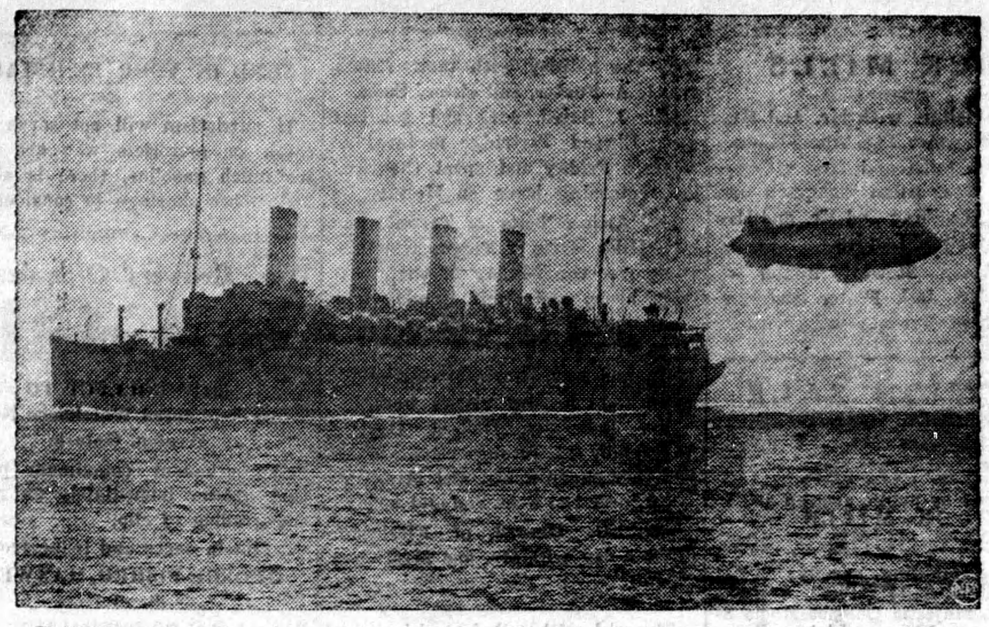
BLIMP—A CONVOY'S EYES IN FOG BLANKET



Hovering protectively over a U. S. troopship, somewhere on the Atlantic, Navy blimp helps guard convoy carrying troops and supplies bound for one of United Nations' many battlefronts. (Passed by censor.)

Japanese Volcano Erupts Violently

Asama-Yama, the largest active volcano in Japan, about 100 miles northwest of Tokio, erupted with great violence not long ago, doing unestimated damage, according to the Berlin radio.

The broadcast, quoting dispatches from Japan, said the eruption was the worst in many years and the German-controlled Brussels radio characterized it as "a catastrophe." A thick rain of ashes blanketed the countryside for miles around, the Brussels version added.

Asama-Yama, regarded as the most treacherous volcano in Japan, has a long history of eruptions, the worst of which occurred in 1783, lasting 88 days and killing thousands.

Following this outburst the volcano was comparatively quiet until 1908, when it awoke to renewed violence. Parties of sightseers were killed by sudden eruptions in 1911 and 1912.

Since then its activity has been manifested largely in occasional showers of stones and ashes.

The mountain is 8,280 feet high and has a crater three-quarters of a mile in diameter. The most violent volcanic outbursts, sometimes felt in Tokio and Yokohama, occur in May and December.

HOW CAN I?

Q. How can I stiffen scatter rugs?

A. By stretching them tight and true, and then tacking face down. Sprinkle the backs generously with a solution made by dissolving ¼ pound of flake glue in ½-gallon of water. This should be prepared in a double boiler or a container surrounded by hot water. Allow the rug to dry for twenty-four hours.

Q. How can I make notes or alterations on blueprints, or autographs, or memos on snapshots?

A. Dip a pen into a solution of ordinary bicarbonate of soda, and the result will be gratifying.

Q. How can I make a grainy cake icing creamy?

A. If a teaspoonful of vinegar is added to grainy cake icing, it will render it creamy.

Q. How can I mend the broken wire of an electric light globe?

A. It can oftentimes be mended by turning on the current and tapping lightly on the side of the globe with the finger. This causes the broken wire to vibrate and touching one of the other wires while vibrating, it becomes welded.

Q. How can I give a different flavor to apple pie?

A. Try grating a little orange rind into the sugar. Sprinkle this over the apples in the usual way, and see what a different and delicious flavor it imparts.

