

Indian And Pakistani Armies Said Lacking In Imagination

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Both the Indian and Pakistani armies displayed "orthodox rigidity" and "lack of imagination and flexibility" in the undeclared Kashmir war last summer, says an Israeli military correspondent in a review published by a United States military journal.

But the correspondent praises the troop leadership, morale, patriotism and discipline shown by both sides.

The author is Leo Helman, whose assessment appears in the Military Review, the official publication of the U.S. command and staff college at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

One of Helman's chief conclusions is that U.S. Patton tanks, used by Pakistan, proved to be cumbersome.

WERE TOO COMPLICATED
"The Patton is so vastly superior to Centurions and Sherans that under normal conditions no comparisons could be made. But the U.S. tanks proved too complicated for the soldiers who operated them."

"To many armies, ultra-modern hardware is not an asset." Helman also says that low-level air missions in support of troops were launched with greater efficiency by the Indians than by the Pakistanis, because "the American-made

jet aircraft utilized by the Pakistani Air Force were too modern for conventional frontline warfare."

The author's other criticisms are aimed equally at India and Pakistan.

Some of these comments are:
1. Neither side had a clear-cut war strategy and commanders in the field were uncertain about their mission. The result was that they "just slugged it out."

2. Neither army ever deviated from the orthodox British pattern of fighting in which it had been trained. But Britain's traditional military system was undergoing drastic changes and in Kashmir the planning of the two sides was conservative and could be predicted and countered with the same orthodox moves.

3. The Indian defensive posture proved to be efficient against the Pakistanis. However, "this defence would have been disastrous against a more imaginative enemy, one deploying flanking forces at night, utilizing paratroops and helicopter formations, striking with armored infantry and combat engineers ahead of the tanks, and attacking behind rolling artillery barrages and smoke screens."

Britain Considered Certain To Buy Swing-Wing Bomber

By RONALD BATCHELOR, LONDON (Reuters) — Britain is considered virtually certain to buy American F-111 swing-wing bombers in preference to building new aircraft carriers for its main strike force of the 1970s.

Well-informed sources here said the decision to buy the American planes and rely on overseas land bases for its strike force during the next decade is believed to have been made at a cabinet meeting called by Prime Minister Wilson.

A fierce inter-service row raged between the RAF and the Royal Navy over the issue as the cabinet met.

The storm blew up over the question of which service should carry the main striking power in the future.

Unconfirmed reports said Navy Minister Christopher Mayhew and top admirals have threatened to resign, claiming that a new carrier force to replace the Royal Navy's rapidly ageing vessels is essential to enable Britain to meet its worldwide defence commitments.

HASN'T GOT MONEY
Britain, with continuing financial difficulties and serious foreign exchange problems, is unable to afford both.

Defence Minister Denis Healey, who has carried out a searching review of the defence structure in the last 16 months, is expected to tell U.S. defence Secretary Robert McNamara in Washington Wednesday that Britain will take up its option to

purchase supersonic F-111s. Between 35 and 80 of these powerful strike planes are likely to be bought for delivery to the RAF in 1969-69.

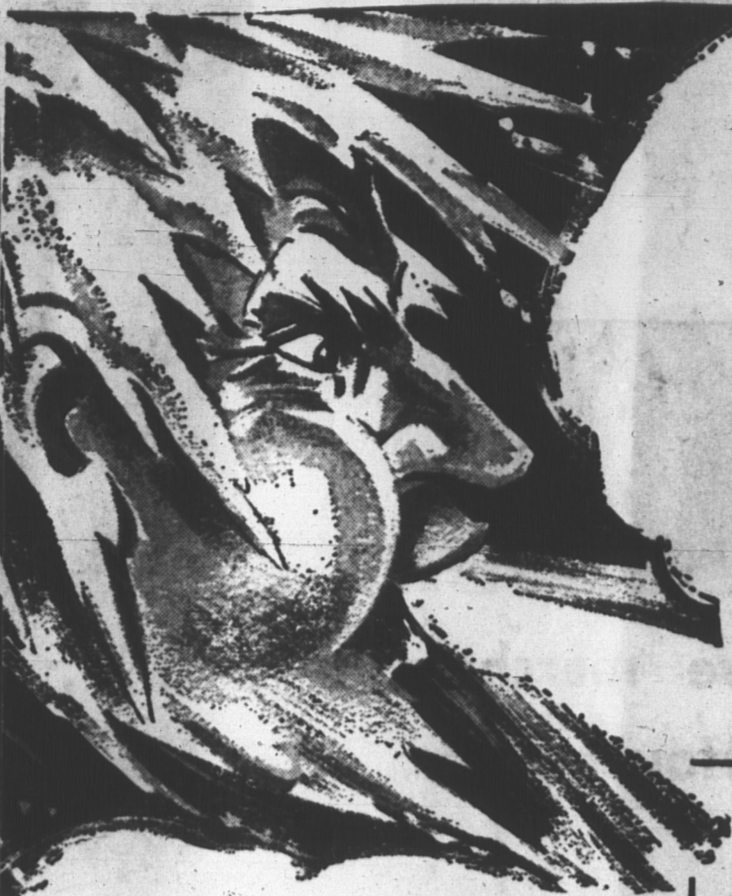
The F-111 would become Britain's main strategic deterrent in the future, involving the use of land bases east of Suez. More than 50,000 British troops and 70 ships and planes currently are stationed in Southeast Asia.

Purchase of the F-111 would mean the RAF of the 1970s would become "all-American" units main equipment.

The swing-wing bomber would replace the projected British TSR-2 bomber, side-lined almost a year ago by the Labor government because of soaring development costs.

The other major military planes—the short-takeoff HS-691 transport and the P-1154 vertical-takeoff fighter—also were cancelled in favor of U.S. Hercules transports and Phantom jets.

CATS BENEFIT
LONDON (AP) — A retired architect who died last December left 2,000 shares of bank stock to his cat, Dot, to provide for her during "the next 20 years," his will published Saturday disclosed. But Dot died more than a year ago. The legacy — worth \$1,235 (\$5,775) — from the estate of Hugh Healey will instead go to the Cats' Protection League; the Tailwalkers, a human organization, and the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.



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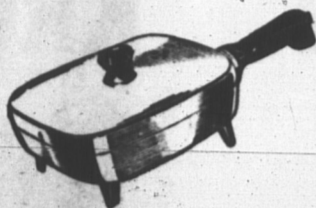
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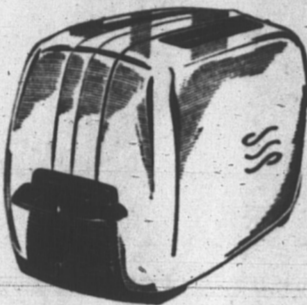
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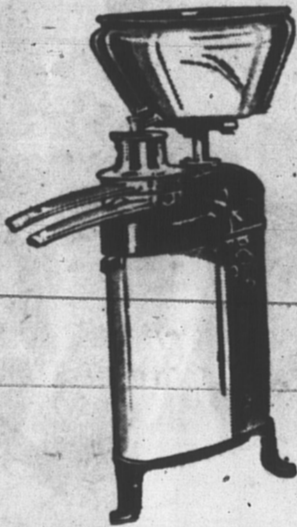
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