

The origin of the words on the sign atop the Borlace Club is mentioned in a post (old Msg Log, post #2209) by John Sinclair, 2011.

Creation of an EME service

The need for dedicated EME service was indeed brought to a head by the Desert campaign. In the withdrawal before Rommel's army to Al Alamein, heavy losses of British equipment resulted from breakdown and lack of recovery. The British Government, under strain from having sufficient tradesmen for the Theatres as well as home front production, setup the Beveridge Committee which recommended the establishment of an EME service with two prongs: (1) repair and recovery, and, (2) inspection service as well as a training wing. In 1942 REME was formed drawing tradesmen from Ordnance, Supply and Transport and Engineers.

REME's first test was getting the tanks, guns and other fighting equipment to battle worthy condition for the Battle of El Alamein. Montgomery attributed to REME much of the success for the El Alamein battle and the subsequent advance which eventually resulted in the German and Italian forces being driven from North Africa.

It was Montgomery who coined the phrase: ***"The punch behind the Army's fist."***

