

THE SIGNAL

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR

**KINNERSLEY·SARNESFIELD·LETON·NORTON CANON
BROBURY·STAUNTON-ON-WYE·MOORHAMPTON**

NO 60

JULY 87

PRICE 12p

-the menace of low flying aircraft



'THE SOUND OF FREEDOM'

IT may be my imagination but I seem recently to have heard and read more comment - from friends and in the press - about this threat than ever before. The fearsome noise has certainly been the subject of some infuriated letters although the one I most keenly remember was one in rebuttal. From an address - needless to say in London where the impact is hardly apparent - the writer confined himself to a one line response 'Just regard it as the sound of freedom.'

There is a logic behind this seemingly smug reply but I cannot help wondering if the writer has himself experienced the mental - and even physical - impact of these screaming machines. Take, for instance, when driving a car. Several times I have myself sensed a physical force emanating from the overwhelming sound which compels a grip on the steering wheel in such a way as almost to lose control. The aerial scream is, I find, particularly threatening when operating a noisy machine oneself, say, a lawn mower. The latter's comparatively minor racket is enough to drown the warning approach so that one is suddenly overwhelmed by the cataclysmic roar overhead. If this can be the effect on a fairly normal adult I can well understand how parents can be driven frantic by its far more alarming impact on their young children. I have heard tales of youngsters who now prefer to play inside the house than out.....

We must, of course, try to appreciate the dilemma facing the RAF. Up to 1979 their training activities were confined to specified low flying areas until the natural resentment of those affected forced a change. To spread the load more fairly the whole of the U.K. (outside the built up areas) has now become available for low flying with the minimum altitude raised to 250 feet and a speed not in excess of 450 knots.

contd overleaf

Please note that copy for the August 1987 issue of 'Signal' should reach Trisanna, Staunton-on-Wye (Phone Moccas 571 not later than Friday 10th July 1987.

The RAF claim that their training needs require 110,000 low flying hours a year - over 400 a day - which, for those of us affected, can make the 'sound of freedom' so difficult to endure.

There can be no easy solution so what can one suggest? Would it be possible for instance for the RAF to plan programmes sufficiently in advance to limit low flying to specified areas on specified days? We would then at least be able to prepare ourselves for the onslaught and not be taken unawares. What do you think?

by Gareth Evans

NORTON CANON LADIES CLUB

IN spite of the weather fifteen ladies braved the elements and travelled to Bulmers Nursery.

Mr. John Worle (who even provided 'wellies' for those of us not suitably shod) took us carefully through all the stages of growth, budding and grafting from the first shoot to the growing trees. Stages which can take up to 4 years and more.

We were all impressed by the amount of careful attention and labour intensive work needed to bring the trees to maturity. After the walk in the rain the warmth of the local hostelry provided a welcome interlude before our return to Norton Canon.

A supper outing at the Portway Inn has been arranged for Monday, 20th July. Please ring May on 318227 or Rita on 318306 as soon as soon as possible if you intend to join us as an idea of numbers attending would be appreciated by the host. Meet at the Portway at 8 p.m.

Nora Medcraft

ARROWVALE WINE CIRCLE

WITH so many members away on holiday our attendance figures at this time of year are often low but I am sure that the 20 or so who did turn up to hear Mr. Arthur Muffet talk with such intriguing authority on 'The World of Sherlock Holmes' were not disappointed. He was ably supported by the dramatic reading of extracts by Mr. Frank Rainbird.

Next month - 2nd July - we have our annual barbecue at Bulmer's Lake. All we ask is that our revelries are not drowned in rain.

Gareth Evans

When the insects take over the world I hope they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on our picnics.

Bill Vaughan

Do not confide in relations because blood always tells.

If at first you don't succeed - well, so much for sky diving.

