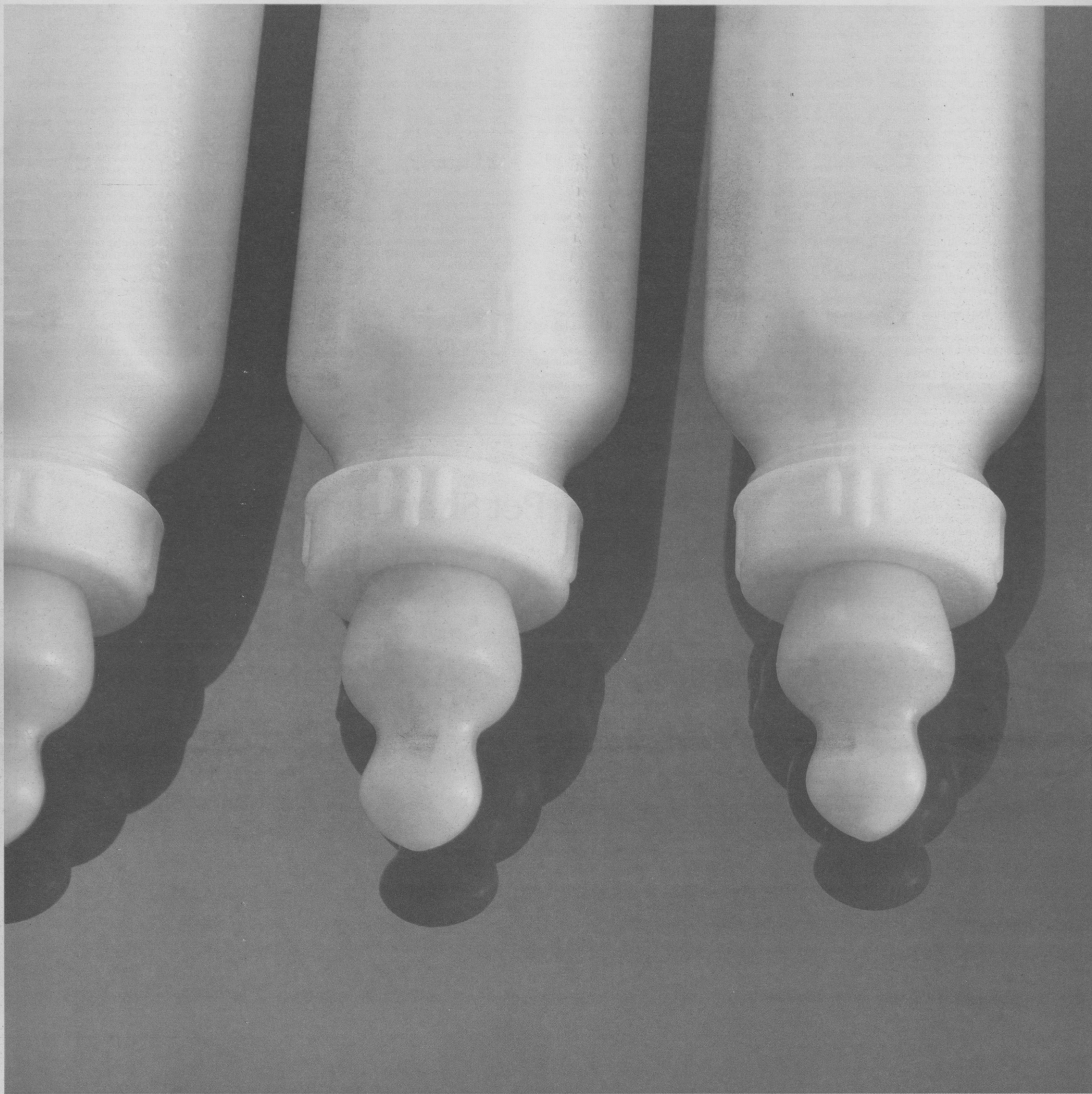




Last year we dropped more

And syringes, and blankets and bandages.

In fact, in our fifty years of existence the Royal New Zealand Air Force has become more accustomed to dropping articles of mercy than things that go bang.

On average we're called out twice a year to a major overseas disaster.

Famine relief in Bangladesh, missions of mercy to the cyclone torn Cook Islands, medical teams to Vanuatu. They're just a few of the theatres in which we've operated.

The big, the bulky and the heavy.

Some of the things we've dropped out of aircraft you

won't believe. Bulldozers, huts, portable toilets, even an entire field hospital.

Sometimes it's quite straight forward — a simple matter of loading and unloading.

Other times it's rather tricky.

Dropping a 2.5 tonne bulldozer from 2000 ft does require a certain element of skill.

A slight mis-calculation of the wind could send it adrift or into a million pieces. None of which tends to gain you many brownie points with the boss or the taxpayer.