Sheet No. 7

The War Years

Throughout the second world war both Odhams and Sun Engraving were busy on war work.

Sun Printers produced maps for the Armed Forces and Propaganda leaflets to be dropped on occupied Europe. Production of the factory’s normal output was allowed to continue, subject to paper rationing.

The factory produced “Window” for the RAF – this was aluminium foil printed black on one side and cut to precise dimensions. It was dropped from allied bombers to saturate and confuse German Radar sets.

(illustrations of Sun’s War Work from “The Way of the Sun”)

Odhams were also allowed to continue producing consumer magazines and periodicals under rationing conditions. They also printed a magazine called “Yank”, for American Forces in Europe.

(specimen of “Yank” magazine printed by Odhams)

Odhams also printed billions of Propaganda Leaflets.

(German Propaganda leaflet)

Part of the Odhams site was used by Fairfield Aviation for the repair of damaged aircraft.

The Engineering departments of both Odhams and Sun Engraving produced components for trucks, tanks, bren gun carriers, etc.

In 1938, Greycaines Printing Business was in serious financial difficulties due to increased competition – some of it from Odhams – and went into Receivership. Although production of books and annuals did continue, the difficulties increased early in the war when the factory was damaged by incendiary bombs.

In 1941 the Business was offered for sale as a going concern and by 1942 Taylor, Garnett & Evans (T.G. & E.) had moved in.

The Company’s claim for War Damage Compensation was finally settled in 1954, nine years after the end of the war.

T. G. & E. closed in the 1960s.