

**Ian English**

**Making Tea in the Desert**

At that time in the British Army all the petrol came in flimsy thin tins which held I think two gallons, and they were the most dreadful things. I mean the loss of petrol from these things cracking must have been absolutely enormous. And, of course, we compared our things with the German Jerry cans which were absolutely designed for the purpose, excellent. Anyway they were useful in that when they'd had the petrol poured out of them, or what was left in the tin, that we made cooking stoves and this sort of thing. And quickly we put a bit of sand in the bottom of these tins and poured a bit of petrol over it and lit it and before you knew where you were you had a brew of tea.