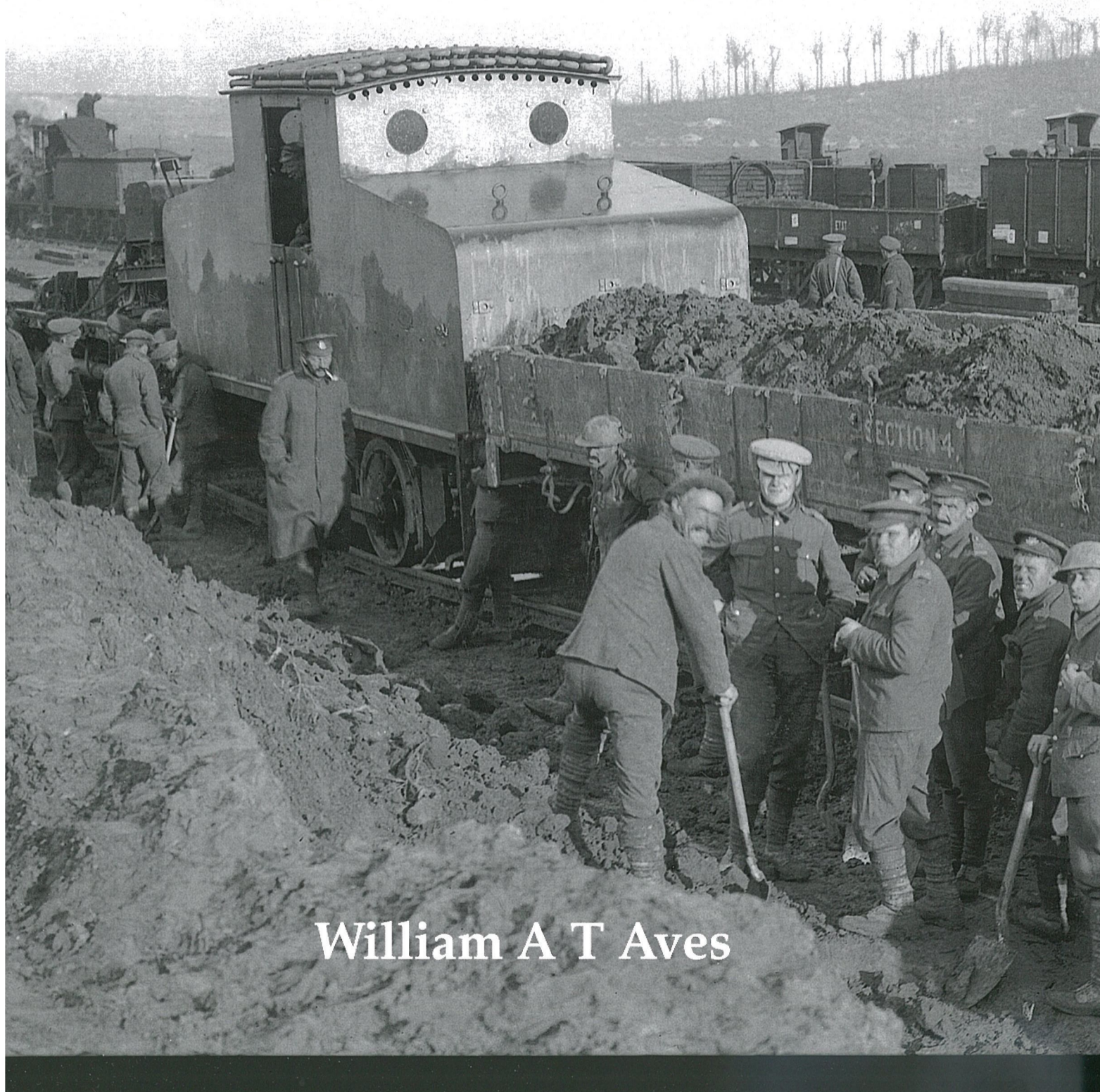


R-O-D

The Railway Operating Division on the Western Front

The Royal Engineers in France and Belgium 1915–1919



William A T Aves

**The Railway Operating Division
on the Western Front**

The Royal Engineers in France and
Belgium 1915-1919

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be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by
any means, electronic or mechanical, including
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in writing from the publishers.

Half title: The ROD locomotives contributed by
the Great Central Railway were poorly record-
ed. There seem to be no pictures at all of the
15 Class 8A 0-8-0s, and very few in which the
Class 9J 0-6-0s can be seen. This photo
shows one of the 0-6-0s at Audruicq. Whilst
hardly being revealing it does give an impres-
sion of the sheer extent of the logistic com-
plex with the line of telegraph poles reaching
to the horizon, and no doubt beyond, and the
other locomotives in the left distance.
IWM Q29685

Frontispiece: Stretcher cases being disemb-
arked from Ambulance Train 23 at Calais
(Maritime) on 2 September 1918. Some of
the stretcher bearers appear to be German
POWs, and a party of journalists from the
Commonwealth is present. Like most British
ATs the rolling stock is modern. AT23 was pro-
vided by the Caledonian Railway and although
it had been on the Continent since early in
1916 appears to be in good order.
IWM Q23578

