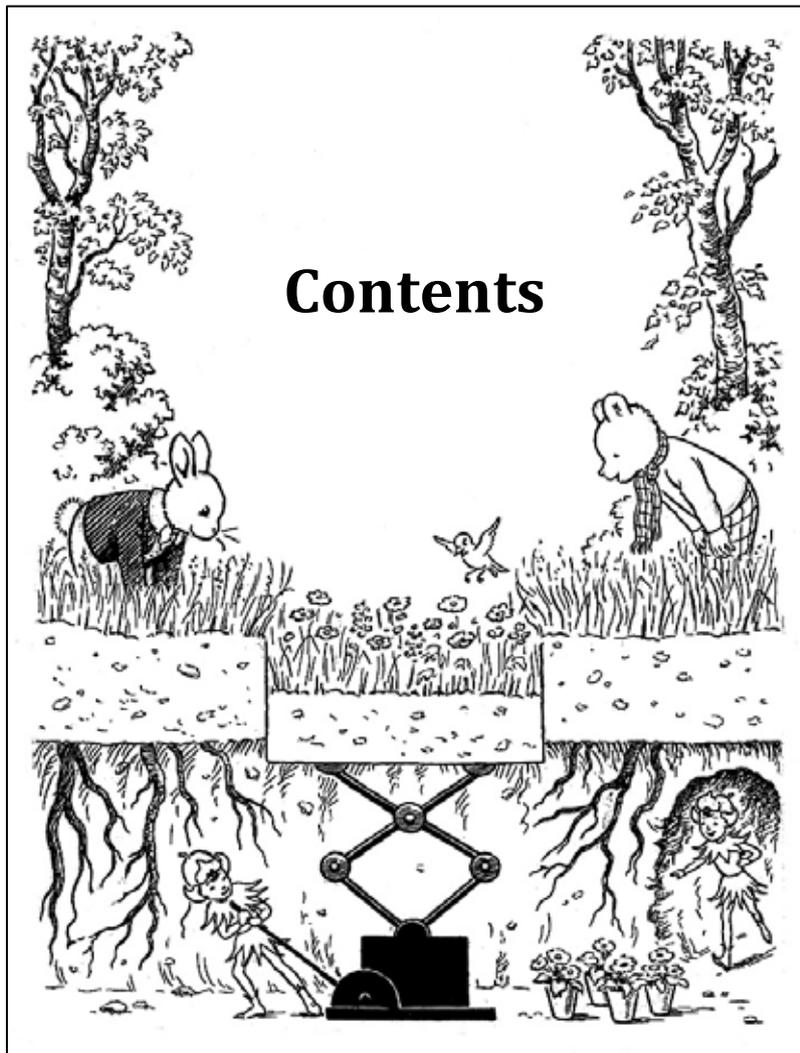


RUPERT

in the
Daily Express



Rupert and the Policeman



Contents

The contents image is an original piece of black and white artwork which, when coloured, was used in the 1974 Rupert Annual.

The story featured here is taken from the newspaper cuttings contained within the Freddie Chaplain archive records.

Page 4 - Rupert and the Policeman (P3)

This story is an early example of the collaboration between Freddie Chaplain who wrote the story and Alex Cubie the artist. It appeared in the Daily Express, shortly after the last Alfred Bestall story, from 13th October 1965 to 1st December 1965 and was never reprinted.

With Constable Growler going on holiday, he was replaced as Nutwood bobby by Constable Wuffin. He is soon in action as the Fox twins are scrumping Farmer Green's apples, and later he gets involved with Tigerlily's magic and meets other Nutwood characters.

Page 12 - Follow Rupert in the Nutwood Newsletter

An original pen and ink image from the Daily Express archive, which was coloured and used in Adventure Series 16.

It is unlikely that this story will ever be reprinted elsewhere and we would expect that many of you are reading it for the first time. We believe that this supplement neatly complements the current policy of the reprinting of Bestall classics in the Daily Express and the recycling of earlier Rupert Annual stories in the current Annuals.

Note: Story numbering relates to the listing of stories in the **Rupert Index**. Stories selected by John Beck from the Freddie Chaplain archive and laid out in this publication by Pamela Stones; assistance with cleaning the newspaper images by John Kobylecky.

