

A bird in the bush means life or death to Harold and Cedric.

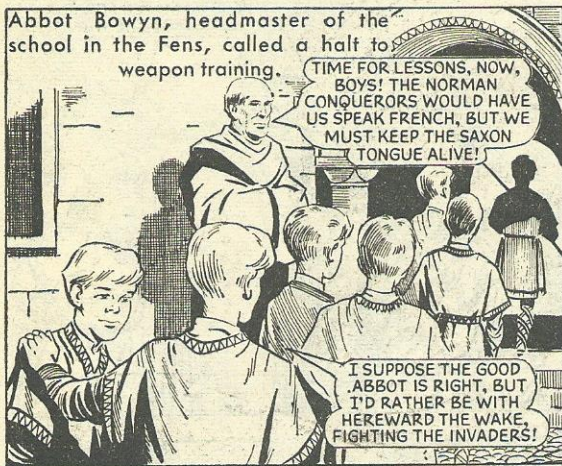
THE SCHOOL IN THE FENS

HAROLD and Cedric, the two sons of the Earl of Chatteris, who had been imprisoned by the Norman invaders, had been taken to a school in the Fens. Here, along with several other boys of noble birth, they were being instructed in the Saxon way of life and in the use of weapons by experienced soldiers. The school, in an abandoned monastery, was under the protection of Hereward the Wake.



WELL DONE, CEDRIC! YOU TOOK HAROLD'S BLOW NEATLY!

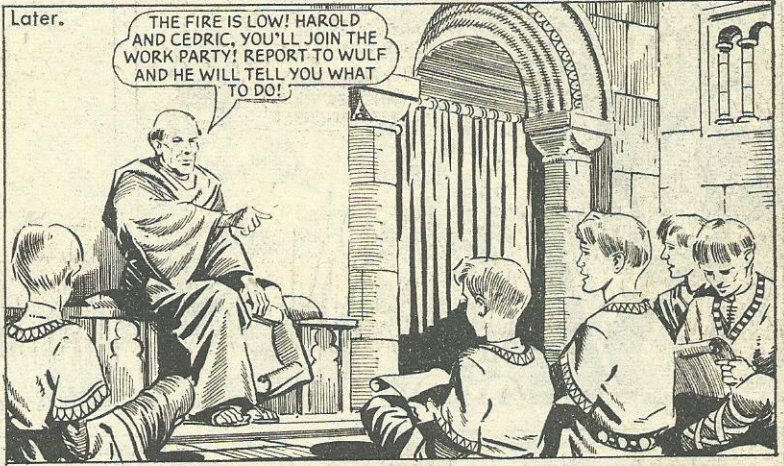
YOU HAVE TRAINED US WELL, WULF!



Abbot Bowyn, headmaster of the school in the Fens, called a halt to weapon training.

TIME FOR LESSONS, NOW, BOYS! THE NORMAN CONQUERORS WOULD HAVE US SPEAK FRENCH, BUT WE MUST KEEP THE SAXON TONGUE ALIVE!

I SUPPOSE THE GOOD ABBOT IS RIGHT, BUT I'D RATHER BE WITH HERWARD THE WAKE, FIGHTING THE INVADERS!



Later.

THE FIRE IS LOW! HAROLD AND CEDRIC, YOU'LL JOIN THE WORK PARTY! REPORT TO WULF AND HE WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO!



SIR HERWARD AND HIS MEN BRING MOST OF OUR FOOD, BUT WE CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING! THEY ARE BUSY FIGHTING THE NORMANS!



Wulf led the boys across the secret causeway.

THIS PATH UNDER THE SURFACE LEADS FROM OUR ISLAND SCHOOL TO THE MAINLAND! IT'S AMAZING!

AYE, AND WE MUST KEEP IT A SECRET! LOOK OUT FOR NORMANS!

The secret path, the exact location of which was known only to a certain few Saxons, had been made by piling thousands of turfs, one upon another.



THESE RUSHES MAKE GOOD FUEL, BUT HURRY, BOYS! IT IS DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE TOO LONG!



Suddenly.

OOOH! WHAT'S THAT?



DON'T BE AFRAID, YOUNG CEDRIC! IT WAS ONLY A COOT! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM IN THE FENS!