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THE "MASTER DRINK".

Every year, the little German town of Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber casts its mind back three centuries to the Thirty Years' War - and that's only yesterday for a town with a thousand years of history. It's the festival of the Meistertrunk - the "master Drink" - which recalls the achievements of a burgmaster of 1631. Field-Marshal Tilly had besieged Rothenburg, and threatened to sack it unless the burgmaster could empty an enormous stein of drink in one go. He did - and saved the town from destruction.

It must have been quite a drink - the party's still going on, 325 years later!