Rupert and the Policeman

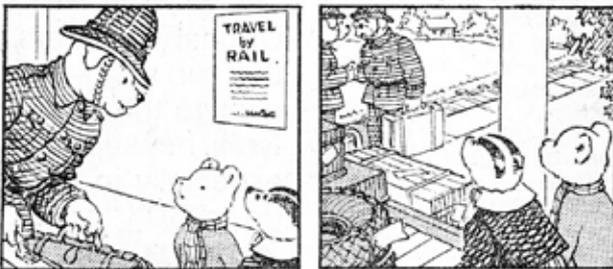
by Alex Cubie

and Freddie Chaplain

13th October 1965 to 1st December 1965

(P3)

Rupert and the Policeman—1

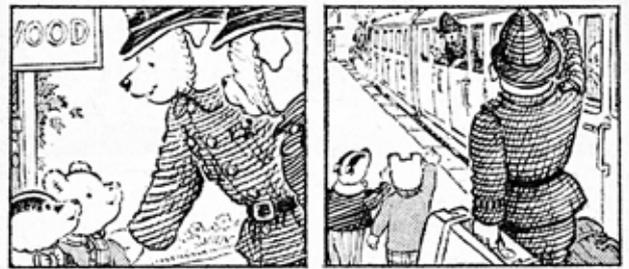


Rupert has heard that kindly Constable Growler is going away for a while, so as it is a half-term holiday, he and Bill Badger go to the station with their friend to see him off. "A change will be nice," smiles the policeman, setting down his luggage.

"But I shall miss all you little people." He strides across the platform and shakes hands with another constable, who has alighted from an earlier train. "That must be our new policeman, Bill," whispers Rupert. "I wonder what he will be like!"

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Rupert and the Policeman—2

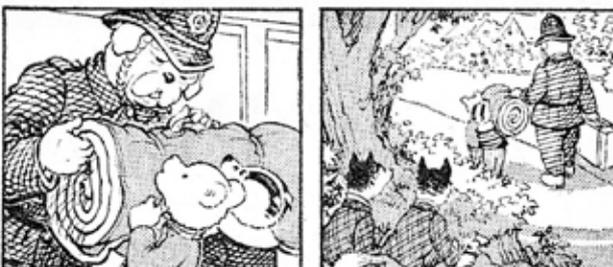


Constable Growler brings the newcomer forward. "Meet Constable Wuffin," he beams. "He's taking my place while I'm away." "How do you do?" says Constable Wuffin solemnly, and suddenly the chums feel very shy. Then Constable Growler's train

comes puffing in, and there is a flurry to see him aboard. The doors slam, there is a shrill whistle, and the train moves slowly on its way. The chums wave until their friend is out of sight. Then rather timidly they turn to the new policeman.

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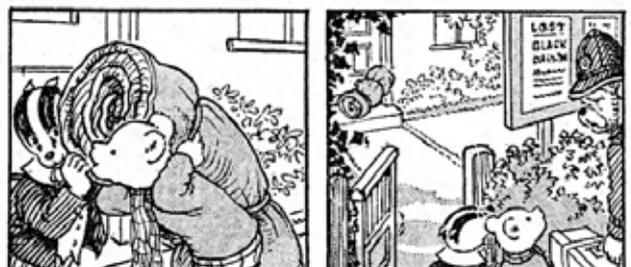
Rupert and the Policeman—3



"Constable Wuffin does look stern," thinks Rupert. "But everything must seem very strange to him." So he nudges Bill, and they shyly offer to carry some of the new policeman's luggage. "Ah, thank you," says Constable Wuffin and, still look-

ing solemn, he lifts a bulky piece of his kit into their arms. As the little party make their way to the police station, they are seen by Freddy and Ferdy Fox. "Golly," whispers Freddy. "I hope the new policeman's not as stern as he looks."

Rupert and the Policeman—4

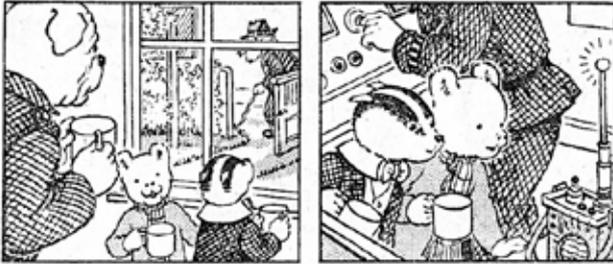


The chums struggle with their awkward load, but it seems to grow heavier and heavier until their feet begin to drag. "I can't keep this up much longer," thinks Rupert wearily. Then Bill gasps out, "Here we are!" Staggering up the path, they

heave their burden on to the doorstep, and give a long sigh of relief. At the gate, Constable Wuffin thanks them gravely, then hesitates. "Come along in!" he adds unexpectedly. "I believe we're going to like him," thinks Rupert. "He's kind, really."

Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—5



Inside the police station, Constable Wuffin makes them some piping-hot tea. Presently a bearded, stooping figure hobbles past outside. "There's Gaffer large," says Rupert. "H'm," says the policeman. "I must get to know the people of Nutwood."

He readily agrees when the chums offer to show him round, but first he switches on the big radio set that works his walkie-talkie. Soon a bulb on the aerial begins to flash and a voice from the loud-speaker announces, "Calling Constable Wuffin. . . ."