1st BATTALION THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT IN NORTHWEST EUROPE

Part 2 - From Normandy to the Baltic

THE first part of this article took the story of 1st Herefords to the end of July 1944. They had landed in Normandy in the middle of June and, throughout July, they had fought in the three great battles for the mastery of Caen; in the bridgehead over the river Odon at Hill 112; to the east of Caen on the plain at Bourguebus; and, finally, away to the west in the bocage, striving once more, step by step, to cross the upper reaches of the Odon and the Orne and The Souleuvre. In this way they had shared in the ordeal of drawing the weight of the enemy towards the eastern end of the front and paved the way for the American break-out from the Cherbourg peninsula.

During the first three weeks of August, the fighting was to be heavy still but different in character. The advance was to be altogether quicker than it had been in the bocage. In Bren-gun carriers and lorries, the infantry sped from one battlefield to another, or else on the backs of tanks, fanning out when resistance demanded, a fanatical resistance often enough. 1st Herefords passed Vire and then liberated Flers, to the frenzied delight of the population. It is at Flers that the divisional memorial now stands. Within a week contact had been made with the Americans and with the Free and trigger-happy French, opening wearing the Cross of Lorraine. By August 19th, two-thirds of the German 7th Army had been pounded to pieces in the gap between Falaise and Argentan. 1st Herefords moved through and prepared for the next step.

Between the end of August and September 4th, while Paris fell to the Americans, the division crossed the Seine at Vernon and astonished the enemy by a bold night-march in appalling weather to the Somme at Amiens; bypassed in the space of a single day the old battlefields near Arras; crossed the Belgian frontier at Reubaix; and made for Antwerp, the first really large city to fall to them. Exhausted but wildly fêted and happy, they had covered two hundred and sixty miles and were only prevented from going further northwards into Holland by the problems of supply.

After their almost painless advance, they might have been pardoned for viewing a return to war fare with some scepticism. Indeed, it was only two days before they moved down to Louvain and then swung north-eastwards through Belgian Brabant, crossing the Albert Canal at Beeringen. As it happened, two very severe days of fighting lay immediately ahead. On the 10th at Helchteren they met with enemy who were not in such a state of disarray that they were unable to fight suicidally, using every form of mine and booby-trap, with white flags and treacherous bursts of fire to match. They were many of them young indoctrinated Nazis and only three gave themselves up. Another day of bitter fighting followed on the 11th, at Hechtel. On this occasion, however, discretion was more in evidence and five hundred enemy were taken. A short and well-deserved rest followed; fresh rations, mail, laundry, baths at the local colliery. It seemed at the time as if the Belgian soil had been finally set free.

On the morning of Sunday September 17th, the mood of all stood almost perilously high. Three airborne divisions stood by to seize the bridges over the three great rivers in Holland while 30 Corps, with massive support from the aircraft and the guns, waited to drive up into northern Holland and perhaps to Berlin. Who could then say that these hopes were unreasonable? 1st Herefords were to help guard the eastern flank of this pencil-like advance. Hope still ran high as they swung eastwards from Valkenswaard to assault and then hold a crossing of the Bois-le-Duc Canal between Zomeran and Asten. While frequent shelling and, worse still, the Nebelwerfers kept nerves on edge, other troops passed through to capture Deurne, and the battalion fought in Helmond on the 25th. However, this day was to see the end of the airborne battle at Arnhem, a crushing blow to those who had expected the war to end in 1944.

From that date onwards, as the Indian summer gave place to a hard winter, the strategic initiative seemed to ebb away. In the rain and sleet of October, on the icy broken roads of December, 1st Herefords found themselves involved in the seemingly endless task of nibbling salients from the Peel country and defending the Meuse. Company attacks across sodden heathlands, successful but punishing raids at night, brief periods out of the line followed by further costly battles, such was the lot of the infantry soldier at this time. Christmas was celebrated on December 27th but perhaps with some reservations. Only on this actual day was von Runstedt to be halted in The Ardennes and, as for the conquest of Belgium and southern Holland, it had cost the battalion a further sixty-eight fatal casualties.

