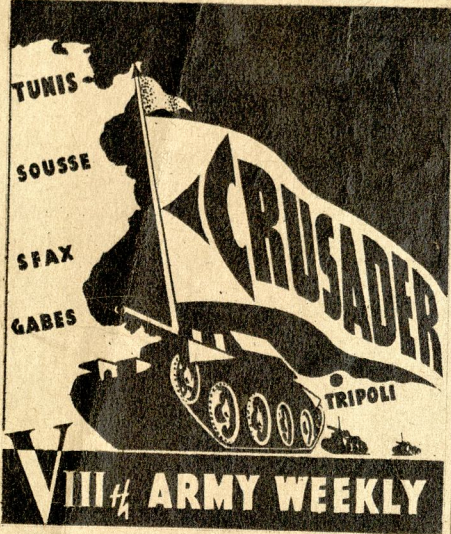


NOW WE'RE THERE!



Issued to the Fighting Forces in the desert

No. 40 Vol. 4 February 1st 1943



General Montgomery dictates terms to Tripoli officials at the entrance to the town.

Conquered and re-conquered through the centuries by practically every nation in the Mediterranean, Tripoli's history has been a long tale of sack and pillage.

For its commanding position in the central Mediterranean, which it shares with Tunis, has made it one of the most coveted and most bloodily fought-for cities on the shores of "Mare Nostrum."

In pre-Christian times Tripoli was a market-place for the great Phoenician traders until conquered by the Romans, who held it until the fourth century A.D. Since then it has changed hands again and again until the present day.

SNATCHED FROM ROME

During the fifth century the Vandals snatched it from the dying hands of Rome; in the sixth century the Byzantine Emperor Belisarius, accounted by some (including Field Marshal Wavell) the greatest General in history, captured it; in the seventh century the Arab hordes overran it in their all-conquering sweep over the Levant. Four centuries later the King of Sicily drove them out, only to be supplanted in the fourteenth century by Genoa, then one of the most powerful states of the Mediterranean. Next came Spain in the sixteenth century, then at the zenith of her power.

PIRATES' LAIR

When Spain declined Tripoli became the chief lair of the dreaded Corsair pirates who preyed upon commerce in the Mediterranean. In 1835 however the Turks captured the city and remained in possession until 1911, when the Italians took advantage of Turkey's preoccupation in the Balkan war to seize a slice of the crumbling Ottoman Empire.

TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FLAG OF A CONQUERING BRITISH ARMY FLIES OVER THE GLEAMING BUILDINGS OF THIS HISTORIC CITY.

40,000 ITALIANS

Before the war the population of Tripoli was 110,000 of whom about 40,000 were Italians. The remainder are a motley collection of Arabs, Jews and Southern Europeans.

The Old Town lies on a peninsula southwest of the port. It has kept its oriental character, with narrow winding lanes in the bazaars and minarets.

Governor. The Government offices are in the Turkish citadel on the harbour at the extreme east point of the Old Town.

Close by is the Piazza Italia whence radiate the five principal arteries of the modern town, which is enclosed by a six and a-half mile wall running in a semi-circle about two miles south of the harbour. In this wall are six principal gates, corresponding roughly to the five radial boulevards converging on the Piazza Italia.

The New Town, built by the Italians, lies to the south and south-east of the port. It is well laid out, with tall modern buildings and a magnificent residence for the



George Gumption, our Page 6 hero, echoes cry of all Eighth Army men.



An old farmhouse in the folds of the Brecknock Beacons near Brecon, South Wales.

"I GO AWAY HAPPY"

A 20-years-old British soldier, before embarking for an overseas theatre of war, called at the South London Citizens' Advice Bureau and made this strange request: "I want you to help me find a deserving unmarried mother, because I want to leave her my money before I go out to fight." He explained he did not want to leave his money to any fund or charity, because he detested such things, but wished to make his will in favour of a special girl, and to interview her first. The head of the bureau found the girl, well educated and sensitive whose sweetheart had been sent abroad before they could be married. Parents and friends had deserted her. An interview was arranged with the soldier, and the bureau has just disclosed that he left her a small fortune, without any condition. Before sailing, he wrote to the bureau, "My mother or sister might have found themselves in the same plight... I go away happy because I have saved one mother and child from the horror of charity."

* * *

FIRST V.C. PENSIONED

Flight Sergeant John Hannah of Glasgow, Scotland's first, and Britain's youngest V.C. of the war, has been granted a pension of three pounds, seven shillings weekly for himself, his wife and child. He has been discharged because he is suffering from tuberculosis which has been aggravated by his service. The pension will be reviewed at the end of a year.

* * *

CRISIS IN PANTOMIME!

The back part of the horse in the Leicester Opera House panto, "The Sleeping Beauty," has been called up! Mr Bud Barrie who has played the front part for many years, finding himself without his other half advertised for someone to fill the rear. Before the advertisement appeared, however, a girl named Molly Douglas volunteered, and Mr Barrie told the "News Chronicle" that she has done very well at rehearsals. His only fear is that she will not stand up to the strain if the show has a long run. "This is the first time I have had a woman as my rear half," he added.

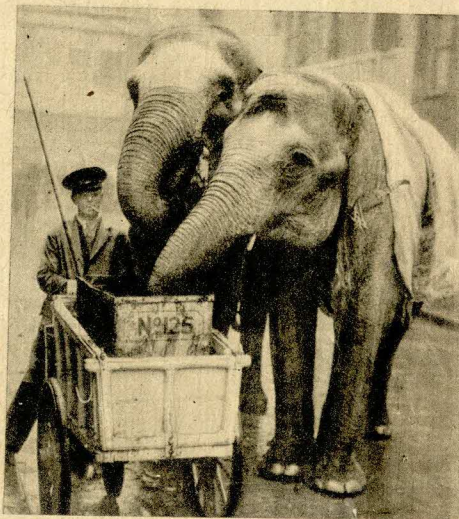
FAMOUS COMEDIAN DIES

Tubby Bill Dwyer of Clapham and Dwyer has died at the age of 52. One of the first radio comic teams, the act was one of the most popular on the air for 14 years. Bill, who played the piano in the act and was general foil for Clapham, retired two years ago and took a pub at Uppingham.

HOME FLASHES

CIVILIAN SCROLL OF HONOUR

Lists of civilian victims of the war are to be placed in Westminster Abbey with Service names after the war. The lists are being compiled by the Imperial War Graves Commission. The first volumes contain 42,000 names covering the Battle of Britain.



"And as we staggered home that night, two elephants fed in Russell Square... But it's not an alcoholic phenomenon; the elephants which belong to a circus show at the Scala Theatre stop for a snack in Russell Square en route for the theatre."

THE "OWLS" NOW!

The War Office announces that more than a thousand women are wanted within the next six months for highly specialised work in the defence of Britain. As Operators Wireless and Line — known as "Owls" — they will serve with the Royal Corps of Signals at military headquarters all over the country, manning the Army's vital lines of communication. They will use Morse code to transmit and receive messages by radio, and will also send and receive communications by telegraph in secret, cypher and clear. The first recruits are already in training and will be posted to operational stations early in February to replace men urgently needed for field duties.

* * *

ROBB'S CHRISTMAS CARTOON

Brian Robb's cartoon in Christmas number of the desert soldier's unique magazine, "Crusader," shows a tank crew waving aside Father Christmas and his reindeer, with the caption, Sorry, mate — no time! says the London "Daily Express" — in a front-page story headed "M. and V. for Christmas Dinner." The story tells of the "austerity Christmas" of the spearhead of Eighth Army. "Everything that could give a suggestion of festivity has been sacrificed by the advance units so the pursuit may go on," says Alaric Jacob.

* * *

YOUR HOLE, I THINK

After a heavy bomb had landed in a field close to a Services establishment in the Midlands the farmer wrote to the military authorities:

"Since the bomb that fell in my field was quite obviously meant for your establishment, I should be obliged if you would dispatch a working party at your convenience (as early as possible) to fill in the crater."

* * *

ADOLF WAS WRONG

Mrs Elizabeth Vick, "the woman Hitler couldn't scare" gave a tea party at Bath this week to 38 venerable women and one silver-haired old man on her 102nd birthday. In the Bath blitz her home was bombed and she moved to a Salvation Army hostel for old folk. "You can take it from me, if that Hitler thought he was going to scare me, he was just wrong," she said.

* * *

MARRIED AT LAST

Sergt. Frank Parker, who in peace-time was employed in the Birmingham transport department, and Miss Dorothy Irene Hall of Wylde Green, were to have been married before the war, but the groom was called up while the banns were being called. He was sent abroad and went through two Libyan campaigns, was surrounded by German parachutists in Crete, saw fighting in Syria, was torpedoed on his way home and interned in Casablanca. Finally he was released by the Americans and sent to the States. He returned to England recently — wearing American uniform — and was married to Miss Hall last week.

* * *

BRING YOUR OWN

As no coupons to obtain towels for guests can be supplied to hotel proprietors guests are now being urged through the medium of newspaper advertisements and posters to take their towels with them.



Tank men pose for a picture after their arrival in Tripoli.

Review for the Blue

TRIPOLI — "AN EPIC SECOND TO NONE"
BERLIN RADIO ON "THE GRAVITY OF THE HOUR"
WARNING AGAINST JU-JITSU DIPLOMACY

"One thinks above all of the men, British, Imperial and Allied, of the Eighth Army, who, together with the R.A.F., the Mediterranean Fleet and the people of Malta, have written an epic second to none in the martial annals of this or any other country."

In these words, "The Observer" voiced the jubilation of Britain over the fall of Tripoli. "We in Britain," said The Observer, "feel justly proud, not only of the victorious achievement of Eighth Army, but also of the way in which our dangers and reverses in former stages were overcome. Together with Generals Alexander and Montgomery, whose 1,400-mile advance from Alamein to Tripoli will go down in military history as a model of forethought and tenacious energy, the country thinks of Field Marshal Wavell and General Auchinleck, who staved off defeat when the power of the enemy seemed overwhelming."

Malta celebrated the fall of Tripoli with processions throughout the streets. Valetta's streets were jammed with surging crowds carrying Union Jacks, Stars and Stripes banners and the flags of Malta. R.A.F. men were cheered everywhere.

ADVANCED BASE

Tripoli, last bastion of Mussolini's empire, has now become the advanced base from which Eighth Army will again attack the Afrika Korps. British Official Press estimates that Rommel has half the men he had at Alamein, not more than a quarter of the tanks and heavily depleted artillery, transport and air support. Whether Rommel will try to hold the strong natural defenses near Gabes or fall back on General von Arnim's troops, thus concentrating at the end of its short sea lanes the whole Axis force in Africa, is not yet clear. Arnim has 70,000 troops.

On the western side of the enemy triangle Gabes-Sicily-Bizerta, the British First Army with American support is whipping into shape its long and rain-soused lines of communication. French headquarters in Tunisia report a heavy German armoured

attack in Central Tunis between 50 miles south-west of Tunis and 40 miles south-west of Kairouan.

Hammer blows from the Red Army and the victory in Africa have completely changed the tune of Axis broadcasts. Speaking slowly and solemnly the Berlin announcer said: "These are critical moments... The German people are conscious of the gravity of the hour." The same night, Radio Rome announced: "The great battle fought by Italy for 32 months on the African shore

has now reached its epilogue... The sacrifice of territory is painful, all the more so because it is a region which has belonged to Italy for a third of a century and it has been made fertile by hard work and Italian blood."

The Axis forces in Russia took more heavy blows from the Red Army, the biggest Russian prize of the week being Armavir, railway junction leading to the Maikop oilfields, and Salsk, railway junction 100 miles south-east of Rostov. From the smoke-filled skies above Stalingrad, yellow leaflets, headed "Deutsche Soldaten" fluttered to earth. "Your Führer has not forgotten you" they said. But the Russians said many of the German troops in Stalingrad were still hiding in the sewers; the manhole lids were under ice. They would never see the light again.

AMBASSADOR'S WARNING

Joseph Grew, former U.S. ambassador in Tokyo has warned America to be on its guard lest the Japs attempt to achieve by trickery what they cannot accomplish by strength. "Watch out for ju-jitsu diplomacy," he said. He echoed an earlier warning by Vice-President Henry A. Wallace who said: "When the Axis sees the writing on the wall, it will turn its attention toward winning the peace and laying the foundation for World War III. If we follow the same methods as last time, the Axis will win the peace and World War III."



Townpeople of Tripoli read the proclamation after Eighth Army's occupation.

Little Known Units of the W.D.

by Brian Robb



No. 13. — Officers of the Heavy Garberdinières (VERY little known in W.D.)

BLUE LETTER BOX EIGHTH ARMY SAYING SOMETHING

Capt. T.M. O'Connor, R.A.S.C. 16 M.A.C. : Sorry I am so late in thanking you for your excellent work in putting the article on the unit in "Crusader," before the battle. Thanks a lot. I immediately adopted the St. Bernard as the Unit Sign and the name has certainly stuck. The boys are proud and have done a great job of work in the El Alamein battle and since. We carried six and a-half thousand of the total casualties, getting one D.S.O. and one M.M. This is a personal note of thanks and not only from myself but the unit.

P.S. — By the way, why not an Eighth Army Flash or something. I am sure it would be proudly worn by all these youngsters (and of course the "Old uns") and boost morale no end.

We think your P.S. is a grand idea — we want everyone to know which Army we belong to.

Cpl H. Kahlenberg, 5 Water Tank Coy : I wish to thank you very much for your most welcome surprise, which I was lucky enough to receive on December 30. I am sure that your admirable Eighth Army paper (which I get regularly every week, and after reading it send home to my wife) is eagerly welcomed by every soldier. But I believe that No. 35 was special for me.

For a considerable time I have been without any news from my wife. So you can imagine how I felt when I got her message through the "Crusader" and her picture on top of it!

I am quite unable to find the right words to thank you but I am sure you will appreciate my gratefulness.

The smile on the picture inspires me to carry on until all is over. Many thanks are due to your little paper for that constant encouragement we receive through it.

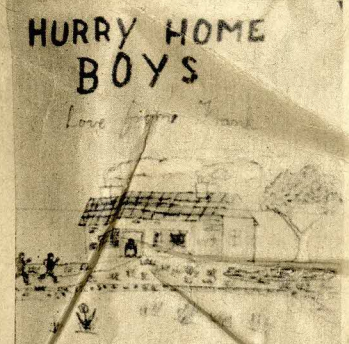
Very glad to have brought the little lady's smile to you, Cpl Kahlenberg. It cheered us, too.

