens and invaders come and go, empires rise and fall, but through it all, has remained the heart of the nation's pride. Now, after more than 400 years in the clutches of an exploitive southern landlord, Scotland is once again on the brink of independence.

The newly-elected National Assembly sits in Holyrood House and is already beginning to find its feet as a political entity. The 1 o'clock gun is still fired from the Half Moon Battery and the colors of the "Black Watch" have been restored to their rightful place on the walls of St. Giles. If Mary Queen of Scots were alive today, what would she think of her countrymen? Would she be pleased or dismayed that it has taken so long to win back Scotland for the Scots? Whatever her thoughts, she can rest safe in the knowledge that the people of Edinburgh will not give up what it has taken them so long to gain.

Unlike Glasgow, this end of the Metroplex is an exclusively nationalist region and is the Lowland's center for all

SRA operations. While the politicians talk, the SRA terrorists make continuing war against the English, having sworn not to relent until Scotland is finally released from the union. There is little room for the loyalist view in Edinburgh beyond that held by the BCF officers commanding the "Black Watch," who spend all of their time trying to suppress the SRA's rising level of aggression.

The common folk watch nervously as the two factions battle it out and are thus far content to wait, rather than choose a side. They can see a future there for the taking, but will not pick up arms unless that same future is threatened, because too many have lost their sons and daughters already.

Currently the visitor does not have too much to worry about, provided of course that they are sensible. The SRA are anxious that they gain the sympathy of the English people, and therefore only rarely attack an innocent, so-called, 'soft' target. By ensuring that you stick to the better-patrolled areas around the city center you can avoid much of the unpleasantness that you find in Glasgow and the districts in between. Just don't break the law and you'll be fine.

Excerpts from a chat on a local Edinburgh subgrid BBS, March 9th, 2022:

"Rache Bartmoss? Yeah, he's good, but what does he know about the Net nowadays? He's too busy acting famous and shootin' off his big mouth! Why, even if he IS alive I could take 'im with one lobe tied behind my...

...my...

Gikkk! Kfrb!! Arrghhhhhh....."

Communication Terminated At SourceRACHE.VIRUS.XXile

BELFAST (pop 310k 62 sq miles)

LAW CODE: 0-5-1

Although not part of the British mainland, this is **The Most Dangerous Place** in Britain to visit. The only traffic going between Belfast and mainland Britain is military in nature and without government permission it is impossible to get there. Unless of course you travel from the southern republic of Eire where you will be able to find any number of smugglers who will be willing to take you across the DMZ—for a large fee of course.

Belfast, like the rest of Ulster, is strictly divided into Republican (predominantly Catholic) and Loyalist (mainly Protestant) Quarters. During the day these are heavily patrolled by the units of the largest BCF garrison in the United Kingdom, who have total jurisdiction and operate a government-sanctioned shoot-to-kill policy. The Ulster Defense Regiment recruits purely from Northern Ireland as mainland troops have been pulled out. However, how strictly this policy is adhered to is anybody's guess. Despite efforts to recruit from the various communities the make-up of the regiment is predominantly Loyalist and as such, members are prime targets for IRA and INLA assassination attempts.

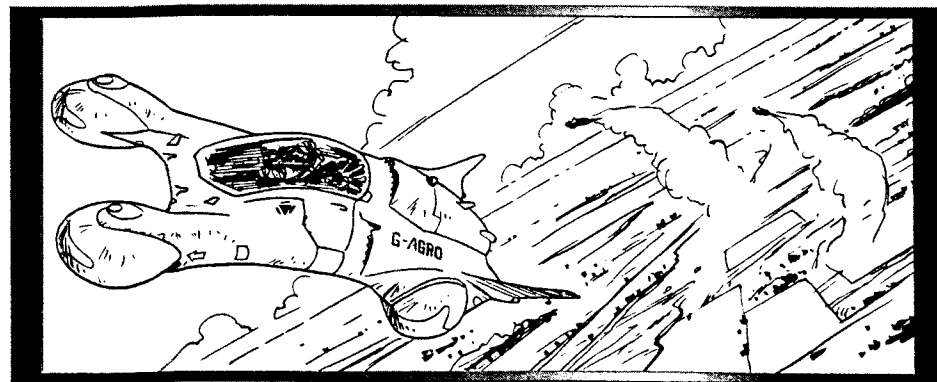
Nobody in Ulster is safe (or considered innocent)—many people who have had no interest in politics have been killed in front of their families just because they happen to be living in the wrong area of town.

During the hours of darkness patrols are greatly reduced for their own safety! Just about every night in Belfast is a Friday Night Fire Fight! The garrison remains holed up in one of sev-

eral heavily fortified bases that have a one hundred meter free fire zone surrounding each. The only forces operating after sunset are the twenty Kestrels that patrol the night skies. No civilian air traffic—corporate or otherwise—is allowed to enter the airspace over Belfast without first obtaining clearance. The Kestrels will issue a challenge once to unknown air traffic before summarily shooting it down.

Belfast is probably the one city that is more dangerous than Night City. Even the Arasaka Corporation will not operate in Belfast. When the MLA awarded the contract for policing Belfast to Arasaka in 2009 it was only a matter of weeks before they realized that they had bitten off more than even they could chew. When the head of Arasaka's local branch and his family were kidnapped, it was the SAS that got them out. The Arasaka facilities were destroyed by firebombs shortly afterwards. With the right contacts it is easy to find work, weapons and ammunition. Smartguns and other modern weapons can cost ten times normal prices. The work will usually be extremely hazardous and probably pay poorly. None of the groups involved in the struggle like to have outsiders involved. Of course if you do go, then travel at night—which is still highly dangerous, but at least it means you won't get arrested. During the day BCF patrols will arrest or shoot anybody claiming to be tourists simply because they're not allowed, and in any case they would find it hard to believe anyone would actually want to come to Belfast as a tourist; therefore, they must have something to hide.

Nightlife of any kind is very hard to find as clubs get bombed and pubs, being generally sectarian in nature, are often the site of assassinations. The nearest thing to real nightlife can be found at the various BCF bases but this is strictly for the enjoyment of BCF members and their families.



MAKE SURE TO FILE YOUR FLIGHT PLAN!

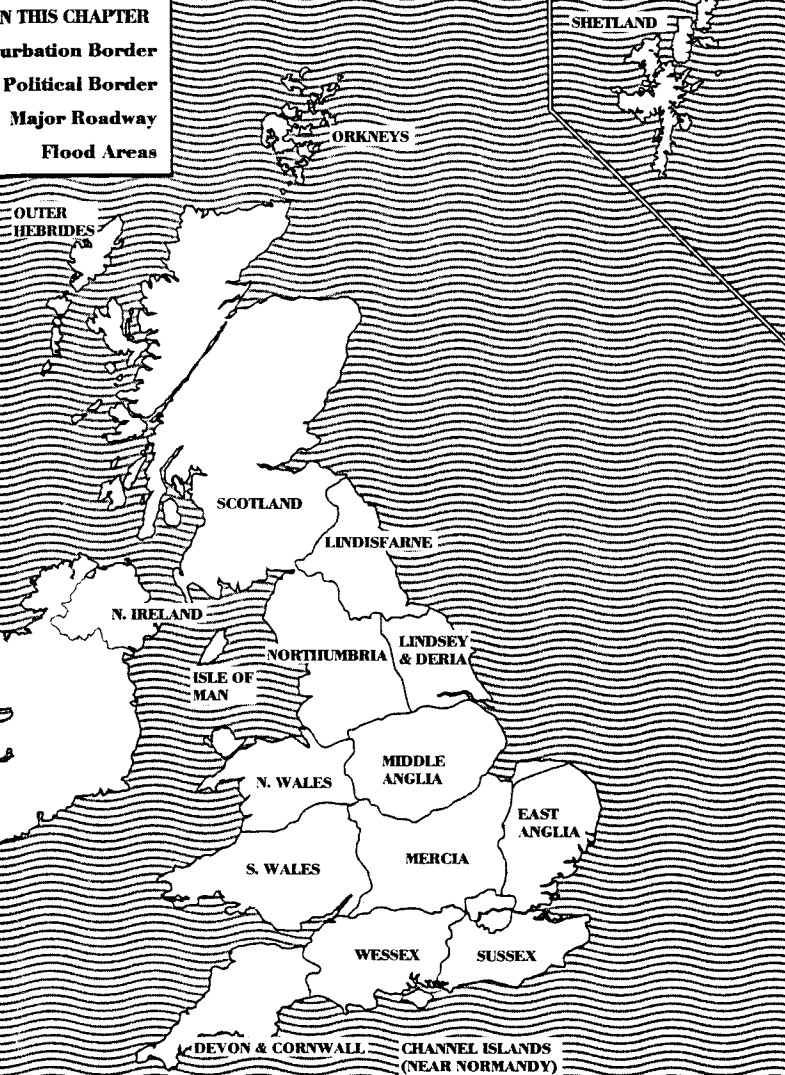
ENGLAND: A REGIONAL GUIDE



THE UNITED KINGDOM

KEY TO MAPS IN THIS CHAPTER

- Conurbation Border
- Political Border
- Major Roadway
- Flood Areas



UNDER THE PLAYER CONTACTS SECTION OF EACH TOWN, THOSE CONTACTS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH PLAYER CHARACTERS FOR AN EXTENDED TIME HAVE THEIR MOST RELEVANT SKILLS NOTED.

DEVON AND CORNWALL

The first country of the kingdom to be dealt with by our gallant band of beer-swilling reporters and birth-place to all but one of them.

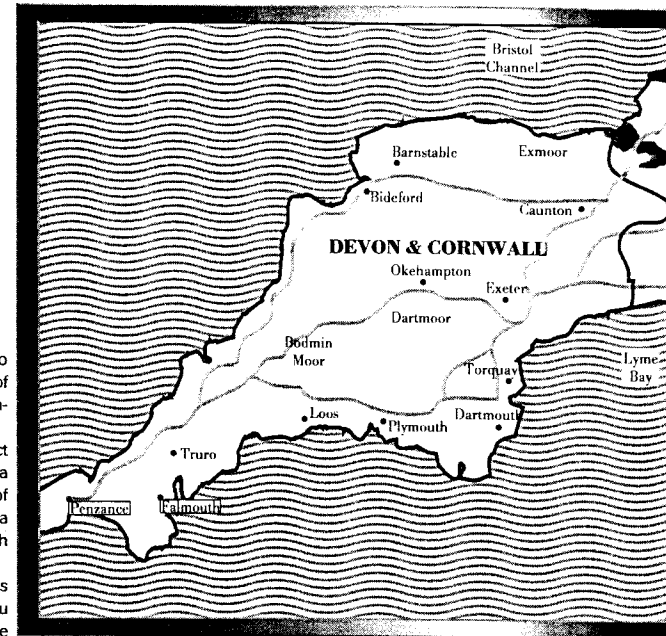
Actually the title of this district is a bit of a misnomer as the area also includes large parts of Somerset as well. This area has a long and ancient history along with a tradition of independence.

Devon and Cornwall has probably the best climate (if you like the sun) in the whole of the U.K. and for well over a century had been the place for the British to visit on their vacation.

Obviously this has taken a bit of a downturn since the imposition of the various border controls and has led to a very high level of unemployment. The independence movement is again gathering pace and many slogans supporting Kermow (or Cumow - depending on who wrote it) can be seen. This movement gathers in strength the further west you go while in the east there is virtually no support for it all.

Large parts of Devon and Cornwall are privately owned by Queen Victoria as part of the Restoration. These areas are known as the Duchy of Cornwall and many Royalists hold a great affection for them as a lasting symbol of King Charles III and his valiant stand against the MLA. Land owned by the Duchy is strictly off limits to everybody and no pass will gain you entry unless signed by Lords' Hill or McKenzie or Sir Hubert Norrington—the Queen's Personal Secretary.

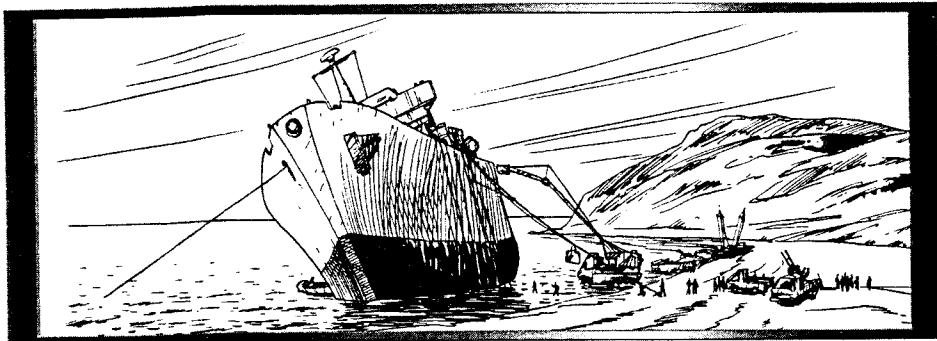
RUMOR: SOME PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY HC AND IMA, ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER WHY THE QUEEN NEEDS SUCH PRIVACY—AFTER ALL, SHE HAS NO OFFICIAL RESIDENCE THERE



The major towns are Truro, Plymouth, Torbay, and Penzance. These towns will be discussed later.

Dotted all around the coast of Devon and Cornwall are numerous isolated small fishing villages giving areas of western Cornwall a feel similar to Wales or Western Scotland. This feel is mainly due to its striking scenery and its long history. Cornwall was one of the last outposts of the old Celts and therefore shares a common heritage with Scotland, Wales and Brittany in France. Most of these villages are very insular and do not take kindly to strangers apart from those with Welsh, Scottish or French accents. Surprisingly enough, you can quite often hear those type of accents in the western portion of the district. The government suspects these people to be couriers and/or messengers between various nationalist factions (yes, including the French—the Bretons have more in common with the Cornish than with the rest of France).

Others are suspected of piracy, of which there is a great deal in these areas. Most just prey on tourists that have strayed too far from the safe areas around Penzance and the Scilly Isles. Some, however, have moved on to bigger fish and occasionally hijack the odd oil or CHOO2H tanker as they approach Milford Haven in Southern Wales. What they do with these huge ships is anybody's guess along with why the gov-



CORNISH WRECKERS

ernment forces can't find them. Interference at high levels is suspected but has yet to be proved. It is surmised that most of this fuel is used by the various nationalist movements but the method used to unload the ships or where this is done has yet to be discovered.

The main industries in Devon and Cornwall are fishing, tourism, tin mining and smuggling. In the last twenty years both tourism and fishing have taken a bit of a downturn due to both monetary restraints and the restriction of movement in the case of tourism. Fishing is no longer the major industry it used to be due to overfishing and pollution. Many families were forced to stop fishing as they couldn't afford to buy the bigger, well-armed boats needed to work the Arctic and Icelandic fishing grounds. Those who decided to stay in fishing clubbed together and invested in huge factory ships that they bought from the Baltic states. They now fish the South Atlantic, but due to the competition for the few remaining viable fishing grounds, have to be protected by the Navy.

Tin mining had disappeared by the mid-90's but new technology had allowed some of the old mines to re-open. The first to begin production using robotic miners was the Wheal Jane mine near Truro. Once this proved to be a success, other mines followed suit and Cornwall now finds itself the world's third largest producer of tin.

The administrator this district is Trevallion Crepole, a native Cornishman who, it is claimed, understands the needs of the Cornish people.

Places to Visit

Truro

Truro is the administrative center for the region. It, like most of the cities in this region, is small, only qualifying for city status because of its splendid cathedral. It has been the capital of

Cornwall for a long time and was selected to be the administrative center soon after the Restoration because, it was claimed, the area had a long tradition of loyal service to the crown. Many political insiders say the real reason was to have a massive influence in the center of the independence movement's power-base, thereby restricting that organization's operations by merely being there. While Truro is the administrative center most of the military presence is at Plymouth. Law Code: 5-3-4

Player contact: Maurice Trevallion, Clerk in the City Works department. Maurice is as trustworthy as anyone can be with his salary and a family of nine to feed. With a little incentive, Mr Trevallion can be a useful source of information. Who put in the security for this, who is building what, etc.

Maurice Trevallion, Corp (INT9)
Relevant Skills: Resources 2, Bureaucracy 4, Forgery 2, Expert (City Works) 6

RUMOR: "THE NATIONALISTS ARE PLANNING TO BOMB THE TOWN HALL WHEN THE NEW MAYOR IS APPOINTED."

Plymouth

Plymouth has, along with Portsmouth, been the base of British naval power for centuries. While successive governments wound down the military presence in Plymouth as Portsmouth became headquarters for the Navy, most of the docks and barracks still remained in place and therefore made an ideal place to base the Devon and Cornwall regiment of BCF—the King's Own Devon & Cornwall; especially as it is relatively cen-

tral and has good access. The old Devonport dockyards now house the South Atlantic Fisheries Protection Task Force. Law Code: 2-1-2.

Player contact: Smudge "The Grudge" Tomkins, ex-Navy, given a dishonorable discharge for striking a superior officer who supposedly made advances to his wife. If you need to know about the naval base he is the man to ask and can be found in the "Flying Boat" on any weekday evening.

Smudge Tomkins, Thug (REF 7, INT 6, COOL 8)
Relevant skills: Brawling 4, Intimidate 5, Endurance 3, Expert (Local Coastline) 6

Penzance

Penzance is a medium-sized town that hasn't changed much in centuries, and as such, is quite a tourist attraction. It easy to see how life was lived all those centuries ago when Cornwall made its living out of fishing and tin mining. Penzance is also the only place where a regular ferry departs for the Scilly Isles (a privately-owned Corporate playground). The area around Penzance leading towards Lands End and up as far north as St. Ives is designated an Tourist Improvement Zone. Law Code: 4-2-4.

Player contact: Maxi Larch, a sixty year old ex-hooker who still wanders her old patch on the docks. Her looks are long gone and all she sells these days is information. If you want to know who was on the last ferry, cross her palm with plastic.

RUMOR:

"YOU 'EARD ABOUT THE 'ROSY JANE'?"

"WHAT YOU MEAN, OLD DOUG LANDERS KETCH?"

"AYE. SANK LAST NIGHT. WENT DOWN IN FINE WEATHER 2 MILES SOUTH OF ST ANGES. SAMES AS POOR OLD ROB'S TRAWLER LAST MONTH."

Torbay

Torbay used to be known as the English Riviera and is trying to regain its former status as one of the prime holiday spots in the whole of the U.K. and has undergone a renovation in the last

three years. It is not actually designated a Tourist Improvement Zone, as it's not intended as a vacation spot for those visiting from abroad, but more as a place for the British. As a result, many things can be had at a far cheaper price here than in Penzance. For this reason we recommend Torbay as a place to stay if you wish to tour this part of Britain. Law Code: 5-2-4.

Player contact: Rubin B. LongFellow, owner of the Bayview Hotel, known for his nationalist exploits. The authorities know about him, but are content to keep him on a long leash for the moment. If you're careful about how, when and where you approach him, he can be a veritable tin mine of useful tidbits.

RUMOR: THE HILLIARD CORPORATION HAVE BEEN BUYING LOTS OF LAND AROUND NEWTON ABBOT. THE NATIONALISTS WILL PAY TO FIND OUT WHY.

Other Places to Visit

Bodmin Moor

Bodmin Moor is situated to the west of Plymouth and along with Dartmoor and Exmoor is a rugged wasteland with scenery of great natural beauty. It has a long history of smuggling—indeed the world-famous Jamaica Inn is situated right in the middle of it. The moor is also steeped in Arthurian mythology and many local legends state that Arthur's last battle was in the area at Slaughter Bridge and that Excalibur was thrown into the lake that is now known as Dozmary Pool. Law Code: 1-3-2

Thus the moor is frequented by the Round Table Knights from Bristol (see *Eurosource*), a common sight along with Tintagel. Tintagel is (according to local legend) the site of Camelot. Whatever it was, it is certainly an impressive site—an ancient castle clinging to the cliffs of the northern Cornish coast. The Knights visit Tintagel occasionally, but as the site is a designated NFU meeting place, they tend to only visit if they know that it will be empty. The aforementioned sites are on occasion visited by The Pendragons (who are looking for the Knights). If you see both of these groups in the same area then our advice is to leave as quickly as you can.