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Rupert and the Policeman—6

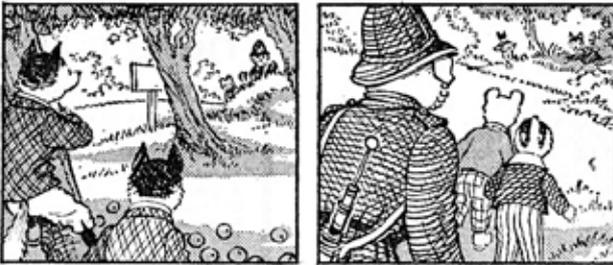


The voice from the speaker continues: "Constable Wuffin is to go at once to Farmer Green's orchard. . . ." The policeman swings the walkie-talkie over his shoulder. "Ready?" he says briskly. "You can show me the way."

Wondering what they are going to find, the chums race off, followed by their companion, and they are slightly ahead of him when they reach the field tringing the orchard. "I can't see anything wrong," pants Bill, gazing around. "Nor I," says Rupert. "Was it a false alarm?"

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Rupert and the Policeman—7

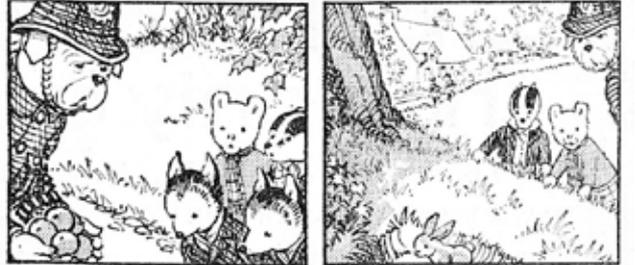


Presently Constable Wuffin comes panting along. "Nothing seems . . ." begins Rupert. Then he breaks off, staring across the orchard. Two figures are sliding down a tree, and to his dismay he recognises Freddy and Ferdy Fox, who have been helping

themselves to Farmer Green's apples. On glimpsing the policeman, they drop the fruit and make a dash to avoid him. The chums hesitate, not liking to give chase. But the Fox brothers have run the wrong way, and soon find their escape cut off by a thick hedge.

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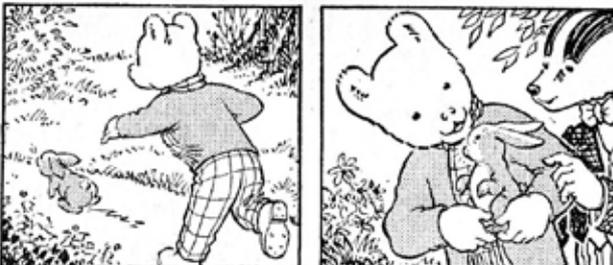
Rupert and the Policeman—8



The Foxes realise they are trapped, and they hang their heads as Constable Wuffin slowly approaches. "It hasn't taken long to find out who are the mischiefs of Nutwood," says the policeman grimly. He shows them the apples and gives them

a long lecture. "Tell Farmer Green you are sorry, then report to your teacher," he finishes sternly. As the brothers slink off to do as they are told, Rupert notices a movement in the long grass. "Look!" he exclaims. "A rabbit! I believe it's lost."

Rupert and the Policeman—9

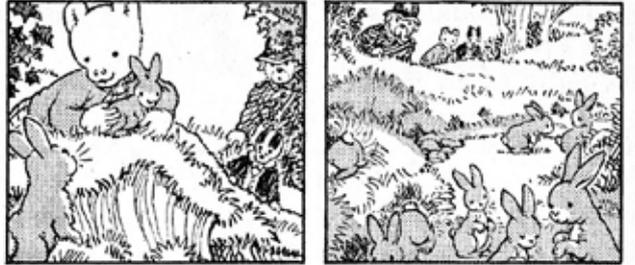


Watched by Bill and the policeman, Rupert tries to catch the little rabbit, but it wriggles free and scampers away, its fluffy white tail bobbing up and down. "Hi, I'm only trying to help you!" calls Rupert. The little creature seems to like his friendly

voice and, as it hesitates, Rupert's arms close round its silky fur. "There," he whispers, gently nursing the quivering little thing. "I wish you could tell us where you live." "I think I know, Rupert," says Bill, coming up behind him.

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Rupert and the Policeman—10



"I expect this little fellow's strayed from the warren," says Bill. "Lots of rabbits live there." "Good, we'll start our tour from there," smiles Rupert. Carefully carrying the young rabbit, he leads the way to Nutwood Heath. Sure enough, the anxious mother rabbit

soon appears. "Here's baby, quite safe and sound," says Rupert. Then mother and baby scurry joyfully back to the warren, and Constable Wuffin pauses to watch the playful little creatures. "I must make a note of all the places in Nutwood," he says.

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Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—11



Leaving the warren, Rupert and Bill guide Constable Wuffin up some steps and on towards the Chinese Conjuror's house. "There it is!" cries Bill. "So Nutwood even has a conjurer!" exclaims the policeman, gazing at the strange tall house. "There's his daughter Tigerlily," says Rupert,



waving to a small figure in the grounds. "Perhaps she'll show us some of her father's magic." The little girl beckons cheerily, then flutters a sheet of paper, and her action has a startling effect. "Whatever is she doing?" gasps Bill, while Constable Wuffin stares in astonishment.