After decorations had been awarded to 1st Herefords by The Commander-in-Chief in February 1945, they moved across the Meuse at Nijmegen on the 23rd and swung southwards, through a dead German countryside and through shattered towns to the most unpleasant single battle of the campaign, in the opinion of some, the assault on the Hochwald Forest and the Schlieffen Line. The weather was hard, the verges of every road and track mined, and the utter sense of exposure to strong points was chilling, particularly to the reinforcements. Eventually, the crucial trenches were penetrated and resistance collapsed. It had been a vital battle involving infantry, tanks and all arms. 1st Herefords withdrew into Belgium for their first proper spell of rest in eight months.

Sixty or seventy miles to the east of the Rhine lies the Dortmund-Ems Canal, guarded by the towering forests of the Teutoburgerwald. Here, nineteen hundred years or more before, Hermann had defied the legions of Rome. Imagine, perhaps an attack on the Wye at Brobury and the scaling of Dorstone Hill, but read Birgte for Brobury and for Dorstone Ibbenburen; and then replace peaceful Herefordshire with fanatical Saxony. Even treachery played its part for a truce, requested by the enemy to control the typhus at Belsen, allowed them time to move cadres of NCO's from their school at Hanover to stiffen the resistance. This daunting position was taken, nevertheless, and the advance continued.

At each of the main waterways in the north-east of Germany, the Weser, the Leine, the Aller and the Elbe, successful battles were fought and three hundred miles of disputed territory acquired. At last, as this historic month of April gave place to May, enemy resistance collapsed, peace was signed and 1st Herefords motored to Flensburg on the frontier of Denmark and beside the Baltic.

Here it was that they took part in an operation to capture Grand Admiral Doenitz and 756 members of his puppet government. It was a spectacular finale to the campaign.

On September 29th 1945, The Herefordshire Regiment received The Freedom of the City of Hereford. On June 8th, The Colours, which had been lodged in Hereford Cathedral for the duration of the war, were carried in the Victory Parade. On the Colours were emblazoned the following Battle Honours:- Odon, Bourguebus Ridge, Souleuvre, Falaise, Antwerp, Hechtel, Venrai, Hochwald and Aller. Many of those who had fought in the campaign, including the wounded who numbered well over a thousand, attended the Parade. As for those who had given their lives, more than two hundred dead, they lie in the peaceful, beautiful and dignified but profoundly sad War Cemeteries of North-West Europe.

M. J.

FOR SALE

Philips Video-Pac Computer with games (one joy-stick needs slight attention) £15 o.n.o.

Glass fishtank approximately 3 ft. x 1 ft. with pump, light etc. £15 o.n.o.

Enquiries to Mark Addison, 2 Bull Farm Cottages, Letton. tel: Eardisley 747.

PLAYGROUP

Staunton-on-Wye Playgroup will have vacancies for children from 3-5 (age) for beginning September term.

Please contact Jane Bryan on Moccas 498 by the end of July.

Never confide in relations because blood always tells.

CANON MOTORS

(Brian Robbins)

NORTON CANON

Phone: Weobley (0544) 318317

- Servicing and repairs carried out on all types of car and light commercial vehicles both petrol and diesel engines.
- M.O.T. preparation and estimates carried out.
- Gas and MIG welding facilities- Fabrication work-Competition preparation service.
- Prompt and efficient service at all times - Competitive rates.

Hours of business: Monday to Saturday 8 am till 7 pm
Sundays 9 am till 1 pm

ROBERT LOXSTON

- Extensions
- Repairs
- Roofing
- General Building
- Alterations
- Chimney Repairs

Post Office, Norton Canon

Phone: (0544) 318825

Apologies to Mr Loxton for spelling his name wrong in the last issue

Church Notices

WEOBLEY GROUP OF PARISHES

SERVICES FOR JULY

Sarnesfield

12th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am Morning Prayer

Norton Canon

5th 9 am Holy Communion
12th 9 am Morning Prayer
19th 9 am Holy Communion
26th 9 am Family Service

Staunton-on-Wye

5th 11 am Holy Communion
12th 11 am Morning Prayer
19th 11 am Holy Communion

Byford

5th 9.30 am Holy Communion
19th 6.30 pm Evening Prayer
26th 3.00 pm Family Service

Monnington-on-Wye

12th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Letton

12th 11 am Family Service
26th 6 pm Evening Prayer

Kinnersley

5th 10 am Holy Communion
12th 10 am Mattins
19th 10 am Holy Communion
26th 10 am Pastoral Festival
Family Service
speaker Mrs. Joyce
Banbury

NORTON CANON

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs Diane Hardman on the recent death of her mother.