Dvr D. Walton sends us a poem which starts :

*"She's not much to look at, she's rather battered and torn
But her heart's in the right place
Though her big-ends are worn"*

And just in case anyone tries to date her up, we may add that she is a Bedford lorry No. 527562.

Gnr A. Downsworth sends us this airgraph received by him and his brother who are serving in the same unit. We will frank.



Cpl H. Cox, 401 G.I. Coy., R.A.S.C., M.E.F. : You people seem to have a little common sense. Will you please prevent me from murdering a thick-skulled Irish corporal, by settling this hoary old puzzle once and for all?

A man is looking at a photograph on a wall, and for some bloody fool reason mutters these words :

Brothers and sisters have I none, but that man's father, is my father's son.

As a sane Englishman I say that the bloke is looking at a photograph of himself, but my half-witted Irish pal says that it is his son. The sanity of a whole R.A.S.C. Company, and a fifty acker note depends on your answer, so will you please tell this slabsided, numbskull of a mate of mine just where he get's off? In conclusion I would like to add my little note of praise to the chorus, by saying that your paper is really grand, and is looked forward to even more than the beer issue from our canteen.

He's looking at his SON, of course. Pictures for Paddy!

"Reason" : Will you please send me the name of the studio in which your desert pictures are taken.

Come, come now, you don't expect us to believe the population of Tripolitania can read proclam-

ations in English, or do you? "Crusader" 37, back page, seems to suggest it. The first picture also on the back page, is a not very good lake, or I'm a Dutchman. I know the sandstorms play havoc with our eyes, but we're not all that blind.

- (a) The Arab was probably just interested
- (b) You're a Dutchman.

To You — From Mrs Jones

Writing to "Crusader" on one of the first air mail letter cards to come out from Britain, Mrs A.M. Jones of 15 Hickman Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, expresses what our own people are thinking about Eighth Army now —

"I have been fortunate in having your famous paper, 'Crusader', sent to me by my husband, SSM Jones of the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

"It was with pride and admiration that I read all the news in full detail about their glorious campaign. News has been very skimpy in our own newspapers.

"I have a personal message for these lads who are many thousand of miles away. Tell them to keep it up. They are constantly in our thoughts. We are extremely proud of our loved ones. They are doing a grand job of work wonderfully well and have given us the first glimpse of that silver lining which will soon shine brilliantly with final victory.

"Good luck to them all and all my love to my own dear husband.

L/Bdr B.J. French, 153 Hy A. A. Bty R.A. : How to pass away the chilly night hours of duty in the Command Post is a nightmare problem to most A.A. telephonists. I was not surprised, therefore, to find on relieving "Jacko" in the zero-wee hours that he had resorted to the com-

position of verse, although he is quite sane in all other respects. He is a retiring chap who would 'hide his light,' but I have his permission to send you his effort.

To the Luftwaffe :
You will no doubt be pleased to know

*That "Ack-Ack" is no more;
It will no longer trouble you
As in the days of yore.*

For now the Yanks are in the fight,

*With Fairbanks and Clark Gable,
Together we'll eviscerate
J.U.s with "Able Able."*

(U.S. Army Sigs phonetic for letter "A").

Had Edgar Longman been as shy, what the troops would have missed! And with morale a weapon of such power, who can belittle "Crusader's" contribution to the Army's victories. More power to your elbow and continuing success to your efforts.

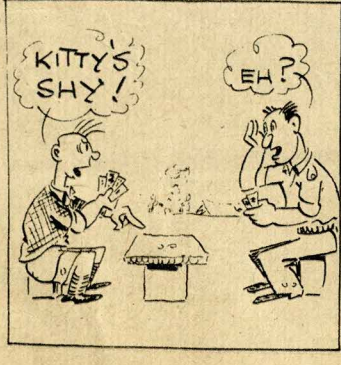
Pte R. W. Kerry : About these air mail letter-cards.

Now that the new sixpenny air mail letter-cards are reaching us from U.K., the ration of one letter-card per week which is allowed at present is insufficient, to say the least of it, as you can hardly reply to letter cards by airgraph, at least not fully, unless the recipient happens to be in possession of a large size in magnifying glasses. Don't think for a moment that I am attempting to disparage the airgraph service; but it is a fact that these air mail letter-cards are 'unrationed' at home, so why can't they be 'unrationed' out here?

I would also like to contact any fellows who are serving out here who are ex-members of any of the London Rhythm Clubs, particularly the S. W. London Rhythm Club.

We'll answer your sport query as soon as possible. Paul Irwin, who is our only source of sport wisdom, is ill, but he hopes to be back with his Page 7 feature next week. Other sport fans seeking information, please note.

George Gumption



No. 17 — Calling All Kitties!

SYD ROBINSON

BLUE NATURE

I don't like the desert any more than most of us do and I've often wondered why some people — only a few, it's true — get fascinated by it and even when there's no war on, voluntarily come and live here for months and years on end.

And then, the other day, I think I began to see the reason. I came across something that looked like a piece of green sash-cord moving along the ground.

I looked a bit more closely and found it was long line of little caterpillars, crawling along nose to tail. They didn't seem to be going anywhere in particular — there wasn't anywhere very much for them to go — and from the way one would move and then stop until the one behind had

bumped into him before going on again, I should say they were probably blind.

Obviously, though, they had some reason for going where ever they were going and I wished I'd had time to follow them along.

Then I remembered how once I watched an ant with the body of a black beetle, twenty of thirty times his own size, busily taking it home — I suppose for his fellow ants to feed on.

He'd leave the beetle for a minute or two and go ahead for about a foot on a sort of recce. Then he'd come back to the beetle, turn round, put his hind legs against it and push until he'd shoved the beetle pretty well to the point to which he'd recced. Then he'd start all over again.

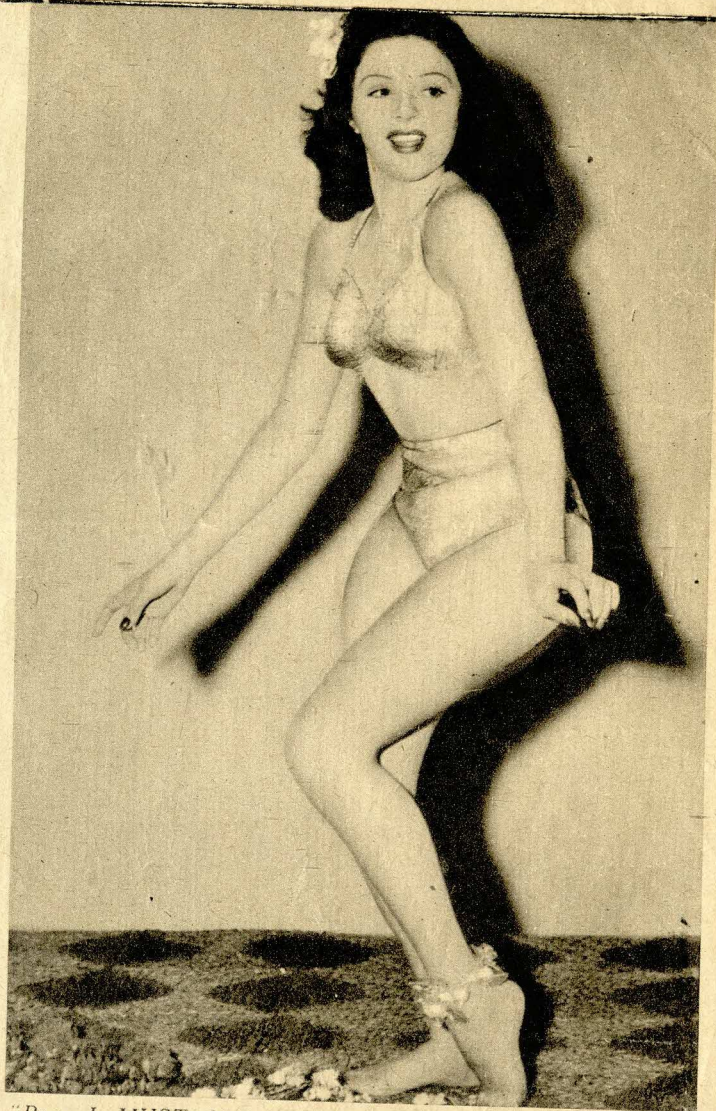
I thought, too, of the snakes and scorpions and funny spiders I'd seen in different parts of the desert and the funny green thing which I'd come across near Benghazi and thought was probably a praying mantis, if there are such things in the desert. And the lizards and chameleons.

In some parts of the desert there are gazelle, I'm told, and I've heard jackals yapping at nights. I have heard it said that there are leopards, too, but I've never met anyone who has seen them.

Only the night before, when we stopped to leaguer, I had seen a hare dash off through the scrub, his pink ears showing over the hummocks when the rest of him had disappeared.

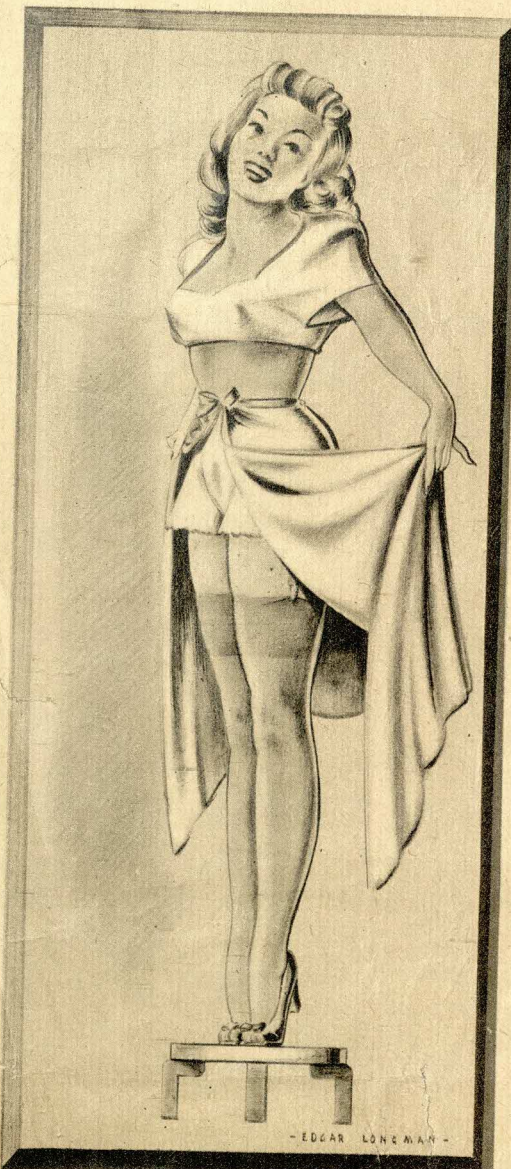
And there were those miles and miles of flowers in bloom near Sirte — the blue ones are night-scented stocks, I was told by a friend of mine who was a farmer before the war, but there are all sorts and colours among them. I picked a few, dried them carefully and sent them home to my mother, who is interested in that sort of thing.

(Continued at foot of next column)



"Boy, I MUST have something; they've put me on top of The Cutie."

Crusader Cutie No. 23



- EDGAR LONGMAN -

"I'm flying to Tripoli tomorrow — and they've marked me PRIORITY ONE!"

EDUCATION CORNER

By Captain J. S. BISHOP, A.E.C.

L/Cpl F.V.G. Farren, writing recently to "Crusader," asked (a) where he could obtain books on poultry and (b) whether any of the correspondence courses now available in the M.E. cover the subject.

The answer to the first question is that one of the A.E.C.'s jobs is to do its best to provide books of this sort. I have already

received many unusual requests — someone has just written to asking if I can supply him with a book on food values and vitamins. I can assure you that I do my best to meet all these requests as promptly as possible, but I must add one word of warning — the M.E. is not very rich in bookshops and with every step westwards communications become more difficult. But let me know and I promise you I will try to help.

BLUE NATURE (From column 2)

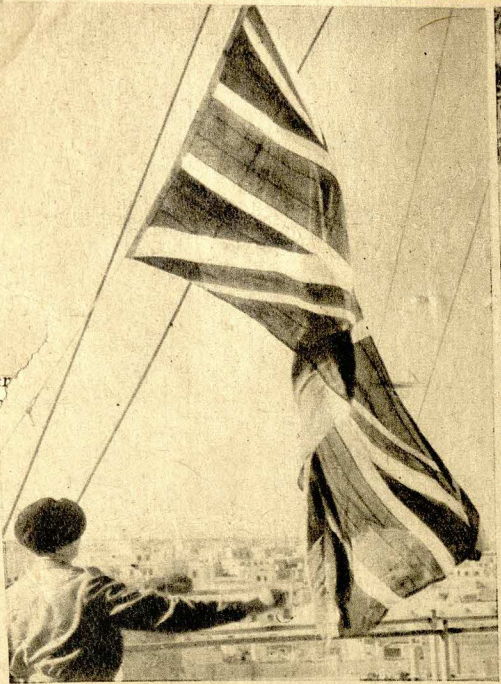
I thought of all these things and decided that perhaps the desert wasn't such a dull place, after all, when there was no war on. There's really plenty going on here. Maybe, after it's all over, when I get a bit tired of my job and going to the pictures and meeting the boys at the local — as one does, sometimes — I shall begin to think longingly of a holiday back in the Western Desert.

LIKE HELL!

R. L. E.

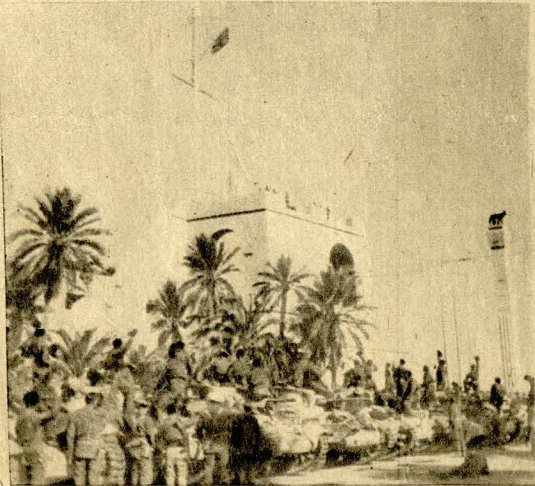
As for L/Cpl Farren's second question, a General Agriculture Course is available and this includes Animal Breeding, Poultry and Dairying. It might be possible to take only the poultry section if so desired; perhaps laying eggs by remote control could also be arranged (but don't send me tea-leaves on the off-chance!).

A letter to me at Rear Army H.Q. is all that is needed to start the ball rolling — and if I can't help it won't be for want of trying.