Rupert and the Policeman—12



Tigerlily smiles as the three reach her. She flutters her paper, sending up a shower of glittering stars that dazzle their eyes. "You like my Daddy's star paper, yes?" she laughs. "Plenty magic. Make heap pretty stars. Please, you try!" She passes the



paper to Rupert, who finds that he too can make a marvellous fountain of stars. Constable Wuffin gazes open-mouthed, then finds his voice at last. "I can't believe it," he murmurs. "You try now, yes?" says Tigerlily with a broad grin.

Rupert and the Policeman—13



"Please, no trick!" cries the little girl. "My daddy vellee clever. Make real magic." Constable Wuffin examines the strange paper. "It no work for grown-up," says Tigerlily, as the policeman flutters the paper gently, then more violently, but without result. "Most remarkable," he mutters,



looking flustered. Suddenly he brightens. "Now I'll show you some magic," he says, switching on his walkie-talkie. Presently the blue light flashes, and a voice comes from the loudspeaker. "Oo-oh!" cries Tigerlily. "Invis'ble man! Him speak from magic box!"

Rupert and the Policeman—14



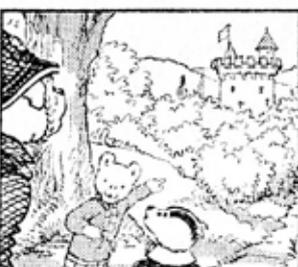
Pleased at having caused such a stir, Constable Wuffin takes the lid off his walkie-talkie and shows the tiny parts inside. Rupert and Bill are thrilled, but Tigerlily only grows more puzzled. Then she shrugs. "My daddy's magic not same," she mutters. "No need



heap little bits. You keep magic box! Star paper much better." She skips happily away, making the stars fly. "H'm, what are you going to show me next—a giant?" exclaims Constable Wuffin as he is taken to a deep wood on the next part of the chums' tour.

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Rupert and the Policeman—15



"A giant? Oo, I hope not!" laughs Rupert, glancing round a dark, silent glade. Coming out on the far side, Rupert points to a castle tower. "Our friend the Professor lives there," he smiles. "He's very clever at inventing things!" Bill chimes in. As they approach, they find the



Professor's dwarf servant collecting fallen branches. "Hello," says the dwarf. "My master's preparing for bonfire night. It's my job to build the bonfire. But why have you brought a policeman?" he whispers. "We are showing him around Nutwood," says Rupert. "It's all new to him."

Rupert and the Policeman—16



"We'll help you haul this load," says Constable Wuffin to the dwarf. "I want to meet your master. I'm taking over Constable Growler's duties for a time, you know." All three lend a hand with the truck, and soon the dwarf is leading them in to his master. "I'm pleased to meet



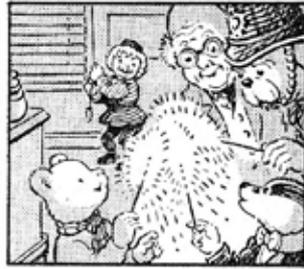
you, Constable," smiles the Professor. While their old friend is chatting to the new policeman, Rupert and Bill gaze in wonder. The room is full of exciting fire-works. "How lovely!" Bill exclaims. "Aha," beams the Professor. "You've come just at the right time!"

Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—17

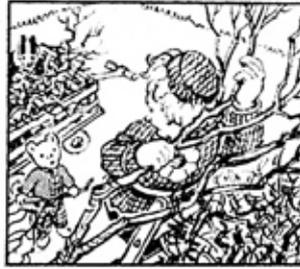


Everyone gathers eagerly round the table, sniffing all sorts of strange powdery smells. The Professor dips some wire rods into a bowl of thick mixture, then, asking the dwarf to darken the room, he hands a newly-made sparkler to each of his visitors. "I make all my own fireworks," he says,



carefully lighting them. There is a blaze of silvery light, as hundreds of dancing sparks are thrown off. Even the policeman chuckles. "They're topping!" laughs Rupert, whirling his sparkler round and round. "They last much longer than ordinary ones!"

Rupert and the Policeman—18

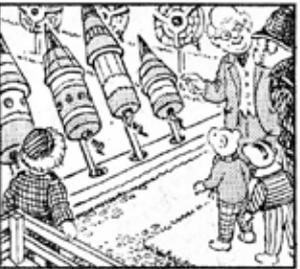


The brilliant sparklers burn out at last, and leaving Constable Wuffin with the Professor, Rupert and Bill go out to look at the bonfire. "Whew! Isn't it a monster!" exclaims Rupert, as they help to pass branches up. "Wait," whispers the dwarf mysteriously. Slipping behind an



old shed, he brings out a splendid guy. "Look," he says proudly. "Squibs for fingers!" "Won't they flash!" cries Bill. "Ssh," warns the dwarf. "The Professor mustn't know. The guy is to be a surprise." "He's coming now!" says Rupert, as voices drift from the open doorway.