Thanks

I would like to thank the ladies of Kinnersley who put on such a pleasant 'Farewell Party' at the Kinnersley Arms for me. It was a very pleasant occasion for which I am extremely grateful.

I would especially like to mention my neighbours Mr. & Mrs. Brookes and Mr. & Mrs. D. Jarrett, now of Clehonger. Their continuous help has enabled me to go on living alone at Kinnersley for over two years since Doug's death in April 1985.

My future address will be 6 Ilkley Hall, Skelda Rise, Ilkley, W. Yorks.

With all good wishes to all my friends in Kinnersley, not forgetting my very loyal friends from Staunton-on-Wye,

Sincerely,

Rosalind Berry
Greenfields,
Kinnersley.

Birthdays

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Norton Canon

Gail Griffiths	2nd July
Lucy Hewitt	6th "
Hannah Wrixon	16th "

NORTON CANON

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. Bryan Stevenson of Four Winds, Moorhampton who is at present in hospital.

GARDENING IN JULY

THE months are passing quickly and the calendar, if not the weather, tells me that after a cold and wet Spring, Summer has arrived. Most garden plants are resilient and in spite of a poor start as conditions improve they seem to catch up and give us a good display of colour.

The garden can be very demanding to keep it looking at its best and I would suggest the following tasks for your consideration.

Lawns can lose much of their freshness during July. Feed with a general lawn fertiliser and water thoroughly if the weather is dry. If a good general fertiliser was applied in Spring, it may only need a nitrogenous fertiliser after mid-July. Hybrid tea and floribunda roses should be deadheaded. This will keep the bushes tidy and encourage a second flush of flowers; also look for suckers that need to be removed. Rambler roses should be pruned after flowering; as should shrubs, deutzias, cytisus and weigelas. Half ripe cuttings of shrubs such as forsythia, philadelphus, potentillas and weigelas can be taken now. Choose short lateral growths of young wood just growing hard at the base. Pull off with a heel and remove the very soft tip. Erica carnea cuttings can be taken as soon as young growth is about 1" long. Lilium candidum can be lifted and divided. Hardy cyclamen raised from seed should be planted out in ground well prepared by working in leafmould and/or damp peat and a dusting of bonemeal. Layer border carnations and take cuttings of pinks. Pansies and violas can be propagated from young basal shoots. Seed can also be sown for Spring flowering. Biennials should be sown, canterbury bells, wallflowers sown earlier will be ready for transplanting into a nursery bed where they can remain until September or October when they should be moved to their flowering position. Order colchicums and Autumn flowering crocus for planting next month. It is not too early to think about ordering bulbs for Autumn planting. Summer bedding flowering should be reaching its peak. Deadhead regularly and feed and water when necessary.

Spring flowering bulbs will have died down now and this is a good time to lift, divide, sort and grade them. Replant the large and medium sized bulbs for display next year. Plant the small ones in a spare piece of ground to grow on until they are larger. If the soil is dry, water the bedding plants; do it in the evening to avoid the risk of sun scorch. Water infrequently but heavily rather than a little each day. Do not let hedges get too straggly before you trim them. If you have ever fancied budding roses, this is the month to try. Sow iceland poppies where they are to flower, disbud dahlias and tie in sappy growth to prevent damage. Take cuttings of azaleas and thododendrons. Hoe herbaceous borders and apply a light dressing of a balanced fertiliser. Prune berberis that has flowered by removing weak or old growth. (Do not overdo the cutting.) Remove seed pods from azaleas and thododendrons, taking care not to damage the new buds forming under the old seed heads. Check ties on ornamental trees, loosen, remove or replace if necessary.

