

Tel. No.: Whitehall 8100

Ext.

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

HOME OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W.1.

22nd October, 1954.

Dear Sir,

You are invited to send a representative to a demonstration at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th October, at a bridge at Pixham Lane over the River Mole near Dorking of the fire-fighting capabilities of a new, and indeed revolutionary, device for pumping water from otherwise inaccessible sources, particularly rivers and the sea.

The apparatus, known officially as a transportable water unit, and colloquially as a "Bikini", consists of an inflatable raft similar to the sea-air rescue raft and three light-weight pumps as supplied to the Auxiliary Fire Service, giving a total output of 1,000 gallons per minute.

The "Bikini" can be taken across mud and operated in shallow water. The raft is propelled and controlled by jets from the pumps. The unit has been developed by Home Office experts; and although designed for large-scale emergency fire-fighting, it could be used for normal fire-fighting much more economically than a fire float.

If you wish to send a representative I will let you have route directions and particulars of transport which will be provided from Dorking Station to the site of the demonstration.

Yours faithfully,

Ho shell

Chief Press Officer

The News Editor.

W. Suda

Home Office

WHITEHALL, S.W.1

TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 8100 PRESS OFFICE EXTNS. 346, 347

"Bikini"

Fire Service Transportable Water Unit

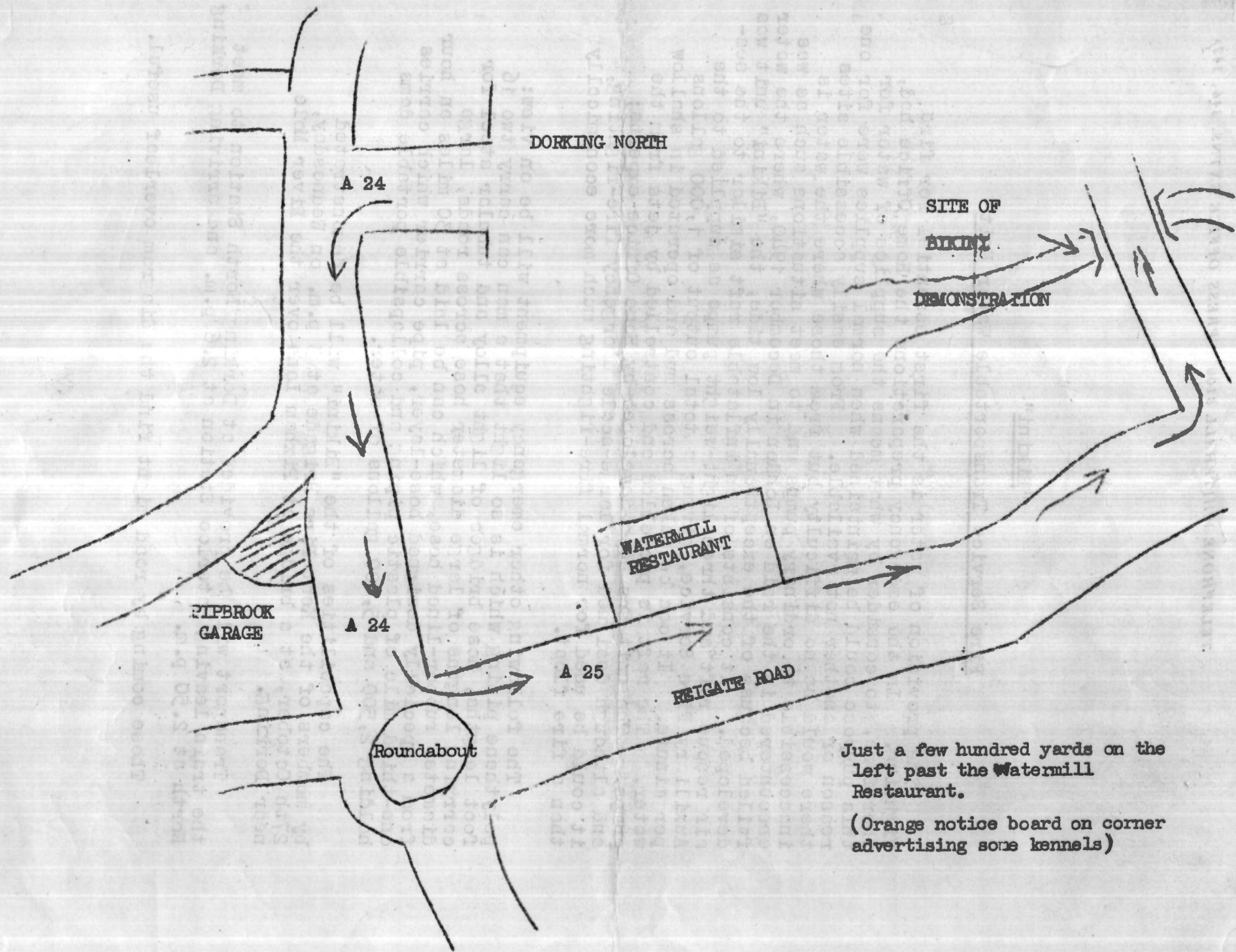
The provision of water is the first essential for fire fighting. In the emergency preparations the Home Office had, therefore, to consider by what means the supplies of water for this purpose could be maintained when normal supplies were for one reason or another not available. From easily accessible sites there would be no difficulty but from those where the water is inaccessible to ordinary pumps and to meet situations such as was encountered in the raid on London in December 1940, where the water failed because of the exceptionally low tide, the "Bikini" unit was developed. It consists of an inflatable raft similar to the sea-air rescue raft and three light-weight pumps as supplied to the Auxiliary Fire Service, giving a total output of 1,000 gallons per minute. It can be taken across mud and operated in shallow water. The raft is propelled and controlled by jets from the pumps. The unit has been developed by Home Office experts; and although designed for large-scale emergency fire-fighting, it could be used for normal fire-fighting much more economically than a fire float.

The following other emergency equipment will be on view: polythene piping which is so light that a man can carry two 16 foot lengths, hose bridges of light alloy and tubular steel for carrying lengths of large diameter hose across roads, large diameter rubber-lined hose, which can be laid at 30 miles an hour from a specially designed hose-layer, pipe carrier which carries one-third mile of plastic piping and collapsible portable dams holding 2,500 and 5,000 gallons of water.

The capabilities of the "Bikini" will be demonstrated by members of the Kent Fire Brigade at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th October, at a bridge at Pixham Lane over the River Mole near Dorking.

Transport will be provided at Dorking North Station to meet the train leaving Waterloo Station at 2.6 p.m. and arriving Dorking North at 2.50 p.m.

Those coming by road might find the diagram overleaf useful.



DORKING NORTH

A 24

SITE OF
BIKING
DEMONSTRATION

PIP BROOK
GARAGE

A 24

A 25

WATERMILL
RESTAURANT

REIGATE ROAD

Roundabout

Just a few hundred yards on the
left past the Watermill
Restaurant.
(Orange notice board on corner
advertising some kennels)

PLEASE NOTICE

Handwritten signature or scribble