Player contact: Mazery Waxmoon, initiate of the Sacred Hoop and historian of Authurian legend. She is the only survivor of the Dozmary massacre (see Rumor) and is believed to be hiding some

(continued next page)

where on the moor. If you can find her, she has a fine tale to tell.

Mazery Waxmoon, Nomad (INT 7)

Relevant skills: Family 3, Wilderness Survival 2, Hide/Evade 3, Expert (Aethurian History) 4

RUMOR:

"YOU HEARD ABOUT THE DOZMARY COMMUNE?"

"YEAH. MESSY BUSINESS, PAPERS SAID IT WAS PENDRAGON!"

"NO WAY, IT SOMET' ELSE. I HAD A CORP ASK ME THE WAY OUT THERE JUST TWO HOURS BEFORE IT HAPPEND. NEO-CRUCIBLE PUBLICATIONS OR SOMET. SAW HIS ID WHEN HE GOT OUT HIS WALLET TO PAY ME."

Dartmoor

Dartmoor, like Bodmin, is a harsh unforgiving moor but is much larger in area. A moor like Dartmoor has a lot of legend surrounding it both of the supernatural and the more mundane. Many modern legends have also sprung up, for example, the Hound of the Baskervilles (which was based in Dartmoor) is supposed to prowl the moor at night along with the ghosts of prisoners who tried to escape from the infamous prison. Speaking of the prison—it has now been turned into the Mount Charlotte Forte Maximum Security Hotel and Health Spa. As its title suggests this a hotel for the wealthy and boasts all the latest security devices. Many hunts take place round here—from the traditional British Hunt with Horse and Hound to the more exotic safari. All quarry are robotic replica although if the price is right a real prey can be hunted. Due to its size and bleakness Dartmoor is home to many tribes of Nomads—some are members of the major clans while other are just local tribes. Law Code: 2-3-2

Dartmoor is almost featureless so if you plan to visit be sure to take some sort of navigational device—people have been known to wander about in circles for days!

Player contact: Erin Jane Holmes, weekend relief secretary at Charlotte who has a passion for the fast lane. Show her a thrill and who knows what she might show you.

RUMOR: "SEE, THEY FOUND THOSE FOUR HIKERS OUT ON THE MOOR THIS MORN-ING—OWELL, AT LEAST WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEM. BONES WERE PICKED CLEAN IT SAID. OH, AND THERE'S A REWARD FOR ANYONE WHO CAN FIND WHO OR WHAT GOT EM. BAD FOR TRADE YOU SEE, SOMET' LIKE THIS."

Exmoor

Exmoor is very similar to both moors previously discussed and as such should be treated with caution. It gives such good protection to the small towns and villages along the north coast that many pay no attention to the government at all. Law Code: 1-3-2

The whole of the Devon and Cornwall area is a bit lacking in exciting nightlife for those who like that sort of thing. The best Club is Penhaligan's, just outside Penzance. It's situated in an old disused tin mine and has five dance floors catering for most types of music. Most drinks are served (including those in fashion in the 'States) and prices are reasonable—for a tourist area, that is. For a cheaper night out try Drake's in Plymouth or The Mayflower Club in Torbay.

Some Notable Locals

People who may be a help to any travellers in the area include Richard Drake, Frances Duchesney and Michael Warleggan. All of them are fixers (and damned good ones, at that).

Richard Drake claims to be descended from the great Francis Drake and certainly has his more famous namesake's ability with boats. He's reputed to be in his early fifties with a rough good humor and a blazing temper. He tends to operate out of the area around Exmoor. He helped with the Restoration by ferrying various royalists all over the West. He even claims to have smuggled members of the Royal household out of the country during Operation Cromwell (see section on Victoria II). While these claims cannot be substantiated he is damn good at what he does. If you need something brought into the country and you want to avoid all that tiresome queuing at customs then he's your man. It follows then that if you want to leave the area quickly, then he can arrange that too.

Richard Drake, Fixer (INT 8, COOL 8)

Relevant skills: Streetdeal 4, Water Vehicles 7, Forgery 6, Expert (Local Coastline) 6

Frances Duchesney operates out of Penzance and is rumoured to do a lot of work for the various Corporate recluses in the Scilly Isles. Duchesney deals mainly in drugs and industri-

al espionage. If you're here to do an extraction, then she's the contact to make - she knows the coast like the back of her hand and knows a lot of the Corps personally. Being of French descent, she is reputed to be under surveillance by government officials as a suspected courier between the Welsh, Breton and Cornish nationalist movements. She's deceptively young-looking with an intense personality. She tends to dress in the latest Euro-chic clothes.

Frances Duchesney, Fixer (INT 9, COOL 8)

Relevant skills: Streetdeal 6, Corporate Policy 6, Language (Breton) 5, Expert (Local Coastline) 5

Michael Warleggan is probably the best man to contact as he knows all the main players in the area and what's the best way to contact them—obviously you don't just wander around the Exmoor villages asking if Richard Drake can be found. (Not if you want to live!) He lives in the Bodmin area, but makes frequent trips to Plymouth and Penzance. He is rumored to live up to his reputation as the best smuggler in these parts by running his operation from Jamaica Inn. Physically unremarkable, he possesses a razor-sharp intellect and a fair degree of ruthlessness. This ruthlessness is mainly directed towards those who cross him or his friends. As long as you don't cheat on him, you should be alright.

Michael Warleggan, Fixer (INT 9, COOL 8)

Relevant skills: Streetdeal 7, Intimidate 5, Forgery 7, Hide/Evade 7

One person to stay clear of is Uther Crazy-Eyes (real name unknown). He is the leader of a pirate pack that has plagued the Cornish coast for years. His exact base of operations isn't known but is rumored to be the old fishing village of Polperro. He is vicious in the extreme and tends to butcher the crews of those vessels he captures. His appearance is unknown, as the area in which he is thought to live is very clannish and prone to protect their own. Many a team has gone looking for him. None have come out.

Uther Crazy-Eyes, Sea Nomad (REF 9, INT 6)

Relevant skills: Family 9, Melee 7, Tactics 7, Expert (Local Coastline) 6

Restrictions

There are few restrictions, but always check that your route does not take you anywhere near Duchy of Cornwall-owned land as a foreign party so near to such a sensitive area is liable to be treated with suspicion—so be ultra-careful.

Traveller Beware!

Many roads in Devon and Cornwall are passable; however, caution is advised in the areas of Bodmin, Dartmoor and Exmoor as many of these roads are small, single tracks—ideal for ambushes. Once off the beaten track many of the roads have fallen into disrepair so it is advisable that you check before attempting to use any. Also check that the roads are wide enough to take your vehicle as many roads in this district are bordered by high stone walls with very few passing places. The safest areas to visit are the Penzance, Truro and Plymouth areas.

SUSSEX

This district actually covers the old counties of Sussex and Kent with parts of Surrey. Large parts of this district used to be referred to as the Garden of England and the ETB likes to keep it that way (by owning large parts of it). This district is the main way into the U.K. for those driving from the continent as it encompasses the ports of Folkestone and Dover and the Channel Tunnel. Other Major Towns are Canterbury, Guildford, and Brighton.

Most of the county is a peaceful reminder of how England used to be—only the Dungeness and Romney Marsh are home any sort of criminal element, thus making this an ideal district for the wealthy Corp exec to live in. That is how the ETB would like it to be and for the most part, they are right. It is a very pleasant area with any picture postcard villages full of thatched cottages (OK, so the ETB built them last year but who cares) but a word of warning—stay away from the northeast of the district. This area is in close proximity to the Docklands Combat Zone, and more importantly, East Anglia, and that means that raids are frequent in this area—so be careful.

The Administrator for this area is Selwyn St. John (pronounced Sinjon) Nettleship.

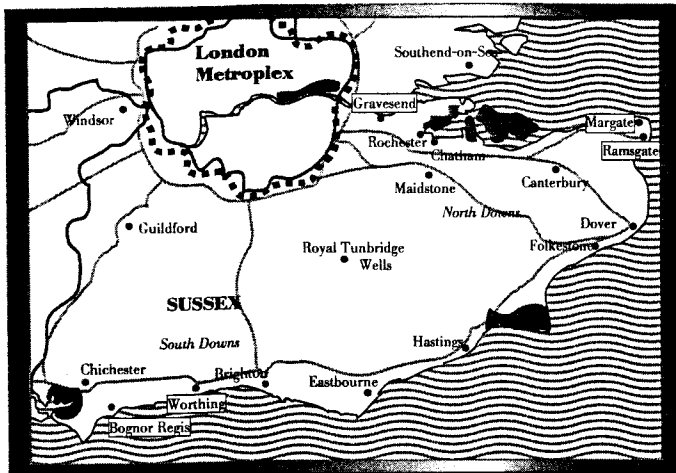
The roads are in very good condition and are probably the best in country. Even away from the Access roads, travel is easy and driving is a pleasure. The rail links are also good—especially the line to the Channel Tunnel (although not as good as on the French side).

Aerodyne travel is also good, but don't stray too far away from your registered plan near Canterbury or in the north east.

Places to Visit

Canterbury

Canterbury is the administrative center both for this district and also for the Church of England. Much of its old medieval architecture survives in and around the town. This town is jointly owned and run by the ETB and the Church of England. Due to this fact, the town has a very high security rating and has a



detachment of the Queen's Sussex Rifles permanently stationed there—specifically to protect the Archbishop of Canterbury. The town's security guards are at the moment at a high state of readiness as some of the more militant nomad packs have threatened to kill the Archbishop if he and the Government don't recognize Paganism as an official religion of the U.K. As such, our advice to you is if you plan to visit Canterbury and the surrounding area, please hand in any weapons you have (you're supposed to anyway) and always ask which areas are off-limits, because if you stray away from the beaten path the guards are likely to shoot first and not bother to ask any questions. Law Code: 3-1-1.

Player contact: Arthur Riddle, choirmaster at the New Cathedral College and closet member of the Pagan faith. He suspects that the Bishop is on to him and will exchange information for an escort to the Cheviot Hills.

RUMOR: "THE CHURCH IS OFFERING A BOUNTY FOR THE DISCRETE ASSASSINATION OF ONE ARTHUR BISHOP."

Guildford

Guildford is the Garrison town for the Sussex District, and as such, houses the Queen's Sussex Rifles. As far as law is concerned it falls under the auspices of the Home Counties Military Zone, and so you better have a good reason for being here. The Queen's Sussex Rifles are a bigger regiment than is strictly necessary for

the district due to the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury and also the troubles with London and East Anglia. Law Code: 2-1-1.

Player contact: None, they wouldn't even let me in. Bastards.

RUMOR: "THE GARRISON COMMANDER, IAN MCLELEN, IS INTERESTED IN BOYS—IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. HE WOULD BE LIKELY TO PAY A FORTUNE TO PREVENT A SCANDAL, UNLESS OF COURSE, HE JUST HAS YOU KILLED."

Brighton

Brighton, like Torbay, is another seaside resort and is largely owned by the ETB due to its architecture. For those of you interested in the cultural side of things, both the Royal Pavilion and the sea-front terrace are particularly good example of Royal eccentricity and regency design respectively. For those who aren't—don't come here; although things may become a little more interesting as the more militant factions of the Gay Rights movement have threatened action against the ETB. The reason for this was that Brighton had a huge gay population that was tolerated by the MLA—it was considered better to have them where they could keep an eye on them. When the ETB came in and bought up large areas it was considered detrimental to the public good (i.e., profits) to have a large gay community right next door to your major tourist attractions, what with AIDS and AIDS II it "just wouldn't do." The gays were moved out of Brighton to various "resettlement" camps—many were never heard from again. The present government is "embarrassed" about this homophobic policy but has yet to condemn the ETB's action, preferring to hold an enquiry first. Law Code: 4-2-4.

Player contact: Harriet Harding, local historian/biographer and the living 'Who's Who?' of the area.

RUMOR: THE ETB ARE CONCERNED BY INTELLIGENCE ABOUT A GAY RIGHTS MILITANT WING THAT IS PLANNING ATTACKS IN THE CITY.

Folkstone

Folkstone is one of two major ports in the District and deals with all large goods that are to large (or too dangerous) to travel using the Channel Tunnel. Ships depart here daily to France and on a four daily rotation to Denmark, Germany, Belgium and Holland. Folkstone has taken over virtually all of the volume of traffic that used to be undertaken by Felixstowe and Harwich, as both of those ports are considered to dangerous to approach by road. As befits a port of this size security is strict and guards tend to be trigger happy. Law Code: 4-1-2.

Player contact: Alan Porter-Smith, Solo, who is always looking for suitable recruits to help him protect the many illegal shipments that he has dealings with.

Alan Porter-Smith, Solo (REF 7, COOL 6)
Relevant skills: Combat Sense 4; Handgun 4; Streetwise 4; Athletics 3

RUMOR: THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REGIMENT ARE PLANNING A RAID ON SEVERAL KNOWN-SMUGGLERS' HIDEOUTS.

Dover

Dover handles most of the smaller goods traffic to the same destinations as Folkestone and caters for those who prefer a leisurely cruise to the continent. Such ships, especially those on the Esbjerg and Hamburg routes, tend to carry their own security to fend off pirates from East Anglia and the Baltic states. Also near Dover is the Channel Tunnel. At the present this still consists of just a rail link as the road link keeps falling behind schedule due to unfortunate accidents or mishaps (of course the ferry operators don't mind...). The Channel Tunnel is such a ripe target for terrorist attack that security is incredibly tight, and since the bombing of the Liverpool-Dublin tunnel, this has been increased yet again. By the time you have gone through three body scanners and countless immigration checks it would have nearly as quick to go by ferry. Law Code: 2-1-2

Most places within this district have prices that cater for the rich—i.e., too bloody expensive for the likes of you and me. It's best to stick to fish & chip shops for food and the local pub for a night. Stay away from all the tourist traps. There are numerous night clubs where the rich and famous strut their stuff into the wee small hours; the best of which are located in Brighton but they are very expensive.

Some Notable Locals

Napoleon Mainwaring (pronounced manning) is a Corporate banker who lives in Canterbury. He has a lot of contacts in the city and is always looking to expand his wealth and power especially overseas. He could help you if you offer an "I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine" scenario. He looks like your archetypal Corporate executive with his real wool suits and his fine silk shirts.

Napoleon Mainwaring, Corp (INT 8, COOL 7)
Relevant skills: Resources 6, Business Sense 7, Stock Market 6, Accounting 6

Kerry Packer is a top media personality who lives in Brighton. Her speciality is investigative journalism with a special interest in sport. Because of this, more than one doping gang wants her dead because of her reports on horse racing. Her fearlessness in the face of overwhelming odds has won her both the Cook and the Kate Adie awards. She is charming, very good looking and has the bulldog spirit when she gets her teeth into a story.

Kerry Packer, Media (INT 8, EMP 7)
Credibility 7, Photo/Film 3; Interview 5, Persuasion 3

One of the best fixers in the district is one Luigi Fercotti whose place of residence is Dover, overlooking the Channel Tunnel. He can get you just about anything from the continent—all it takes is a little time and money. He is under suspicion for smuggling, but like all those who are the best in their profession, the police and Customs & Excise have never amassed enough proof to nail him. A small man with greasy hair and long sideburns he looks as though he should be living in the 1950's

Luigi Fercotti, Fixer (INT 6, COOL 7)
Streetdeal 3, Intimidate 3, Pick Lock 3, Persuasion 3

Restrictions

Pretty lax, unless you stray close to East Anglia or the inner areas of Canterbury, or the Docks. If you are of a nomadic persuasion, stay well away from all of them if you don't want any trouble.

Traveller Beware!

All road and sea traffic is in danger around this part of England. Be especially vigilant around East Anglia (see following section) where civil unrest, piracy and trigger-happy BCF units make keeping your head down of graphic importance.



HIGH TIDE

EAST ANGLIA

Our simple advice is stay away from this area as it is rapidly becoming another Northern Ireland, only this time, with the added excitement of the Mekong Delta thrown in. Although to be fair, this latter problem is not just located in East Anglia but also Middle Anglia and parts of Mercia, and Lindsey & Deira as well. As the problem is centered in this area, we will deal with The Wash Riverine Zone in this section. The original problem was that the administrator, Major Harris, cracked down hard on subversives (meaning everybody who wasn't right-wing in politics and religion). These people obviously didn't take too kindly to this and rebelled. What the people of East Anglia want isn't known—it could be that if Harris was to go they would return to the fold, or they may want a total return to democracy. Many think that, collectively, they haven't got a clue what they want.

The major towns in this district are Colchester, Ipswich, Felixstowe, Harwich and Norwich (Cambridge just falls within the jurisdiction of Mercia).

The East Anglians are a rag-bag of various beliefs (both religious and political) united under two common purposes—

self-defence and a hatred for the government. This would make things easy for the BCF if everybody felt this way but a great many East Anglians support the Monarchy, and so in places a virtual civil war exists making life very difficult for those members of the forces who have to police this District—at least in Vietnam the enemy looked different. (and can you trust everybody in your unit...?)

What makes this place so dangerous is the effect of global warming and years of civil unrest—this area has long been a maze of marsh land and small rivers. When the country was at peace with itself, thousands of pumps kept the water level from rising. However, the rise in the sea level together with the slow cessation of pumping meant that the marshes returned and the rivers grew larger. More and more land fell before the advancing tides and many communities became cut off from the rest of Britain.

The multitude of rivers along with the ridges of the Chiltern Hills have provided many of the villages with a natural defence from government forces. A lot of arms were supplied to the villages by both the Scottish separatists and the IRA in the hope that if they kept the Army busy in its own backyard, the English might pull out. While the villages were

grateful for the initial supplies they have shown a marked reluctance to deal with either movement for independence (or indeed their own) and sent further representatives away with instructions not to return. As this has cut off their original main source of weapons, they have since been dealing with the nomads who provide weapons to the various tribes up north.

It has been noted that many people have expressed no interest in toppling the Government just yet, and many think they just want to clear out The Wash (and surrounding areas) of all vestiges of rule from London.

At the moment most villages seem to be keeping to themselves, but it's suspected that this a prelude to some sort of offensive to drive the BCF out of the area. This latest snippet of intelligence has concerned many people in Westminster as it may mean that a more cohesive force is being formed. Due to this latest information many Infiltration Teams (both British and foreign) are being sent into the region with orders to find out what they can.

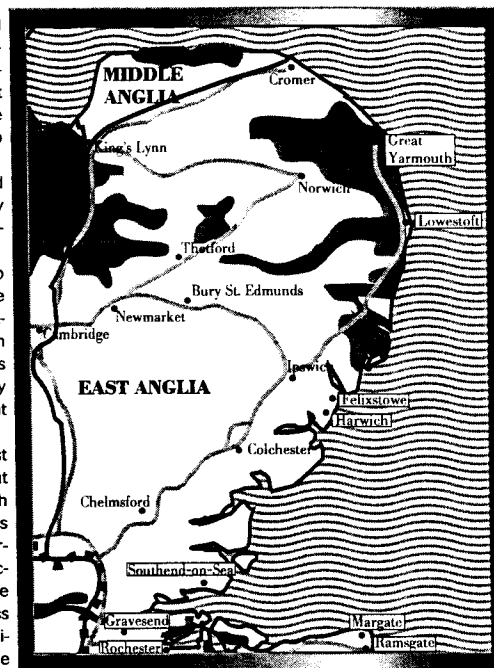
Although there are a few major access roads in East Anglia most of them aren't as safe as the government likes to say they are. In fact, once you get past Ipswich and Cambridge, you're on your own. The most dangerous roads are those to Cromer and Norwich as this area is virtually an independent state. During high tides large sections of the roads are underwater and this (along with the frequent bombing of bridges) makes most of the Access roads impassable unless you are driving an off-road vehicle. Most of the other roads are impassable at all time times of the year and are kept this way to hinder BCF patrols. A few roads are passable, but only the locals know which roads are safe.