Rupert and the Policeman—19



Rupert thinks quickly. He dashes into the doorway, delaying the Professor with some questions about fireworks, and meanwhile the guy is safely hidden. Then the Professor shows his array of giant rockets and Catherine wheels. "I'm going to ask all the



young people of Nutwood to watch it," he smiles. At length everyone says goodbye and, helped by Constable Wuffin, the dwarf gives Rupert and Bill a lift back in his truck. "Thank you, Rupert," he says. "You just saved my secret!"

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Rupert and the Policeman—20



At the edge of the grounds, Rupert and Bill jump down, and the dwarf goes off to collect more brushwood. "You haven't seen Nutwood School yet," Bill tells the policeman. "Shall we go there next?" Constable Wuffin agrees, and they arrive just as Freddy and Ferdy are getting a lecture



for taking Farmer Green's apples. Luckily for the brothers, Dr. Chimp dismisses them and greets the new policeman. "Cheer up," says Rupert to the Foxes. "We've got some exciting news!" And he tells them about the Professor's thrilling plans for Firework Day.

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Rupert and the Policeman—21



Freddy and Ferdy grin happily at Rupert's news, and forgetting their troubles, they gather round to look at the walkie-talkie. "I use this to keep in touch with headquarters," Constable Wuffin is saying. "Extraordinary!" replies the schoolmaster. "Whatever marvel will be thought of



next!" "I shall be on duty in the village," says the policeman. "Goodbye, Dr. Chimp." He moves away, and the Foxes make themselves scarce. "Well, I shall be coming to school tomorrow," says Constable Wuffin solemnly, and Rupert and his chum stare at him in astonishment.

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Rupert and the Policeman—22



The policeman chuckles at Rupert's surprise. "I'm coming to give your class a safety-first talk," he explains, on the way to Nutwood Common. "I shan't need lessons, though I don't say I'm clever!" "Speaking of being clever," smiles Rupert, pointing out a castle on some distant hills.



"The Wise Old Goat lives there." "It looks a long way off," says the Constable. "I'll visit him another day." As they enter the village, Rupert suddenly darts forward. "That kitten!" he gasps. "It's sitting in the road!" just then a lorry comes round the bend.

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Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—23



"Careful, Rupert!" calls Constable Wuffin. He raises his hand to stop the lorry, and as it squeals to a halt, Rupert snatches up the kitten. Then he shouts a warning as a little girl darts headlong across the road, looking neither right nor left. Constable



Wuffin strides forward. "My word, young lady, you'll have to be more careful in future," he says. "It's most dangerous to dash across without looking." The little girl realises her mistake, and the Constable adds, "I'll show you exactly what to do."

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Rupert and the Policeman—24



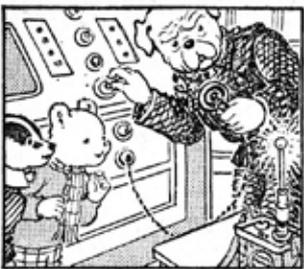
The little girl takes her kitten and hugs it close. "He's quite safe," says Rupert. Then Constable Wuffin reminds the three little people of the most important safety-first rule. "Look right!" he commands. "Look left! Look right again before you cross."



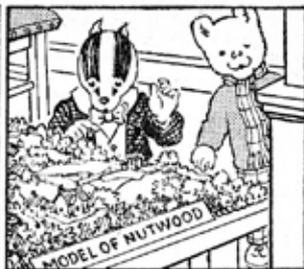
They practise very carefully, making sure that no traffic is coming either way, before they step off the pavement. When Constable Wuffin and the chums have seen the little girl to her gate, they set off for the police station.

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Rupert and the Policeman—25



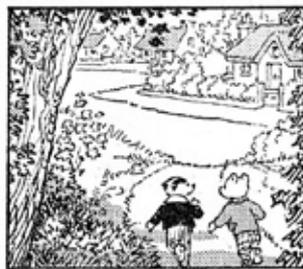
Just as Constable Wuffin removes his walkie-talkie, an urgent message comes through. "Mrs. Bear and Mrs. Badger are anxious about their sons Rupert and Bill. . . ." Next moment he sends back the reply. "They are here at the station. They will



be home soon." As the chums are about to leave the police station, they notice a table model of Nutwood village. "Look, there's my cottage!" cries Rupert, as they pause to admire it. "Yes, and that's where you're wanted," smiles the policeman.

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Rupert and the Policeman—26



Hurrying from the police station the chums make for home. "Look," says Rupert. "My cottage is just like the one on the model village!" At that point they separate, and he dashes indoors. "Thank goodness you're all right!" cries Mrs. Bear.



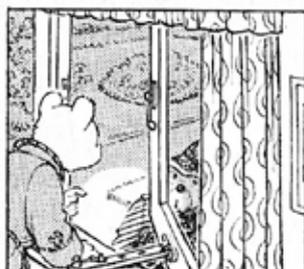
Later, during tea, Daddy asks, "Whatever were you doing at the police station?" "Oh, we just called there," replies Rupert. "Bill and I took the new policeman on a tour of Nutwood." "So that's why you've been so long!" exclaims Mummy.

