

# 2,000 YEARS ON A QUICKLY!

Centaur takes a look  
at the Romans on the latest  
German model



Salisbury Hall.

WHEN the Romans invaded Britain in 54 B.C. one of the first places they colonized was Hertfordshire, particularly the area around St. Albans. It is recorded that the inhabitants soon settled down to the Roman way of life, until, of course, the Romans withdrew and were themselves undermined by the Germans. However, when I visited some of the old Roman sites on the German NSU S/2 23 recently it was in no sense an invasion—NUSs are among the best-established Continental mopeds on the market.

The wind was gusting up to record strength as I left London on the A1081 cocooned in the warmest and driest clothing I could find, weighed down with a surfeit of sandwiches and clutching, with cheerful optimism, a loaded camera. I was trying to make up my mind whether the generous shielding supplied by NSU was a help or a handicap. Now and again, during prolonged and vicious gusts, I was forced to change down to second gear to avoid straining the engine, despite its wide power range. Like most two strokes, and many small four strokes, it likes to be kept very much "on song." However, during the monotonous succession of April showers, I

was only too glad to hide behind the strong windscreen.

Manoeuvring in the usual assortment of heavy traffic was not as difficult as I feared it might be, although high winds and a wet road must be among the worst possible conditions. This was due to a superb pair of hub brakes that never locked the wheels, good roadholding properties from large-section tyres and firm suspension and a fine turn of speed if the right gear was selected. And there was no excuse for being in the wrong gear, for this NSU is fitted with the lightest, fastest and sweetest of changes.

Once beyond Barnet, green fields took the place of houses and at the junction of the A1081 and A6 I branched off on to minor roads, and began to work my way up to Salisbury Hall, a fine period mansion complete with moat. It is open to visitors throughout the summer.

From there, via more byroads, to the Roman city of Verulamium, passing through some attractive farmland along the B556. It was at Verulamium that Albanus, the first Christian martyr in Britain, was executed. The nearby amphitheatre has been partially reconstructed, and is well worth a visit.

Feeling in the need for a change I headed north via Flamstead, Cheverell's Green, Markyate, along the ridge past Oldhill wood (where there are some very fine views) to Whipsnade and the zoo. Even if you don't like animals, there are some magnificent views across the valley towards the Dunstable Downs, and the views from the Downs themselves are even more impressive. Dunstable, too, has its crop of ancient monuments.

I left the town down the Icknield Way (B489) along the edge of the Downs, passing round the back of the zoo. Turning left at the Travellers' Rest I began to roam down the pleasant Bedfordshire lanes. The wind was now behind me and with the shielding for a sail, the S/2 cruised happily along at 35 m.p.h. with the throttle not quite fully open. Cornering was a delight, and the exhaust note, although not exceptionally quiet (by Continental standards), did not cause any embarrassment.

As I dropped down towards the river Gade, the sun came out, and I really began to enjoy myself. Waterend, partially protected by the National Trust, is particularly attractive, and Gaddesden Hall is worth a stop.

But time was pressing, and I slipped between Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead and worked my way to Watford, there to exchange the delights of the open road for the all-absorbing art of beating London's traffic. The S/2 had proved ideal for both.

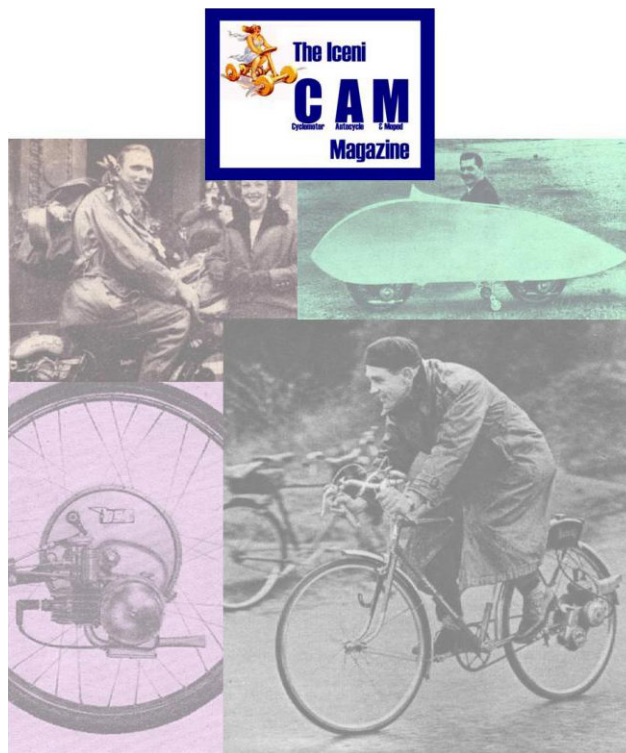


A typical scene near St. Albans, an area abounding in quiet byways.

## BUDGET PRICE REDUCTIONS

NSU: Quickly N £68 11s. 6d., Quickly S £73 11s. 1d., Quickly S/2 23 £88 7s. 10d.  
LAYFORD: Cazenave 411 £38 9s. 11d., Cazenave 421 £43 10s., Falco £69 15s. 11d.

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