Hitler Makes Visit To Napoleon's Tomb

A description of how the Nazis, from Fuehrer Adolph Hitler down to the common soldier, react to their first contact with Paris has been brought back by an American woman who escaped from occupied France. German soldiers, officers and cabinet ministers are now making themselves at home in hundreds of places which were familiar to Americans before 1939.

Hitler, for instance, she reports, made his first visit to the historic sites of Paris between 3 and 7 a.m. so that his whereabouts would not be known to the public. His visit to the Opera House at 4 o'clock one morning almost frightened the watchman out of his wits. Hitler insisted on inspecting every corner of the historic building, from the marble foyers to the dressing rooms back stage. Then he gave an order to have the edifice scrubbed from top to bottom, and issued a statement that it was the finest building in Europe.

"Both acts offended the French," the woman said. "They liked the 'patine' of age-old dirt, and beauty loving Parisians had always apologized for the Opera House as a baroque monostrosity.

"Hitler's next calls were at the Invalides and the tomb of Napoleon, his patron saint. He has had the tomb raised from the crypt to the ground floor, it is said, and every German soldier is required by military order to visit it. Lines of these troops, 'les touristes', as the French call them, can be seen daily lining up for blocks to carry out these orders with proper awe-struck admiration."

Jap Planes Drop Prisoners' Letters

Japanese planes, flying high over Port Moresby, New Guinea, dropped a packet of four hundred letters from Australian prisoners in enemy-held territory, the Melbourne radio reported in a broadcast heard by CBS.

The letters were dropped April 28, the broadcast said, and since have been forwarded to their addresses by Australian Army authorities.

Beakers

Many British housewives, temporarily relinquishing the struggle to replace broken crockery in the usual manner are buying beakers—handleless cups—instead of cups which are becoming more and more scarce.

Have You Heard?

There is a story going around of a big tough citizen who belligerently walked into a store and demanded a new truck tire. For a gag, he was sent to a trucking concern where he repeated his request.

"Sure," he was told, "we'll sell you a new tire." So he was handed one and told the price would be $10,030.

"What!" yelled the belligerent buyer.

"Why, of course," the seller explained. "That's $30 for the tire and $10,000 to pay the Federal fine."

She: "Darling, it's just a year today since our honeymoon, when we spent that wonderful day on the sands."

He: "We never thought then that we'd be spending our first anniversary on the rocks."

An oral examination was in progress. The professor picked upon a dumb-looking character for his first questions.

"Who signed the Magna Charta?"

No answer.

"Who was Bonnie Prince Charlie?"

No answer.

"Where were you on Monday?"

"Drinking a beer with a friend of mine."

"How do you expect to pass this course if you drink beer when you are supposed to be in class?"

"I don't, sir. I only came in to fix the electric heater."

At a club gathering held in Concord, New Hampshire, one couple proved to be champion contestants. The wife won the rolling pin contest. Her husband was fleetest in the 30-yard dash for men.

Creeping downstairs in his bare feet, the householder surprised an intruder packing the family silver into a bag.

"By Jove, a real burglar? I say, wait a minute, will you?"

"An' you'll call a cop!" snarled the burgler. "I don't think."

"Oh, no; only while I call my wife. She's heard you every night for 20 years, and I'm sure it will be a real pleasure to her to meet you at last."

Bill—"I hear they have taken the early morning train off your route. Do you miss it?"

John—"Not since they have taken it off!"

"Pa," said the boy, looking up from his book, "what does a man's 'better half' mean?"

"Usually, my son," replied the father from behind the evening paper, "she means exactly what she says."

Teacher: "Now, Freddy, why does a polar bear wear a fur coat?"

Freddie: "Oh-er, well I suppose he would look funny in a tweed one!"

Fish For Rubber

Eire must fish for rubber. The supply is so short that coast residents are asked to report all rubber washed up. It is considered the only source of additional supplies.

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Sub-Contracting In War Factories

Skill and Accuracy Necessary In "Bits-and-Pieces" Program

An interesting example of the success of sub-contracting in war work, known to the Department of Munitions and Supply as the "bits-and-pieces" program, is that of an Orillia, Ontario firm. Formerly known for its marine engines, this company has taken on other lines until now engines, though still important, are only a part of the plant's output.

Despite the cry for quantity production of war weapons, meticulous measurement is the rule. As an example, a steel attachment for a gun turned out on this firm's lathes has to be accurate within 1-10,000th of an inch. No larger a margin of error is possible, for even a hand laid on this particular steel bar for three or four minutes would cause sufficient expansion to increase its size.