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Rupert and the Policeman—27



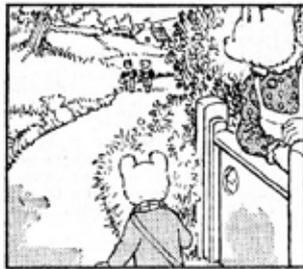
Rupert goes to bed early. But some hours later he is awakened by a light flashing on his face. Slipping on his dressing-gown, the little bear opens his window and peers out. "Constable Wuffin!" he gasps. "I'm sorry to disturb you," whispers the policeman.



"I've lost my way on night patrol. Luckily, I recognised your cottage from the model." Rupert tells him how to find the police station. "I'm much obliged to you," says the constable. "Good-night!" He then disappears into the darkness.

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Rupert and the Policeman—28



Rupert sleeps soundly until next morning. "I'll set off early for school today," he tells his mummy. At the gate they spy two small figures approaching. "Your chums have had the same idea!" laughs Mrs. Bear. "Hi!" call Bill and Algy, hurry-

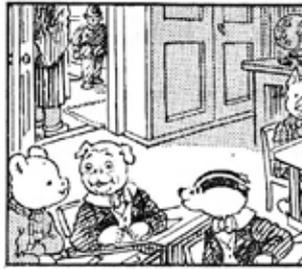


ing to join Rupert. The three friends arrive at the school gates in plenty of time to tell some of their chums about Constable Wuffin and his safety-first talk. Then the bell rings, and everyone troops eagerly into school to await the policeman.

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Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—29

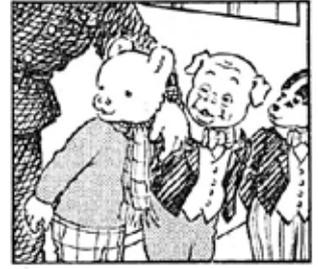
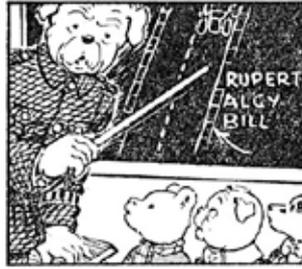


"A special visitor is coming to day," announces Dr. Chimp. "His name is . . ." "Constable Wuffin!" the pupils chime in. "Ahem!" continues the schoolmaster. "Quite so. He will give a . . ." "Safety-first talk!" they chorus. "You're all very quick

today!" remarks Dr. Chimp. "I hope you'll be just as bright about road safety!" Presently, he goes out to welcome Constable Wuffin. "Is he as kind as Constable Growler, Rupert?" asks Algy. "Hush!" whispers Rupert. "Here he comes."

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Rupert and the Policeman—30

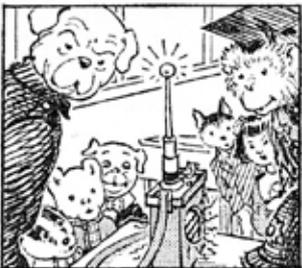


Constable Wuffin starts his talk by drawing a road on the blackboard. "Will Rupert, Algy, and Bill come out here, please!" he calls, marking their places by the road. "Now," he says, lining them up. "pretend that you are about to cross that busy road."

The three chums go through their safety-first drill and, so that everyone will remember, the class repeat the words: "Look right! Look left! Look right again . . . before you cross." "Splendid," smiles the constable. "Now, I want three more pupils to try."

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Rupert and the Policeman—31



Constable Wuffin chooses Tigerlily, Bingo and Podgy to help him with his safety-first talk. "You saw how Rupert, Algy and Bill did the road drill," he says. "Now see how well you can do it. . . ." Before he can finish, the blue light of the walkie-talkie

starts to flash and a voice from the loud-speaker announces, "Will Constable Wuffin go at once to the Warren. . . ." Muttering a hasty excuse the policeman puts on his helmet and dashes from the school while the disappointed pupils stare after him.

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Rupert and the Policeman—32



After Constable Wuffin's sudden departure, Rupert and his chums find it hard to settle down again. "Whatever can be wrong at the Warren?" whispers Rupert to Bill. Dr. Chimp raps on his table. "It's disappointing . . ." he begins, then breaks off abruptly,

and picks up a notebook from the table. "Dear me," he says. "Constable Wuffin has left this behind in his hurry." The schoolmaster calls Rupert forward. "Quickly," he says. "Run after the constable and give this notebook to him."

Rupert and the Policeman—33



Rupert feels oddly excited at being out of doors while everyone else is in school. "That's funny," he thinks, as he races along the lane. "Constable Wuffin's out of sight already. And he only had a few moments' start. It's lucky I know my way to the house called

the Warren!" And he hurries along faster than ever. At length Rupert turns a corner and sees the house, some way ahead. "My! Constable Wuffin is a jolly good runner!" he breathes. "There's no sign of him—and he couldn't have gone another way."