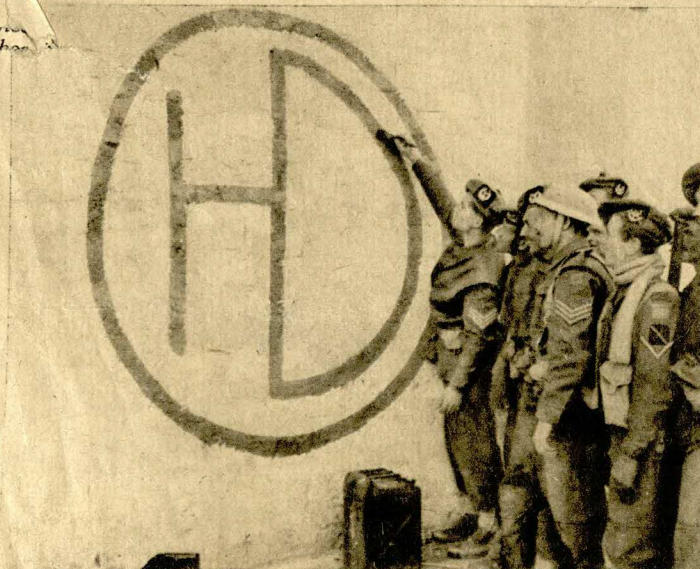


This is it!

The Union Jack is hoisted over Tripoli. A British tank crew "brew-up" in one of the main streets of the town — a contrast to tea-making in the desert.



Left. — Tank men cheer lustily as the Union Jack flutters from the masthead of the guardhouse overlooking the harbour. Centre. — The Army Commander acknowledges the salute of tank crews. Right. — A piper of the Gordon Highlanders on a leading tank.



Happy "Jocks" paint the sign of the Highland Division on the walls of a public building. Valentine tanks rumble along the three-lined streets. British soldiers line the road.



No. 41 Vol. 4 February 8th 1943

"THUNDERBOLT OF ASSAULT"

— Churchill

Speaking to journalists at the press conference at the British Embassy in Cairo after his return from Turkey, Mr Churchill contrasted the position at the time of his last visit to Cairo when Rommel was "a morning's motor-car ride from the city" with the present time.

"The enemy now" he said, "is, I suppose, 1,500 miles away from Cairo and the Eighth Army will follow Rommel wherever he goes. The fugitive from Egypt and Libya is endeavouring to present himself as the deliverer of Tunis. We shall see how that next character fits him and fits the circumstances."

DESPERATE THRUST

"When I last spoke to you Rommel was preparing his offensive. We know now it was a last desperate thrust, but we had no right to assume then that his forces would not have initial success. There was always the possibility that the Eighth Army, in order to retain its liberty of manoeuvre, might for a number of hours or days even have left open the approaches to Cairo... But Rommel did not dare in the event to bypass Eighth Army which would have been between him and his lines of supply."

After referring to "the great thunderbolt of assault" carried out by Eighth Army at Alamein, Mr Churchill said the desert army had delivered Egypt from all danger of invasion from the Western Desert in any period we could imagine or forever.

THE OTHER FLANK

Turning to the other flank by which Egypt might be approached, he said the prodigious victories of the Russian armies had entirely altered the situation. The threat of invasion from the north had been brushed aside by our Russian ally under the leadership of Stalin — "a great warrior whose name will rank with those most honoured in the history of the Russian people."

A third event of great importance in the war was the landing of American and British forces in French North-West Africa.

"There," said the Prime Minister, "we must expect very heavy fighting in the next few months or weeks, and for my part I have the utmost confidence in the result. I have also the belief that the desert army will play a noteworthy part in achieving the final result."

(Continued on Page 4)

Review for the Blue

CHURCHILL IN TURKEY : "COMPLETE AGREEMENT"

R.A.F. BLAST NAZI LEADERS OFF THE AIR

CASABLANCA—"UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" TO PEACE FEELER ?



Mr Churchill in conference with the Turkish Prime Minister.

Following the historic meeting of Churchill and Roosevelt at Casablanca, regarded by the British and American press as a prelude to immense operations, came news of the British Prime Minister's dramatic flying visit to Turkey where conversations with Turkish statesmen and military experts resulted in agreements which were completely satisfactory to the representatives of both nations.

The official communiqué on the visit says that "agreement was reached on the manner in which Great Britain and the United States would be able to help Turkey materially to consolidate her own defensive security."

Immediately after landing on the airfield at Adana, Mr Churchill inspected twenty Hurricanes of the latest type which had been delivered to the Turks only a few days before.

THE RING

British Production Minister Oliver Lyttelton, spoke at Birmingham of a ring formed by Allied forces in three major areas, the Russian armies in the east, the forces of Alexander and Eisenhower in the Middle East and Africa and finally the warships of the Royal Navy from Gibraltar to Murmansk. The lock of that ring is Bizerta, and when that lock is shut the steel ring will be closed... the u-boat menace is one of the few remaining means by which the enemy can prolong the war."

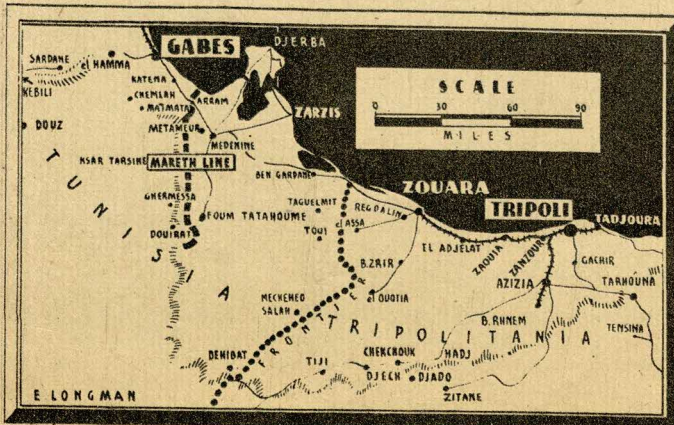
According to a War Office booklet on Eighth Army's achievements, Rommel made three big mistakes at Alamein. He misjudged the supply problem ; underestimated Eighth Army's striking power ; and was not ready for Montgomery's battle tactics.

Persistent London reports assert that the published lists of "those present" at Casablanca were incomplete. A. J. Cummings in the "News Chronicle" wrote : "It is at least possible that through neutral emissaries Axis peace proposals were advanced... Then the stress laid on the resolve of the Allies to continue the war

until the Axis offers unconditional surrender takes on its proper significance."

With a timing that would have rejoiced the heart of a movie director, Mosquito bombers of the R.A.F. roared over Berlin at the second that Göring was to speak on the tenth birthday of the Nazi regime. Göring was billed to speak at 11 a.m. While the clocks in the German capital boomed out the first stroke of the hour the first bombs fell. For an hour the Berlin radio announcer said Göring would be on the air in few minutes." He eventually began his speech more than an hour after the scheduled time. Again in the afternoon as Göbbels started his radio speech from the Sportpalast, a second batch of Mosquitoes rained bombs on the capital.

Hitler did not speak because "the dire necessities of war do not permit him to leave his headquarters." Instead Göbbels read the Führer's proclamation. The unholy trio all followed the same line of instilling strength into the German people through fear. A German defeat, they tried to tell Britain and the neutrals, would let loose a red flood of Bolshevism over Europe, and again promised a "smashing German offensive" against Russia in the spring.





Snowscape in Berkshire.

DREAM COMES TRUE

The ambition of Private Adam Wakenshaw, the Newcastle V.C., has come true. Before he said goodbye to his wife and children in their one-roomed tenement in Dyke Street, he told his wife, Dorothy: "When I come back we shall have a nice new home." Adam never came back, but the Adam Wakenshaw V.C. Fund has provided Mrs Wakenshaw and her two children with nearly £3,000 and they have moved into a new home. Said Mrs Wakenshaw "This is my dream home come true. I don't know to thank everyone for their kindness. It is just what Adam was going to strive to give me. I've got everything I need now and the children are so happy. I wish he could have been here to have seen it all."

* * *

POCKET HERO

Captain Arthur Butterworth (height 5 ft 2 ins) whose home is in Winterbottom Street, Newcastle — he is the smallest and probably the toughest shipmaster in the Merchant Navy — has been awarded the M.B.E. for bringing a boat-load of survivors safely to land after a 13-days journey over 380 miles of stormy sea. This is his fifth award for bravery at sea. Six times he has been torpedoed, five times in the last war. He is now 48. He was born at Bradford, Yorkshire. "How he does it I really don't know for he is only the height of three penny worth of copper" said his wife. "In the last war he was just like a jumping jack. No sooner had he lost a ship than he was off on another. Expect I shall only see him for a few days and he will want to be off again."

* * *

"NO FLOWERS" — NO CHOICE !

At many funerals soon it will be "No flowers — by necessity" because of the enormous cost of floral wreaths. In the London area £5 5s. was asked for a wreath about 18 ins. in diameter and made mostly of leaves. A spray of flowers made up of four blooms and some evergreen cost £2 2s. Florists say the high cost is due to transport restrictions on flowers and the difficulty of obtaining cultivated blooms locally.

SHOW GOES ON

The show goes on at Bournemouth Pavilion, where they are playing "Mother Goose" despite the death of one star and injury of another.

Johnny Watson, at 98 the stage's oldest entertainer, died just before the first performance on Boxing Day, when he was to have taken his troupe of performing dogs before the footlights.

Nellie Wallace fell during the first evening performance and double-fractured her wrist. Now she appears twice daily, despite considerable pain, with her forearm in plaster.

HOME FLASHES

PRECIOUS SPIRIT !

The dispersal of whisky stocks in Scotland is to continue. Some 40 per cent of liquid stores have been distributed to safe zones and the remainder will follow as quickly as arrangements are made. A few million pounds worth of whisky was destroyed by raids in 1941, some of it in a so-called safe area.

* * *

FEATHERED WAR WORKER

Beachcomber, the pigeon that brought to England the first news of the Commando raid on Dieppe, was bred by Mr E. King, of Hatfield Road, Ipswich. Its companion bird with a duplicate message was shot down. Mr King is a racing pigeon fancier and was a prominent member of Ipswich Flying Club before the war. Today he is cooperating in the Pigeon Breeders National Service scheme. "Beachcomber is an outstanding bird" he says. "He is still on active service."

THE VICAR'S MISTAKE

The vicar of St. Paul's, Slough, Rev. A. A. Dowsett, recently forbade a member of the Land Army to enter his church because, as he said, she was "dressed like a man." The next Sunday the Land Army girl, Joyce Wheeler, of Slough, again went to the church, accompanied by 30 other members, all in uniform, and by Lord Addison, chairman of Bucks War Agricultural Committee, who read the lessons. After the service the vicar shook hands with Joyce and said: "It was all a mistake. I did not realise it was your ordinary uniform that you were wearing."

* * *

MAFEESH TONIC !

The familiar order of "gin-and-tonic," heard in most bars, will soon disappear — at least the tonic part of it will. It is expected that the Government will prohibit the making of tonic waters. They contain quinine, needed in large quantities for the Services. Makers and bars will be allowed to use stocks they have, but there will be no replacements.

* * *

MODERN WICKET MASTER

Walter Marshall, for 35 years head groundsman at Trent Bridge Cricket ground, has died in his 90th year. He was one of the greatest experts in the country on the preparation of modern wickets. He prepared the wicket for the first Test played at Trent Bridge in 1899 and from that time until 1934 he devoted himself to the same stretch of turf set aside for the England-Australia games.

* * *

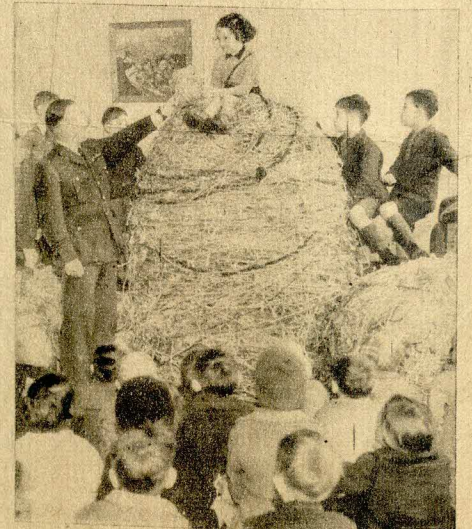
VETERAN CYCLIST DIES

Mr Walter Popplewell of Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, a noted motor engineer, has died at the age of 97. He was Britain's champion cyclist in the days of the "Penny-farthing" and owned the first of these machines in Suffolk. Altogether he won nearly 200 caps with it at local racing events.

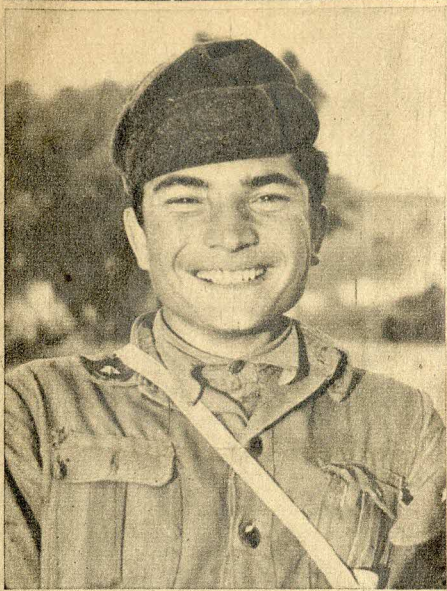
* * *

HOUSING SHORTAGE ?

"Gentleman has large dog kennel for disposal, specially made for him, separate compartments, 2 entrances..." (Advt in Sussex paper).



Ravenscroft School children in Kent, presented this mammoth ball of string (75 miles of it) to a famous bomber pilot. String is converted into fabric for operational maps.



A contrast in types of Axis prisoners. The Italian seems highly delighted about it. The German, who bears a strong resemblance to Spencer Tracy was at Pennsylvania University and spent 12 years in the U.S.A. He was completing his education at Munich when war began. He speaks English with an American accent; says he wants to get back to America.

Short Story

By H.L.V. Fletcher

“ANY COMPLAINTS ?”

The Colonel was looking distinctly uncomfortable when Sergeant Wotherspoon was shown in. He'd just been reflecting that it was always the confounded amateurs, in army life as everywhere else, who spoiled things with their enthusiasms.

Sergeant Wotherspoon saluted smartly. "Er—you wished to—er—make a complaint, Sergeant?"

"Complaints," corrected the Sergeant. "Er—yes, quite." The Colonel was an easy-going man who loved being left alone. After all, what are adjutants for? "Very good."