* * *

In taking on more of this Government precision work, the Orillia firm asked to be supplied with a set of gauges, in order that the extra checking might be done at the benches before the official inspectors' visits. He was informed that only one set of gauges used by the Government inspector was available in Canada. So the company received permission to fabricate a set. Now it has its own gauges that will measure down to 1-20,000th of an inch.

As rejected parts, in addition to the loss of time and effort in their making, become nothing more than scrap, the importance of the closest possible precision is readily seen. In this Ontario factory, the return of defective parts has become almost a curiosity and an event. From a recent shipment of more than 6,000 pieces to a Government plant, for instance, not one piece was rejected.

* * *

This company is now busy on contracts covering approximately fifty different "bits and pieces" essential to munitions output. They include various parts for naval and field guns, as well as machinery and inspection fixtures.

One of the principal products at present is an armour-piercing shot. In manufacturing this small projectile, only a few inches long, a dozen operations are involved, demanding accuracy in weight to within three drams and in diameter to within a minute fraction of an inch. The Orillia factory is producing hundreds of shots a day, and every one must be weighed and measured before going on to the Government plant for further testing.

A particularly interesting machine in use at the factory calculates the hardness of steel. This is done by a diamond to which a pressure of 130 kilograms is applied, and a gauge indicates the penetration into the small block of steel. This penetration is so slight it is virtually invisible to the naked eye. An indicator shows just what pressures are required to cut this particular steel.

Picobac

It does taste good in a pipe!

GROWN IN SUNNY, SOUTHERN ONTARIO

What Science Is Doing

RADIUM AND BOMBS

The Memorial Hospital of New York, one of the largest institutions in the world devoted to the treatment of cancer, has decided not to bury its nine grams of radium in case of air raids, despite British practice. Five grams will be kept in a safe resting on bedrock in the sub-basement, and surrounded with concrete two feet thick. Four grams are in a 600-pound lead container known as a "pack," which is also well protected.

FERTILIZER

Lightning is useful as well as frightening, Pathfinder quotes scientists as saying. It has been estimated that the some two billion lightning strokes annually release 200,000,000 tons of nitrogen from the air in the form of nitric acid, to help fertilize the earth.

SHRIMPS

Of the half a million eggs laid by a single shrimp in her lifetime, an average of only two survive, yet that is sufficient to support an industry with a $15,000,000 annual take, according to Lealon E. Martin Jr. in "Natural History."

LINOLEUM

A young English inventor, Frederick Walton, got the idea for linoleum when he left a pot of paint uncovered, and the surface hardened into a rubbery film.

Saving Paper

As part of the big "save paper" drive one of Britain's biggest railways is issuing half-size single-journey tickets. This railway uses more than 5,000,000 single tickets a year.

Modern Etiquette

1. How do guests at a house or week-end party ascertain when they are expected to arise in the morning?

2. When one receives a formal invitation, and is very busy, wouldn't it be all right to phone the hostess one's acceptance?

3. Isn't it all right to talk to one's companion while a motion picture is in progress?

4. What should be the keynote of a wedding ceremony that is being performed soon after a death in the family of one of the principals?

5. May one ever leave the spoon standing in the coffee cup?

6. How should the visiting card of a doctor and his wife read?

Answers

1. It is up to the hostess to let them know when to arise and when breakfast and the other meals are to be served. The tactful guest usually can acquaint himself very easily with the general routine of the house. 2. Never. A formal invitation requires an answer on note paper, acceptance or regrets written in the third person. 3. No. It is extremely rude and ill-bred to do so, as it is sure to disturb other persons nearby who are listening to the play. 4. Simplicity; and only a few near relatives and intimate friends should attend. There should be nothing elaborate in the flowers, decorations, or the procession. 5. No; the spoon should be placed in the saucer. 6. Dr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Young.

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ISSUE 22—'42

SKIN TROUBLES

ECZEMA AND ALMOST ANY itchy conditions, quick relief, guaranteed with Arthur Eczema Ointment. Price 50c, 90c, $1.75. City Hall Drugs, 70 Queen West, Toronto.

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DON'T DELAY! EVERY SUFFERer of Rheumatic Pains or Neuritis should try Dixon's Remedy. Munro's Drug Store, 335 Elgin, Ottawa. Postpaid $1.00.

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HAVE YOU ANYTHING NEEDS dyeing or cleaning? Write to us for information. We are glad to answer your questions. Department H, Parker's Dye Works Limited, 791 Yonge Street, Toronto.

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