Below: Typical of the scale of devastation
encountered on railway lines captured from
the Germans is this view of Strazeele station
on 25 September 1918, providing work for
the Railway Construction Companies of the
Royal Engineers. This is the main line
between Hazebrouck and Armentières, and
on to Lille. The area had fallen to the Germans
in mid-April during their 'Operation Geor-
gette', the northern component of the final
'Kaiser's Offensive', and had been retaken by
the BEF about 3 weeks before this photo. In
the centre is an ROD Midland Railway Kirtley
0-6-0 hauling several wagons, no doubt
engaged in restoring the track. The station is
in the distance, while on the left are several
steam lorries, the nearest is lettered 'W D
ROADS'. IWM Q46771



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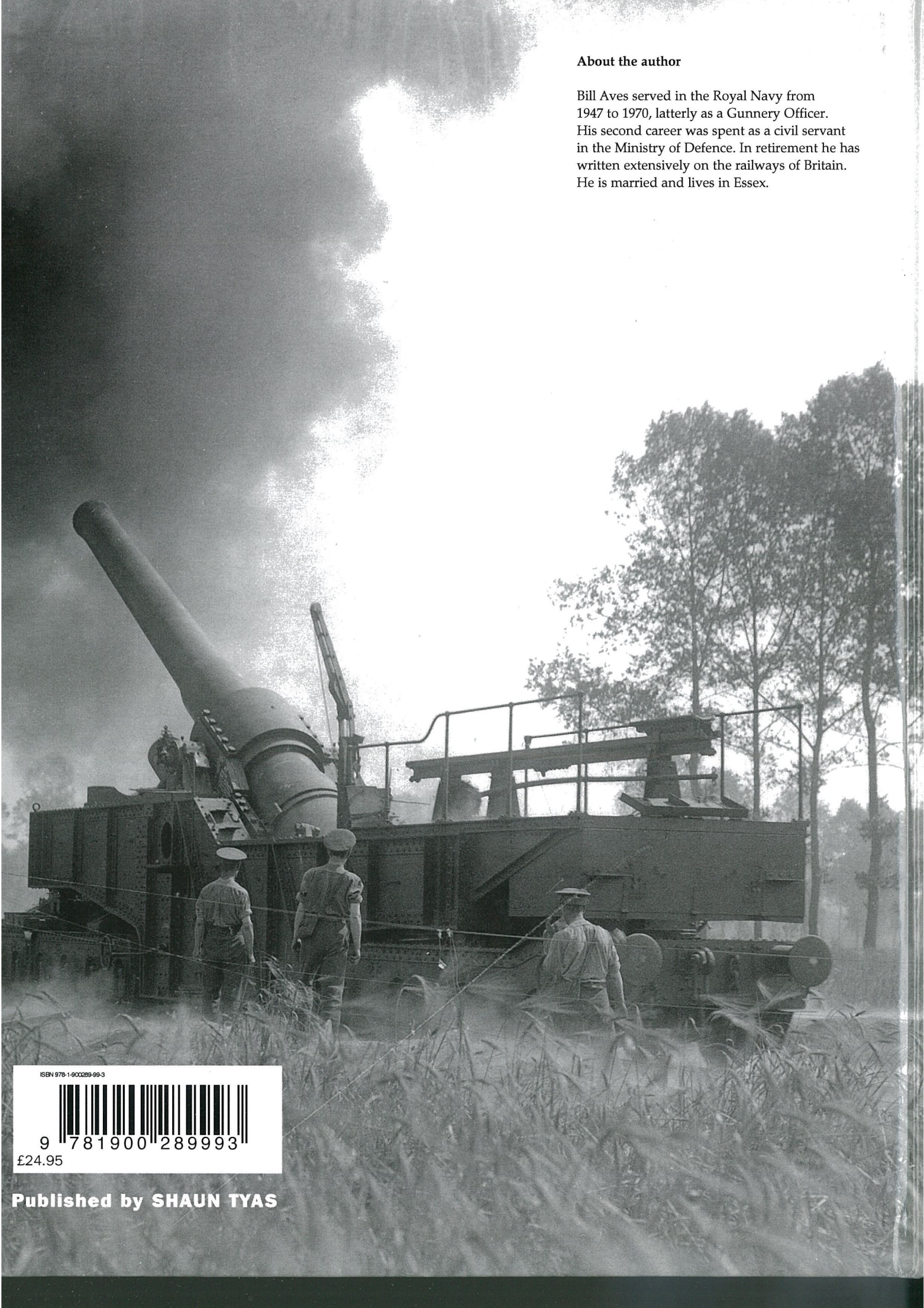
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About the author

Bill Aves served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1970, latterly as a Gunnery Officer. His second career was spent as a civil servant in the Ministry of Defence. In retirement he has written extensively on the railways of Britain. He is married and lives in Essex.

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