Finally, sit in your garden and contemplate your coming holiday.

Good gardening,

One Green Finger

HOUSING AND CRIME

ALL Staunton residents are invited to attend a public meeting on THURSDAY 16th JULY to give their views on the following:-

*** Inspector Ellis of the Hereford Police Community Affairs Department will speak and give a presentation on crime prevention and setting up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Do you want such a scheme to be set up in Staunton? If so, will you help?

*** Leominster District Council Planning Department are preparing a Local Plan for this area, and at its last meeting the Staunton Parish Council said that it would welcome some new housing in the village. Do you agree? If so, where do you think any new housing might go?

COME AND AIR YOUR VIEWS

THURSDAY 16th JULY - STAUNTON VILLAGE HALL - 7.30 p.m.

The ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will continue after these items have been dealt with - you are welcome to stay and watch the Parish Council at work.

GEOFF JAY

- Agricultural and Motor Engineer
- Garden Equipment Servicing and Overhauls
- Car Servicing - M.O.T. Preparation and Overhauls
- Wrought Ironwork - Gates etc.
- Full Welding Facilities- MIG, Gas, Arc, Aluminium
- Secondhand Cars and Equipment Sales
- General Plumbing

14 Corners, Moorhampton
Phone Weobley (0544)
318892

The Irish Video System - is a device which you plug into your TV so that you can record programmes you dislike in order to play them back when you are out.

I would rather men ask me why no statues have been erected in my honour than why one has.

Cato.

LOSE WEIGHT NOW!

NATURAL
HERBAL NUTRITIONAL
PROGRAMME

ASK ME HOW?

CALL PAT SHAW ON
WEOBLEY (0544) 318604 EVENINGS

FRED RALPH (by Gwen Turvill)

I wonder how many readers remember Fred Ralph. He was the son of one of the cattle dealer drovers. With the coming of the railway line to Brecon, his father bought a farm at Crickhowell.

Cattle were assembled at the farm and then sent by train to Whitecross. From Whitecross the cattle were driven through the streets to the market. When Fred Ralph took over he did not abandon the old dealer practice which was being pushed overboard by the increasingly active auctioneers. He approached the City Council and from them rented his own part of the auction yard. There he displayed the cattle he had brought from Brecon and dealt privately with the purchasers. He was a perfect judge of stock which was so dependable that farmers went back to him year after year for new supplies.

Fred himself still looked like his dealer drover father. Scruffy cap, red spotted neckerchief, long dirty raincoat and trousers wrinkling round his feet. But he was a friend to his clients and more often than not acted as a free banker to them. 'Don't bother to pay me 'til you've sold them boyo' was his catchword.

A war time story tells how scruffy Fred was sitting in a corner in a pub in Llangorse when some officers came in with a catch of fish. 'Couldn't spare a fish for a poor old man?' said Fred - and he got a salmon.

He didn't deserve to lose his only son who had escaped mishap in the war only to be killed when flying to Berlin when Russia blockaded the route just after the war.

A PRAYER FOR TOURISTS

Heavenly Father look down on your humble tourists who travel this earth mailing post cards, walking around in drip dry underwear and carrying armfuls of souvenirs.

Give us strength to visit museums and cathedrals but, if we skip historic monuments to take a nap after lunch, have mercy upon us for our flesh is weak.

Protect our wives from bargains they cannot afford. Lead them not into temptation because they know not what they do.

Keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and making false comparisons. Save, O Lord, our husbands making fools of themselves in nightclubs and please do not forgive them their trespasses because they know exactly what they do.

And when our long voyage is over please grant us the favour of finding someone who will look upon our home movies with a gracious heart and be willing to listen to our stories.

Amen

Signal Essay Competition

WE are happy to include below the winners all of whom are pupils of the school at Staunton-on-Wye. The prizes - £3, £2 and £1, will be handed out next week.