"Not good at all," said the Sergeant acidly, adding much too loudly. "—sir."

The Colonel winced. "Won't you sit down?"

CORPORAL WATSON

"No, thank you, sir." The Sergeant remained stiffly at attention.

"Oh, do stand easy," ordered the Colonel irritably. "Well, who is it this time?"

"I regret to have to point out, sir, that Corporal Watson is still drinking too much."

"The regimental police—"

"Do not do their duty. Last night Corporal Watson was, not to put too fine a point on it, intoxicated. He went to his hut singing a song." No words could translate the grim emphasis. "A song!" repeated the Sergeant.

"No harm in that—"

"I venture to disagree, sir. This particular song—well, the men must be made to remember that there are A.T.S. girls here. Their windows were open and it was a very clear night. Corporal Watson's voice was distinct—"

"I thought you said he was drunk?"

"—was distinct," repeated the Sergeant.

"And I understand that this morning three of the girls were heard—h'm—"

"You don't say so?" chuckled the Colonel.

"Young devils—" He caught the Sergeant's

eye. "Disgraceful, of course, Disgraceful." He made a note on a pad.

"Then there is the matter of Captain Huntley's leave."

"Captain Huntley's leave?"

"Captain Huntley is applying for special leave for family reasons."

"But the adjutant—"

"I think it would be better, sir," said Sergeant Wotherspoon, "if too much were not left to the adjutant. As a matter of fact, Captain Huntley's wife is in the north of Scotland. He couldn't possibly go and return in the time. So his family reasons don't appear very convincing."

"His father or mother—" suggested the Colonel tentatively.

"Captain Huntley has neither. But he has seemed to take a good deal of interest in

Private Muriel Bloom of the A.T.S., and her leave is due about now—"

"Muriel Bloom?" mused the Colonel absently. "The blonde?"

"Blonde?" thundered the Sergeant.

"Er—the Major said something about a blonde called Muriel," stammered the Colonel.

"Private Bloom is blonde," said the Sergeant coldly. "At present."

"Ah. Really. Well, perhaps Captain Huntley had better let his family look after itself."

"I should think so," snapped the Sergeant. "—sir."

THE SERGEANT MAJOR

"Anything else?" queried the Colonel. "Sergeant-major Storm's language."

"Oh, the Sergeant-major. Yes, of course. But one has to make allowances for Sergeant-majors, you know."

"It is a bad example, sir. Some of the girls were observed listening to him the other day. He was making some comments to a recruit whose rifle was not clean—"

"T't, t't! Naturally that would shock the girls—"

"They were laughing about it. Which is worse."

The Colonel murdered an incipient grin. "Yes, quite. Well, we must—er—do something."

THE WALRUS

"It would be quite a good idea," said the Sergeant, "if somebody suggested to Major Gurnep that he have his moustache trimmed. He looks like a walrus."

"A walrus!" The Colonel laughed. "Oh, certainly. I'll mention it myself with the greatest pleasure. Is there anything else?"

There were, it appeared, several more. The Colonel listened for some time. Then he looked at his watch. "Er—I'm afraid, Sergeant—an appointment."

The Sergeant jumped smartly to attention.

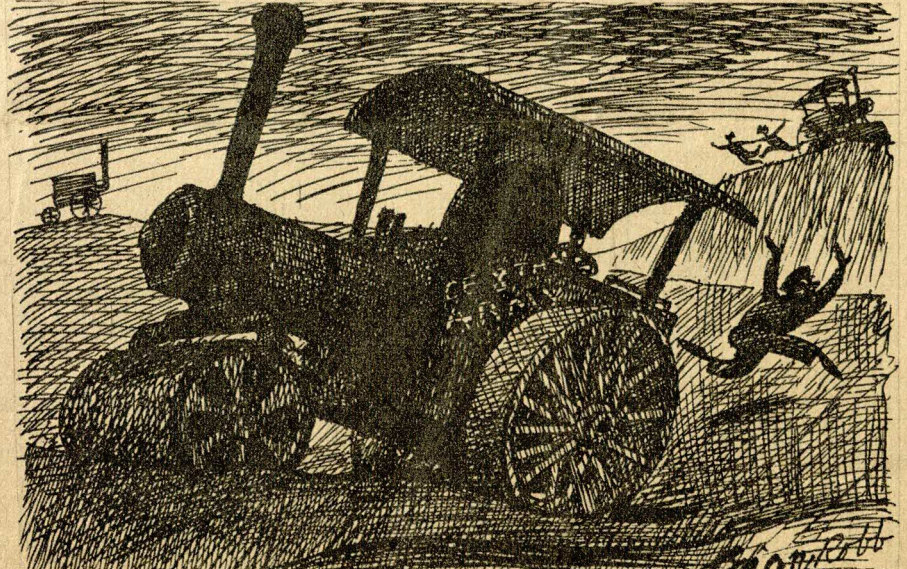
The Colonel sighed as he watched Sergeant Wotherspoon of the A.T.S. march smartly from the room.

"I'd murder that woman," he muttered—"if she weren't my wife."

(From "Men Only")

Little Known Units of the W.D.

by Brian Robb



No. 14. — 221 Road-making Equipment Abandonment Section.

On to Climax!

Speaking of his visit to Turkey, Churchill said the conference had been important and agreeable and the result would have important relation to the general world position. Friendship between Britain and Turkey, together with mutual trust, goodwill, sympathy and understanding were in full vitality again.

"The world struggle," Mr Churchill said, "is now proceeding with gathering momentum towards its climax. As to when that climax will be reached, as to whether further unexpected vicissitudes may lie before us I shall attempt to say nothing, but at any rate as far as we have gone, we have every reason to rejoice."

Old Moore Upsets Nazis

A prophesy in Old Moore's Almanac that the war will end with an Allied victory in 1943 has upset the German Legation in Dublin, where copies of the almanac were on sale. The legation has protested that the prophesy was a breach of neutrality and the Eire censors have ordered the deletion of the passage. The "Daily Mirror" says that it is apparently feared that the forecast might drive home further the conviction held by most Southern Irishmen that the Allies are going to win the war.



This young Italian shows a keen interest in the gun barrel.

... and the "Brig" smiled



Jock hated Brigadiers. Jock hated all 'brass hats' on principle. The fiery invective he hurled at their unsuspecting heads would have curled their hair — if any. In fact, Jock had no use for the whole bally System bombardiers, sergeants, officers and all, individually and collectively.

And yet when there was a job of work to be done Jock would get 'stuck in' better than most.

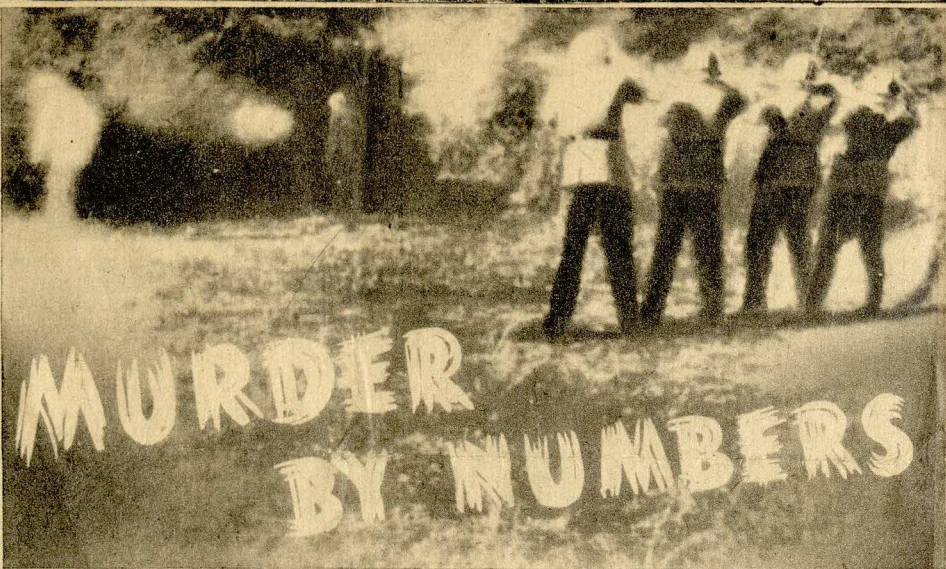
Now Jock isn't so sure. Bouncing along in the back of a truck the other day, he was laying it on as usual. Those 'brass hats' and their posh cars; living on the fat of the land; doing Sweet Fanny Adams and drawing hefty 'screws' for it, etc, etc.

A staff-car crept up behind us and Jock looked out with a scowl. The Brigadier was in the front seat. Jock looked at the Brigadier and the Brigadier looked at Jock. The Brigadier smiled. Jack's face went blank, then an answering grin spread right across it. The staff car swept by and Jock turned to us.

"Cripes, he SMILED at me! What d'yer know about that — the Brig, smiled at me!"

Which puts Jock on nodding terms with the Brigadier — a privilege about which he does not fail to let us know at frequent intervals.

D. B.



Here is the simplest, the grimmest and the most convincing evidence we have yet seen of the methods by which Hitler's rule is enforced on countries which fall into his power. It is a captured order issued by H.Q. 125 German Infantry Regiment on 28 October 1941, when the unit was stationed in Jugoslavia.

Supplementary regulations by GOC Serbia concerning the manner of carrying out executions make necessary the following amendments to Regimental Orders of 16.10.41 :

- (a) When a large number of persons have to be dealt with they are to be distributed for shooting among units.
- (a) The bodies are to be buried in sufficiently deep graves. Burning of bodies is to cease. The placing of flowers on graves by the populace is to be prevented.

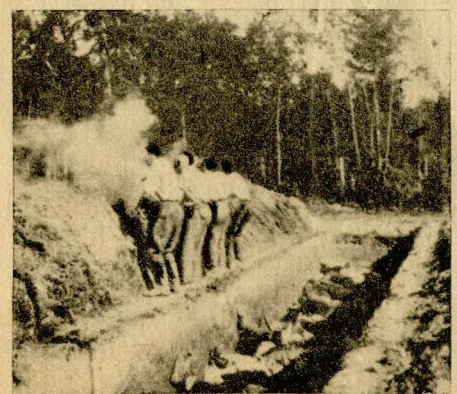
THEY MAY KNEEL

(c) In order to avoid unnecessary contact with the bodies persons to be led directly to the edges of their graves. In the case of mass executions it is allowable to cause the hostages to kneel with their faces towards the grave.

(d) Shooting of large numbers is to be carried out in groups of five to eight, one after the other. Those to be shot must have their legs tied.

(e) Before the execution takes place those to be shot should have all papers removed.

A short report is to be made on the execution, showing : (i) Names of those shot ; (ii) Reasons for shooting ; (iii) Name of officer i/c ; (iv) Place, time ; (v) Name of the officer ordering the execution should be rendered.



"Shootings will be carried out in groups..."

RUSSIA

While the powerful Russian armies roll on to the west across the rich Kuban country in the Caucasus and 600 miles to the north towards Kursk and Kharkov, Hitler is confronted with even greater disaster than at Stalingrad, where the resistance of the German Sixth Army finally ceased with the surrender of Field Marshal Paulus and eleven of his generals.

Rather than carrying out new thrusts, the Red Army is busy bolstering its gains, according to Paul Winterton of the "News Chronicle." But the Red Army is still rolling forward on the Voronezh Front and in the Caucasus. Pouring through gaps in the German line at Kastornoe and Novo Oskel, west of Voronezh, the Russians hold a starting point for a direct drive on the major German base of Kursk, 50 miles to the east.

ANOTHER DUNKIRK

After the fall of the Caucasian railway towns of Kropotkin and Tikhoretsk and the oil centre of Maikop, the increased Russian threat to Krasnodar and Novorossisk is squeezing the Germans on to the snowbound Kuban Plain. The Germans can escape only by running from Krasnodar or attempting a Dunkirk across the Kerch Straits.

In a survey of the Russian fronts the German News Agency states: "Between Voronezh and the Donetz Estuary the enemy continued their attacks with increased pressure. Between the Kuban and the Lower Don the enemy attempted to break through the German lines."

FULL COUNT

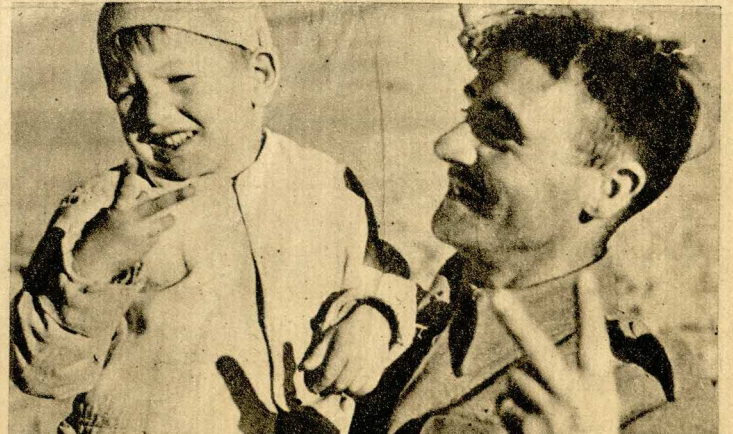
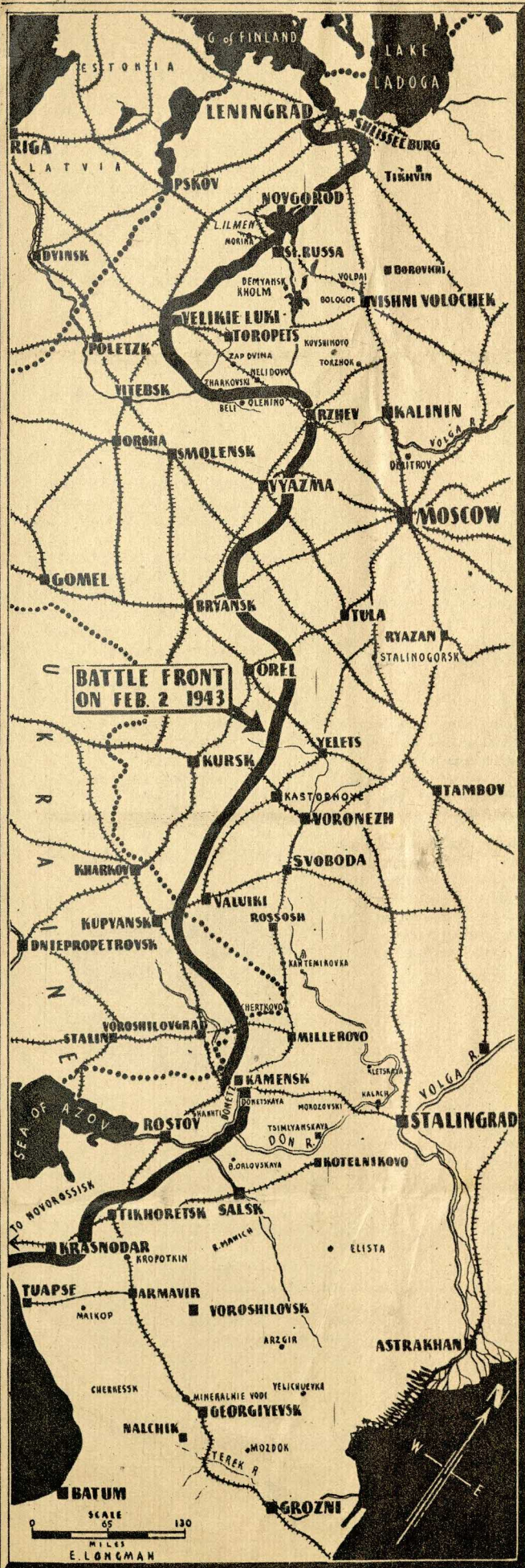
It is expected that the full count of German dead at Stalingrad will give a figure of well over a quarter of a million. Since the Russian offensive began on January 10, 46,000 prisoners have been taken, thus leaving to be accounted for some 40,000 of what is now known to have been an original Axis strength of 330,000 troops. Between four and

five thousand of these are still holding out in the smaller of two rings between the railway running north-west and west of Stalingrad. The remainder are made up of the still uncounted dead and the prisoners taken before the offensive began.