If you are flying an Aerodyne vehicle be sure to stick to your filed flight plan or you're liable to be visited by the RAF or, more likely, shot down by a missile from Norwich or Colchester.

Places to Visit

Colchester

Colchester is the administrative center for the district as well as the base for the East Anglian Grenadiers. Although most district capitals have a high security rating, Colchester, more than most, is not a place to be caught with an unauthorized weapon. It is a town virtually under siege, but luckily for Colchester its attackers are two totally separate forces—those from East London and those from East Anglia. Colchester does manage to exert a calming influence over a fifteen mile radius and the roads between Chelmsford and Colchester, and Ipswich and Colchester are relatively safe (most of the time). Law Code: 1-2-1.



Player contact: Eliza Bootknees, local derelict and street philosopher of some note. At least that is how she appears—actually, she is one of the most talented fixers that it has ever been my pleasure to work with.

Eliza Bootknees, Fixer (INT 8, COOL 9)
Streetdeal 6, Urban Survival 6, Hide/Evade 5, Persuasion

RUMOR: "E" SAID SHE COULD GET SOME 'LACE' FOR THE REST OF THE PLATOON. DO YOU WANT IN OR NOT?"

Harwich and Felixstowe

Harwich and Felixstowe are two port towns that have fallen on hard times due to the political situation in East Anglia—nei-

ther the Road Haulers or private individuals wanted to risk the roads to either port and so business declined and the slack was picked up by Folkestone and Dover. Both towns are slowly falling under the influence of the East Anglians as neither town has received any help from Westminster and the people feel betrayed. Law Code: 4-4-4.

Player contact: Iphany Larouse, madame of the "Mother's Touch" gentlemen's club. She is a kind of employment service and has a rather interesting method of sealing a contract.
Iphany Larouse, Fixer (INT 7, EMP 7)
Streetdeal 2, Seduction 6, Business Sense 4, Perform 3

RUMOR: THE BCF ARE PLANNING A NAVAL BLOCKADE OF FELIXSTOWE.

Ipswich

Ipswich is another town under siege and only the close proximity of Colchester has prevented its fall. Again, this is not a town to be caught with any unauthorized weapons at all—if you are found out with any you can kiss goodbye to both you weapons and your life. This is not a fun place to visit although some money can be made here as a guard on the weekly goods convoys to Norwich and Cambridge. Law Code: 3-1-3.

Player contact: Captain Marshall Freeman of the City Watch is always up for a friendly game of chance. Buy his marker and take your chances.

RUMOR: "BEST LEFT ALONE IF YOU ASK ME, BUT IF YOU WANNA KNOW? I HEARD THE WATCH ARE HUNTING A BCF SPY AND OFFERING 1,000Eb TO THE PERSON THAT SMOKES HIM."

Norwich

Norwich is the last outpost of government rule in deepest East Anglia and almost looks like a medieval city state with its numerous guard towers atop a newly-built wall that surrounds a good third of the city, with construction of the rest of the wall continuing as fast as the contractors can manage

it (or the East Anglians will allow). The town is kept alive by weekly supply convoys from Ipswich and Cambridge. The city has a detachment of East Anglian Grenadiers based here whose job is to pacify the surrounding area—an impossible task at present. There are no reasons for a tourist to be here as it's very dangerous and anybody claiming to be just visiting to look at the lovely churches etc. will be viewed with suspicion. Law Code: 2-1-2.

Generally

There isn't that much in the way of recognised restaurants apart from the ubiquitous Chip shop, and as for nightclubs—forget it. Only pubs exist in East Anglia, and boy, can some of these be lively. Especially in Colchester and Ipswich—all those squaddies (soldiers to you) like to let off steam if they're on a 48 hour pass. Those who like to spend their cash in nightclubs tend to travel to London or Cambridge for their fun night out.

Some Notable Locals

This is area is obviously a fine breeding ground for Solos and one of the best is Harley Stone. Stone used to be a cop in London until he was kicked out for excessive violence. American by birth, he has been in Britain for twenty years. He's getting on in years now, but still a good contact to know.

Ian Kilminster runs a water taxi service out of Norwich, a sort of aqua-Combat Cabb. He will take you wherever you wish to go in the region and his price is very reasonable. He can normally be found off-duty in the Fowlers Arms in Norwich. Kilminster is looking to expand the company to take in Peterborough, Boston and the surrounding area, but hasn't actually got around to doing anything about it yet (like even coming up with a name for it). He has long greasy hair with a beard, sideburns and some facial warts.

Ian Kilminster, Fixer (INT 6, REF 7, COOL 7)
Streetdeal 4, Water Vehicles 6, Business Sense 2, Rifle 3

Sgt. Elliott is part of the Norwich defense force and has been stationed here for years. He was in Northern Ireland before the troops pulled out. East Anglia is just as bad if not worse. At least over there the "enemy" had an Irish accent. Here, you can't even trust some of your own mates. Its rumored that Elliott is a member of the special forces but while he, of course, denies this it must be said that he is not a member of the East Anglian Grenadiers and tends to work on his own.

Sgt. Elliott, Solo/Soldier (INT 7, REF 9, COOL 7)
Combat Sense 6, Martial Arts (Karate) 4, Tactics 6, SMG 5

Restrictions

Depending on whether you are in government-controlled country or not, dictates the level of clearance you require. If in a BCF region, your papers had better be of the highest quality or it's shallow grave time. Elsewhere, your only requirements are a quick tongue and a talent for talking bollocks.

Traveller Beware!

If you haven't figured it out by now, can I have your boots?

MIDDLE ANGLIA

Middle Anglia, to paraphrase a soccer cliché, is a district of two halves—to the east you have a continuation of the East Anglian troubles with a marshland criss-crossed by countless small rivers stretching inland as far as Lincoln. To the west, you have the outer reaches of the Birmingham and Cheshire Metroplexes. The topography of the area is such that from the Sheffield area of the Cheshire Metroplex to the sea is virtually flat with no real hills to speak of.

Most of the major towns in this district are described as part of either the Birmingham or Cheshire Metroplex. Other towns include Doncaster, Grimsby, Boston and Lincoln.

The east of the district is as dangerous as East Anglia and should not be visited unless you like things on the hectic side. The rising sea level and the cessation of pumping has allowed the small villages to become almost independent from Westminster. Those close to Peterborough (the base of the BCF's Riverine Task Force) pay lip service to the government, but the further north and east you get, the more independent you get. Much of this area is left alone both by the forces and the ordinary citizen, thus giving rise to all sorts of rumors of atrocities going on, and that's just the Army!

Boston, Lincoln and Skegness have fallen under the influence of the East Anglians and if you like your life to be on the wilder side, then they could be the places to visit. Our intelligence suggests that life has an 'old west' feel with frontier justice reigning supreme.

The administrator who has the unenviable task of trying to reconcile problems that weren't of his own making is James Larson, and he is one of the leading motivators

behind the move to full democratic rule and the removal of Major Harris. However, Lord Hill doesn't like anybody rocking the boat, so Larson may get the elbow instead.

Places To Visit

Boston

Boston has recently fallen under the control of the East Anglians and has subsequently regained some of its former glory as a port due to the rise of the sea levels although a lot of what flows through the port is illegal—apart from King's Lynn it is the major port for arms smuggling in the area. The town is dominated by the octagonal tower of St. Bartolph's church—known as the Stump and this is often used as a lookout for the inhabitants of the town and is also used as a beacon for shipping when the latest supplies are being brought in.

The Major Access road that runs through hasn't been used for a while as any traffic (whether it was a convoy or not) fell under heavy attack. For around three months none but the foolhardy, or those having business in Boston or the surrounding area, have travelled along it. This has embarrassed the Government, who are annoyed at this because the port of Grimsby is now under severe threat—one of the two roads supplying the town has been cut and the other is under immense pressure. As such, a lot of the supplies for Grimsby are ferried across from Kingston Upon Hull. They are always looking for extra bodies to help—solos can be used as extra guards and runners can always be used to find out the latest plans from the BCF in Peterborough and Doncaster. Law Code: 3-2-3.

Player contact: Bulk, a blockade runner of some distinction who can be relied upon to fulfill his side of any bargain.

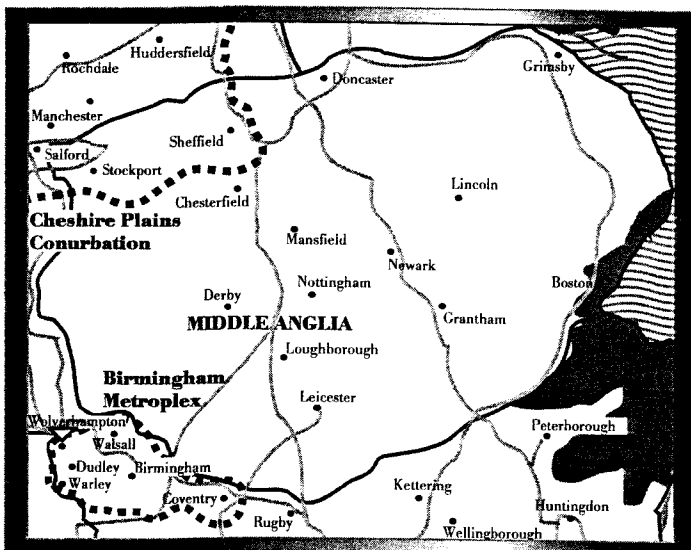
Bulk, Nomad (INT 6, REF 8)
Family 4, Driving 7, Endurance 4, SMG 3

RUMOR:

"OPERATION BRIGHT FALCON, UM"

"WHAT DID YOU SAY GRIFF?"

"REMEMBER THAT SCAG WE WACKED YESTERDAY. WELL HE HAD THIS MRAM IN HIS HEAD. ALL I'VE GOT OUT OF IT SO FAR
(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



IS THE TITLE, 'OPERATION BRIGHT FALCON' BUT I BET THE REST IS WELL TASTY."

"HEY, DON'T JACK AROUND MAN, LET SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THAT KIT HAVE SPOT..."

Lincoln

Lincoln is very similar to Boston in that it has a large church, or in this case, a cathedral dominating the surrounding landscape. It actually fell to the East Anglians ten months ago along with the surrounding area. Which also was a source of severe embarrassment to the Government and the BCF, as the RAF's college at Cranwell was one of those areas that fell.

Although this was felt to be part of the Restoration, the area has shown no inclination to return to government by Westminster and is now the target for an upcoming offensive. As such, this area might be a source of employment for solos either on the side of the East Anglians or fighting for Queen and Country. Techies could also find employment here as a great many things would need fixing, from arms and surveillance gear to trucks and AV's. Law Code: 4-4-2.

Player contact: Marcia Birdsall, Lincoln's answer to Marta Hari, only not as cute. What doesn't she know?

RUMOR: THE CROWN HAS A SPY IN LINCOLN BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIND THEM(?), YET.

Doncaster

Doncaster is the garrison town for the Royal Lincoln Greenjackets, and like all the other army towns is a safe town as long as you don't break the law and carry unauthorized weapons (well, OK—get caught with them). The town itself has little left of its Roman and Mediaeval heritage although some fine

Georgian architecture exists. The major attraction of Doncaster is its racecourse, which is one of the most popular in the country. Many meetings are held here at all times of the year with the course boasting a fine all weather, fully automated National Hunt course that reckoned to be the hardest in Britain apart from the world renowned Aintree course used for the Grand National. The most famous race is the Gold Shield Handicap where the actual handicap is the fact that the fences are constantly changing height (anywhere between three and seven feet). Some of the old fans of racing don't like this, but the many fans of the race claim that it brings out the best in both jockey and horse. Law Code: 3-1-4.

Player contact: Honest Henry, manager of Braddock's Turf Accountants. He is either psychic or knows something everyone else doesn't know about the day's racing form. Bet with him and you may be on to an earner, bet against him and you will be significantly poorer.

RUMOR: THE ETB WANTS TO SELL ITS 20% HOLDING OF THE RACE COURSE WHICH IS STRANGE, CONSIDERING IT COMES ONLY 3 MONTHS AFTER THEY BOUGHT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Grimsby

Grimsby has a long history of being one of Britain's major fishing ports and this tradition has continued. Most of the Arctic fishing fleet is based here and as such Grimsby is one of the country's true lifelines and a pivotal point for those forces in the area. As mentioned earlier, one of the supply routes—the MARS from Peterborough—has been cut with the fall of Boston, and the other is expected to become too hazardous within the next two months. The town depends on Kingston upon Hull for its supplies (apart from fish obviously). This is a good place to look for a job—the town needs people to defend it and you can always find a job on a trawler—either gutting fish, or again, defending it against the pirates that frequent the area. Law Code: 4-1-3.

Player contact: Mel Anetaul, master of the crab boat "Erica B," who has been known to hire his boat for charter.

Mel Anetaul, Sea Nomad (INT 6, REF 8)
Family 6, Water Vehicles 6, Business Sense 4, Marine Tech 3.

RUMOUR: "THERE'S A MEETING OF THE... 'CLUB', TONIGHT. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE AT EIGHT BELLS."

Generally

There are plenty of cheap (and good) places to eat in Middle Anglia—in fact some of the best are in Boston and Lincoln with fine restaurants in both places. Grimsby is obviously a good place for fish (and chips).

There isn't that much in the way of nightlife outside of the metroplexes but a very good time can be had in Doncaster when there's a race meeting on—especially if you can attach yourself to someone who's had a big win!

A Notable Local

Lester McCrimick is perhaps the leading bookie in the area and will take your money on any bet that you care to mention. Anything goes—from the winner of the 3-15 at Doncaster, to how much of the latest convoy to Norwich will actually make it through.

He is rumored to be involved in doping (to avoid paying out huge sums of money should the favorite come home in front). He flatly denies this, but has yet to answer why he has

a Netrunner on his staff. Although the sysop at Doncaster race course hasn't reported any break-ins to the Fence Control Systems, some people are now beginning to wonder about that random fence change at last month's 50,000 guineas when the hot favorite, Whiskas, seemed to be home and dry. McCrimick is an overweight man of about forty five who is very animated when he talks—he waves his hands about like he's making a bet with someone over your shoulder using tic-tac-toe.

Lester McCrimick, Fixer (INT 8, EMP 7)
Streetdeal 8, Gambling 7, Accounting 6, Persuasion 6

Restrictions

By no means as strict as East Anglia, a Full Tourist Ticket is enough to get you past most checkpoints, just keep away from military installations and you should be safe. (Well, relatively speaking.)

Traveller Beware!

The roads to the west of the district are reasonably passable, especially the A1, however, the roads to the east of this road are as dangerous as any in East Anglia. As we mentioned earlier, the Access road from Peterborough to Grimsby has been cut in two with the fall of Boston. This doesn't mean you can't still use it—just be careful.

MERCIA

Mercia is located in the English heartland, comprising parts of the former counties of Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, and including such towns as both Oxford and Cambridge within its boundaries. Being adjacent to the London Region, the area is well served by all the major arterial routes heading north and west from the capital. The majority of the region is relatively flat, underpopulated and non-urbanized. The north-west of the region is under the control of the English Tourist Board. Containing such historical locations as Warwick and Stratford-Upon-Avon, the ETB are anxious to develop this region fully so people can once more witness the beauty of English Heritage. The rest of the region is dominated by the IMA. Its vast expanse of fertile land make it prime arable farming country and provides much of the food for the rest of the U.K. Because of this, Mercia bore the brunt of the RAGE terrorist attacks of a few years ago, and even now

under the guidance and benevolent funding of the IMA, is only just returning to a position where it is able to produce its full quota of foodstuffs.

Places to Visit

Heading out from London, the average tourist will find Mercia a most beautiful region to travel through. Initially the traveller will pass through land that has been reserved for "military use" (exact definition classified), before entering the spectacular farmland. If one chooses the time of their journey correctly, you will be able to see genetically engineered wheat growing ten feet high, swaying majestically in the summer breeze.

Just south of Swindon, fully-automated farm and processing techniques can be seen to great effect at the massive IMA processing plant located there. Certain areas of the plant have been opened to the public where you can see the newly harvested wheat entering one end and fresh loaves of IMA bread exiting at the other. While there, you may enjoy a whole variety of IMA-produced foods very reasonably priced at the Baker's Oven restaurant, where the Corporate slogan "Giving You This Day Your Daily Bread" is proudly emblazoned. A gift shop selling souvenirs ranging from stylish sweatshirts (with the IMA logo on the front and the slogan on the back) to miniature loaves of bread fresh from the ovens complete your visit to this monument of Corporate agriculture. Law Code: 2-4-2.

Player Contacts: Richard Stanley, disgruntled Corp employee. He is a slimy lizard of a man currently assigned to financial planning. With the right incentives, he could possibly provide access to the secure areas of the processing plant. He can certainly provide sensitive fiscal information, and if pushed knows a good deal of information regarding the depth of IMA's past involvement with the MLA.

Richard Stanley, Corp (INT 6, EMP 5)
Resources 4, Wardrobe/Style 4, Social 5, Persuasion 3

RUMOR: "HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST? THE ETB HAVE BEEN BREATHING DOWN THE NECKS OF IMA AGAIN. IT SEEMS THAT THEY CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF ANYTHING TO DO WITH TOURISM THAT THEY DO NOT CONTROL. MIND YOU, I HEARD THAT IMA RECKON STRATFORD WOULD MAKE GOOD FARMING LAND, AND THEY ARE PAYING

GOOD MONEY TO ANYONE CRAZY ENOUGH TO CAUSE A FEW, YOU KNOW, DISTURBANCES UP THERE."

Moving further eastwards there lies a most unique attraction for the bolder tourist. The village of Uffington (known locally as Epona due to the large white horse carved into the nearby hillside) is an almost permanent encampment for the Triple Moon Clan. Although peaceable, they can be a little unnerving to the unseasoned traveller, but if you feel you want something a little out of the ordinary, this is a must. Enjoy genuine hand-cooked vegetarian fare at very reasonable prices and see traditional crafts such as dress- and jewelry-making. At night you will be entranced by a joyful mix of pipes and drums and delightful dancing as the Clan put on a show of traditional music unrivalled by even the most popular modern bands. (Note: Certain times of the year are regarded as religious festivals by the clan. We strongly recommend that you contact your nearest branch of either the ETB or the NFU before planning your trip to Uffington). Law Code: 5-1-3.

Player Contact: Hecate, an old woman of the Triple Moon Clan, she is a fixer who they reckon can supply you with anything from military pass cards to a working Militech Crusher.
Hecate, Nomad (INT 8, COOL 8)
Family 7, Awareness/Notice 4, Streetwise 6, Expert (Nomad Religious Mysteries) 5

RUMOR: "WATCH THE MOON, BROTHER, OUR TIME IS COMING. SOON THE HAG WILL LEAD HER CHILDREN, AND THE BOARD-ROOMS WILL RUN RED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE CORRUPT. BUT UNTIL THEN, SMOKE THIS, AND COME DANCE WITH PAN."

A little further north brings you to Oxford, which, along with Cambridge, is still the seat of British education. Characterized by the clock towers and dreaming spires of the university buildings. In stark contrast to the ancient buildings, Oxford is on the cutting edge of modern technology. The newly formed Babbage-Gibson College is the only establishment to offer degrees in netrunning, and the Hammond-Wu foundation has just been set up for research into biogenetics. If you plan to stay overnight, we can strongly recommend the Keeble College Hotel. Originally part of the university, the building was badly damaged by fire some twenty years ago, but has now been fully renovated and turned into a luxurious stop-over for the weary traveller. For

those just seeking food, Morse's serves traditional English fare to a sonorous background of the more obscure operatic masterpieces. Law Code: 5-1-3.

