missed something, that some- bunk, where there was a con- bunk where the dead man lay, light. Possibly electricity had thing was not quite what it siderable space. seemed.

They were coming along the ment when he tapped his com- followed by another. panion.

you at headquarters."

He was set down and strolled returning alone! across to the copse. This time he went along.

old footprints of Mason, the thought it might collapse. hermit, easily recognisable in his home-made footwear. He judged Mason to be a big, husky fellow.

It was strange his voice had been so strained and falsetto.

At last he came in sight of the hut. No smoke came from the chimney, though there had been a little on the last occasion.

The door was closed. Terhune crossed over and tapped on it.

There was no reply, and after a brief hesitation he lifted the latch and went in.

On the table was the remains of a meal, with two stools drawn up. A bunk filled most of the rear wall, and old brown blankets were piled upon it.

Paul Terhune walked across and drew aside these blankets.

His breath caught in his teeth and he recoiled a full pace. An old, roughly-clad, bearded man lay at full length on the bunk.

He was not sleeping, for, although his body was stomach downwards, his face was turned upwards. His neck had been twisted right round on his shoulders.

Terhune stood against the wall and studied the place. He touched the old man's forehead and found him quite cold.

"He's been dead a good many hours," he muttered. "He was dead when we came here earlier. It must have been Uttley who answered."

There was nothing Terhune could do for Mason except cover him up again.

in there, when he heard hard wreckage. breathing outside.

coming in, and there was no way, blundered against one of across the sill. time to go to the window and the posts, causing the windows

He dropped to the floor and

Crash!

The door swung back on its road past the copse which had hinges and he saw a massive, been the scene of earlier excite- hairy leg cross the threshold,

The boards creaked whilst "Put me down here! I'll join the shack was filled with an through the woods, smashing of

Chako's shoulders were so and emerged into the open. he took no special precautions, broad they scraped the doorbut his eyes missed nothing as posts on either side. They made see the gorilla enter the grounds able to peer inside. It was a the hut quiver, and for a of a large detached house. Here and there he picked out moment the hidden detective

and wondered if he dared follow been turned off in the house. Chako.

to hide his progress

the gorilla running at one of the scattered remnants of another

The light came from the right of the hall. A door was Chako Versus Uttley partially opened, and times huge shadows partially opened, and some-HAKO made no attempt thrown on to the hall wall.

They were always shadows the gorilla. awful stench. It was the gorilla his way with ponderous ease. wondered what had happened He made for the west side, to Ellis Uttley.

> Nearer and nearer to that Terhune was just in time to door he crept, and was finally library, with massive furniture. But he was too late to prevent On a huge oak table lay the meal.

> > Six candles in a solid silver candelabra gave the only light. On a long, padded sofa sprawled Uttley, his hands behind his head, his eyes closed. He was exhausted, and was trying to sleen.

> > Terhune ducked back as Chako passed the door. Uttley had been smoking. The detective was glad of that, for it prevented the gorilla from scenting his presence.

> > The gorilla had gone to the bookshelves on the other side of the room. Suddenly it turned and began to creep towards the sofa on all-fours.

> > Terhune held his breath. It looked as though another murder was going to take place, then he saw the creature's expression and realised it was up to mischief.

Then it reached out and gripped the end of the sofa with two huge hands, gave a violent heave, up-ended the piece of furniture, and shot the sleeping man headfirst to the

Harsh laughter burst from the gorilla as it sank back on It was sniffing and snuffling Terhune could more than gasp, chest with its hairy hands. It "That window must have roared and thumped like a

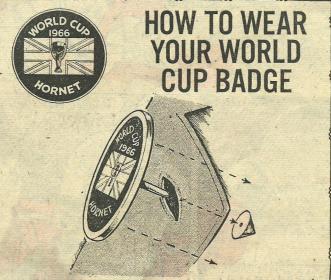
> As for Uttley, he rolled He looked thoughtfully at over, grunted, got to his feet,

> > Without a word he rushed at Chako and gripped the monster

Chako gave a choking gasp

To Terhune's surprise, Nothing breathed in that Uttley's hold was not broken. Chest to chest they stood, the man seeking to strangle the gorilla and the gorilla doing all it could to prevent him.

They swayed to and fro. (Continued on Page 24.)



Remove the plastic holder from the stem on the back of the

Hold the badge at the front of the buttonhole of your jacket or coat. Place the plastic holder behind the buttonhole, then slide the stem of the badge through the buttonhole, and into the hole provided in the holder.

BE CAREFUL! When removing the holder from the stem on the back of the badge, NEVER TRY TO FORCE IT OFF, OR IT MAY BREAK!

snorting, Grunting, monster ambled across plates and pots.

for more food.

the place where it had previ- Uttley's in there, too?" ously eaten, hoping to find more.

find nothing and wrecked the he was no mean athlete, and positively fiendish. place in an effort to find more where a gorilla could go, he food.

It grew darker and darker, He was about to make for but the gorilla continued to pipe level with the window until the door, for it was almost dark rummage about amongst the he was certain he could hear no of protest, rising to his feet

It was a matter of great relief across and leaned over the sill, The detective dropped in a to Terhune when the animal

Paul Terhune squeezed sideways under the wriggled out from below the burned. It looked like candle-

the outside drainage pipes. With the amazing speed it swarmed up floor to the table, and Terhune the wall, swung on to one of heard it move the enamelled the window-sills, and passed into the room beyond before its haunches and banged its

Evidently it had given Uttley been open!" he muttered. "It mad thing, rocking with glee the slip, and had come back to knew where to go. Can it be at its rough joke.

It was disappointed. It could the pipe. He was no gorilla, but and revealed a face which was could go more slowly.

Up he went, hung to the by the throat with both hands. sounds within, then swung as it sought to break the hold.

flash. He did not know who was finally lurched back to the door- room. The detective wriggled

He crept out on to the wide to rattle, then stumbled outside. corridor at the top of the stairs. quickly Somewhere below a dim light