It was a pity that no other schools took part - perhaps they will for our next competition.

9 - 12 AGE GROUP

The Winner

My hobby is birdwatching. I see lots of birds where I live. I live near a brook. It is out side our back door. March 27th Friday was a very rough day. The brook was very high. I saw birds trying to fly south west but can't turn and go back and try again. On my birthday Mum and Dad bought me a pair of binoculars. When I go on holiday I take my binoculars in case we go to Weymouth. I like going to Weymouth because it's the bird place. In hides, you can see water birds on the water. We went there last summer and I saw ducklings, cygnets, coots, moorhens, swans, ducks and cormorants. I take photos and drawings of them. I like birdwatching.

Grendan Reece

Aged 6

2nd

My Hobby

My hobby is fishing. The biggest fish I have caught is a 20 pound pike. I like fishing because it is exciting when a fish pulls on the line. When you go fishing you have to be very quiet other wise you will scare the fish. To kill a fish you have to tap it on the head. I have got two rods and one is a pike rod and the other is a normal rod. When I go fishing, Andrew takes me in his car. The river I fish in is the River Wye. When I go fishing I wear a green mack in case it rains. Before you go fishing you have to buy a licence.

Stephen Gittles

Aged 9

3rd

VAMPIRE MAN.

The sun set was bright and I looked out of my window before returning to bed. As I went to turn off my light I heard a bang at the window, a scrape, then the glass broke. I saw a man standing on the ledge. He jumped into my room. I was too scared to scream. I just lay on my bed frozen with fear. The man came closer to my bed and then he opened his mouth and I saw FANGS! He was a vampire. All of a sudden I came to my senses and grabbed my knife and ripped the back off. I held the frame up over my face. Then the vampire screamed and ran to the window before jumping out into the night. My Mum ran in and said that she had heard a scream. "Oh, it's OK, just a dream" I said. When Mum left, I looked at the window's broken glass then my kite frame which was lying on the floor. Then another man appeared but he looked kind. He sat on my bed and he said, "Don't be scared. I won't hurt you but the vampires will". He told me that they wake up when diggers hit their graves. I asked him who he was and he just said he was a vampire but he isn't now, thanks to a vampire hunter of long age that killed the bad in me. I then asked why he was talking to me and his answer scared me more than ever. "I want you to help me kill them". He told me how I could and then he clapped and I was wearing all my play clothes. Then he told me to clap my hands. When we clapped I found myself in a church. We walked to where there was a new grave dug. We went down to the bottom where we found the new grave and next to it were two old ones, but the lid was off one. This may sound strange but the man opened the grave. "I can't kill them. They're my blood but you can". He passed me a stake. Without thinking I stabbed the body. The man clapped and then I found us on a window ledge and in the room a black man leaned over a boy. "Throw before it is too late!" I kicked the window. When it opened I threw a stake and it struck the vampire's heart. He fell on the floor then he disappeared. From that day on, if I clap I can go anywhere, and I go and see the man who now lives in a proper house.

Mark Stevenson.

Aged 11 yrs

UP TO 9 AGE GROUP

The Winner

Our pond.

We have a pond in our School and we have just had some wire fencing put round it. We are hoping to get some fish and tadpoles. We have got a little island. We are going to have some big trees round the pond to attract the birds. We are going to get some bird cables and some nest boxes so the birds that come can nest there. The island is for frogs to rest on. We may have a little dipper. We will go and have a project on it. We are going to measure the level of the water each day. We have a place for insects and creepy crawlies. We are hoping to get some wild flowers too.

Georgia Jeffs.
Aged 6.

2nd

March 27th Our pond
We have got a pond at school. We might put some fish and frogs. We might even have a bird table & a bird box on the trees we are having. There is a little island in the middle of the pond where we might put some stones for the frogs. We might even have some tadpoles. We have this pond to attract nature like little sparrows, blue tits, starlings and little wrens. We have put wire fencing around the pond and there was a little gap which was for the gate which was put in yesterday. The liner costs a lot of money but we did sponsor it. Everybody helped to make the pond. The car park is near the pond. We will have a rocky garden beside the pond. There is a pile of soil on the side of the pond. We might put some stones on the soil.