Player Contact: Puck, a netrunner studying at Babbage-Gibson College. Boasts that he can get into any system, as long as the price is right. After all, struggling students need some source of income. Grant cheques are so meager these days.

Puck, Netrunner (INT 8, REF 7)
Interface 4, System Knowledge 6, Programming 4, Education/Gen. Know. 4

RUMOR: "HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST STOCK-MARKET REPORT? THE HAMMOND BIOGENETICS FOUNDATION HAVE JUST PURCHASED A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF CENTRAL AMERICA. IT SEEMS THEY ARE SPARING NO EXPENSE, BUT I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY MONEY IN REAL ESTATE"

Warwick, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Warwick, Stratford-Upon-Avon, and the surrounding ETB reservation are found to the north amidst more IMA farmland. The ETB have gone to great lengths to ensure that the character of these towns remains unchanged, and that visitors can see them today exactly as they were hundreds of years ago. However, access to this region is restricted to those with valid ETB permits or other recognized holiday coupons. Tourists to this area can rest assured that the surrounding electrified fence and the armed and armored dirigibles circling lazily overhead in the blue skies will ensure that nothing untoward will detract from their full enjoyment of this slice of Britain's past. For the tourist from abroad, Stratford-Upon-Avon is probably the best known town in the area.

The birthplace of the world's greatest playwright, William Shakespeare, the town is a testament to his genius. Many buildings associated with the Bard can be visited, including his birthplace, the home of his son-in-law, and the homes of his wife and mother. All are furnished with genuine reproduction period furniture, and complemented by holograms of Shakespeare guiding you through the properties. The ETB sponsored Royal Shakespeare Company (newly reformed after the Restoration) perform nightly some of Shakespeare's greatest works. No visit to the town is complete without seeing at least one play. For eating, one must visit the Dirty Duck, the country's oldest public house, who serve a whole variety of cuisine in conjunction with traditional English ales, and the new Queen's Table, a highly exclusive restaurant, who proudly maintain that they serve "food fit for a Queen."

For your overnight stay in this picturesque town, try Elsinore, a mock Danish castle, with each room themed to a specific Shakespearean play. Young lovers can enjoy the pleasures of the Romeo and Juliet suite, while the more macabre minded may find more to their liking a night in the Macbeth chambers. Once you have seen all the delights that Stratford can offer, just a few miles up the road lies Warwick, where you will find a perfectly restored medieval castle,



complete with feasting halls, dungeons, and knights in armor. Restored to its former glory by the caring auspices of the ETB, the splendor of Warwick Castle will fill your senses with a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

The castle itself can provide a complete holiday without ever stepping outside its fortified walls. Why not enjoy a mediaeval banquet in "The Rack," surrounded by devices of torture, gruesomely realistic automatons (the kids will love the beheading scene, complete with gushing blood), and accompanied by full surround-sound screams. Stay overnight in the haunted bed chambers (holographic ghosts will ensure that you do not sleep a wink), or for a laugh, why not have your partner incarcerated in the dungeons (for a small fee), so you can enjoy the buxom serving wenches without hearing her complaints? Law Code: 5-1-4.

Player Contact: Imogen Howard, a struggling RSC bit-player, looking for the break into the vid-market. Currently dating the ETB Stratford administrator, and willing to do deals in return for the right connections.

RUMOR:

"I'VE HEARD THAT UNCLE KEN IS GOING TO DO A INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCE OF RICHARD III IN A WHEELCHAIR."

"REALLY? IS EMMA GOING TO BE IN IT?"

"YES, AS THE WHEELCHAIR!"

Restrictions

When travelling through the military areas bordering the London Region, tourists should avoid using cameras, radios or anything that could be misinterpreted as an enemy signal.

The farmlands of the IMA are closed, with very few exceptions. Take care to avoid areas designated for land clearing, as these contain automated machinery. IMA cannot be held responsible for any loss of life or limb that may occur. You are advised to keep your vehicle moving at all times, except at designated IMA Beauty Spots. Stationary vehicles are likely to be targeted by aerial security drones.

Uffington is free from all restrictions, although again we stress that potential visitors check with their local ETB or NFU office for the dates of any local religious festivals.

Entry to all ETB reservations are strictly controlled and ETB troops will enthusiastically enforce any breach of ETB regulations.

You are strongly advised to check on the validity of your ETB permit or other endorsed holiday card prior to your visit to the area.

Traveller Beware!

Though largely free of crime due to the joint guardianship of the British Combined Forces, the IMA and the ever vigilant ETB, some of the urbanized areas of Luton and Swindon are best avoided. There is little nomad trouble, although we recommend that contact be avoided with the exception of Uffington. You may not tell the difference between a Spiral Tribe member and a Triple Moon Clan member until it is too late. (Note: On your travels in Mercia, should you spot nomads whose vehicles or clothing are adorned with concentric rings, please report their whereabouts to your local ETB office representative, where a reward may be given.)

WESSEX

Wessex is located on Britain's south coast, comprising parts of the former counties of Devon, Avon and Somerset, as well as all of Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Located within the region are places of importance such as the Bristol Metroplex, which is largely under the control of IMA and the location of their head office, and Avalon (formerly Glastonbury), owned by the Natural Faith Union. The town of Newbury also forms the main regional headquarters for the British Combined Forces. It is quite a prosperous region, with important trading ports to the south, as well as the Poole-Bournemouth Metroplex which is currently undergoing selective redevelopment by the ETB, the only metroplex to have such a source of revenue being pumped into it. In addition the metroplex is home to the Customs & Excise regiment and the Special Boat Service (SBS). Salisbury plain is used for military maneuvers. Further westwards the land is being farmed by IMA. While not as important for farming as some other regions, it still produces a fair amount of produce. The M3 motorway from Southampton to London is one of the safest, cleanest and smartest roads in the country. It is virtually crime-free and those that do attempt some form of hijacking along its route are invariably caught.

Places to Visit

Southampton is the first stop for most tourists visiting Wessex. The most likely route leaves London and heads south on the M3, a short journey which should not take longer than two hours. Southampton is a highly commercialized and energetic city. It is the southern center for commercial shipping, and in the dockland area there is a secure holding penitentiary for those awaiting transit to the Isle of Wight Penal Colony. The city boasts a hi-tech university which is renowned for its medical training.

There is not much else in the city for tourists, apart from a very comprehensive shopping complex, and overnight lodgings are available if you want to break your journey. If you are going abroad, from Southampton you may catch the fast passenger train to Portsmouth, where you have access via cross-channel ferries to four French ports: Le Harve, Caen, St Malo and Cherbourg. Law Code: 5-1-4.

Player Contact: Paul Mitchell, Penal Transit Guard. Responsible for ensuring there is no trouble among convicts awaiting their trip to the Isle of Wight. While he is loyal, he might be able to provide information on who is awaiting transport, or even arrange a permit to enter the security areas.

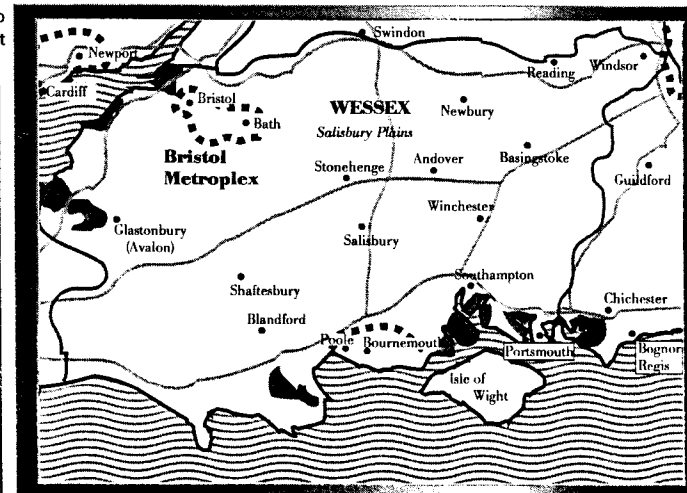
RUMOR: "IF YOU THINK WOLVES ARE BAD ENOUGH, I'VE HEARD THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT GOT OUT OF ZOOS AS WELL. BEARS, TIGERS, Y'KNOW. THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE. NOT UNTIL IT'S BEEN PROPERLY DEVELOPED."

You enter the Poole-Bournemouth Metroplex just a few miles further west. This is Britain's newest and most exciting metroplex. The area was saved from the most excessive ravages and relocation programs of the MLA due to its private security force of ex-Royal Marines who returned to their base almost immediately after the fall of King Charles III. The area is and always has been intensely royalist, and was visited by the new Queen in one of her first acts as Regent. There is much for the traveller, particularly in the Poole Harbor district of the area. Prudent deployment of filter gates across the Harbor entrance has prevented it from suffering from the pollution that afflicts the rest of the south coast. The Harbor is now a paradise for water sports, from jet-surfing to wreck-diving (of which there are numerous wrecks for the diver to explore). There are numerous restaurants offering a whole range of cuisine for the tourist to enjoy, and hotels both large and small at prices to suit all budgets.

Heading westwards from Southampton, the tourist is only some thirty minutes from the New Forest. The south and east regions of the Forest are owned by TimberCorp, a purported subsidiary of IMA, and are inaccessible to members of the public. The North and Western regions contain much natural beauty for the traveller to explore. The ETB advise, however, that development licenses have not been granted as there is competition for control between the ETB and the NFU. Because of the restoration of natural wildlife, the traveller is advised to be cautious at all times. Wolves are quite common in this region. Because there is no development as yet, there are few areas to provide comforts for the tourist apart from the most basic amenities. However, the Forest does provide a rare opportunity to see a region of virtually unspoilt woodland. Law Code: 4-3-3.

Player Contact: Skunk, Spiral Tribe drug designer. Has a healthy industry in the Forest surrounded by a small band of Tribe warriors. Does not want either the ETB or the NFU to have the Forest. Will pay good money (or drugs) for information on the plans for the Forest.

Skunk, Nomad (INT 6, REF 7) Family 4, Pharmaceuticals 6, Melee 6, Handgun 3



the Special Boat Service. These ruthless and dedicated individuals are currently engaged in a bloody war against smuggling and piracy. Travellers wishing to hire water craft and boats are advised to register their planned day's activities with the Customs & Excise information office located on the quayside or suffer the possible deadly consequences. **Law Code: 3-3-3.**

Player Contact: Jane Marston, C & E employee. While having a low security clearance, she can provide information on patrol routes and times—if the right incentive is offered. After all, she's risking a lot.

RUMOR:

"I'VE HEARD THAT THE SMUGGLING'S BEEN STEPPED UP RECENTLY. APPARENTLY THEY'VE FOUND A PLACE TO LAND THAT CUSTOMS DON'T KNOW ABOUT."

"YEAH, MAYBE. BUT THEY'LL FIND IT. THEY ALWAYS DO. AND THEN THERE'LL BE A FEW MORE GOING TO WIGHT."

From Poole-Bournemouth, you can travel northwards through historic Dorset, much of which is under ETB development. A must on your journey is the newly re-opened Martyr's Museum at Tolpuddle, including the new King Charles III exhibition. Further north from Yeovil is largely nomad territory, allow a visit to the NFU office at Yeovil which will furnish you with any information you may require.

The historic and ancient town of Glastonbury is next as you head further north from the metroplex. Gifted to the NFU by the MLA for assistance in stopping terrorist attacks by the Revolutionary Army of Grandmother Earth (RAGE) some ten years ago, the town has become a haven for travellers of all denominations and the spiritual center of the rapidly growing Pagan faith.

The town has changed little since the late 20th century, although rising water levels have meant that much of it is surrounded by marshlands. The NFU changed the name of the town to Avalon, which is how you will find it referred to locally, although the authorities still insist on calling it Glastonbury. The head office of the NFU is located here, and they can provide all sorts of interesting and useful information regarding the various tribes that inhabit the U.K., including which ones will offer you a friendly welcome, and which ones that you are advised to avoid at all costs. The town itself is small, but the surrounding ex-farmlands provide campsites for the numerous travellers who are making a pilgrimage to the town. There is not much to offer for

the average tourist, with most of the shops and services being geared for the nomad. However, the town is always worth a visit and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome by all the residents.

It may be a little unnerving for the traveller to be surrounded by so many nomads, especially considering the bad press they normally receive, and this feeling may be heightened by the apparent lack of any police. However, Avalon is virtually crime-free due to the vigilance of the Guild of Stag Dancers, who take it upon themselves to ensure that Avalon remains pure for all who wish to experience its wonders. One of the more distinctive landmarks is Glastonbury Tor, an ancient hill with many legends surrounding it. It is always packed with travellers indulging in various spiritual matters that you may find rather daunting. Unless you are really determined to enjoy that admittedly magnificent view of the surrounding countryside from the top, you are advised not to climb the Tor. **Law Code: 4-1-4 (nominaly)**

Player Contact: Jonathon Sunbeam, nomad of the Triple Moon Clan. In reality an IMA spy sent to try and get information that can be used to break up Glastonbury. However, both he and the PC's are unaware that his cover has been blown. The Stag Dancers are just waiting for the "appropriate moment" before dealing with Sunbeam and his new friends.

Jonathon Sunbeam, Nomad/Spy (INT 7, EMP 6)
Family 1; Disguise 4; Awareness 4; Human Perception 3

RUMOR: "THIS SAMHAIN THERE'S GOING TO BE A SPECIAL CELEBRATION, CALLED THE RISING OF THE HAG. THE WORD IS THAT AVALON IS GOING TO BE CLOSED OFF. NO OUTSIDERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN. BET THE CORPS WOULD LIKE TO GET A LOOK. THEY WOULD PAY ALMOST ANYTHING. BE EXTRA VIGILANT."

To the north lies the sprawling, crime-ridden Bristol Conurbation (which incorporates the city of Bath. This is a large, generally run-down area (apart from the IMA corporate sector). The area is detailed separately (in the Metroplexes section), but as a rule, the traveller should avoid Bristol, unless on business.

Westwards, the land is initially under IMA control, until the Salisbury Training Plain, where the BCF takes over authority. Since the BCF use all kinds of ordinance in this district (including fuel-air bombs), we cannot recommend any travel through

this region. However, the BCF do arrange trips to see the ancient monument of Stonehenge when training permits. See your local NFU office for details and prices.

Restrictions

When travelling along the M3, you are advised that the minimum speed requirement has been raised to 80 miles per hour. You are not permitted to stop except at service stations.

While in Southampton, some of the Docklands are completely sealed off for Penal Colony transportation. You are advised to read and follow exactly all warning signs you may encounter. Unauthorized entry to this area carries mandatory placement on the island. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

ETB permits are required to visit all Dorset Village Developments. All IMA and military restrictions apply and are previously stated.

While in Glastonbury, remember to follow any instructions given you by a member of the Guild of Stag Dancers. While they may appear to be like any other nomad (although they do carry identification—if in doubt, ask to see it), their actions are fully supported by law.

Traveller Beware!

Generally Wessex is crime-free, apart from the Bristol Conurbation, which has an unhealthy large gang population. Although safe from crime, the rule of law in Wessex is extremely tight. Any sightings of criminal activity should be reported to the nearest authority (IMA, ETB or BCF) for attention. Your cooperation is appreciated.

LINDISFARNE

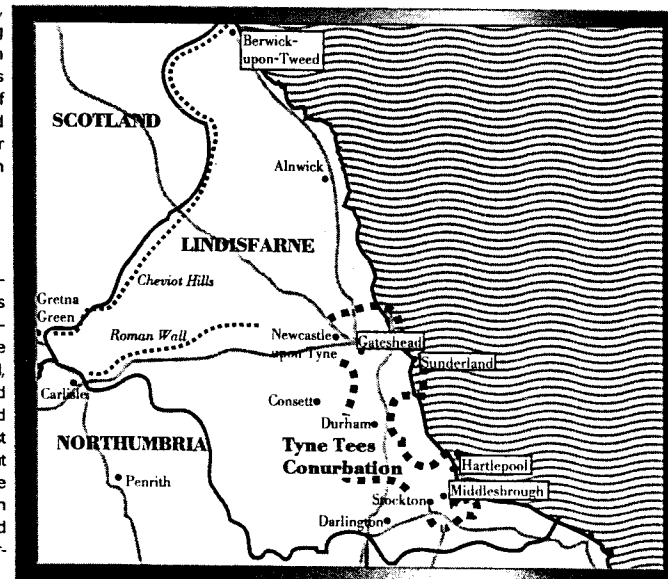
The depressed and poverty-wracked district of Lindisfarne is easily England's most underdeveloped region. It encompassed the old counties of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, Cleveland and parts of North Yorkshire and has been largely cut off from the rest of the country; initially due to tight MLA travel restrictions and the Scottish uprising of 203 which brought so much violence and destruction to the region, and cur-

rently due to the fact that new, Corporate-driven England cannot see any investment opportunities to tempt them. As a result, Lindisfarne continues to decay and has been left to the mercy of three non-Corporate entities. The hard-pressed Lindisfarne council is likely to fall to one or the other eventually.

The power groups are as follows: The Longboatmen, an extremely large and well organised band of pirates and smugglers who largely control the North East coast including the areas of Darlington, South Shields and Sunderland, currently regions of the Newcastle Metroplex. The Jackknife gangs that haunt the arterial and vital A1 which links to the M1 from London and connects to the A1(M) to Newcastle. The activities of these two prevalent gangs have caused all essential produce to be shipped to Newcastle by air and thus pushing the price up. Finally, the dual threat of the Cheviot Hill Clans, along with the Scottish Nationalists which they undoubtedly shelter. The weary people of Newcastle are awaiting the day that the Scottish (tired of empty words from London) will begin their campaign of terror once more.

Places to Visit

Quite simply there are none; this is a quite horrible place with seemingly no redeeming features. No self-respecting tourist would want to visit Lindisfarne, even the ever-optimistic ETB have ruled out any investment. However, if you are one of those travellers who





CORMAC AT HADRIAN'S WALL

are actually seeking employment, then there is quite a lot of opportunity, especially for a resourceful free-lancer or edgerunner. It is strongly advised that transportation is done by air to Lindisfarne's capital; it is fairly cheap from Leeds which can be reached reasonably safely, but if your budget is tightly stretched, you may have to chance your cyberarm on the A1. If you have to take this course of action, it is recommended that you try and get a seat in one of the armored juggernauts that frequently ply the routes; the drivers of these huge sixteen-wheel monsters often require gunners or spotters. Passage can be gained by attending the Driver's Protection Union Station in Ribbon on the Lindisfarne border. Though transportation in a juggernaut does not guarantee safety by any means, it does raise your chances of survival—which if you took your own transport would stand, taking all factors into consideration, at zero!

To the East of the A1 is what was once one of England's most beautiful national parks, the North York Moors. During the time of the MLA, however, it was used as a weapon development testing area and much of the beauty has been blasted or melted away. It is rumored that the Hillard corporation purchased tracts of this park from the MLA shortly before the Restoration, and it is also rumored that much of these tracts were used for chemical dumping on a simply vast scale. One thing is for sure, the North Yorks Moors are now havens for Jackknife gangs who use the blasted wilderness as a base for their operation on the A1. The largest gang in the region is Screaming Speed and you'll be disappointed to learn that of all the Jackknife gangs, these are the worst, attacking travellers often just for fun. If you do decide to brave the road

north by yourself, it is likely to be these road pirates that tear off your body parts. Law Code: 0-5-1

Player Contact: Harry, owner and chef(?) of The Flat Hedgehog. Harry is a great source of knowledge regarding nearly anything and everything in Lindisfarne. If the players can survive his 'A1 fry-up' they may gain his trust. However, this is not so easy as it sounds...the A1 fry-up is cooked in pure engine oil, yum.