Mario Appellius, Italian radio commentator declared in a review of the eastern front: "Russia was not a country — is was a barracks, a military arsenal. Stalin is hurling motorised forces in handfuls into the furnace. The military strength of Bolshevism is an undeniable reality; to close one's eyes and refuse to recognise this is childish... The European troops have grim and bloody days ahead on the Eastern Front."

S.W. PACIFIC

Foiled in New Guinea and the Solomons, Japan is preparing to hit at, perhaps invade, Australia from another direction, probably Timor, according to agency messages from Canberra. "Enemy concentrations are large enough and preparations thorough enough to indicate an impending move of utmost importance," said British Official Press. While Prime Minister Curtin said in an Australia Day broadcast: "Time is now fighting on the side of Japan, ex-Premier Menzies warned: "The tentacles will wither only when the octopus is hit on the head." Said Dr Herbert Evatt, Minister for External Affairs: "The time has now arrived when it is our duty to inquire urgently and insistently that the proper needs of the south-west Pacific in relation to total war strategy shall be met."



British Tommy teaches "V" sign to young Italian.

PAUL IRWIN

(former "Sunday Express" Sports Editor)

Talking Sport

Crusader Cutie

No. 24

What is going to happen to big cricket after the war? It seems that this question has been discussed away back at home by the lairds of Lord's and, as was only to be expected from them, they believe that the game will stumble back into the somnolent jog trot of the old days.

In other words, customers, it is their idea that the county championship, with its inequalities and absurdities, will go on as it has done since time out of mind.

Now I am a notorious wrong guesser, but I hazard the opinion that the man who pays the money at the turnstiles will not have county cricket at any price. Wearisome three-day games, dragging through the sun-scorched hours, won't suit him.

ACTION WANTED

The tempo of big-time sport has been quickening. Action is wanted to-day, not the sight of a batsman patiently patting his way to a long line of centuries.

I should have thought that the game's chiefs had learned something from war time cricket. Twenty thousand have gone along to Lord's to see a one-day match. Why? Because they know that, the English weather permitting, they will see the beginning and end of the game. In short, they will get a result; and, in the bargain, they will see batsman hungry for runs — runs in a hurry — and bowlers really attacking, not just turning their arms to keep down the score.

The trouble with cricket in the past has been that it has had a rush of dignity to the head. It wants to let its hair down a bit.

As I see it, the county clubs must think seriously after the war of reframing the championship. Suggestions have already been

made that matches should be limited to a couple of days, at the most, with seven hours' play each day.

Well, that's a step in the right direction. Personally, I hold the view that a National League, similar to the worthwhile competitions in Lancashire and Yorkshire, is the best bet. Let's have one-day matches — the razor-keen battle for points; the old rivalries which can pull the customers into Soccer grounds on the bleakest January day.

Having said this, I can hear the bleats from the lilywhite disciples of county cricket. They will argue — have argued — that it is the spirit of the game that counts, not the mere game itself. You know their line of talk: poppycock about cool figures in flannels casting long shadows as the sun sets over the old elms.

Muddled thinkers, they are for ever confusing professional cricket with the village green. Believe me, I am all for village games, with the glorious finale in the "local," but no one yet ever paid out good akkers to see such affairs.

No, sir, your modern sports follower wants action. If he does not get it from cricket after the war then, as Old Moore Irwin now forecasts, he will go to the dogs or to the speedway.

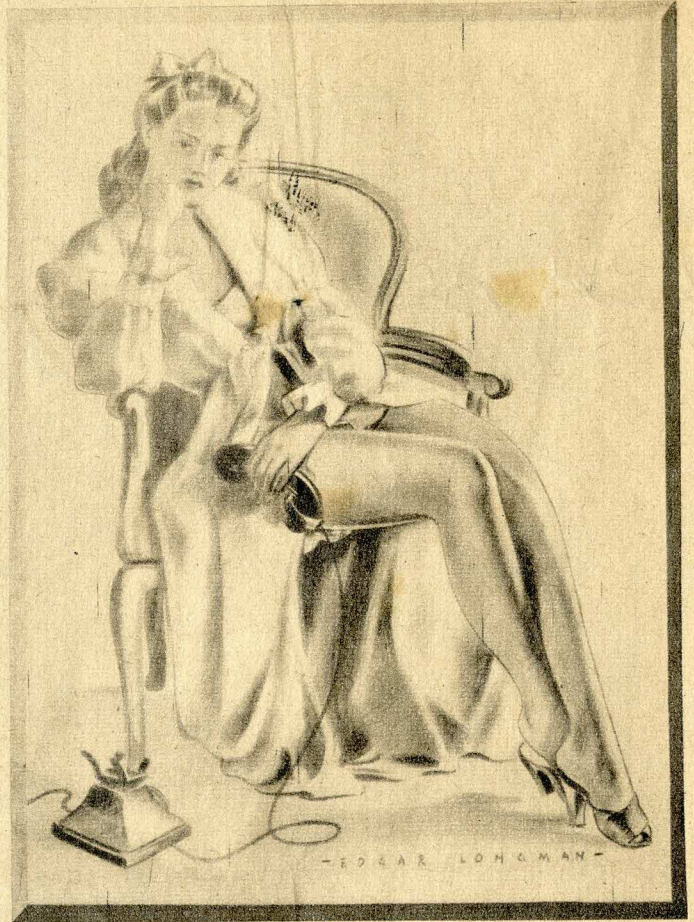
And now say I didn't tell you.

ANSWERS DEPT.

Pte R. Hogg: Kid Tanner is a feather-weight. As a boxer in that division he fought a draw with Tommy Shaw, the Devon boy.

L/Cpl. R. White: Neither Arsenal nor Sunderland has ever played in Division II.

Pte R.W. Kerry: Chelsea were relegated to Division II in 1923-4 and were promoted in 1929-30.



"I asked him what she'd got that I hadn't — and he told me!"

THE GRIFF

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK DEPT.

"The outlook for the Russians is very poor. Their present situation is serious. Their food supplies are inadequate and their transport very limited. The Germans, on the other hand, have the advantage of special winter clothing, of valuable experience and of employing tactics which continually endanger the Soviet transport. The coming Spring will show how little is left of the military power of the Soviet." (Gen Hasse, in the "Boersen Zeitung").

HE EARNED IT!

Gallantry in learning the German language is one of the two reasons given by the Nazi army authorities for awarding the Order of the Eagle with Swords to an Italian officer in Libya. The other reason is that he disobeyed Italian Army orders not to supply Italian petrol to German vehicles.

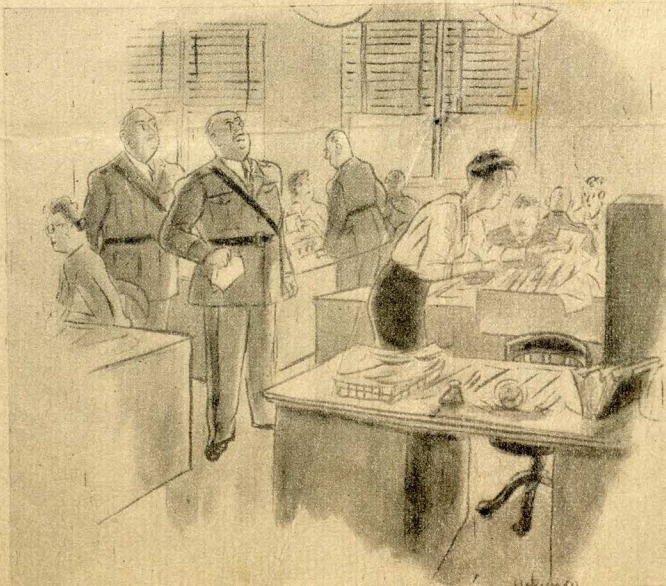
The captured document which describes the award to Lieut. Pe-

ter Ghigo speaks with deep emotion of the above services to "Italo-German cooperation." "He was one of the few Italian officers to learn German," says the document.

As an illicit supplier of petrol to the Germans he was so popular that German drivers affectionately nicknamed him the "Petrol-Lieutenant."

DESTROY 7th COLUMN

Now that the Axis forces have been driven from Tripoli the help of Eighth Army is needed for another big job — the battle of the Fourth Front. This campaign is aimed at destroying the Seventh Column, the people who are holding up victory by wasting stores and equipment. Shipping space is vital for the knock-out offensive planned by the Allies: help to stop waste and release those ships NOW. The women in the factories at home are proud of Eighth Army: join in the Fourth Front fight to shorten their working hours. Go to it!



"Surely you haven't misled the 51st Division again, Miss Smith!"

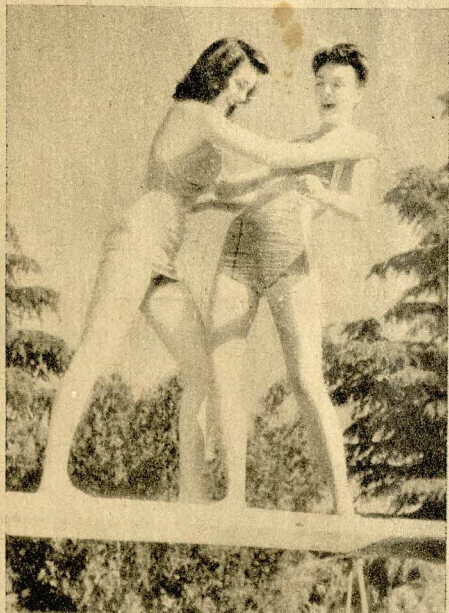


Useful lesson in pictures for Eighth Army troops is how to cross a stream. First step is a smart start on your bicycles.



CRUSADER WATER COURSE

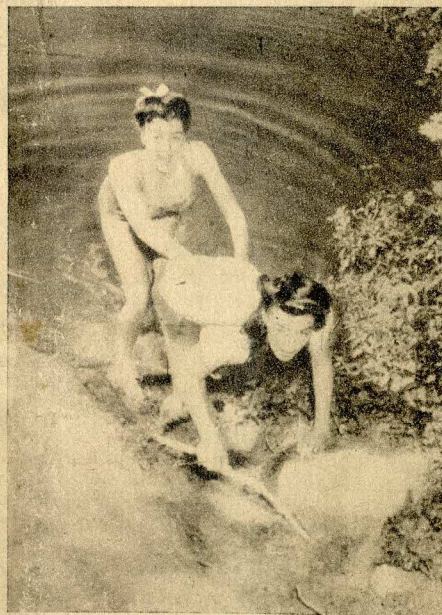
Army Regulations state that water's temperature must be tested before entering. Note scientific instruments used for this.



Four-armed Combat. To make this hold effective it is recommended you bring your own diving-board.



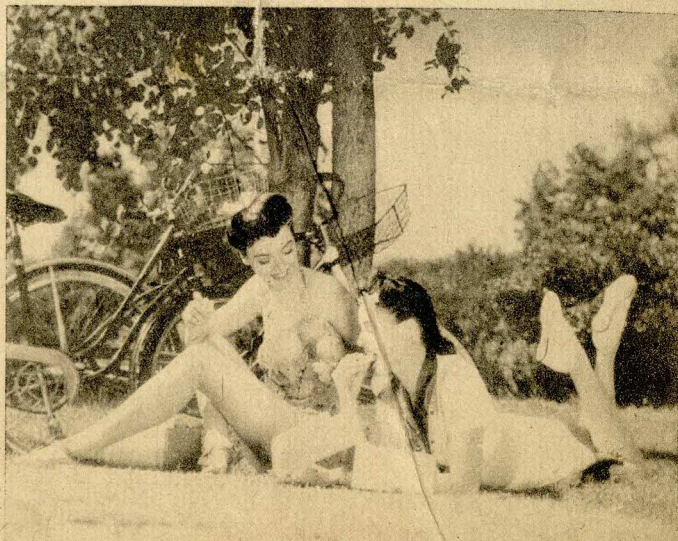
Opposition can often be overcome by showing your teeth and charging straight at them.



Tough Tactics. "Grrr!" Here we come. Note stealthy look. Watch out behind that bush, gunvor. We're after you.



Hoorah! Here we are, across at last. We don't seem to have got very wet. All-river-crossers should guard against this.



Grub Up! Now for a nice quiet natter about world affairs. "And what do you think of the over-all war situation?"

The girls are Marguerite Chapman and Leslie Brooks, Columbia starlets.

MARETH LINE

In the past few weeks most of us have read or heard about the "Mareth Line" as the stiffest hurdle facing Eighth Army since Alamein. And most of us have only the vaguest idea what or where the Mareth Line is. Now in this article experts tell you about it.



EIGHTH ARMY WEEKLY

No. 42 Vol. 4 February 15th 1943

Review for the Blue

The magnitude of the tasks facing the British people now that the Prime Minister has returned from concerting this year's plan of action is widely discussed in the newspapers at home. The "Manchester Guardian" says: "Again we are on the edge of the action of new offensives. We need not speculate where, but we can trust Roosevelt and Churchill to be as alive as the keenest of us to the strategic necessity of complementing on the west Russia's magnificent efforts on the east. Churchill comes back to meet a Government ungrudging in its appreciation of his work... but concerned about the weaknesses that still reveal themselves. Among these is the submarine danger."

