

Monday 21
July

Hitherto
hath the Lord
helped us.

1 Samuel 7: 12.

CHRISTIAN COLPORTAGE ASSOCIATION,
123/125 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4

Yes, July 21st and the year was 1941 and there was a war on !!

Well, Bunce's Snow Ploughs had become well-known by the time World War 11 had broken out, and we had an order book chock-full of orders....BUT - the Ministry of Transport stepped in, THEY needed priority, or told us who to supply next ! Then the Air Ministry wanted a few ploughs too for the runways and, oh my, we hardly knew which way to turn to satisfy everybody, as we tried to squeeze in as many of our old customers as we could!!

Then one day several high-ranking Air Force Officials in all their smart uniforms turned up, from Boscombe Down R.A.F. near or on, Salisbury Plain. They were interested in our Snow Ploughs, and wanted one or two to 'try out'.

After a few weeks they were back again, coming into the office all smiles, with a glowing account of our ploughs, and saying we should be receiving a big order, and would need to enlarge our works etc., etc., We were as gracious as we could in accepting their compliments, but inwardly regarded much of it as exaggerated flattery !!!

So imagine our surprise, on July 21st, we received an order from the M.A.P. (Ministry of Aircraft Production) for -
660 Snow Ploughs.

We were flabbergasted - did we read the order aright? The figures were not confirmed in long-hand, but was it a type-written error etc. etc !!!

Well father (W.J.B.) soon got the ball rolling, getting the help of other firms (small and great!) to help make parts etc. but everything came to Ashbury, was assembled here and left from here. And in another few weeks the order was doubled, making a total of.....1320 SNOW PLOUGHS.

Two Snow Ploughs, plus an 'Ashbury' Gritting Machine had to be sent to every aerodrome in Great Britain, with the surplus going to Maintenance Units.