RUMOR: "LISTEN MATE, THERE AREN'T ANY RUMORS UP HERE. YOU SNEAKY YANK SOD, IT'S ALL UP FRONT AND IN YOUR FACE...GET MY MEANING? CORPS CAN DO WHAT THEY LIKE—AND DO—SO THEY DON'T NEED TO BE SECRETIVE."

Stockton-on-Tees is the town which largely marks the end of the Jackknife gangs' spheres of operation (and terror). The town is owned by the Driver's Protection Union (DPU), as they laughingly call themselves! and it is very well-fortified with armored walls, sentry towers and even two ex-MLA AV-4's. Very cheap accommodation can be gained here and you can enjoy a tasty (if greasy feast) at 'The Flat Hedgehog,' a notorious eating establishment known to nearly every Juggernaut driver in England. Law Code: 4-3-3.

Transportation on the A1(M) to Newcastle is a little safer, however, there is little or no security presence so any speed limits or restriction are only minimally in force. Newcastle itself is a smog-choked, disease-rife sprawl of hellish proportions and the city center has one of the highest crime rates in the world. If you must stay in this metroplex, we firmly advise you keep to the periphery regions such as Wickham or Slaydon; though not at all pleasant they are certainly safer than the city proper. 'Sam's Place' is a bar turned hostel aimed primarily at visiting American solos; it is owned and run by one Sam Dante, an ex-linebacker for the London Ravens (and later, enforcer for IMA). Bed and board can be gained in relatively safety here, but Dante violently enforces the 'no armament in the bar' rule! (They are fine in the bedrooms, and the landing and communal bathrooms often degenerate into free-fire zones!) Law Code: 0-5-1 (also see Tyne-Tees conurb in the Metroplexes section)

If you seek employment, the most legitimate work can be gained from the city council offices where correct permits can be given and gun cameras fitted. Types of work involve anything from beefing up the city's security, to full-blown raids on the warehouses of the Longboatmen. Non-legitimate (but high paying) work can be gained from the Longboatmen themselves, but beware, they can be edgy and trigger-happy around strangers, contact is best made at 'Loki's,' a cheap, seedy bar found in the docklands of South Shields which is known to all as neutral ground.

Player Contact: Freya Dawnstar is the latest biosculpted plaything of Eric Bloodaxe, one of the top Longboatmen enforcers, or Jarls, as they like to call themselves. Freya has become a little bored with the drunken and violent attentions of her lover and is seeking a way out. She'll pay with information on warehouse locations and what's in them.

RUMOUR:

"IT'S ALL OVER THE STREETS..."

"WHAT IS?"

"THE MAYOR'S HEAD, OR IT WILL BE IF GUNNAR CHROMEBLOOD IS TELLING THE TRUTH!!"

North of Newcastle is barren, underdeveloped wasteland. During the rule of the MLA, most of this region was occupied by military bases and concentration camps, and even today the BCF have a pretty large presence; entry to this area is strictly

controlled by the means of BCF Kestrels, the security is controlled as follows—they spot you with radar, sonar, low-lite or UV. Then they shoot you to little pieces. Though it is getting tiresome to keep saying this, we once again strongly advise against further travel northwards.

After the BCF region is the Cheviot Hills. Don't they always say it can't get any worse—well they lied, because it just did. No one has any idea what is going on in this dark, windswept and almost inaccessible area, only that it is inherently hostile; even the BCF do not bother with patrols through the Cheviots as it became a waste of manpower and resources. In short, the Hills are controlled by a group of clans, and these clans are populated by what can only be described as extremist, fundamentalist pagans! The land was purchased by the NFU years ago, and it is widely thought that even they have lost a grip on the area. The clans, whose names and rules are totally unknown to the outside world, are best left well alone. It is at least known that they do not have much in the way of weaponry and no cyberware. They know the land though, and they know it very well indeed. Law Code: 0-5-1.

Player Contact: Cormac the Wanderer, a lone scarred and tattooed individual happens to cross the players path; he has nothing to sell or talk about, he just stares. Maybe it annoys the players, maybe they decide to frag him; they can, it's easy enough. But be warned—Cormac is a shaman of the Blue Raven's Wing Clan and they will know of his passing...

Cormac, Nomad (INT 9, EMP 8)
Family 9, Wilderness Survival 6, Human Perception 5, Awareness 4

RUMOR: "PSIONICS, HUH? THEY CALL IT MAGIC, THE WAY OF THE EARTH; BUT BELIEVE ME, THEY'VE GOT IT. WELL, SOME OF THEM HAVE, PARTICULARLY THE YOUNG ONES. BUT I DON'T CARE WHAT BIOTECHNICA IS PAYING, I'M NOT GOING THERE!"

Restrictions

None, excepting the BCF-controlled land directly north of Newcastle which is considered a free-fire zone, no entry at any times.

Travellers Beware!

Yes, they better had!!

LINDSEY & DEIRA

Immediately south of Lindisfarne, on the east coast of Britain, Lindsey and Deira are as far north as the sane tourist will normally progress. The region offers an unusual mix of industry and tourism, with large corporations like IMA and Hiliard controlling much of the area, and the ETB controlling York and the surrounding land. The coast is of vital importance, and boasts a strong Customs & Excise presence, as Bridlington and Kingston-upon-Hull are about as far north as one can get by sea before running into the Longboatmen. The land itself is ugly and scarred, with towering chimneys and imposing glass-covered buildings that house the many corporations, both big and small, that have interests here. Because of the high level of manufacturing industry, the region is very prosperous, transporting its wares to the rest of the U.K. and beyond. It is also one of the most polluted areas in the country, with high levels of smog and acid rain, so travellers are advised to listen to local weather and smog broadcasts and follow any recommendations given. It is this level of pollution that has given ETB its biggest headache in preparing the York Reservation for tourists. Not wanting anything to spoil the enjoyment of your visit (as is their policy), ETB have invested heavily in weather control stations. These are nothing elaborate, they just try to slightly alter the course of any

smog banks or rain clouds, so they drift back over the industrial area where they originated.

Places to Visit

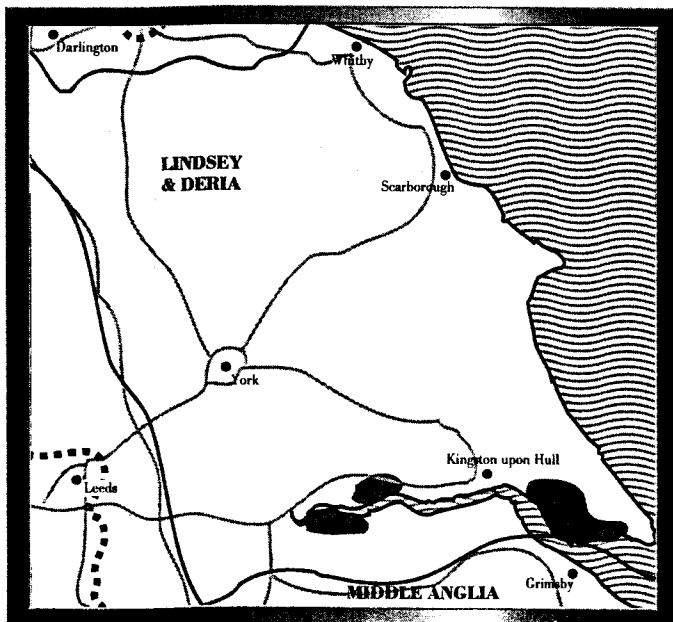
There are not many places in Lindsey and Deira that you would really want to visit. If you are driving in your own transport, as opposed to an ETB tourist vehicle, you would see the open fields of Mercia gradually give way to more and more buildings, packed closer and closer together. Power stations providing energy for miles around are found along the river banks, raising the ambient temperature several degrees above normal. Large manufacturing plants producing all kinds of goods can be found, but sadly none are known to offer tours similar to the IMA complex in Mercia. Travellers are thus advised to head eastwards towards the York Tourist Reservation.

The York Tourist Reservation is one of the English Tourist Board's most recent projects and there is still a lot of work being done here; if you do not have ETB permits or vouchers, some can be purchased at the town of Selby (just to the south of York) where ETB has set up an orientation center. Also at Selby is the marvelous and innovative "Park and Glide" system: just leave your vehicle or hover-bus and board one of the Tourist Board's latest VTOL sky-buses which take you above the cloud cover for a twenty

minute flight to the transit station in historic York itself. During the flight, your ETB hostess will provide you with an introductory lecture on a city that has witnessed every great stage in England's history.

It is strongly advised that you utilise the "Park and Glide" scheme as no transport other than ETB riverboats and trams are allowed in the city center, and though you may elect to leave your vehicle at either of the two car-ports outside of York they do not offer the same security as the Selby compound. Additionally, you may like to travel direct from London on the new high-speed rail link which will get you to the city in less than two hours. Law Code: 5-1-5 (includes York city)

Player Contact: Emma Richardson is an ETB hostess and a bit of a hedonist on the side. Based in Selby, Emma can arrange safe transport for no charge other than a night's (continued next page)



JIM DUGGAN (SEE STATS, NEXT PAGE)

entertainment; though if the players are armed, it is likely to be in the sky-bus' cramped (though fully-pressurized) hold.

RUMOR: "SOME OF THE PLANS AND PROJECTS ETB WERE PROPOSING FOR YORK HAVE BEEN DROPPED. I WONDER HOW BAD THEIR FINANCIAL EMBARRASSMENT IS AT THE MOMENT, MAYBE YORK HAS THE ANSWER."

Like Stratford, Warwick and Cornwall, York will dazzle you with its historic splendor. You will get great view of the city from the comfort of your sky-bus as you land at the Jorvik Transit Center where the London-link rail service also arrives. York had been one of the few cities in England to have several different names; originally the Romans who founded it called it Eboracum, then the Vikings who took it as their own in the eleventh century re-named it Jorvik (pronounced Yorvick). The present name is meant to be a medieval attempt to amalgamate both names. The city is packed with history and has gained a great heritage from its different rulers, for example the Viking word for road was 'gut,' hence every street in York is called Gate: Bargate, Micklegate etc. It is this wonderful mix of culture that makes York so fascinating.

While in this city enjoying its delights, we recommend you stay at the King's Court Hotel. One of the finest and superbly furnished hotels in all of England, the King's Court has fifty rooms all of which are suites of the finest quality, and its restaurant "The White Rose" is thought of by many to be one of the finest in the world. Those who cannot quite afford the King's Court £1000-a-night rate, may wish to consider Caesar's Rest, a lovely theme hotel which captures the decadence of a

Roman villa in all its glory. You will be served grapes and wine by beautiful slave girls (ETB personnel) as you lay on silk pillows beside the Hotel's very own spa bath; the Caesar's Rest provides all this opulence for only £750 a night. However, should this still be beyond your means we recommend you try one of York's family guesthouses, and if you wish a theme holiday, why not try the "Longhouse" a Viking-style residence full of smoke and shields. The owner (Mrs. Vera the Red) has pulled out all the stops to create the right atmosphere, especially at mealtimes, where axe-throwing displays are performed nightly by Mrs. Red's husband Stanley and daughter Helga.

There is lots to see in York, but a few things simply must not be missed, like the Archaeological Resource Center, a marvelous hands-on look at the dying craft of archaeology. Have a dig in the "Earth of Legend" who knows what you will find, but the center promises no digger will leave empty-handed. If you don't like getting your hands dirty, why not try the Ultra-Sound search computer and wonder at the ghostly images of the past that appear on the monitor. Or a short walk away is the Jorvik Viking Center for a ride through time to the Jorvik of old, complete with sights, sounds and smells; but wait, those Viking warriors look very realistic—and they're coming straight for you! Do you have the speed to escape the horde in the thrilling "Plunder Run"? The Viking Center, our latest all-family fun attraction; the kids will love it and if the wife gets caught, maybe she will too! Like London, York has plenty of fascinating museums for you to lose yourself in. While in the city, you can't miss the infamous Ghost Walk. If your nerves are up to it, why not join one of the fully-guided late-night walks through the dark alleys of old York. (ETB would like to point out that realistic holograms and other effects are used on this tour, and they cannot accept any responsibility for loss of life on the tour. Those with heart conditions or artificial overdrive hearts are advised not to take the walk.)

Player Contact: Jim Duggan is a riverboat pilot and also a gunrunner; he uses his speedy craft to bring weapons down the river Ouse from Scarborough to the Longboatmen. Now he is looking for some protection for a shipment going south to London. He will pay well and is insisting that the authorities know nothing about it.

Jim Duggan, Runner (REF 8, TECH 6)
Vehicle Zen 5, Water Vehicles 6, Heavy Weapons 5, Hide/Evade 6

Note: this is from *When Gravity Fails*, he could also be a Nomad or Tech, replace special ability.

RUMOR: "SOME U.S. TRAVEL COMPANY HAS SENT AGENTS TO YORK TO CHECK OUT THE ETB OPERATION. WORD IS THE TOURIST BOARD ARE DEPLOYING THEIR OWN AGENTS TO TRACK DOWN THE YANKS AND ICE THEM, SO TRY NOT TO LOOK TOO SUSPICIOUS, ETB ARE KNOWN TO BE A BIT TRIGGER-HAPPY."

Restrictions

Entry to York is strictly controlled. Anyone caught in the city without a Resident's pass or a Travel Permit is subject to immediate deportation. In extreme cases, the subject may be transported to London for intensive questioning. Some areas of York are also undergoing Heritage Preservation and are strictly off-limits to all. Trespassers will be warned off; persistent trespassers will be shot.

Due to the large amounts of industrialization in Lindsey and Deira, some areas have been designated as Commercial Sectors and Corporate clearance is required. This is particularly true of areas which support overseas corporate activity. These corporations seem to be more protective in the U.K. than anywhere else.

Travellers Beware!

Crime is quite widespread in the industrial areas of Lindsey and Deira, and the traveller is advised to keep aware of local news reports. York is fairly free of crime, but due to the ETB development in the city it is worth noting that the Tourist Board troops are more zealous in their duties here than elsewhere in the country.

There is little or no nomad population in Lindsey and Deira. Most think the land has been long since poisoned beyond salvation; however, there is a pack of the "Wild Hunt" who are known to terrorize M62, which runs from the east to the metroplexes in the west of the region.

ISLE OF MAN & THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Although these islands are a long way apart they are dealt with under the same heading as they are ostensibly the same—rich Corporate playgrounds and tax havens for the ultra-rich who like to indulge in offshore banking.

The Channel Islands consist of many islands, the most populous of which are Jersey and Guernsey. Although they are part of the British Isles, they are run exclusively by the Cops and have been since the late 90's, as the MLA quite wisely left them alone—after all where else could the various members of the council secrete their ill-gotten gains? Sak is privately owned by the Hiliard Corporation and Hiliard himself lives here almost exclusively.

Yachting is one of the major pastimes in this area—because it's probably the safest place to indulge in this sport, as Corporate cutters constantly patrol the area between the islands and France. The Channel Islands are perhaps the one place in Britain where Euro-style reigns supreme, and the islands themselves have a French flavour to them. Security here is ultra-tight and no casual visitors are allowed—only those on the deluxe Tourist Ticket may visit. Those who work here must carry a valid work permit signed by a company employee resident on the island in question. Firearms cannot be carried unless you are in possession of a specific permit signed by the administrator, Charles Hungerford. The only weapons allowed are Corporate showpiece vibro-blades—Kendachi has a very popular outlet on the Jersey. The Japanese range isn't as popular here as in America, and the 'in' thing at the moment is the A-94 Rapier. **Law Code: 5-1-1.**

The Isle of Man is very much the same, although not quite as high on Eurostyle. This is the offshore banking area for those highriders from the north of England and Scotland. It's not quite as exclusive as Jersey and Guernsey (in social status, that is), and the occasional raid of pirates down from Stranraer puts a dampener on the cocktail party, but these things happen. The pirates also stop the Yacht enthusiasts from straying too far from the coast and most of them try to sail towards the south of the island away from Scottish waters.

Once a year, the sound of the Corporate elite at play is shattered by the TT bike races—the world's only organised road-combat competition. The course is the same as it always has been, but the rules have been relaxed somewhat—you can use any means necessary to get past your opponent. Chains, lead piping and baseball bats are all allowed but firearms are banned (but if you can get away with it...). The corporate executives love to watch this race and much money changes hands at betting shops. Of course, all this money involved means that saboteurs of both men and machines are also around. A lot can be had here for solos as body- (and bike) guards, and for techies as

mechanics for one of the many teams competing. This is the one time of the year when anybody can visit the island. At all other times the restrictions are the same as those in the Channel Islands. The administrator is Hayley Parker—the only woman administrator in the country. **Law Code: 5-2-1**

As can be imagined, the roads are in excellent condition and are can treated as far as the law goes as Major Access roads.

A Notable Local

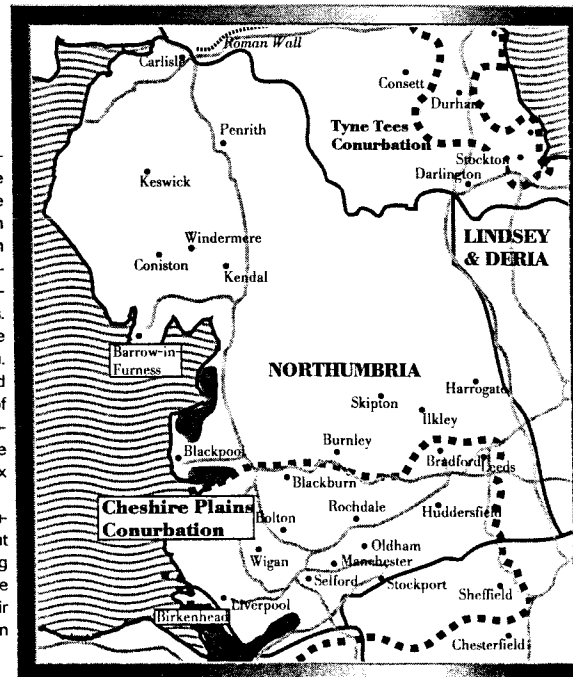
One the best TT racers of the last five years is Barry Sheehan. Barry has a special certificate to get him through most airport security devices, as he has so much metal in his body (not just cyberwear) due to his numerous crashes. This doesn't bother him in the slightest. In fact, he says it helps his radio reception! Barry can be hired as a driver for those wishing to have someone good to drive them around and he's good in a fight—remember he has to punch and kick people while riding a bike at one hundred and fifty miles an hour. Standing on terra firma while fighting is an absolute doddle.

Barry Sheehan, Cycle Fighter (REF 10)
Combat Sense (wheeled vehicles) 7,
Motorcycle 9, Melee 8, Brawling 9

NORTHUMBRIA

This district, like Middle Anglia, is almost two separate districts in character. To the south you have the bustle and street violence of the Cheshire Conurb (possibly the most violent Metroplex in Europe) and the flooded Fylde plain; to the north you have peaceful inhabitants (if a little xenophobic) and virtually unspoiled countryside dominated by the Cumbrian Mountains and the Pennines. Most of the major towns in this district will be detailed as part of the Cheshire Conurbation. Other towns include Barrow-in-Furness and Kendal. Northumbria has a large population of refugees from the Scottish uprising and the subsequent troubles. Another large chunk of the population has moved away from the metroplex to live in the peace and quiet of Northumbria.

The north of the district is fiercely independent—not so much in wanting to be independent from Westminster, but more a case of doing things their own way, and if you leave us alone everything will be OK. The administrator, Sir Anthony Blair, like those in Wales, believes in leaving the locals alone.



The area also boasts a strong wolf population—especially in the Cumbrian Mountains in Grizedale Forest. This brings about a conflict of interests between the rural and urban populations due to the “townies” in-bred suspicion of wolves.