London newspapers also stress the urgency of grappling with the u-boat problem. The general opinion expressed is that only when this most dangerous of Hitler's weapons has been smashed will he lose the hope of peace or compromise. Admiral Stark, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, on his return to Britain from U.S.A., said he hoped that by the end of 1943, the British and U.S. Navies would have the u-boats where they wanted them.

FUNERAL MUSIC

After capturing an area of Russia greater than that of Great Britain, the Red Army, at the time "Crusader" went to press, was threatening Rostov, eight miles away; Kharkov, 38 miles away; and Kursk, 14 miles away. A 100-mile Russian outflanking movement along the Donetz threatened not only Rostov, but the entire German Donetz defence system.

For three days last week every radio station in Greater Germany played what the announcers called "heroic music." This ranged from the classic funeral marches to "Ich hatte einen Kameraden." "And thus" said Radio Roma "the dead of Stalingrad were laid to rest in their tombs by the entire German people." In "Das Reich" Göbbels, inaugurating a reign of gloom, wrote: "Our soldiers had won victory after victory and thus spoiled public opinion... Now before us we suddenly see the darker side of war."

Even more frank was Lt.-Gen. Dittmar, Berlin Radio's Liddell Hart. "For the first time we Germans feel the full tragedy of a setback; for the first time we experience what we so often have inflicted on others. A German army has ceased to exist." "It is music for a funeral" said a Pole on the B.B.C. "The funeral of Germany's eastern dreams."

(Continued on Page 8)

The Mareth position now stands between Eighth Army and the Allied Forces in Northern Tunisia. It was built by the French as a stop to the Italians. It is a strange irony that, by being themselves defeated, the Italians are now taking it over nearly three years after they made faces at it from afar before turning East to march on Egypt.

The first defences to be built in Southern Tunisia were on the Southern perimeter of the Gabes oasis. At the same time work was started on the Mareth Line, intended to bar the routes from Libya towards Gabes between the sea and the very difficult Matmata hills at the point where the Wadi Zigzaou provides a natural obstacle.

THREE MAIN STAGES

By 1939 the Mareth line was complete. It had been built in three main stages. First, localities covering the ways across the Wadi Zigzaou; second, localities in the gaps between these, making the line continuous; third, 'support localities' one to two kilometres in rear of the line, covering the forward localities.

The forward localities contained concrete pillboxes and emplacements for small arms and anti-tank guns up to 75 mm. The support localities were not concreted, although they contained certain concreted battalion and brigade headquarters, and in rear of them were unconcreted artillery positions. From Sidi Touati, south to the Medenine—Halluf road the defences are on a different system, with no continuous line. Self-supporting localities of about company strength were built into commanding hills, the difficult country acting as an obstacle. From Bir Sultane to Ksar El Halluf a series of positions, largely unconcreted, was constructed to prevent movement along the Wadi Halluf.

Between the Mareth Line and the frontier strong outposts were built to block the foot of the hills. The first is Ben Gardane, a defended village with four concreted company strongpoints on the main roads north, south, east and south-east; the second, Fom Tatahouine, where the roads are covered by three strongpoints of about company strength built into commanding features. Medenine, an important road centre, is similarly defended, but was intended mainly to be the base for mobile counter-attack.

The French proposed to hold the Mareth Line from the sea to Sidi Touati, where the Wadi Zigzaou peters out and the hills begin, with two infantry divisions. These manned the pillboxes with post weapons. In the hills there was to be another infantry division, the greater part of which had a counter-attack role, the remainder manning the hill strongpoints. The two out-

posts at Ben Gardane and Fom Tatahouine were each to hold a battalion group. A cavalry division, two-thirds of which would have been operating forward, was to be based on Medenine. In 1939 a battalion was based on El Hamma, presumably to hold the defences in the Gebel Tebaga.

In addition to the normal troops desert garrisons guarded the flank. These were irregular formations known as Goums, each of some 220 Arabs under French officers. When they were wanted the local Sheikh was informed, a fire was lighted on the hills and the volunteers poured in. Each man was issued with a little food and eighty cartridges, and they became a tough and easily maintained force.

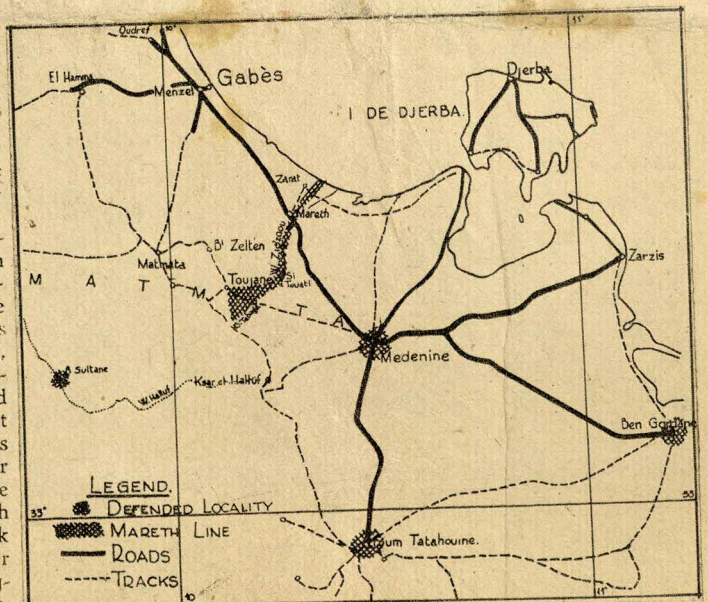
The Mareth Line was based on certain assumptions. First, that the British and French would have command of the sea and that no landings behind the line would be possible. Second, that it would not be possible to outflank it. Third, that the local population would co-operate.

HIDDEN WINE!

Time and the Italian Armistice Commission have combined with the Italian shortage of metal to alter the line considerably. In the summer of 1940 all post weapons were removed. The anti-tank obstacle was flattened, the wire cut, the *champ de rails* removed, and the dragon's teeth demolished. The metal was taken away from the prepared defences and the armour was removed from the pillboxes.

The line today, as taken over by the enemy, consists of a series of well-sited but empty pillboxes and emplacements. They may have available the French weapons removed from them and possibly the reserve ammunition from the main dumps. And they will possibly discover, too, the wine which at least one French battalion hid there.

W.





Springtime in Kent. On the brow of the hill is a characteristic oast house in which hops are dried.

CRAZY CORPSES !

Thirteen top-line West End stage and variety stars (unpaid) staggered the audience at the Strand Theatre on the opening night of the shocker, "Arsenic and Old Lace." The play concerns two "lacey" old spinsters whose antidote to boredom is murder. Together they are responsible for thirteen corpses during the action of the play. The audience howled when after the cast had taken the curtain call, somebody called for the corpses. On the stage, in full make-up marched Flanagan and Allen, Robert Morley, Bobby Howes, Sydney Howard, Alfred Drayton, Robertson Hare, Richard Hearne, Tommy Trinder, Vic Oliver, Arthur Askey, Jerry Verno and Douglas Byng. The thirteen corpses appeared for one night only. Originator of the gag was variety's biggest leg-puller, Bud Flanagan.

* * *

WATER PITY !

London shares with the whole country in the increase reported in beer drinking. Where six pints were drunk before the war, seven are now swallowed. Officials state that the reason for the increased consumption is because the beer is weaker.

* * *

MINERS' HOTEL

The Gleneagles Hotel has been reopened as a rehabilitation centre for Scottish miners, 200 of whom can be accommodated at one time.



Soldiers of the Red Army, on a visit to Britain, saw in production the famous six-pounder gun. The soldiers are members of the Soviet Military Mission.

LOCAL GOVT. "GUINEA-PIGS"

Sixty members of the Weston-Super-Mare Borough Council staff have volunteered for a cold cure experiment under Dr Cyril Eastwood, medical officer of health. Two groups are daily taking capsules of vitamin concentrates, while the remainder not taking capsules are being used as a control. Records of reactions are being kept to see if colds — most frequent cause of absenteeism — can be diminished.

HOME FLASHES

FELL FROM EXPRESS

Michael Baker, aged seven, travelling with his parents from Paddington to Aberdare, South Wales, fell from a G.W.R. express near Langley, Bucks, when the train was travelling at full speed. The train was stopped and gangers found the boy on the grass verge of the track practically uninjured. He has now fully recovered.

* * *

LOWESTOFT CLIFF FALL

High tides and a heavy swell have recently scoured away a considerable area of cliff at Pakefield, near Lowestoft. A corner of the old churchyard with its wall, has gone, and the occupants of cottages have been standing by ready to evacuate their homes. Longshore fishermen, whose stores were threatened, moved their gear and huts, and afterwards saw the ground on which they had stood collapse on to the beach.

* * *

COAL CROP RECORD

Last week Nottinghamshire miners brought to the surface the largest amount of coal ever produced in a similar period in the history of the country's coalfields.

HIGHBROWS HEATED !

The Incorporated Society of Musicians unanimously adopted the following resolution at its annual meeting in London :

"This meeting views with apprehension the continued debasement and mutilation of the classics by dance band leaders and others. Such a habit, contrary both to good taste and good manners, should not be tolerated in an enlightened community."

* * *

REMOVALS BY GLIDER

Gliders were used recently for the first time by a Mustang squadron of the R.A.F. Army Co-operation Command to transfer the entire ground and clerical staffs of the squadron from one airfield to another. The operation was completed in one hour. The gliders were piloted by sergeant-pilots of an Airborne Division and were towed by twin-engined bombers.

* * *

WATER BY PARACHUTE

British Overseas Airways aeroplanes will soon carry parachute water containers to be dropped on survivors from ships. The suggestion was made by Captain A. G. Store who piloted the flying boat *Berwick* when it helped save 20 survivors in a ship's boat off the coast of Liberia recently.

* * *

C.I.D. CHIEF FOUND SHOT

Detective-supt. Cyril George Boneham, chief of the Coventry C.I.D. has been found dead in his office with a bullet wound in his head and a revolver lying near.

* * *

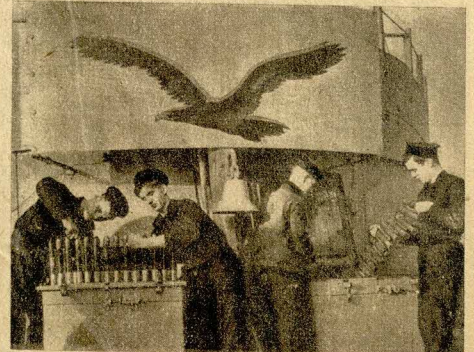
BLANKETS SAVE FUEL

Members of the Select Committee on equal war injury compensation wrapped their feet and legs in blankets which were provided in a room of the House of Commons last week. In order to save fuel the room was not centrally heated.

* * *

BRIGHTER BLACK-OUT

London buses and trams are now allowed better lighting during the black-out. Stronger lamps are being fitted, and it will be possible to fit 55 buses with producer-gas plant, thereby effecting a saving of 3,500,000 gallons of petrol a year.



H.M.S. "Royal Eagle", one of the largest paddle steamers afloat in European waters, carried thousands of peace time pleasure makers from Tower Bridge to Southend and Ramsgate. She now has a distinguished battle record, and picture shows ratings filling pom-pom ammunition belts on board.

BENDERS v. MENDERS

It's enough to break your bloody heart," sighed the sergeant fitter as he watched the staff car disappear in a series of leaps and lurches down the pot-holed track. The sergeant is noted for the philosophic calm of his temperament. Hence the mildness of his comment.

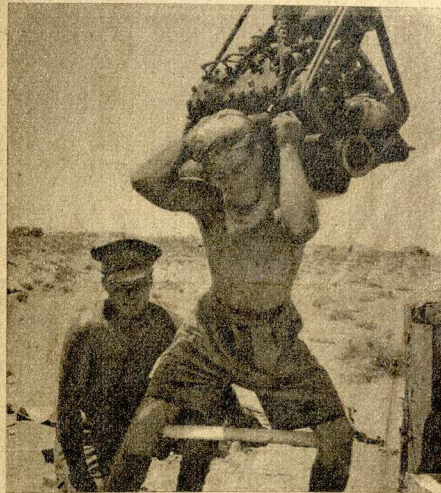
"That car has been in twice this week already with busted springs. I bet my back teeth she'll be in again tomorrow." The sergeant fitter was right.

That is the sort of thing No. 1 Workshops platoon, R.A.S.C. which has nursed the transport of Eighth Army Headquarters ever since its formation well over a year ago, has to put up with month after month. It's the sort of thing scores of workshops attached to formations throughout Eighth Army have to put up with. And according to experts at least 33% of it is unnecessary.

TOO FAST

"Most of the damage is done by driving too fast for the state of the track," say they. "Overtaking at speed along pot-holed road margins is a common cause of trouble. And it's not the humble driver who is usually the worst offender.

"Officers and other ranks are equal offenders. In fact some of them seem to think that a Government vehicle has no feeling and they treat it in a way that would give them the shivers if they saw the same medicine being handed out to their own car at home. Of course, sometimes every minute IS vital and they have to speed regardless. But usually it's just thoughtlessness."



Here is one example of the sort of thing that breaks the heart of the boys in the workshops. Recently a Ford station wagon was towed in. This was the "bill of fare."

Front springs repaired ; steering drop-arm straightened ; radiator repaired ; radiator condenser repaired ; "pool" engine fitted ; new carburettor fitted ; two rear springs fitted ; chassis plated and welded ; brakes overhauled ; new speedo-cable fitted ; front and rear bumpers straightened ; distributors, dynamo and starter overhauled ; wiring overhauled ; new battery fitted ; new water pump fitted ; body re-painted.

And, of course, the owner "must have it back tonight." He got it four days later — and he was doing well at that.

And here is another recent example, this time a 3-ton Chev.

12/1/43—front spring repaired. 15/1—right front spring repaired. 23/1—right front spring repaired. 27/1—right front spring repaired ; centre bolt and two U-bolts replaced ; front axle straightened ; 3 big ends run.

