

### School Replaced in Record Time

During the night of the 16th/17th December last, the Mall School, Hampton Road, Twickenham, was completely destroyed by fire.

The school provides preparatory education for 160 boys from the area.

The result could have been tragic - what do you do with 160 boys with nowhere to put them; how easy was it going to be to get them in elsewhere; must a school which has been operating successfully for over ninety years disappear overnight because of one major mishap?

These were a few of the problems and difficulties which had to be faced, and which might have been insurmountable but for the fact that one parent, a member of the school's parent-teacher association, knew one possible answer. In his work as a civil engineer, he had encountered the "Terrapin" system of building construction which enables buildings to be erected and completed in an incredibly short space of time.

On the 19th December, he telephoned the London Office of the building manufacturers and asked if they could help. He put the Company in contact with the Principal, and the site was visited by Company representatives the following day. The next day, the Company's offer accompanied by preliminary drawings, was in the client's hands. These proposals were generally agreed at a meeting held immediately after Christmas. Unfortunately, various legal and financial problems arose, and confirmation to proceed was not available until the morning of the 4th January.

Work started on foundations and drains on the site the following morning, as did production of the buildings in the Company's factory at Bletchley, Bucks.

Delivery of the first of the buildings took place on the afternoon of the 12th January, and by the evening of the 17th January, it is hoped to complete the whole of the following accommodation:-

- (a) Administrative Block: comprising Head Master's Study, Secretary's Office, Staff Common Room, Sick Room, Kitchen, Dining/Assembly Room, and Toilets for Male and Female Staff and Boys.
- (b) Classroom Block: comprising seven classrooms each of approximately 600 square feet floor area, complete with necessary stores and cloakrooms.

In all, a total of approximately 6,000 square feet of floor area completed in all respects, including internal and external painting, floor coverings, electric heating, sanitary installation, in approximately twelve working days.

Such an achievement is only possible given the maximum co-operation of all concerned, including all departments of the local authority, electricity board, and most of all - the men on the job.

Of equal importance, of course, is the type of building available. Each block is constructed of a series of pack units forming the basis of a British invention, which permits 95% of all structural work, including finishes, to be completed in the factory. The result is fast building at a speed believed to be unequalled anywhere else in the world. A further aspect, not readily appreciated, of this type of construction, is its inbuilt mobility factor. If the owners of the Mall School ever decide to leave Twickenham, they can decide just as easily to take their buildings with them, should they so wish.

A story such as this, covering the whole operation, makes a pleasant change from those which feature frustration created by beaurocracy, or the failure of industry to rise to a challenge.

16th January, 1961.

DATA SHEET

Address:

The Mall School,  
Hampton Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middx.

Principal:

G. Eric Hunt.

Building Manufacturer &  
Main Contractor.

Terrapin Ltd.,  
Haddon House,  
2-4, Fitzroy Street,  
LONDON, W.1.

LANgham 0611

Contact:

Mr. P. Ashworth (Sales  
Director)

Sub-contractor for  
Groundworks.

C.A.S. (Contractors) Ltd.,  
St. James's House,  
Kensington Square,  
LONDON, W.8.

Architect for the client

Mr. H. Clamp,  
Manning & Clamp,  
19 The Green,  
RICHMOND, Surrey.

Press Facilities

1. Facilities for the taking of photographs and camera work will be available on the afternoon of the 18th and the morning of the 19th January 1961. At other times by arrangement with Terrapin Ltd.
2. Representatives of the school and contractors will be available on site during the times given at 1. above.