

ON THE CARPET

At Wilton, in Wiltshire, world famous rugs and carpets are made again. From designer's board, via the old style vate for dyeing wool, to the hand-operated looms - factories get back into production after a war-job making camouflage nets and kit bags. Wilton artisans have carried on this work since the seventeenth century. From a pattern pinned to the top of the strands the finished rug is built up, every tuft tied by hand.

Carpet-hungry Britain, suffering from bare floors and threadbare rugs, backs the drive in carpet making. Ex-servicemen come in for training as machine weavers. In the centre is Sergeant Goodman, ex-Arnhem paratrooper and ex-Prisoner of War. Power-looms turn out strip carpet in two-hundred yard lengths but demand is way ahead of supply.

It's long since we saw any in the shops - so here's a reminder of what new carpet is really like. It looks good - but it'd look even better on somebody's stairs.