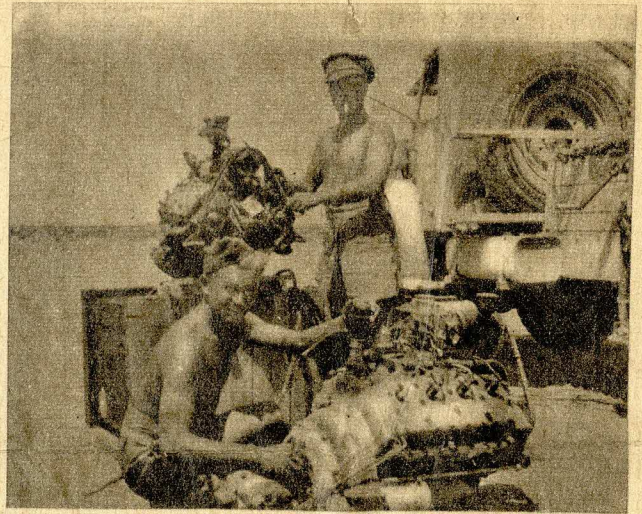
At least four of these breakages were due simply to driving too fast over bad roads. Each "job" took about three hours, so that a total of twelve man-hours was wasted—to say nothing of the materials used.

WORK IT OUT

That in itself may not sound much. But since November 5 this workshop alone has done at least 2,000 "jobs" of which about 700 were due simply to careless driving and bad load stowage. At an average of three man-hours per job that makes more than 2,000 man-hours of unnecessary work, plus waste of valuable material at a time when every spare has to be transported thousands of miles across the sea and hundreds of miles along roads already overcrowded with vital supplies for the fighting troops.

Multiply that by a hundred or so for the Eighth Army as a whole and it's easy to see how careless driving adds to the burden of maintaining a fast-moving pursuit.

And to show that the workshops men are not just talking through their hats when they speak of unnecessary damage, it may be added that in the total of 1,400 miles this Unit has covered in the past three months only four springs have been broken between its ten vehicles, although they have



to carry at least twice the average load of their class.

Naturally the main job of this particular workshop is to keep Eighth Army Headquarters rolling along. That takes them most of their time — ten hours solid is their average working day when not on the move. But they do find time occasionally for odd jobs. One day a padre brought in an expensive watch and asked if the workshops could do anything about it. He nearly fainted when the O.C. set to work on it with a soldering iron — but the watch went. Another visitor brought in a pipe that had broken off at the stem. The O.C. mended it. The visitor thanked him nicely and asked for a fill of tobacco ! He got it.

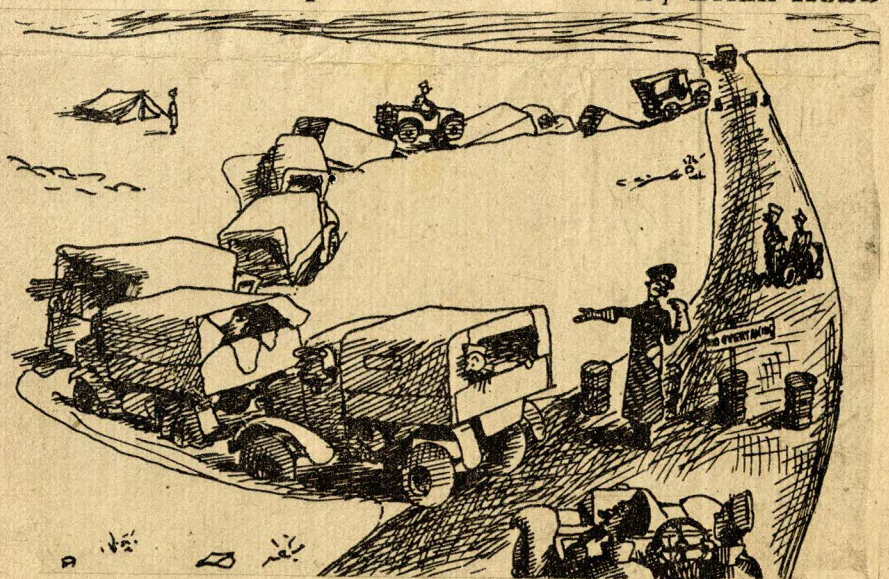
SPARE A THOUGHT

And one day the "Eighth Army News" people came along with the inking disc of the treadle press they had taken over from Jerry in Benghazi. The enemy had done a spot of sabotage on it and the news couldn't be got out till it was put right. The workshops boys went to work and did the job.

So when you read all about it in "Eighth Army News" spare a kind thought for those long-suffering, much-maligned toilers — the workshops — and don't charge that pot-hole as if it were a personal enemy.

Little Known Units of the W.D.

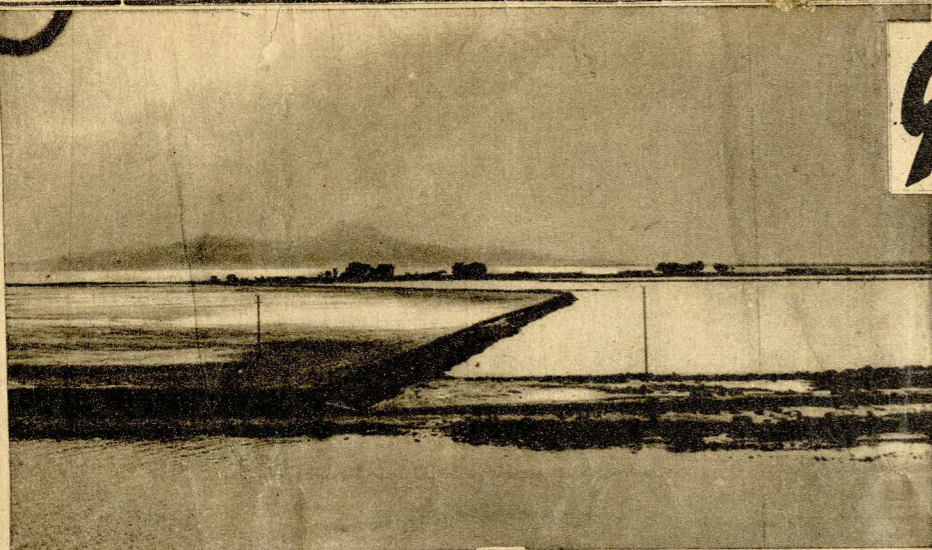
by Brian Robb



No. 15. — 173rd Extraordinary Diversion and Traffic Reduction Post.

Gateway to Europe

The author of this article has made a special study of the topography of French North Africa. He was an I.O. in Eighth Army at its formation in 1941, and before that he served as a platoon commander with the New Zealand forces in Greece and Crete.



Picture shows the Chenal flowing into the sea near Tunis.

Tunisia is the most easterly of the three countries formerly known as the "Barbary States," that part of the North African coast which was notorious for centuries as a stronghold of pirates and slave-raiders.

It was not until the 1880's that the French Government occupied Tunisia, on grounds partly economic and partly political. Only then did the tribal raids and general insecurity become less violent.

In normal times Tunisia now enjoys native self-government under French direction. Successive French administrators have been careful not to interfere too much in domestic politics. This policy produced sound economic prosperity and kept the Protectorate peaceful, rich and free from native unrest.

NATIVE QUESTION

From the French administrator's point of view the native question in Tunisia has been distinguished from that in the neighbouring states of Algeria and Morocco by certain qualities and peculiarities due to the temperament of the inhabitants and also to the nature of the country.

The Tunisian native is politically more mature than his Western neighbours, due largely to a better network of communications, and his sensitivity to propaganda is higher. His fear however, of Italian Fascist Imperialism, doubly strong in view of the proximity of Libya, has tended to prevent him from agitating for complete independence, although French nationality was offered to the Moslems in 1923.

Since the 17th century, there has always been a relatively strong colony of Italian

traders in Tunisia. In fact, in 1906 there were twice as many Italians as French, due to the immigration system; but since then the French population has grown the more rapidly. Naturally, Fascist propaganda was very active among the Italians, but as most of the latter came originally from Sicily and Sardinia where Fascism is not popular it is estimated that only about 20% of the community are sincere and active Fascists.

PLAYED WITH FIRE

Previous to 1938, there was a tendency towards closing the ranks of the French and Italian colonists against the threat of the native population. But the Fascist leaders in Rome and Tripoli never able to resist the temptation to play with fire, poured out a stream of pro-Arab propaganda which culminated in open encouragement to revolt in 1939. This pronouncement coincided with a deterioration of Italo-French relations. Italians with key positions in Tunisia were dismissed, many arrests were made for arms hiding, and energetic counter-espionage steps were taken.

Then the war started—

ITALY'S LAKE !

The use of the Mediterranean sea, "Italy's own lake" is very important to the British Empire as a line of communications to the Middle and Far East. With the exception of the Straits of Gibraltar the closest point on the African coast to the Southern extremities of Europe is the north coast of Tunisia. Only 95 miles of sea form the gap between Tunisia and Sicily — about 20 minutes flying by Spitfire! So the protection of these Sicilian narrows for Mediterranean convoys makes Allied possession of Tunisia a strategic and imperative

necessity if the Mediterranean is to be open once more to our shipping.

Roughly half the size of England, Tunisia is a land of geographical and floral contrasts. Three quarters of its surface is plain: two-thirds of it are lower than 1,200 feet above sea-level; and the coastal plain which stretches from Bizerta to Tripolitania rarely exceeds 600 feet. The climate and



The Temple of Concordia, Dougga.

vegetation reveal both Mediterranean and African influences; the north is in many respects almost European, while the south is essentially Saharan.

Tunisia can be divided into halves of almost equal area by a line running east to west through Sfax. The country to the north is largely mountainous, the overflow and termination of great Algerian mountain chains. These features tend to run from south-west to north-east, the two principal ranges being separated by a wide and fer-

tile valley, along which runs the largest perennial river in Tunisia, the Medjerda. The headwaters of this river drain part of the Algerian province of Constantine, where it flows through an impressive gorge along which a railway finds its way with difficulty.

At Ghardimou, practically on the border, the valley suddenly opens out, and the river meanders across a large plain. At Tebourga, 20 miles West of Tunis, the river may flood during the rainy season and cover a large portion of the coastal plain.

The region is rich in alluvial soil and cereals are intensively cultivated.

DUSTING OF SNOW

The largest ranges bordering this river rise to 5,000 feet in the south and 3,000 feet in the north. At these heights they receive during the wet season a fairly heavy rainfall, occasional dustings of snow and frequent hailstorms. The damp encourages vegetation, and in the north superb forests of oak, ash and elm are found. On drier slopes wild olives and maritime pine mingle with holly, ivy, ferns and similar bushes, forming a luxuriant undergrowth difficult to force a way through.

Communications naturally tend to follow the river valleys and the mountain passes: the most part south-west to north-east and so the principal roads and railways run for their subsidiary connections from north-west to south-west.

South of the Sfax line the country becomes more flat, arid and parched — the desert is approaching fast. The Tunisian version of the Libyan Sebcha, called Shotts, makes one reconnaissance-conscious when one learns that they cover about 2,500 square miles.

As we go south the desert becomes the real thing — probably it is better interpreted in Southern Tunisia than in Libya! The oases are miserable and small, the districts are sparsely inhabited, and, as a bar to westward ventures, the Sahara has spilled some of its overflow on to the south-western portion of the country: large, shimmering golden dunes which do not encourage investigation on wheels — the Algerian "Erg."



The forest of olive trees in the neighbourhood of Sfax.

The Tripolitanian Gebel Nefusa has also reached out its formidable scarps and plateaux into Southern Tunisia, where it finally halts at Matmata.

Tunis and Carthage have been in turn the capitals of Eastern Barbary. Tunis, roughly the size of Hull, has a general advantage of position as the natural inlet and outlet of the country, with easy access to the hinterland by the river valleys. Carthage, once mistress of the Mediterranean, was originally on an island, but is now joined to the mainland by a series of low sand dunes.

OLIVE GROVES

Although greater in population than Tunis, Sousse contains a much larger proportion of natives, who live among the gentler lower slopes of the depressions.

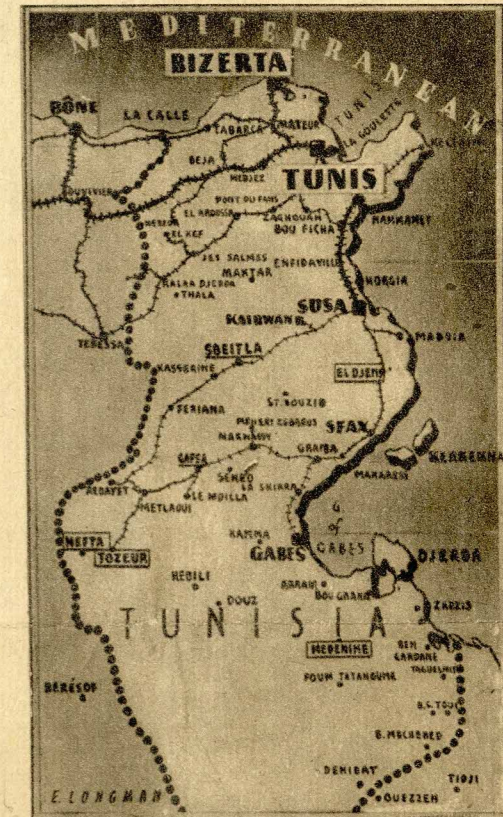
The prosperous town of Sfax, somewhat smaller than Cardiff, produces large quantities of fruit and olives, and also exports large quantities of phosphates mined in the mountains to the west.

Gabes also, the size of Motherwell in Scotland, is at the meeting of the hinterland routes and an important junction and port.

At the Northern extremity of Tunisia, on the coastal plain, lies Bizerta, which could be compared with Birkenhead. It is too near Tunis to become a large town or flourishing commercial port on its own, but its fine harbour and strategic situation have made it an important naval base, which we must have.

Such, then, is the country into which Rommel has shepherded his tattered remnants, and into which Hitler is rushing supplies and men in a desperate attempt to

deny us control of the Sicilian narrows — the narrowest gap East of Gibraltar, the bottleneck through which all Mediterranean convoys must go — the Straits which we need. We must have Tunisia! C. G.



Amilcar beach from Sidi Bau Said.



Native houses in Medenine in the south.



View of town and port of Nefta.



The Roman Colosseum at El Djem.



Natives at the Oasis of Tozeur.



Nefta, the Oasis and town.

You're telling us...

Pte J. B. Philipson, R.A.M.C. : I should like to draw your attention to your answers to the queries of Cfn. J. Gardner about pit ponies. Pit ponies **ARE STILL** used down mines—I can take you to quite a number of collieries in N.E. England where you will find them at work. This may sound like cruelty but these ponies are born to it and they are looked after well. Many of them are born blind so darkness doesn't worry them. May I add a few words that may help to clear up the question of the "Pit Pony Derby." The race for the Northumberland Plate—run at Gosforth Park on the Wednesday afternoon of Tyneside's Race Week is known locally as "The Pitman's Derby." Usually on the evening of this day the jockeys riding in the "Plate" and other races take part in a race on donkeys and seaside ponies at Whitley Bay—and this race is known as the "Pony Derby."