The district is lacking in access roads and those that exist are liable to raids by Jackknife gangs, so be careful and always check the safety rating before proceeding. Some of the roads off the MARS are actually quite good—after all, the Jackknifers need a good road to be able to escape.

Barrow-in-Furness is in complete contrast to this area. A relatively small town on the coast, it is an island of high tech in this sea of small farms. The town boasts the last nuclear submarine construction facility in Europe, and as such, is in constant use. All the countries in the E.C. who possess a Navy and want a nuclear submarine have them built here, as the anti-nuclear lobby on the continent had all such shipyards closed down. (It's funny how they don't mind about the one here, yet another case of NIMBYism—Not In My Back Yard for those of you unfamiliar with that particular acronym.) Most of the surrounding area is not too impressed with having a nuclear construction facility on their doorstep, but are loath to give the government an excuse to crack down on them. Of course, having a site that builds submarines means that the peripheral industries such as computing are also based here—in fact, some of the best Netrunners (and Sysops of course) are here. As such, this is probably the best place for a Runner to get a job outside of the metroplexes.

Barrow-in-Furness boasts four islands off its coast although only one—Piel Island—isn't connected to the mainland in one way or another. The Isle of Walney is where the Corporate bigwigs live, and so has high security (especially on the causeway connecting it to the mainland). Piel Island is privately owned by a man who has the title of King of Piel. He is the landlord of the only habitable building on the island: the inn. Being king, he has the power to make people Knights of Piel. The actual ceremony involves him dubbing them with a sword and then pouring beer over them. The only other building on the island is a ruined castle. The other two islands are Roa and Foulney Islands and both are privately owned.

Due to the construction facility a detachment of the Red Rose Regiment is stationed in the town in case of need. Law Code: 5-1-3.

Kendal

Kendal is the district capital and garrison town for the Royal Red Rose Regiment of the BCF. Kendal is known as the “auld gray town” because of the predominance of gray limestone houses and this has been preserved. One of the most restrained district capitals around due to the balance struck with the local population. But having said that, the local police and the BCF are kept fairly busy with the Jackknife gangs in the Pennines and trouble in their part of the metroplex. Law Code: 5-1-1

A possible reason why so many Jackknife gangs manage to survive in this area without being caught is that the Pennines are riddled with potholes (underground cave systems) and these enable the gangs to literally “go to ground”. The largest of these caves is Gaping Gill, which is located near Clapham, and is large enough to contain York Minster. This cave is merely the opening of a cave system that is just under two miles long, and it must be assumed that at least one gang holes up here at all times (if necessary). While other cave systems are not as large, they are large enough to hide in while escaping the police (who don't want to stay around in this area too long anyway).

As might be guessed, this area does not have much in the way of nightlife, but boasts many fine pubs (most of which serve excellent food). Virtually all of the nightclubs are in the metroplex in the south of the region. Two low-key clubs exist in Barrow-in-Furness, the best of which is “The Trident”.

One of the best Netrunners in the country is Alice Romaine (aka Astarte). At the moment, she is employed by a small computer firm specializing in fire-control systems. It's said that she has a shady background and that one of the reasons she lives out of the way in Barrow is that she tried one run too many in London and some goons from IMA are looking for her. Others say she has relatives among the tribes in the Cumbrian Mountains. She is small, slim and very attractive. She looks out of place in the Trident due to the fact she still dresses as though she were in a London club (her favorite clothes are clear PVC with nothing else).

Alice Romaine, Netrunner (INT 9)
Interface: 9; System Knowledge: 10; Programming:
8; Cyberdeck Design: 6

WALES

Next leg on our whistle-stop tour of the U.K. is Wales, land of the leek, rugby and the coal miner's daughter.

North Wales

Much of North Wales is like the Cumbrian Mountains in that it is fiercely independent but hasn't shown any real attempt to break from the rule of Westminster. The administrator for the area, Shadwell Jones, has been sensible enough to leave things as they are, knowing full well that if he were to crack down this could become another Northern Ireland or East Anglia. This area is mountainous and has always kept the Welsh national identity alive—in fact, over three-quarters of the inhabitants speak Welsh as the main language.

There is a difference between the east and west of the district, as Westminster (in its wisdom) placed parts of Cheshire and Staffordshire in with North Wales in hopes that this would dilute any nationalist fervor when elections are finally held. The major towns in this district are Caernarfon, Dolgellau, Crewe and Chester.

North Wales has a large population of wolves, and these have been allowed to roam free by many of the local tribes because of the spiritual significance to their religion. Rumors also abound of lions and the like roaming the countryside. It is surmised that these more exotic animals must have escaped from Chester Zoo during the Troubles.

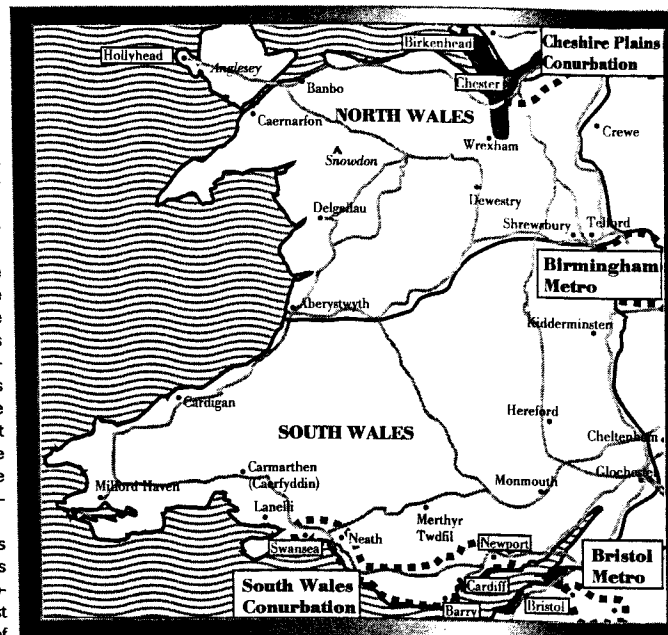
The North Wales access roads are actually pretty safe. Yes, there is the occasional kidnapping or robbery, but no more than in most parts of the States. Best rule of thumb is travel during daylight and the odds are you'll be alright. Once off the access roads this changes. People don't use cars much here and many roads have fallen into disrepair, even many of those that haven't are single-lane roads, so make sure the road is wide enough to take your vehicle.

Dolgellau

Dolgellau is the administrative center for the region and, like Kendal, is one of the more relaxed towns—don't let this go to your head and get cocky though, as they won't want anybody upsetting the status quo. The town itself is picturesque and brooding with buildings built from the local dark slate. Law Code: 4-2-3.

Caernarfon

Caernarfon is the headquarters of the local BCF regiment—the Prince of Wales' Own. The town is dominated by the huge castle where the late King Charles III was invested as Prince of Wales. The castle is the end of many a pilgrimage by people who remember his stand against the military coup which brought the MLA to power. A small (unofficial) shrine to the King has been formed by hundreds of pilgrims placing flowers against one of the walls of the



castle. The castle now serves as the actual headquarters of the regiment. Caernarfon (or Caernarvon) has long been the ceremonial capital of Wales and even though the administrator resides in Dolgellau, he was sworn into office at the castle. Law Code: 4-1-2.

Crewe

Crewe is one the major rail nuclei in the country as it contains the major construction and repair depot. As it is so important to what's left of the rail network (and the Liverpool end of the Cheshire Conurbation is very close) a small detachment of the Prince of Wales' Own is on station. A quiet town; its peaceful nature is occasionally shattered by raids perpetrated by gangs from the conurbation. Law Code: 3-3-3.

Chester

Chester now looks like an ancient Phoenician city state in that during high water, it becomes an island. Most of the Wirral is underwater apart from Wallasey. Further inland, the Wirral becomes a marsh, but a high spring tide places the whole area underwater as far inland as Malpas. The town is surrounded by an old Roman wall and because of this, very little work needed to be done to turn

back the flood tides. This wall and the surrounding marsh gives Chester an obvious line of defense, and as such, it has become one of the major areas for Corporate executives to live while working in the conurbation. As might be expected, security is fairly tight, so be careful, as always. Chester also contains (for those interested in the history of shopping) a kind of mediaeval shopping mall! No, this is not something built by the ETB; they are collectively known as The Rows. A series of balustraded walkways where access is by stairway from the road below. Many of the shops in The Rows are branches of the most exclusive names in Eurostyle.

From the city walls you can see the partially submerged towns that made up the Wirral peninsula. These towns include Ellesmere Port, Bebington, and Birkenhead. As mentioned before, Wallasey is just above water in places and as such, is inhabited by gangs and the homeless. Gangs also live in the submerged town on the upper floors of many houses. Needless to say, these areas are extremely dangerous and we recommend that you do not visit them unless it is absolutely necessary. Law Code: 5-1-1

Holyhead

Holyhead on the Isle of Anglesey, is the only port from which you can sail to Ireland. This is a high security area obviously. The port itself is actually on another island—Holy Island. There are plenty of pubs and one club—Llewellyn's. Law Code: 3-2-3

Another place to visit is Harlech Castle which, funnily enough, is near the town of Harlech. This castle has a long Royalist history—it was the last place held by the Royalists during the Civil War and such it was one of the first places visited by Queen Victoria the Second after the Restoration.

Another place of interest is the peak known as Cader Idris, the Chair of Arthur, a mountain with many myths and legends associated with it—one of which has it that anyone who sleeps the night on Cader Idris wakes up either blind, mad or a poet. The Pendarions often camp out on the peak—I leave it to you to work out which of the three has affected them.

The best place for nightlife is Chester with one or two fine clubs, but as they cater to the Corporate execs, they tend to be a bit pricey. A cheaper night out can be had in Crewe with the best club being Beeching's which is located near the railway yard. There is just one club in Caernarfon called (appropriately enough) Charlie's. It caters mainly for the soldiers from the Prince of Wales's Own, so things can get a bit lively. Food is simple but very good, and the pubs are excellent.

A Notable Local

Culhwch is the name taken by one of the leading lights of the NFU in this area and is very much respected by both the administration and the local populace. He claims to be nothing more than a Merlin (using one form of that name) and wants no part in negoti-

ating between the two parties. He arguably has the best contacts in both North and South Wales. A striking man of about thirty with long red hair and green eyes—every inch the Celt. He spends a lot of his time at Cader Idris.

Culhwch, Nomad (INT 10, EMP 8)

Family 9, Expert (Pagan Religion) 9, Area Knowledge (Wales) 8, Persuasion 6

South Wales

Virtually the whole of the South Wales district is dominated by the South Wales Metroplex that comprises Cardiff and Swansea. This area is detailed elsewhere. The rest of the district is, like North Wales, mountainous and independent in spirit. The district also includes part of the Midlands of England, again in the hope that any nationalist fervor is diluted. Major towns in this area are Monmouth, Hereford, and Milford Haven.

Wolves run free here as well, although they are hunted a lot more than in the north, as the south is not quite as committed to the Pagan ways. One area where they aren't hunted is the Cambrian Mountains near Aberystwyth (pronounced aber-ris-with). This area is ideal for wolves—large mountainous terrain covered with forests. Many gangs from the metroplex like to go on 'fox hunts' (as they are known) and this can cause friction with the locals who object to 'dorphed out kids with high-velocity weapons hunting wolves in their back garden.

The roads in South Wales are pretty much like those in North Wales, just be extra vigilant on those near the conurbation.

Monmouth

Monmouth is the administrative center for the region and because of this the security is fairly tight—in fact, tighter than it needs to be. There is not much in the way of trouble here as the administrator, Sir Hywell Bennet, has (like his counterpart in North Wales) left the people alone, so they leave him alone. The administrative offices are in the old Shire Hall and statues of Henry V and C.S. Rolls (the Rolls of Rolls-Royce) stand outside, as both of these people are, perhaps, Monmouth's most famous sons. This is definitely a town who likes its history—there is even a Nelson museum just because he visited the town in 1802. If you like a bit of excitement, this is not the place. Law Code: 5-2-1

Hereford

Hereford is not the place for excitement, either, as this is the base of operations for a BCF unit that may or may not be the SAS. Parts of Hereford are also owned by the ETB as the city boasts many fine artifacts, the most famous of which is the

Mappa Mundi—a map of the world drawn circa 1300. This is a major artifact of national importance to Britain and caused a uproar when it was nearly sold abroad to raise money. Finally, a mysterious private buyer (thought to be Hilliard) bought the map and then loaned it back to the cathedral where it has been kept to this day. Another fine piece of history in the Cathedral is the chained library which is the largest of its kind in the world. It's called the chained library because each book is attached by a chain to rods on the 17th century oak bookcases. As can be expected, both of these places have very tight security, as many unscrupulous collectors would love owning both the Mappa Mundi and many of the books in the library (which are priceless in their own right).

As the garrison town for the SAS, there is little or no crime in this area and many of the local people are friends with (or related to) someone who is a member of the special forces unit. The SAS looks after its own with a secret society known as the Feather Men. What the make-up of this society is, no one knows, but if anybody tries anything like robbery, pushing drugs, violence etc. with any member of the public in Hereford, the Feather Men will deal with it. It must be assumed that the police are in with the Feather Men as it makes their life that much easier.

One problem with living in the Hereford area is the whole of the surrounding area is treated as one huge training ground for the SAS. A favorite routine involves the recruits having to live on the run for a week without being caught, and they sometimes steal food from people's houses. If this happens, the BCF will refund the cost, so if you're staying in the area and think you see or hear someone in your room, be careful—it may be a Special Forces recruit on an exercise! Law Code: 1-1-1

Milford Haven

Milford Haven is the major port for oil tankers in Britain. Although the amount of oil flowing through the port has declined slightly, part of it has been adapted to take CHOOH2 and the overall amount of ships has hardly dropped at all. The town is arguably the main port for the South Atlantic Fishing Fleet and is perhaps one of the liveliest towns in the whole of Wales. For the most excitement, try to time your visit for when the trawlers arrive home from three months at sea in the South Atlantic. Things can get to be a lot of fun when this lot blow their wages on a night on the town. The fleet and the oil tankers are often troubled by pirates who operate out of northern Cornwall, although recent evidence points to another cadre of hijackers who come from Pembroke. They are thought to operate from the ruins of Pembroke castle, which could prove to be a problem rooting them out, as a huge limestone cavern, the Wogan Cavern, is located under the castle and (according to old tourist guides) can be entered from the northern hall. At times, when the fleet is laid up, one or two of

the trawlers can be hired for various purposes with the price depending on how dangerous (or illegal) the job is. Law Code: 5-2-3.

The best place for nightlife is obviously the Cardiff-Swansea Metroplex but another good place is Milford Haven when the fleet comes in. Milford Haven also boasts some of the best fish restaurants in the country (after all, they get the fish fresh from the docks.)

A Notable Local

Desmond Llewellyn is the best fixer in Wales (north or south) and it's rumored that he has something to do with the hijacking of the tankers going into Milford Haven. He can usually get anything within three days as long as you meet his price—not necessarily in money terms. He also has a fine techie working for him, Heinze Wolf, who can make (or alter) almost anything you require.

Desmond Llewellyn, Fixer (INT 8, COOL 9)

Streetdeal 6, Persuasion 6, Tactics 5, Forgery 7

Heinze Wolf, Tech (INT 8, TECH 9)

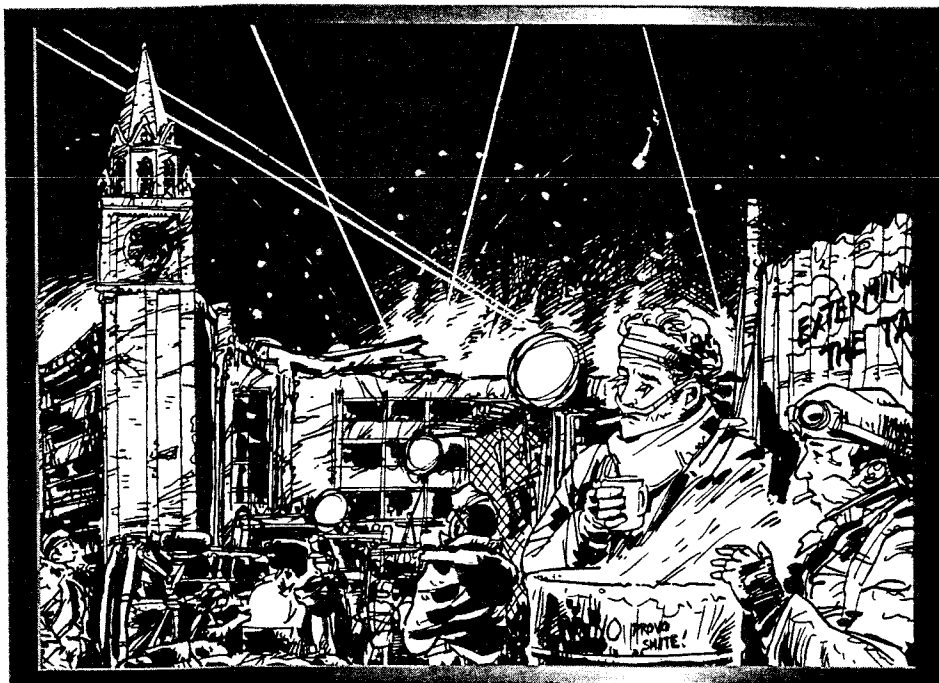
Jury Rig 9, Electronics 9, Basic Tech 7, Cybertech 7

NORTHERN IRELAND

Next are the quiet, peaceful sprawls of Northern Ireland. You are either slightly crazy (or desperate for cash) if you're considering a trip across the sea, but, if you must, then here are a few things that you ought to know.

Visitors are not allowed into Northern Ireland (also known as Ulster) for their own safety. The whole of the province is just one big free-fire zone and is perhaps the deadliest place to live in the world at this moment. Very much like those other sectarian conflicts, Beirut and Bosnia, this seems to be a problem way out of control.

Things seemed to be picking up for the province when Britain bowed to pressure and pulled most of the troops out of Ulster. The problem was that the Catholics (nationalists) were then made to remember why they were sent there in the first place—to protect them. The Protestants (loyalists), alarmed at the explosion in the nationalist birth rate launched a fierce campaign of bombing and assassinations against the Catholic population. Naturally, the nationalists responded with a terror campaign of their own, both in the province and on the mainland. The government responded by allowing the Ulster Defence Regiment to shoot to kill if attacked (they already did this anyway, but it's nice to know you have government permission to blow someone's brains out).



BELFAST AT NIGHT

The government also closed the border apart from selected crossing points and declared a De-Militarised Zone. This whole area is peppered with various sensing devices and anybody attempting to cross is met with Ultimate Force.

Both the E.C. (and the former U.N.) have threatened to step into Northern Ireland, but Britain has vetoed resolutions at both organisations, citing the Balkan conflict as a prime example of how neither of them could do anything worthwhile.

Both Lord Hill and Lord McKenzie have made speeches hinting that the troops may be sent back in and this has brought a hail of diplomatic protest from other countries. The U.K. just points out that pulling the troops out just exacerbated the situation and that, unless both sides sit down and resume the talks at



Stormont, then Martial Law will be introduced in Ulster. The administrator responsible for Ulster is Brigadier Lethbridge-Stuart.

The area holds a lot of employment opportunities for Solos—just remember you're likely to be expendable—so watch out. One legal form of employment is with one of the private security firms patrolling the business district—they're always looking for foreigners to employ as they're not as likely to be caught up in the bigotry that reigns supreme in Ulster.

Techies and fixers can also find good employment in Ulster with any of the major factions. They're always looking for people to mend their equipment or find them a new automatic assault shotgun (plus ammo, of course).

