

SCOTLAND YARD SWOOPED ON THIS PRETTY, PEACEFUL VILLAGE



The peaceful little village of Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire, where Scotland Yard's Flying Squad found £10,000 worth of stolen Ministry of Supply furniture and equipment hidden in a barn.



A pile of furniture stands in the yard of the barn on which the police swooped. Inside the barn furniture was stacked from floor to ceiling.

£10,000 STOLEN GOODS FOUND IN VILLAGE BARN

A SCOTLAND YARD flying squad swooping on the little village of Cuddesdon, a few miles from Oxford, found in a barn about £10,000 worth of stolen furniture belonging to the Ministry of Supply.

Tables, chairs and other furniture of the type used in Service canteens were piled almost to the ceiling.

There was evidence that a large trade had been going on in renovating the furniture.

It is believed that furniture had been removed by night in lorries from many parts of the country.

The raid followed inquiries in London.

YARD MADE £10,000 HAUL IN RAID ON BARN

News Chronicle Reporter

CUDDESDON, Wednesday.

STOLEN furniture and other property worth £10,000 has been found by a Scotland Yard flying squad which raided an old barn in this Oxfordshire village.

Owned by the Ministry of Supply, the goods consisted of tables, chairs and other articles of the type used in Naafi and Service canteens.

Nobody was more surprised at the discovery than the villagers.

Almost daily, lorries stacked with furniture have been arriving quite openly at the barn in the centre of the village and the residents saw nothing wrong about it.

Nor did the 50 clergymen who pass daily on the way to the theological college, Cuddesdon's main building.

Bought blankets

After a time, a whisper went round that surplus Government stores were being sold, and some villagers went along to inspect the goods and even bought blankets at 10s. or 7s. 6d.

Fifteen-year-old Dorothy Turner told me: "I work at the vicarage and often saw the lorries arriving at the barn. Sometimes when I passed, I saw a man in the yard with a spray, and the furniture looked shiny and new, as if it had been renovated."

"The firm"

Mrs. Mary Smith, who owns a petrol pump in the village, said: "We think the furniture was advertised for sale because several times strangers came here to inquire where 'the firm' was."

"We heard that weights and scales and typewriters as well as furniture were advertised."

The flying squad found goods piled almost to the roof in the barn and others stacked in the yard.

Three men, I understand, have been questioned.



Police inspecting stacked furniture yesterday after the Scotland Yard swoop on this barn in the Oxfordshire village of Cuddesdon