

61/79PIPELINE BY HELICOPTER

The modern army marches on its oil - something Napoleon never thought of. How to get that oil quickly, where it's wanted, was demonstrated in Exercise "Go-Devil". A Helicopter was part of the answer, as in so many things these days. It had to carry nine miles of pipeline to the advanced fuel base.

As each load was dealt with, another arrived. There was no way out of manhandling the last stages of the operation.

From the fuel base, lines were laid to the forward area. Fortunately for the troops the aluminium pipes are a lot lighter than they look. They're also specially made for quick joining. Time's important; the enemy won't wait till your fuel's arrived, and you have to have a great deal of it, as an armoured regiment consumes 200 gallons a mile. On schedule oil flowed through the pipelines. 500 tons of petrol were used to demonstrate the big test.