There are numerous bars and pubs in Northern Ireland, just be careful you don't walk into one on the wrong side of the street. The food is fairly simple and homegrown—not many people want to export to Ulster.

There are no Major Access roads in Northern Ireland as it became too costly to maintain them (in both monetary and human terms) in the light of continuous bombings and sniping (from both sides). If you are driving, be ultra-careful as many dangers await—a radio controlled bomb might go off, you might trigger a trip wire, or a sniper might take a pot shot at you from a mile away with a high-powered rifle. **Law Code: 0-5-5**

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE

To the uneducated outsider, Scotland is probably the most stereotyped country in the United Kingdom. They base any observations they may make on stories of drunken, tight-fisted, red haired Glaswegians with a propensity for cranial violence and corrupted legends of the 'Loch Ness Monster'. Such people have never experienced Scotland first hand and never are likely to because they look at the world through blinkered eyes. [You can't tell he's from Paisley, can you! Ed.] The fact is that, like the other Celtic nations, The Scots are a proud people with a rich, diverse culture and that is their true national identity.

Since the time of John Knox they have believed in democracy and education for all. At the start of the 20th century only 1 in 1300 English children was studying at secondary school, while at the same time the Scotland could boast 1 in 200. This trend has continued and resulted in the constant stream of innovators that have led the world ever forward. The Napiers (marine engineering), Nasmyth (steam hammer), Alexander Graham Bell (telephone), John Logi Baird (television, probably) and Alfred Cowie Craig (the air velocity gearbox) are some of the best known, but there have been thousands more.

In politics there was Balfour, Home and MacMillan from the gentry along with Gallacher, Maxton, Hardie and Ramsay MacDonald from the working classes. In the arts there have

been many contributors, but only the poet Robert Burns (born in Kirk of Alloway, Ayr, January 25, 1759; died 1796), has found his reputation spread to encompass the globe. His memory has drifted into legend and is celebrated every year on Burns Night. Another is Sir Walter Scott, whose tales of the old highlands and its characters live on to this day. There are a million names that I could list right here; warriors, pirates, thieves, kings, queens, you name it, Scotland has got them. It is they who form the backbone of contemporary Scotland where myth, history and legend are combined to shed light on the future.

The Scottish Uprising 2013-2018, R.I.P.

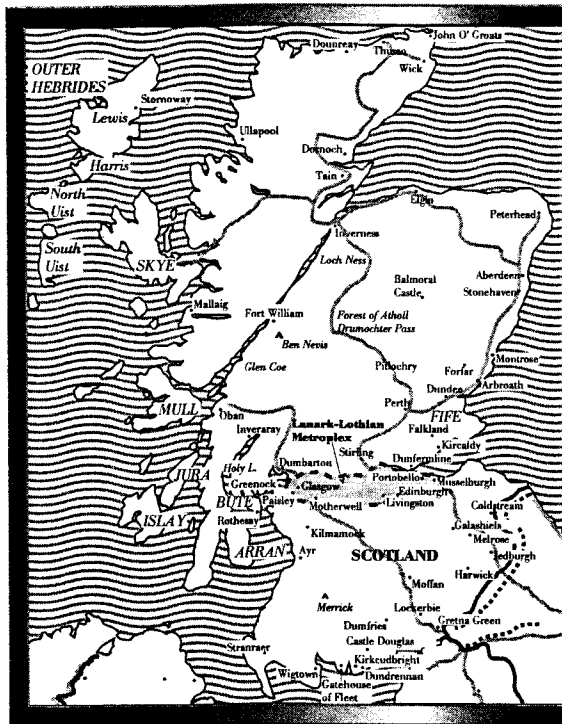
In the five years between 2013 and 2018 the Scottish nationalist movement was at its most active and a state of undeclared war existed between England and Scotland. The MLA sent thousands of troops north in a massive effort to suppress the Scots people and in order to protect their massive investments in oil and industry.

The result was that instead of pacifying them, the Highlands and Lowlands united in an effort to turn back their unwelcome landlord. Hostilities escalated from simple terrorism to full-blooded military engagements, as the old clans rose once again to the call of the 'Fiery Cross'. Looking back, it is amazing that the conflict lasted for so long; for a while the Scots were even winning—standing alone against the might of the English armies, they were actually winning. However, like the South in the American Civil War of the 1860's, it was only a matter of time before superior resolve gave way to the massive resources of the English opposition.

With the embers of their revolutionary pyre fading, the Scottish command played their last desperate card. They met the English two miles north of a town called Buckton just south of the border, and there, took on the full force of the English in a winner-takes-all battle to the finish. It started at 6am on February 21 and finished 23 hours later with over two-thirds of Scotland's 32,000 men-at-arms lying dead in the fields.

MLA took the resulting period of wound-licking to consolidate its position, and in the witch hunt that followed, all but one of the movement's leaders were captured, tried and executed for high treason. The only survivor, one Colonel Malcolm Douglas-Campbell, fled to Belfast and (despite a thousand years of mutual loathing) found shelter among his Irish brethren. Without leadership, the Scottish cause faltered, and by March the great uprising was over. Aberdeen, Ullapool, Dounray and Holyloch became military reserves, while the rest of the country was put under travel restrictions and a curfew.

What remained of Scottish Republican Army was forced to hide in the highlands and reverted to using terrorist hit and



run tactics as their only means of protest. Meanwhile, Douglas-Campbell spent his time liaising with the IRA, and trying to raise funds from abroad for a new offensive. Then, just as he was planning his return, the MLA was toppled by the conspiring actions of the very corporations that it had helped to build. A new Monarch was crowned, a government elected *If you could call it an election. Ed.* and all seemed to returning to normal.

It was around this time that the normally loyalist Scots began seeking a more peaceful means to securing independence and petitioned the new parliament for a debate on the matter. Then, after a months of heated and occasionally violent discussion, an agenda for the independence of Scotland was agreed and signed at Buckton, on the fourth anniversary of the battle.

This agreement stated that the Scots would elect a national assembly which would have responsibility for the day-to-day, civilian, running of the new Scotland. The English, in turn, would withdraw all troops apart from those in the des-

ignated military reserves who would follow within a period of not more than 10 years. The assembly would initially be financed from Westminster but should work towards establishing its own exchequer within the same time frame. Then, once all this was done, Scotland would be permitted to leave the Union.

This would be enough for most people, but not Douglas-Campbell, who saw the whole agreement as not worth the paper it was written on. In his mind, the English could not be trusted and although the agreement was fine in principle, it was highly unlikely that Scotland would be allowed to leave the Union without a fight. Therefore, he took the new freedoms and used them to rebuild the SRA to the point where, they are once again carrying out attacks on military, agricultural and commercial targets.

This has resulted in the formation of the equally unpleasant (and radical) Scottish Loyalist Faction, who spend their time fighting the SRA. This suits the English, for as long as the Scots keep fighting among themselves, they will be of less trouble to the crown.

Anyway, enough of history, what about "Bonnie Scotland" today? Well, it is simple really. Because of the lack of decent roads it is unnecessary to cover Scotland with a county by county method, as it highly unlikely that you will be able to reach most of them. Therefore we have split the country into three sections, the Lowlands, Highlands and the Isles, in which we shall cover some of more interesting places to visit.

THE LOWLANDS

This region spreads in a diagonal line north from Dumbarton in the west to Stonehaven in the east and, despite its rather flat name, is more hilly than most parts of England. Rolling, grassy hills, lush, green dales and picturesque lochs are scattered around some of the most spectacular countryside in the U.K. It is home to over two-thirds of the country's population, the majority of its industry, and nearly all of its farming lands. It is the land that inspired Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns and is rich in variety and interest.

The history of the Lowlands is a turbulent one, especially in recent times when its river valleys have born the brunt of the Anglo-Scots Wars. However, don't be put off by the burnt-out armor and other relics of war; if you look hard enough there is still a wondrous world to explore here.

THE BORDER VALLEYS

These are the areas just north of the Scottish/English border (apty enough). They follow the rivers Teviot, Yarrow and Jed through the scenic moorlands to the cool green pastures you don't generally envisage this bonnie land having. Eventually they meet up with the River Tweed, the site of many a historic battle. The area has gained worldwide acclaim for its tweeds and tartans worn by so many traditionalist Scots. There is evidence throughout the area of the bloodshed and battle of 400 years of Scotland's struggle for independence (more on that later).

So, apart from the innumerable ruins of the Borders' anarchy-laced past what else is there, besides a few interesting views?

Places to Visit

Coldstream

Coldstream, home of the Coldstream Guards, raised from Cromwell's army in 1650, and the site of a soon to be abolished festival that celebrates James IV's bloody defeat at the battle of Flodden in 1513. Since the Guards are to be one of the first regiments to be reformed, this is probably one of the last chances you will get to look over their museum before the new garrison arrives next year. If that's your sought thing, then go for it; otherwise, have a dram and move on as there is not a lot else. **Law Code:** 3-2-3

Player contact: Alfred, (he has no other name) is a poacher and highly proud of his ancestry. He regularly traps on military land and is an effective guide if the price is right.

Alfred, Solo (INT 7)
Combat Sense 6, Wilderness Survival 7, Track 8, Area Knowledge 7

RUMOR: IT IS NOT WIDELY DISCUSSED, BUT THERE IS SAID TO BE A SMALL GROUP OF NATIONALISTS MEETING AT SMALHOLM TOWER ON THE TEVIOT WITH A VIEW TO CAMPAIGNING OVER THE BORDER IN A SOMEWHAT VIOLENT MANNER FOR THE SRA.

Melrose

Melrose, another town with semi-Stuart connections. A silver casket containing Robert the Bruce's heart is buried in the abbey here. The abbey itself has been the victim of several suspicious fires in the intervening centuries, but is still well worth a visit. Lying

in the shadow of the Eildon Hills the town offers an attractive variety of shopping and accommodation and although the nightlife is a bit quiet, it is a welcome sight after the long drive north. **Law Code:** 3-2-2

Player contact: Jim Kelly, once an outlaw, he knows the hills like the back of his hand. It's said he knows how to find everyone who lives in them.

Jim Kelly, Solo (INT 7, REF 8)
Combat Sense 4, Wilderness Survival 4, Rifle 4, Shadow/Track 3

RUMOR: "HAVE YOU HEARD THAT OLD ROGUE, CHEVIAL, IS BACK IN THE HILLS. YOU KNOW THEY SAY HE HAS THE POWER OF FORESIGHT AND CAN HARNESS ALL THE OLD MAGIC. SCARY ISN'T IT!"

Jedburgh

Jedburgh. This ancient royal burgh (Scottish borough) is the home of many majestic ruins, all with their own tales to tell. Jedburgh castle, the site of numerous battles of ownership, was destroyed in 1409 to prevent English control. The old county prison is now on the site, but since the building of the Lanark-Lothian Metroplex, it has generally been considered too expensive to send convicts to the central prison. Therefore, the system now allows, after public trial, immediate execution in most cases. This obviously means the old site has fallen into disrepair, and is now an unauthorised shelter for the general collection of tramps and derelicts that every town collects.

By the way, the general method of execution is open to public debate on each case, so you just might end up having your gonads being pulled out through your throat; if you get caught indulging in any wrong-doing, I'd peg it if I were you! There is also the abbey ruins, apparently these look particularly ethereal in a thunderstorm; lovely. **Law Code:** 3-1-2

Player contact: Angus Hoyk, a local sheriff with a mortgage beyond his means. He is therefore ripe for bribery of one sort or another.

RUMOR: IT IS UNCONFIRMED, BUT IT IS SAID THAT THERE IS A SYSTEM OF ESCAPE TUNNELS LEADING OUT INTO THE SURROUNDING HILLS FROM UNDER THE OLD PRISON.

Restrictions

There are no real restrictions in this area and you can travel anywhere on a Full Tourist Ticket. If you are wise though, you will check with the locals before planning your route, there is no ETB presence around here, so you'll just have to make it up as you go.

Traveller Beware!

As a visitor to the borders you should be welcomed just about everywhere that you go. However, if you're English, you should be advised to keep a very low profile, as a southern accent can be a highly dangerous thing in these parts. In addition, attending a festival such as that mentioned above could bring about a very messy and untimely end to your stay.

Generally the roads are safe, at least during the day, and if care is taken you should have no problems, being as you are this far south. If, on the other hand, you are thinking of a nice day's wreck fishing, don't. Piracy is a major source of income around these coasts and these guys don't like to leave witnesses.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

An area of both turbulent and romantic history, it has everything from battles in the name of the last Monarchy, to the soulful poet Robert Burns. As with most places in the Lowlands it is very proud of its connection with the said Mr. Burns; mind you, most small villages don't have many other things they'd like to admit to around here. The area is well known for its illegal connections with theft, pillage and smuggling. The land stretches from the Southern uplands to the wide, flat Solway Plain. During the 14th century the area became known as the "Debatable Lands" due to the constant cross-border fights, feuds and raids.

Places to Visit

Dumfries

Dumfries, a once Royal Burgh on the banks of the River Nith with its fair share of history and a formidable reputation for law enforcement. For instance, there is the impressive sight of five bridges spanning the river. The oldest (circa 1426) and most important of which has six arches famed as a site for the dunking of witches, i.e., trial by (very soggy) ordeal. Nice chap, that Witchfinder General MacBastard; Matthew Hopkins he wasn't, but in those days peasants couldn't be choosers and had to take the first xenophobic, tunnel-visioned, cat-hating, stake-burning, cattle-buggering maniac that came along. Still, at least they don't go in for that sort of thing anymore?

In the center of the town is a measure of distances to various places across the border such as Huntingdon, the destination of cattledrovers in 18th century. What else is there; well good old

Robbie lived here (and just about everywhere else, as you'll soon discover) and of course, there's a suitably ruined abbey thrown in for good measure. **Law Code:** 2-3-2

Player contact: Hamish Alexander-Scott, inn-keeper and purveyor of everything that the international traveller could need (most of which he didn't know he needed until they were, somewhat forcibly, pointed out). Hamish is a good man to know if you find yourself without an ally; at a price of course.

RUMOR: "HEY, YOU THERE, WEE ROBERT. YOU WON AGAIN, YER CANNY BUGGER. THEY HEARD THE POOR BASTARD ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE OLD CRONE'S HOUSE. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THEY'D USE THE RACK AGAIN?"

Gretna

Now this is a romantic spot with thousands of stories of exiled lovers and their consent-less couplings—well, you know what I mean. The prospective bride and groom would run away to the toll booth on the green where they would be married without parental consent over the smithies' anvil. The legislation and ideals that prompted this hormonal migration have long since passed, but the anvil still remains. The town is now accepted as a safe haven for all, and consequently is home to a myriad of society's most, or least, wanted, depending on your point of view. Whether they be on the run from death row or, as is more often the case, hiding from a jealous husband, they all flock to Gretna where the safety is assured, providing they have the price. **Law Code:** 5-4-3

Player contact: Jul Goombray, leader of the town militia and the main reason behind its current status as dreg capital of the North. He is uncompromising in his dealings with outsiders and values loyalty above all else.

Jul Goombray, Cop (COOL 8)
Authority 6, Intimidate 5, Interrogate 4, Handgun 3

RUMOR: THE SCOTTISH BORDER PATROL ARE SENDING A UNIT TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE TOWN.

Lockerbie

The history of this place is steeped in disasters, and if I was you I wouldn't hang around. Let's see...Lord Maxwell was killed during a family feud (1593), followed by 700 hundred of his men. After they'd been killed all their ears were cut off with a cleaver, and these days they don't wait until you're dead, so be warned. This practice became known as the Lockerbie Nick or just the "Nick" as it is now known. In more recent times, there was the PanAm air disaster on December 23, 1988 in which a 747 was destroyed by a terrorist bomb over the town. Add to that the bioplague in 2002, and the tanker explosion four years ago and it all comes to a fairly dangerous place to visit, if you're the superstitious sort. However, black cats and ladders aside, this is probably one of the more peaceful towns in the region—but then, maybe everyone else knows something that we don't. Anyway, the nearby castle is said to be the childhood home of Robert the Bruce but nobody is really sure. **Law Code:** 5-3-5.

Player contact: None, I couldn't find anyone.

RUMOR... CUE ROD SERLING...

Moffat

At the center of a major sheep farming district, Moffat has become a popular tourist spot. The spring water here is said to have curative properties, or at least that's what people like to believe. *(Of course, Robert Burns wrote a song about it, what a bloody surprise that is! Ed.)* Just outside the village is the "Devil's Beef Tub," a dip between several hills through which the river Annan flows which was used to shelter stolen cattle. The spectacular waterfall "The Great Mare's Tail" is also nearby and is claimed to be one of Scotland's highest. If there is an abbey here, I couldn't find it. Of course, it may have been that charmed pile of rubble I saw on the way home from the pub. **Law Code:** 3-3-2

Player contact: Sarah Eliock, a local tourist guide, it is thought that she can provide you with more information than simply where to get your next meal.

Restrictions

The closer to the border that you are the more strict the rules for the traveller, so ensure you have the right papers. All road traffic is under aerial surveillance.

Traveller Beware!

Be careful who you speak to and avoid voicing any views you may have about the Scottish cause. Unlike the more northern areas, here you can never be sure just who is on which side. Quaint-looking villages and hamlets can be more dangerous than they look, so be cautious if travelling alone.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Kirkcudbrightshire (Kir-coo-brie-sheen) is an area of varying scenery, spanning wild, desolate craggy rock with high hills and waterfalls about rolling, pastoral countryside. A land of ancient knights and heraldry where the people have a reputation for being just a tad eccentric. Looking around the rocky coast it is so easy to invoke images of its smuggler past that you can almost taste the rum. Today, as then, the inlets and bays provide shelter to the pirates that terrorize the South Channel while the surrounding mountains make an ideal lair for the man on the run, just as they did for Robert the Bruce.

Places to Visit

Castle Douglas

Established in the 18th century, the town was built on the shores of Loch Carlingwark close to the river Dee. It is the sight of a crannog (prehistoric dwelling) excavation and was home to the Black Douglasses and their 14th century stronghold, Threave Castle. It was from here that the Douglasses would pillage the surrounding countryside and here that they hung their enemies from the "Gallows Knob." It is also reputed that the cannon at Edinburgh (MonsMeg) was forged here and then used by James II to overcome Threave and its Douglas defenders in 1455.

Nowadays, there is little of note apart from the loch and the castle as most of the area is devoted to livestock and arable farming. **Law Code:** 5-2-5

Player contact: Balantyne Redhawk, local inn-keeper and leader of the little-known 'Nest of Cannus' nomad tribe.

RUMOR: "I HEAR THAT SOME SAY THERE IS STILL TREASURE TO BE FOUND UNDER THE KEEP BUT THAT'S JUST AN AULD WIVES' TALE."

Dundrennan Abbey

The small village of Dundrennan is partly built with stone from the old abbey where Mary Queen of Scots spent her last night on Scottish soil, May 16, 1568. More recently, the town has



PIRATE ACTIVITY

been used as a lookout post by the many pirates that operate off the western coast. So apart from the blood-spilling, neck-chopping, ship-raping, keel-hauling, rum-swilling locals you have absolutely nothing to worry about. Law Code: 4-5-1

Player contact: Tiberius, master of the pirate vessel *Sea Anger* and head man in Dundrennan. If you are going to drop in for a dram, then you had better win this man's favor.

Tiberius, Sea Nomad (INT 8)
Family 7, Water Craft 6, Expert (Navigation) 6, Melee 4

RUMOR: "NO...NO PLEASE. I TELL YOU, I DOES NAY KNOW!"

"I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME AND YOU HAD BEST ANSWER. WHAT HAPPEN' TO THE CREW, WHERE ARE THEIR HEARTS!?"

"No...I TELL YOU AGAIN I DON'T....."