Rupert and the Policeman—34



Panting hard, Rupert arrives at the gate of the Warren. He peeps into the garden, but Constable Wuffin is nowhere to be seen. "Whatever's that swishing sound?" he mutters, making his way along the drive. At the corner of the house, Rupert halts

in dismay. Water is pouring down the front steps, while two Boy Scouts are desperately trying to clear it up. One is mopping the porch, while the other is sweeping away the flood with a broom. At Rupert's approach the Scouts pause in their task.

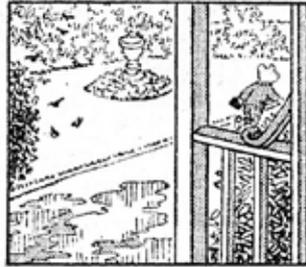
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Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—35



"Please, have you seen Constable Wuffin?" asks Rupert. "Here's his book." The Scouts shake their heads. "We're clearing up after a burst water tank," one of them explains. "The owner has gone to fetch more help. We haven't seen a police-



man." "That's odd," says Rupert. "I know he was called to the Warren. The message . . . He breaks off suddenly. "That's it!" he exclaims. "That must be where he's gone!" And leaving the puzzled Scouts, Rupert turns and races away.

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Rupert and the Policeman—36

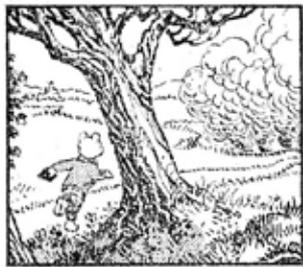


"I wonder if I'm right," thinks Rupert, as he runs at full speed to Nutwood Heath. "Constable Wuffin made a note about the rabbit warren in this book. He might easily have thought that the Warren meant the rabbit warren! He didn't know it was the name



of a house too!" Suddenly he stops short. "Why, there's a rabbit now," he murmurs. The little creature waves its paw in the direction of the rabbit warren. "I believe he's telling me to go there!" breathes Rupert. "But what's wrong?"

Rupert and the Policeman—37



Leaving the anxious rabbit, Rupert hurries on, and soon finds that the way ahead is dimmed by a blue haze. Next moment he sees a cloud of smoke billowing up, lit here and there by red tongues of flame. In the midst of it all stands Constable Wuffin, desper-



ately thrashing at the blazing bracken. At Rupert's cry of alarm, the policeman looks up in relief. "Quickly!" he shouts. "Help me to beat out this fire! It's spreading towards the rabbit warren. There isn't a moment to lose!"

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Rupert and the Policeman—38



The little bear snatches up a twiggly branch and runs to Constable Wuffin's aid. Together they beat the blazing bracken as hard as they can, and at last they bring the fire under control. One last patch of bracken bursts into flames, but Rupert quickly hits it



with his branch until it is black. "Bravo, little bear!" gasps the constable. "We've done it!" As the policeman sits down to rest Rupert exclaims, "Why, one of the rabbits has come back to the warren! I'm sure it knows the danger's over now."

Rupert and the Policeman—39



The rabbit quivers its whiskers and disappears, only to return soon with the others. "There's no danger now," smiles Rupert. Gently he coaxes the rabbits until they take courage and scurry into their burrows. Then Rupert tells Constable Wuffin about the mis-



take. "You should have gone to the house called the Warren," he explains. "Well I never!" gasps the policeman. "But it's lucky I came here instead—and that you guessed my mistake. Otherwise these rabbits might have lost their homes."

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Rupert and the Policeman—40



"There was a flood at the house," Rupert tells Constable Wuffin as they leave the rabbit warren and cross a stile. "H'm, I must call there," says the policeman. On the way they meet the Boy Scouts, who report that everything is now in order at the



house called the Warren, then they all laugh at the muddle over the names. "It turned out for the best," smiles the constable. "We've saved the rabbit warren from a nasty fire." Suddenly Rupert halts and gasps. "Golly! I must get back to school!"

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Rupert and the Policeman

Rupert and the Policeman—41



"It's too late to go back to school," says Constable Wuffin. "I'll call on Dr. Chimp and explain what happened." Rupert thanks him, then leaving him with the Scouts, he dashes straight home. "I simply must tell Mummy about the fire!" he

thinks excitedly. He finds Mrs. Bear in the garden, and she listens to his story in astonishment. "We heard the message on the walkie-talkie," he says, "and Constable Wuffin rushed straight out! And, I say! May I borrow your sewing-basket?"

