

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES
BEFORE 08.30 B.S.T. (i . e . FOR EVENING PAPERS) ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1943.

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING
ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

A.T.S. COLLECT SPIDERS' WEBS

A.T.S. auxiliaries are now handling spiders to collect the very fine web that is used in precision sighting instruments.

Two auxiliaries who are doing this work are Private E. Atkinson and Private D. Mawe, who both come from Hull and are now craftsmen at a R.E.M.E. Depot in Scotland. Their nimble fingers not only collect the web and store it, but use it in the repairing of binoculars and other instruments whose sights have been damaged.

During September - which experts have found to be the best month of the year for the quality of the web - spiders are caught and the web is obtained by dropping the spider from one hand to another. As it drops it spins its fine web, which is then attached to a metal frame smeared with shellac, and the frames are stored for use during the coming year.

When binoculars and telescopes with damaged sights come into the workshop for repair, Private Atkinson and Private Mawe then take the fragile web from its storage frame and make a new sighting cross-wire by fixing the web to a diaphragm between the eye-piece and the object glass.

This precision work requires a delicate touch and a steady hand. On a few occasions when an exceptionally fine cross-wire has been required, the A.T.S. craftsmen have, under a microscope, split one of the strands of web in two.

+++++

MILITARY AFFAIRS