Gatehouse of Fleet

Gatehouse of Fleet, a former cotton town on the Water of Fleet where Burns wrote yet another bloody poem, "Scots, wha hae wi..." during his stay at the Murray Arms. Not wishing to be outdone, Sir Walter Scott based his poem "Young Lochinvar" on nearby Rusko Castle, the 16th century home of the Gordons of Lochinvar. If you head northeast to Creetown you come across the 15th century tower of the McCullochs with its infamous "murder hole" over the entrance passage. A nasty business this, the occupiers would open a trapdoor and pour boiling pitch on any unexpected guests. I can't help thinking that we could learn a lot from the family McCulloch, such practices would be the perfect defence against visits from religious fanatics in ill-fitting suits. Law Code: 5-1-3

Player contact: Lorraine McCulloch (no relation), barmaid at Murray Arms. She is well-known locally and can be better than a Corp ID for getting into places around here.

RUMOUR: "...NO SON. IT'S NOT WORTH IT. NOT WHILE THE FISH ARE STILL WHITE-UP IN THE RIVER."

Glen Trool Forest

The Glen Trool Forest, 135,000 acres of forest parkland with hills, lochs and waterfalls, leading up to the desolate heights of Merrick which (at 2770 ft) is the highest peak in southern Scotland. These hills were where Robert the Bruce began his struggle for independence, but are now home to wolves and nomads alike. Law Code: 4-1-3

Player contact: Ian McCafferty, park ranger and guide to the forest. If you intend entering the Glen Trool reserve check with McCafferty beforehand. The forest is quiet but the dangers are very real.

Ian McCafferty, Cop (COOL 7, INT 8, REF 7)
Authority '3, Wilderness Survival 6, Rifle 5, Shadow/Track 6

RUMOR: SOME CORPORATIONS ARE PLANNING AN UNAUTHORIZED HUNT IN THE FOREST.

Restrictions

Apart from the BCF patrol, the only real constraints on the traveller around here is their nerve. The communities and country in-between can be as placid or dangerous as you allow. Safe travel is all a matter of common sense and remembering whose land you are on.

Traveller Beware!

Apart from the above you should be especially careful while in the countryside. Nomad tribes around here are not, by nature, aggressive, but if you inadvertently break the Earth-serving teachings that are their creed, then look out. Travel with respect for your surroundings.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Thankfully, this region has managed to avoid most of the ravages of modern society and offers a glimpse of life from a more pedestrian era. Unfortunately, this also means that there is a corresponding lack of amenities for the foot-sore hiker in need of a place to freshen up. Once part of the ancient district of Galloway, the pastoral plains of the Machars peninsula offer some of the best farming land in the U.K. Washed by the gentle touch of the Gulf Stream, the climate is pleasant, with snows or fogs a rarity.

Places to Visit

Stranraer

Stranraer (Stran-rar) is the largest town in the area, built about the head of Loch Ryan and 35 miles east of Larne in Northern Ireland. Unlike nearby harbors, like that in Port William, Stranraer can still claim to be a commercial port and although there is no longer a ferry to Larne, it's used by the Arctic fishing fleets as a refuelling stop. Also unlike William, Logan, and Patrick, the town is not used by the many privateers and smugglers that frequent the area. Law Code: 3-2-3

Player contact: Old Bret, ex-harbor master turned town drunk; if you catch him in a sober moment he can point you in the direction you need to go.

RUMOUR: DESPITE THE PORT'S CLAIM THAT IT IS SMUGGLER-FREE, THERE IS A FLOURISHING DRUG CULTURE TO BE FOUND HERE. THE TOWN FATHERS WOULD PAY HANDSOMELY FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP THEM GET RID OF THE PROBLEM.

Wigtown

If you can get through the overwhelming urge to start recounting toupee-related anecdotes, pick yourself up off the floor and look around, there are some interesting little things to be found around hair—here—sorry. Let's see, well there's the museum which, among other things, contains the 'Latinus Stone,' the earliest Christian relic to yet be found in Scotland. Then there is the Stones of Torhouse, 19 stones in a circle that date from the Bronze Age, or Baldoon (Bald, maybe that is how the town got its name) Castle, the setting for Scott's novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*. Perhaps the most enigmatic is the Drowning Post, which marks the spot at the mouth of the River Bladnoch where two women Covenanters were tied to stakes and left to drown after refusing to renounce their beliefs. Law Code: 5-2-5

Player contact: Daniel-Rufus MacClintock, curator of the museum, who has lived here for all his life. He specializes in the history of smuggling in the area. One thing, don't call him Dan-Ruf as he is sensitive about his scalp.

RUMOUR: IN MY THREE DAYS HERE I DIDN'T SEE ONE CHILD OR SPECIFICALLY ONE TEENAGER. OF COURSE, THEY COULD HAVE BEEN OFF SOMEWHERE SEEKING THE PLEASURES OF ADOLESCENCE, BUT THAT WOULD BE LITTLE HEDONISTIC (AH-AH), NOT TO SAY, A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE.

Restrictions

None to speak of.

Traveller Beware!

Apart from the usual words of caution I can add nothing, except to avoid Dunskey Castle during the hours of darkness.

THE REST OF THE LOWLANDS

From this point on road travel becomes much more difficult, and so in order not to waste time, I shall concentrate only on the more accessible areas and large towns.

Ayr

Ayr is an attractive resort on the Firth of Clyde just east of the island of Arran. With excellent beaches and amenities and unlike most of our previous stops, this place is geared specifically for the tourist. This is Burns country, the great man was born at Alloway, two miles south and the whole area is positively riddled with museums and memorials to his work. If it is the Scotland of his writings that you are after, then this is where you will find it. For those who, like me, are sick of running into him, there are the obligatory ruined abbeys, castles and tales of great battles with the English. Oh, and the discoverer of penicillin, Sir Alexander Flemming was born in Galston about 14 miles to the north west. Law Code: 3-1-4

Player contact: Coral, Jamaican-born of Scots parents who runs the Caribbean Cafe on the beach. Very observant.

RUMOR: A DUMMY CORPORATION, ACTING FOR THE ETB, IS TRYING TO BUY THE TAM O' SHANTER MUSEUM.

Inveraray

Ancestral home of the Dukes of Argyll whose castle has been used by the Clan Campbell since the 15th century. Malcolm

Douglas-Campbell makes his home here now and the entire area is stoutly nationalist. The presence of so many SRA members makes this a highly dangerous place. Law Code 0-5-1

Player contact: None, I wasn't stopping.

RUMOR: THE LOYALISTS ARE PLOTTING TO BOMB INVERARAY CASTLE.

Lanark-Lothian Metroplex

See Metroplexes section for information.

Stirling

A royal burgh famous for its castle; home to the Scottish Monarchy in the 15th and 16th centuries. The area is currently under SLF control but could fall to the SRA siege any day now. Keep away. Law Code: 0-5-1

Player contact: Anthony "The Wild Dog" Johnson, SLF commander in charge of the castle.

Anthony Johnson, Solo/Soldier (INT 8, COOL 9, REF 7)
Combat Sense 5, Leadership 7, Tactics 6, Rifle 5

RUMOR: THE SLF HAVE MINED THE CASTLE AND DUG ESCAPE TUNNELS THAT LEAD TOWARDS BANNOCKBURN.

Bannockburn

Bannockburn, 3 miles south of Stirling, is the site of Robert the Bruce's famous victory over Edward II in 1314, which is now a designated national treasure. Due to the effects of tourism, the site can only be visited with a signed order from the Bannockburn Trust or the National Heritage Foundation. Because of the fighting in the north, the area is under guard by the BCF who have been hired to protect it. Law Code: 1-1-1

Player contact: Major Woolford-Owen, officer commanding, Bannockburn detachment, Northern Command, Edinburgh. You would be wise indeed to register your presence as a non-combatant if passing near this area.

Woolford-Owen, Solo/Soldier (INT 8, COOL 8, REF 7)
Combat Sense 4, Leadership 8, Intimidate 6, Rifle 6

RUMOR: THE BANNOCKBURN DETACHMENT HAVE AGREED TO PROTECT THE SLF RETREAT FROM STIRLING.

Restrictions

The closer you get to the Lanark-Lothian Metroplex, the more the level of organized control. A Full Tourist Ticket will suffice, but you should expect your vehicle and possessions to be searched.

Traveller Beware!

In-fighting between the SRA and SLF makes your choice of route especially important. If the metroplex is your destination, then drive straight through and don't stop for anything—unless it's a BCF patrol, of course.

THE HIGHLANDS

The contrast between this area and the Lowlands could not be more dramatic, as the hills and fertile farming land of the south give way to a harsher moors and mountains of the north of Scotland. In spite of the exposed nature of the terrain, it is nevertheless awe-inspiring to stand atop a rocky crag and gaze out over the valleys and sea lochs that punctuate deep into the very heart of the country. It is the home of the Clans, Loch Ness, tartan, the bag-pipes, and to me (your Editor) at least, it is home.

Northern Argyll

From the peaks of Glencoe to the west, encompassing more than a thousand miles of ragged coastline, to the wondrous seascapes of the Inner Hebrides. This is the realm of awe, literally, as Loch Awe is one of the largest inland waterways and noted for its fine salmon stocks. Add to this backdrop the region's clan-draped history, and you are in for a rare treat.

Glencoe

Glencoe, a glen running from Rannoch Moor to Loch Leven and infamous for the massacre of 1692. Also called the "Glen of Weeping," for it was here that a detachment of soldiers, under Campbell command, brutally murdered forty MacDonalds—but not before accepting their hospitality for 12 days. Today, the glen is a peaceful place and a popular haunt for young couples. A bit disrespectful, if you ask me, but then I suppose the hormone demon must be fed somewhere. Law Code: 4-2-3

Player contact: Marron, a young woman of dubious reputation who can arrange transport across the loch if you miss the ferry at Ballachulish.

RUMOR:

"STOP THAT ...STOP IT I SAID!I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL ...JACK, HEY JACK, WHAT'S THE MATTER I WAS ONLY FOOLIN'JESUS, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!?"

Mull

Mull is a beautiful moorland island eight miles out from Oban that is spotted with both forest and peak. Duart Castle, the 13th century home to the Kings of the Isles, dominates the landscape and is now home to the clan MacLean. The main port, Tobermory (no furry, refuse collector jokes, please) holds one of the last great inshore fishing fleets and the surrounding bay is famous as a premier diving spot. In the south of the island, the magnificent cliffs act as foundations to Moy Castle on the shores of Loch Brie, and the surrounding countryside holds many of the locations for David Balfour's exploits in R.L. Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. Law Code: 5-1-4

Player contact: Jarret MacLean, youngest member of the clan and most likely to provide you with information about the island.

RUMOR: THE WRECK OF THE LONG LOST SPANISH GALLEON FLORIDA, SUNK OFF THE COAST IN 1588 IS BELIEVED TO BE AROUND HERE.

Restrictions

Very few.

Traveller Beware!

Seaborne journeys should be discouraged due to the activities of pirates and the treacherous nature of the waters.

PERTHSHIRE

As immortalized in Scott's novel *The Fair Maid of Perth* (1828), the region is probably the most varied in the Highlands. There are mountains, moors, glens, valleys, hills, lochs, rivers and streams aplenty, a sort of High-Lowlands if you like. At its heart is the ancient city of Perth, once called St. Johnstoun, which stands on the banks of Scotland's longest river, the Tay. To the south is the

world-famous Gleneagles golf course which spreads across the moors like a lush green carpet from Strathearn to Strathallan. In the surrounding hills there are countless examples of its past: Pictish forts, cairns, Roman remains and Scone, the site where the Scottish kings were crowned on the "Stone of Destiny".

Perth

Perth, the "Fair City" and once capital of Scotland has a turbulent history of battle and siege. Made a royal burgh in 1210, and then fortified by Edward I of England in 1298 following one of the several occasions when it fell into English hands. St John's Kirk is one of the few buildings that remain from the city's medieval past and was the site of John Knox's sermon on church idolatry. For how much longer, I wonder, as the city is currently under intermittent siege by SLF forces intent on its destruction. **Law Code:** 1-5-2

Player contact: Marcus MacLeland, SRA spokesman for Perthshire. Convince him of your nationalist allegiance and he becomes the key to the gates of the city.

Marcus MacLeland, SRA Media (INT 8, REF 6, EMP 7)
Credibility 4, Leadership 6, Expert (Perth Underground) 6, Rifle 5

RUMOR: THE SRA POSITION IS BEING UNDERMINED BY A LOYALIST SPY IN A HIGH-RANKING POSITION.

Restrictions

Anyone caught on the roads without reason for being there is in trouble, and no amount of impressive paperwork will save them.

Traveller Beware!

See above.

Fife

Fife is part of the peninsula formed between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay. It has long been renowned for its rich farming lands, textiles and golf; St. Andrews is nearby. The longest road bridge in the U.K. spans the Firth of Forth, a distance of one and a half miles, and links the area with the Edinburgh end of the Lanark-Lothian metropolis. The presence of the Forth/Tay

bridges makes this area a security hot spot and both are under heavy security. **Law Code:** 4-2-1

Player contact: Duncan Clarke, fixer-come-guide and your best bet for information about the darker side of the city.

Duncan Clarke, Fixer (INT 7, COOL 8)
Streetdeal 6, Area Knowledge (Dundee) 8, Persuasion 5, Hide/Evade 4

RUMOR: GEOLOGISTS HAVE BEEN TAKING READINGS AT DUNDEE LAW, AN EXTINCT VOLCANO, WHICH AT 571 FT IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE CITY.

Dundee

Dundee is an eastern port built on the shores of the Firth of Tay and is famous for its whaling fleets of the 18th century. Like Perth, it has been the site of many battles for independence with the English and has been a royal burgh since 1190. Its university, established in 1881, is now generally recognized as one of the finest colleges in Europe. When you consider its location, it is surprising that one, the city is devoutly loyalist and two, it has been left virtually unmolested by the SRA. Unlike ports on the western coast, Dundee is not used as a base for piracy or smuggling, which is strange when you consider the rich pickings of the North Sea. **Law Code:** 4-2-1

Player contact: Gordon Gotherine, toll guard on the Forth Bridge. He can give information on traffic movements into the region.

RUMOR: EUROPEAN ECO-TERRORISTS ARE PLANNING AN ATTACK ON THE TAY RAIL BRIDGE BECAUSE IT IS REGULARLY USED TO TRANSPORT HAZARDOUS WASTE NORTH.

Aberdeen

Aberdeen is the third largest city in Scotland and built almost exclusively from granite. In olden times it was renowned for its North Sea fishing fleets and as being the base for Robert the Bruce's campaigns against the Comyns. Lord Byron went to school at the grammar school and a statue of the 5th Duke of Gordon stands in Golden Square. Nowadays, however, it is the center for the U.K.'s oil exploration and it is this reason that has brought it to its current volatile state. During the 2013 uprising,

Westminster feared that the North Sea reserves were in jeopardy and sent a full battalion to seize the city. The area from Port Erroll, inland to Balmoral, Dice, and back to Aberdeen is under BCF control and visitors are strictly discouraged. The SRA are concentrating their resources in the region in an effort to isolate the Grampian command and bring them under siege. However, unless the nationalists can gain control of Dice airport and enforce a naval blockade along sixty miles of coast, it is unlikely that they will succeed. **Law Code:** 1-1-1

Player contact: Elsiebeth Cowie, local fishmonger and SRA informer. If you actually get into Aberdeen, she will ensure that you are given every assistance. Unless she believes you to be a loyalist, in which case she will ensure that you are shot.

Elsiebeth Cowie, Fixer (INT 7, COOL 7, EMP 8, REF 6) Streetdeal 3, Area Knowledge (Aberdeen) 4, Human Perception 5, SMG 3

RUMOR: "BEST BE SET TO LEAVE ELSE, THE GALAS STONE IS MISSIN' AND WE CANNA' RISK THE HAZEL DROP TONIGHT."

Inverness

Built about the banks of the river Ness on the Caledonian canal and one-time home of Scots heritage, the city is now the headquarters for BCF operations in Scotland. Nearby is Fort William, which stands at the foot of Ben Nevis, the site of the Culloden; and of course, there is Loch Ness. **Law Code:** 1-1-1

Player contact: Laura Macalister, mountain guide in Fort William who can lead you past the Inverness defenses, if she is of a mind to.

Laura Macalister, Solo (REF 8, INT 6)
Combat Sense 4, Expert (Local Knowledge) 5, Rifle 3, Athletics 3

RUMOR: SEVERAL ANGLERS HAVE GONE MISSING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

Ullapool, Holy Loch & Dounraey

Like Aberdeen, they are important strategic locations for the English government. Ullapool protects the outer islands and is



LAURA MACALLISTER

used as a base for defence of the Eastern oil fields. Holy Loch and Dounraey are important naval bases and represent a massive capital investment that Westminster is reluctant to give up. All of these locations are heavily guarded and believed to be used as staging areas for operations above the Arctic Circle. **Law Code:** 1-1-1

Player contacts: Kyle Duncan-Carron, poacher and SRA scout. He can get you close, but after that you are on your own.

Kyle Duncan-Carron, Solo/Poacher (INT 7, REF 8)
Combat Sense 3, Wilderness Survival 5, Rifle 5, Stealth 6

RUMOR: HIGHLAND CATTLE HAVE BEEN GOING MISSING FOR THE LAST FOUR MONTHS. IN EACH CASE THE STORY IS THE SAME. BLINDING LIGHTS, FOLLOWED BY INTENSE HEAT AND IT'S BYE BYE ANGUS. NO ONE HAS YET BEEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS AND THEY ARE HIRING PEOPLE TO ACT AS LOOKOUTS.

Restrictions

Roadblocks galore. If it's not the SRA or SLF, it's the BCF, so be prepared.

Traveller Beware!

The remote nature of the Highlands makes them ideal for bandits and the further north you go, the worse it gets. Do NOT stop in the countryside.

THE ISLANDS

The Outer Hebrides, Shetlands and Orkneys are our last stop on the 2022 tour of Scotland.

The Outer Hebrides

The Outer Hebrides or the "Long Island" stretch 130 miles from Barra Head to the Butt of Lewis in the North. The largest (and unofficial capital of Lewis) is Stornoway which is the closest you will get to civilization in these Gaelic isles. Unlike the Shetlands and Orkneys, the Long Island has yet to be overrun by the oil industry and still maintains its crofter roots. The quiet, friendly people do not pass judgment on visitors and welcome all regardless of their heritage. Law Code: 5-2-5

The Shetlands

The Shetlands are a group of a 100 islands, of which only 11 are still inhabited. Originally settled by Norway, they passed into

Scottish hands as part of the dowry for James III's wedding to Christian I's daughter. The capital, Lerwick, is the northernmost settlement in the British Isles and famous for the "Up-Helly-Aa" fire festival which reflects the area's Norse history. In recent years, industrial-scale fishing fleets and oil exploration has overtaken the traditional population, of which only about 2,000 remain. Law Code: 3-3-3

The Orkneys

The Orkneys, like the Shetlands, are a group of islands, 30 in all, with the biggest being Mainland. Again, like Shetland, the traditional life of the Orkneys has given way to the thousands of oil workers installed to exploit the eastern fields. Law Code: 3-3-3

Player contact: None, I left my cold weather gear at home.

RUMOR: NORWEGIAN ECO-TERRORISTS ARE KNOWN TO BE PLANNING ATTACKS ON THE STROMNESS REFINERY.

Restrictions

Apart from those imposed by their location there are none. So long as you avoid the oil installations, you will have no trouble.

Traveller Beware!

Again, unless you stray too close to the oil towns, you have little to worry about, except for the occasional frisky seal.

Well, that is it from me, apart from one final word: can someone give me a lift back to Paisley? I need a 12 year-old malt, Burns-rehabilitation treatment.

"Are we moving towards a United Kingdom again? Who gives a damn? We've always disliked each other. The only thing that unites us is our hatred of the French."

—Anonymous civil servant