Finally, how about a picture of Judy Garland for the boys? Carry on with the good work. You are definitely part of our rations.

Many thanks for clearing up the pit pony problem. You'll find a picture of Judy in this issue. Our office boy, who comes from Whitley Bay, says you mean "Donkey Derby."

* * *

"Admirer" I agree with your action in printing photographs of 'gory corpses' in "Crusader." It certainly does give people outside the front line some idea of the sacrifices made in war. Photographs such as you have printed should be published in all countries periodically to keep people in mind of the price we paid for peace. I am not callous or bloodthirsty, I only believe in facts.

Concerning Alex Clifford's story. Where did the petrol rationing come in, when he drove from the Strand to Kensington High Street?

Presumably Mr Clifford rode in a taxi. Petrol for taxis is rationed, but not so severely as for private cars.

Pte J. Greenhalgh, R.A.M.C. : I want to congratulate you and all concerned on the speed and efficiency with which you answered my query. Truly your house is blessed with Socrates and Wizards of Oz. To show my appreciation I dedicate the enclosed song to our great paper. I hope you and the staff like it; if not please wrap the bricks in cotton wool as I have tender skin.

We appreciate your song very much, Pte Greenhalgh, and modesty alone prevents us from printing it.

* * *

Pte I. Hadfield of the Cheshire Regt : Whilst on the withdrawal from Gazala last June I lost a wallet containing a wedding ring, silver horseshoe, a lock of brown hair, silk handkerchief, a neckerchief (silk, ladies) and numerous photographs, including one of my fiancée, on the back of which is written "Frances and I, Feb. 19, 1941."

* * *

Cpl J. Jenkins, R.A.S.C., of an Armoured Brigade : After chasing a copy of "Crusader" round the section for at least two days, I finally laid hands on it, and read about "Mickey," a little dog belonging to a fellow desert rat. I have a little dog, named "Whiskey," which I found homeless in a village in Greece. I picked him up, gave him a good bath, and ever since he has stuck to me like glue. It is just on two years since I befriended him and during that time he has travelled many thousands of miles, in at least seven different countries. He has been in two evacuations, one retreat, and two advances.



Whiskey is well known in many units especially my old Company. He is a one man dog, with just one exception, a pal of mine who came from Greece with me, and helped smuggle him aboard.

BLUE LETTER EIGHTH ARMY SAYING SOMETHING BOX

SUSPICIOUS PHENOMENA



No. 2 — Activity of empty petrol cans in desert storms.

L/Cpl C. Lockyer, 501 T.C. Unit, C.M. Police : Could you please help me through your columns, I have lost a roll of films, Kodak 127. The roll has been exposed and was lost between Mersa Matruh and Benghazi. Should the film be developed and printed it will contain snaps of Mersa Matruh, Alamein, Halfaya Pass and various photos of military policemen."



No. 3. — Aggressive attitude of tents in bad weather.

We're telling you...

Here are some more answers to Eighth Army film fans.

Cpl T. Burgess, R.E. : Basil Rathbone was born in South Africa in 1892. He won the Military Cross in the Great War.

* * *

Pte G. Harrison, R.A.S.C.: The first cartoon to be made on motion picture film was made by J. Stuart Blackton in 1906. It was called "Humorous Phases of Funny Faces." As far back as 1826 there was a contraption called the Phenakistoscope (don't ask us why!) which gave the illusion of animation to a series of drawings. Walt Disney started his studio in a garage in Hollywood in 1925.

* * *

L/Sgt. A. Daniels: Peter Lorre, born in Rosenberg, Hungary, in 1904, was a bank clerk in Vienna before coming to Hollywood in 1935. His first big role was in the German film, "M."

* * *

And here are some more answers-in-brief on other subjects :

Captain S. F. White, R.A.S.C.: All battle pictures in "Crusader" are taken by the Army Film and Photo Unit and are submitted to the censor before publication. A.F.P.U. are the official recorders of the war in pictures and are permitted to take pictures of any battle scene. The censor decides which of these may be published. Obviously the same facilities can-

not be given to individual soldiers, and the "lengthy list of photographic subjects which are forbidden," to which you refer is a security measure to prevent the indiscriminate taking of photographs of W.D. equipment which might be of great value to the enemy.

* * *

Sgt D.H. Godfrey : (a) All boroughs have mayors. The civic head of an urban district is the chairman of the Urban District Council, who does not have the title of mayor. (b) Any community administered by a Rural District Council can be called a village. We've no means of finding out which can claim the largest population. (c) First militia call-up before present war was June 1939; age — 20. Origin of militia dates back to Saxon times when Alfred issued a decree rendering all able-bodied men between 16 and 20 liable for military service. It was then known as the Fyrd. (d) It is possible in exceptional circumstances to transfer to the Senior Service.

* * *

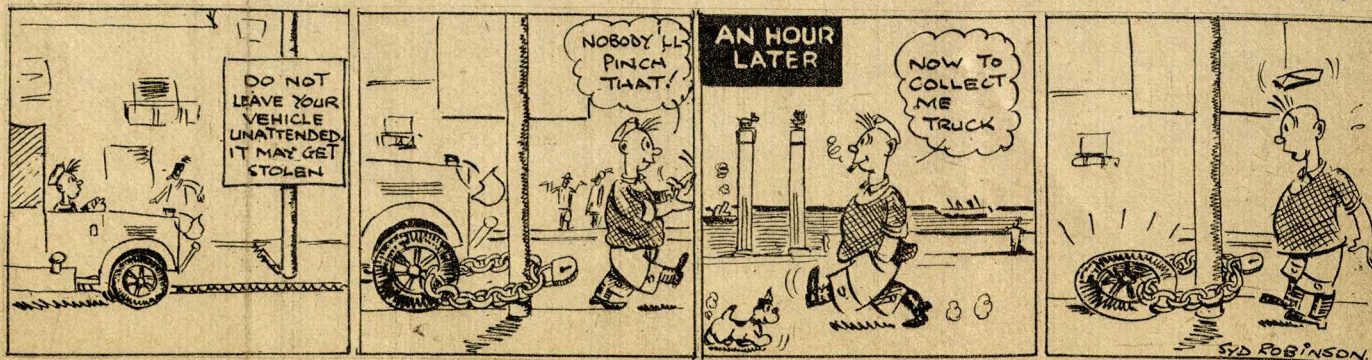
Dvr H. Rosenthal, R.A.S.C. : Copies of the Services Pocket Diary are available in the M.E. You should apply through your C.O.

* * *

Dvr H. Goodall, R.A.S.C. : Paul Whiteman, not Irving Berlin, was given the title of "The King of Jazz."

George Gumption

No. 19 — Wahad Wheel Bus!



PAUL IRWIN

(former "Sunday Express" Sports Editor)

Talking Sport

Crusader Cutie

No. 25

Lanky, flame-headed Don Budge, the best player seen on the Wimbledon centre court since the breath-taking days of big Bill Tilden, is now a trainer at an American flying school. He is a busy man, but can still find time to tell the world that he hopes to be in top flight professional lawn tennis at the war's end.

Don Budge is 27 and, even if the war were over tomorrow, heading towards the twilight of his career. Best of the old stars, however, he should keep his position till the bright young newcomers have sorted themselves out in the first couple of Victory seasons.

BIG CHANGES

I read Budge's mind correctly, he envisages sweeping changes in top ranking tennis. He probably thinks there will be open tournaments — open, that is, in the true sense of the word.

The "Wimbledon Open" is, of course, no such thing. No profes-

sional can compete, a ruling which automatically bars the world's outstanding performers—Budge, Ellsworth Vines, Fred Perry, Hans Nusslein and, among the women, the incomparable Alice Marble.

Well, there was a move before World War II to end all this. Another big step forward was taken not so long ago when Danny Maskell, the money-player who coached our Davis Cup team, played an exhibition against an amateur at Queen's Club — the first ever to do so in public.

Many of the lawn tennis chiefs are in favour of genuine open tournaments. And this, not only because they would be gate-pulling magnets, but because they would end the silly — and dishonest — amateur racket.

MEANS TEST

If a means test were taken of the Great Unpaid in the game how many could show themselves capable of playing all the year round at their own expense? Very few. No, they live on tennis like gigolos living on some raddled old woman. Play-boys and play-girls accepting "hospitality" in swagger hotels, putting in expense accounts, cashing their prizes for crisp folding money.

In short, they are "shamateurs." The men, often enough sign up to use a certain make of racket — at a fee; the women, bless them, link their names with some swagger dress shop and are mannequins in masquerade.

You get the idea? Some shape-ly Centre Court star wears the natty new pleated skirt, or the too, too divine coatee made by a West End fashion shop. And there, bright and early next morning, are all the women queuing up to get just the same kind of outfit.

Now such people are regarded as amateurs although they make fat living from the game. Against that, the honest, right-in-the-open professional is — well, untouchable according to Wimbledon standards.

WORLD'S BEST

Responsible people are tired of it all. So are many of the so-called amateurs, not quite good enough to join the small band of brilliant professionals to-day, but good enough to earn bed and board — honestly — if professionalism were general.

As sure as night follows day, the barrier between the amateur and the money-player will be broken down. We shall see real open tournaments, with the world's best in action.

And now say I didn't tell you.



"This patience isn't so hot; no wonder they say it's a virtue!"

THE GRIFF

ADOLF'S OWN

There is a special air raid shelter under Hitler's Chancellery in Berlin which is especially popular with the ladies.

The reason is this. After a number of women had given birth to children in the shelter during air raid alarms the Führer gave orders for a midwife to be in attendance. To every woman who had a child in the shelter he gave a present of 500 marks (about £25) and went personally to congratulate her. The children were registered as "Born in the Chancellery."

Consequently the popularity of the shelter knew no bounds among expectant mothers and the overcrowding threatened to become so bad that special regulations had to be drawn up.

THE GHOSTS FLY WEST

From time to time the boys of the R.A.F. get quite a kick out of hearing enemy radio announcements describing how our aircraft are being shot down in flocks by the heroes of the German and Italian air forces.

The latest example we have seen is a claim by a SINGLE Italian Fighter Squadron in Octo-

ber to have destroyed 36 of our planes, plus a further 17 probables, in four days. In reality the TOTAL loss of the R.A.F. over this period was 18 planes!

These imaginary victories remind us of the exploits of the late lamented Luftwaffe "ace" Captain Marseille (killed sometime ago over the Alamein front) who was claimed to have shot down single-handedly in one day twice the total loss of the R.A.F. on the whole battle-front for that period!

Jerry must wonder as he crouches in his slit trench where all those planes of ours keep coming from!

THINK AGAIN

"The British and Americans are unable to safeguard their main sea routes and are therefore unable to send supplies to their soldiers abroad." (Italian Radio).

Them tanks jes' growed in the desert!

MOBILE'S THE WORD!

"Berlin military circles commenting on the situation in Russia state that the transition to the present mobile strategy of the German High Command has created insuperable difficulties for the Soviets." (Berlin Radio).



Here's the answer to the prayer of Pte. Philipson (see "Blue Letter Box") — and heaven knows how many other "Crusader", correspondents.

for the Blue

(Continued from page 1)

Count Galeazzo Ciano, son-in-law of the Duce, and Italian Foreign Minister since 1936 lost his job in sweeping Cabinet changes last week, as did Justice Minister Count Dino Grandi, former Roman envoy in London. Mussolini now holds the six most important portfolios in his own hands, the premiership, those of internal and foreign affairs and those of the three armed forces. For the most part the new Cabinet members are little-known civil servants and members of the Fascist old guard. "This is no mere changing of the guard" said the German "Transocean" newspaper. London saw in the changes a symptom of progressively deteriorating Italian morale following the loss of the Empire, the R.A.F. bombings and Italian casualties on the east front.

DELIRIOUS DOCTOR !

Reuter's listening post reports that Doctor Ley, in a speech to armament workers in Eastern Germany, sounded not only drunk but delirious. He left out verbs and repeated whole sentences several times. He gave away worries about Hitler's health when he said, "I enjoyed yesterday the wonderful company of the Führer. There, I can tell you, is concentrated energy and fanatic determination. Preserve us one thing. Preserve the health of our Führer. Preserve us Adolf Hitler healthy. That is what we ask of fate."

Visiting battalions of the voluntary Militia in training Mussolini said that from 1923 until today Italians have displayed by their sacrifice and blood their deep love of Italy and devotion to Fascism. It had taken Britain, he said, 32 months to achieve success. The Italian people had received news of this success with Roman calm because they knew that where their dead were waiting then they would return. "Fifty million Italians are gravitating towards Africa because they have the right to live." Victory, he said, will go to the one who knows how to resist a quarter of an hour more than the enemy."

AUSTRALIA'S POSITION

In invasion-threatened Australia, blunt Prime Minister John Curtin said : "It is a fallacy to expect small nations like Australia, facing a life and death struggle, to send forces to other theatres of war. They are not in the same position as great nations which, after providing for home security, have substantial margins for defence elsewhere."

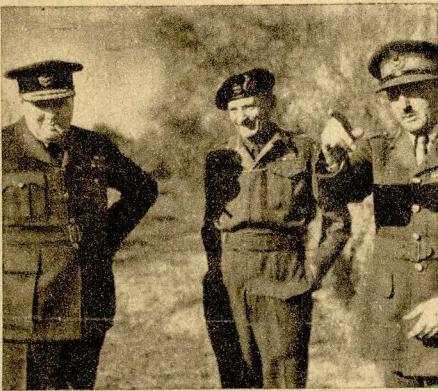
In what American communique described as "a major Japanese effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area U.S. and Jap air and naval forces engaged in what Navy Secretary Frank Knox called "a series of feeler skirmishes." Knox said both forces had suffered "moderate losses of ships and planes."

POST-WAR POLICY

Formulating in the House of Commons the Government's post-war financial and economic policy, Lord John Simon said the basic objective we must set is active employment for the people. "All our hopes for the future will depend upon our success in achieving this," he said. "Government policy alone cannot accomplish this ; it will largely depend upon enterprise of industry and trade. Many people may well be disposed to regard the end of war as a time for ease and spending money, but in many respects the days after the war will be more difficult than the days of war."



He came -
and saw
THE CONQUERORS



AND TOLD US
'When after the war is over a man is asked what he did it will be enough for him to say "I marched with Eighth Army..."