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Rupert and the Policeman—42

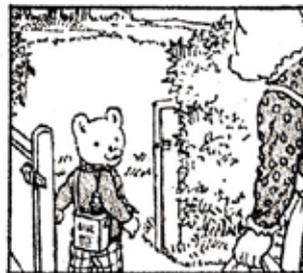


After tea, Mrs. Bear watches as Rupert sorts out lots of odds and ends from her sewing-basket. "Good," he says. "This empty reel will do nicely . . . and some buttons . . . and this ribbon. I say, Mummy! Have you an empty carton, please? And an

old knitting needle?" Mrs. Bear looks mystified. "Whatever is the use of only one knitting needle?" she asks. "I don't want to knit!" laughs Rupert. "I'm making a model walkie-talkie. This needle will be a splendid aerial!"

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Rupert and the Policeman—43



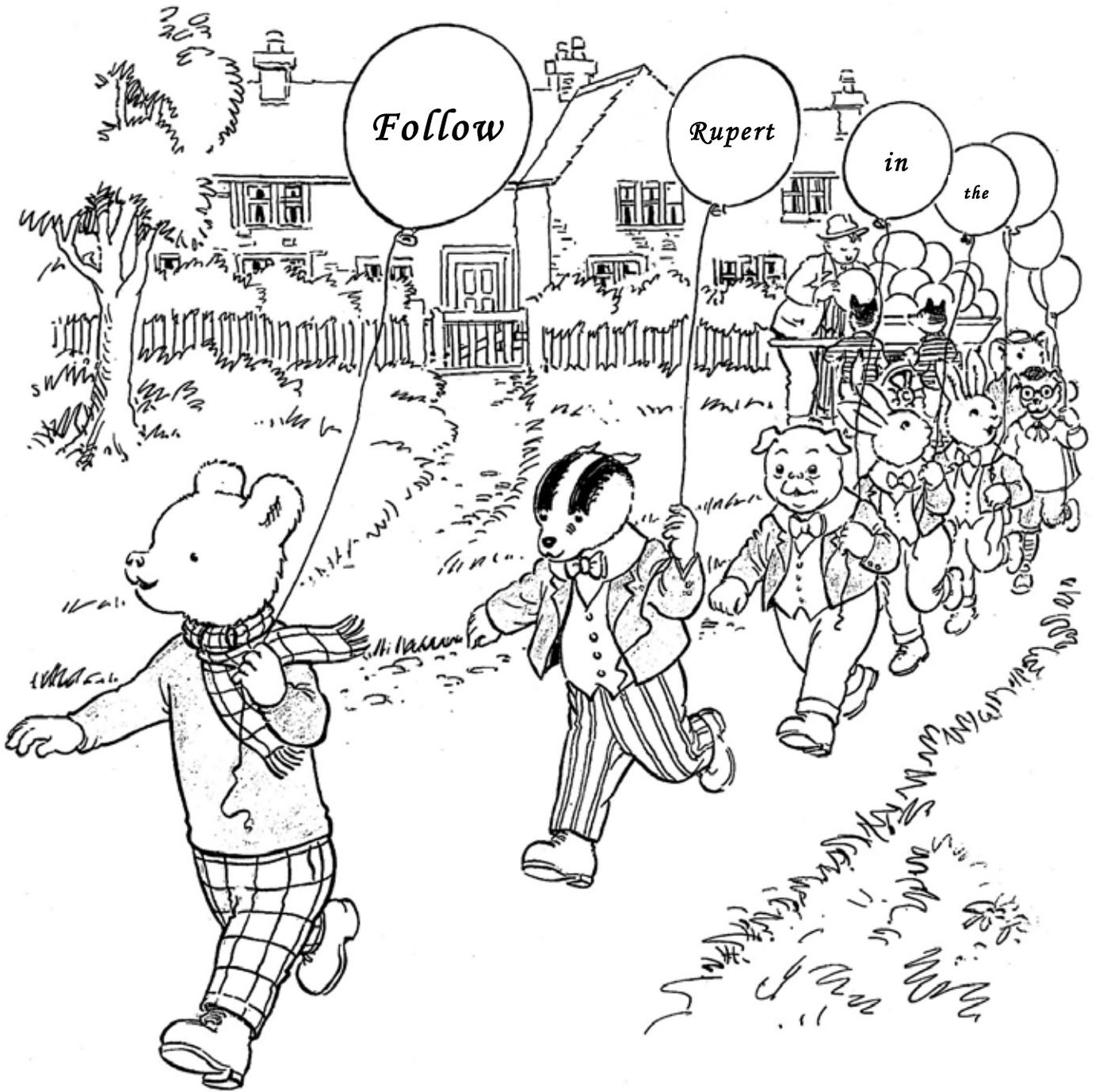
Rupert sets to work, and when his model walkie-talkie is ready he proudly shows it to his Daddy. "How well you've made it!" says Mr. Bear. "It's almost like the real thing!" "There's just time to show it to my pals," laughs Rupert. Mrs. Bear sees

him off, and he goes out wearing his walkie-talkie in the style of Constable Wuffin. "I shan't be long, Mummy," he promises. "You won't need to send a message for me this time!"

THE END

(Another adventure tomorrow.)

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Nutwood Newsletter



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