Helen Cook aged 8

3rd

my pets

I have two dogs and they are Jack and Sam. They are big dogs and they live in a kennel with a play pen. Jack eats a lot. When we first had Jack he was a Howler and Sam liked him very much. They go and play with each other up in the garden. Sam is a fast runner and it is very hard to catch him. He has a lot of hair when he was a little puppy he had a bad leg and he was soft and nice. They dogs stay in a room by the bathroom when they come inside the house. At night they sleep in the kennel.

By Andrew Bayliss, ages

THIS PRECIOUS STONE.....

What else has happened in the immemorial landscape of the English countryside? Airfields have flayed it bare wherever there are level, well-drained stretches of land, above all in eastern England. Poor devastated Lincolnshire and Suffolk! And those long gentle lines of the dip-slope of the Cotswolds, those misty uplands of the sheep-grey oolite, how they have lent themselves to the villainous requirements of the new age! Over them drones, day after day, the obscene shape of the atom-bomber, laying a trail like a filthy slug upon Constable's and Gainsborough's sky.

England of the Nissen hut, the 'pre-fab, and the electric fence, of the high barbed wire around some unmentionable devilment; England of the arterial by-pass, treeless and stinking of diesel oil, murderous with lorries; England of the bombing-range wherever there was once silence, as on Otmoor or the marshlands of Lincolnshire; England of the battle-training areas on the Breckland heaths, and tanks crashing through empty ruined Wiltshire villages; England of high explosive falling upon the prehistoric monuments of Dartmoor. Barbaric England of the scientists, the military men, and the politicians: let us turn away and contemplate the past before all is lost to the vandals.

W.G. Hoskins

'The Making of the English Landscape'.

(From Rolf Steiner's 'Last Adventurer')

In the course of my military career I have constantly noticed that there is a braid to kilometres ratio - the farther from the battle line the higher the hierarchy.

A SUBALTERN'S TALE

BY a printer's error a young army lieutenant was promoted to captain (according to the Army Gazette) on the 15th March 1041 instead of 1941.)

That evening, in a Mess celebration, he was jokingly persuaded by his fellow officers to apply for the appropriate back-pay and allowances. The application was correctly submitted quoting Pay Warrant and King's Regulations.

The morning after he had second thoughts. Had his application been accepted in the spirit in which it had been sent or was he due for an imperial rocket? It was, therefore, with great trepidation that he opened the official response from the Paymaster General. It read:

'Your application for pay and allowances dating back to the 15th March, 1041 has been found to be in order and your account has accordingly been credited with the sum of £39,999.

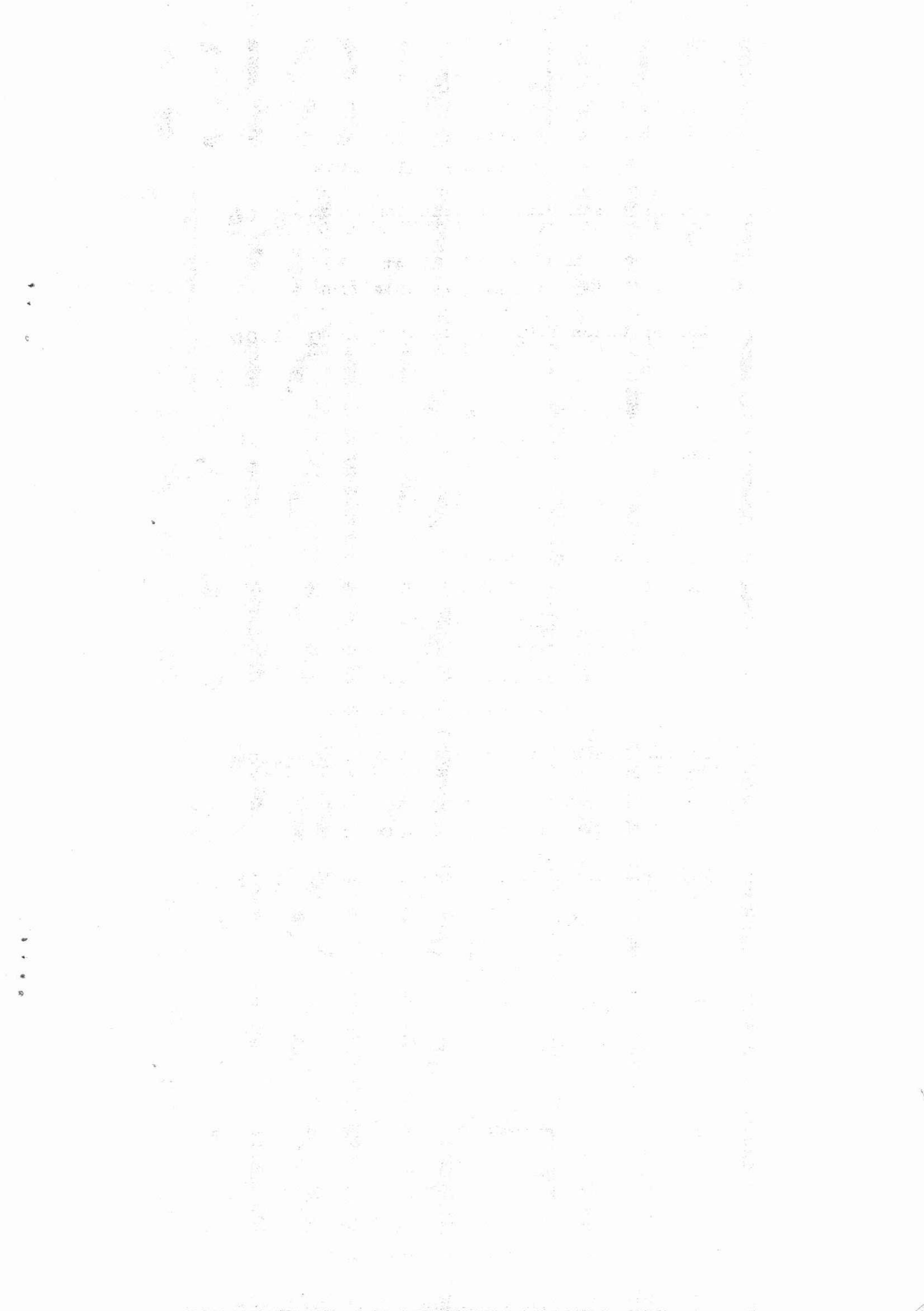
We beg, however, to direct your attention to a paragraph in the King's Regulations which you may have overlooked. It carefully defines that all officers are personally responsible for guns, horses and all other equipment under their control. If the Commanding Officer is killed this responsibility naturally devolves on to the shoulders of the next surviving officer.

Your letter proves conclusively that you are the sole survivor of the Battle of Hastings fought in 1066 where 20,000 horses (valued at £2 each) were lost by negligence. The responsibility for this loss of £40,000 must therefore fall directly upon yourself. I have, accordingly, adjusted your account to a net debit of £1.'

THE BLACKBIRD

My dark hued bird of paradise,
My Black Price of the glades,
I would not change your coat of grey
For all the rainbow shades.
How often have I seen you poised
In frozen majesty,
Or spread your wings in gracious flight
A flash of ebony.
How often have I heard your voice
Raise to the thrilling air;
A song to make the Nightingale
Stay silent in despair.
Dame Nature gave you sombre dress
But placed a nocturne there.

Frank A. Evans



NORTON CANON P.C.C.

invite you to a

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

AT BULMERS LAKE

on FRIDAY 24th JULY at 7.30

BOTTLE STALL, CAKES & GARDEN PRODUCE STALLS

TICKETS £1.50 available from

Norton Canon P.O. & Staunton-on-Wye P.O.