CLEANING UP IN TUNISIA

Handy horse trough somewhere in Tunisia makes a wash basin for British paratrooper cleaning some of that embattled country's mud off his boots.

GIVES UP PRECIOUS DISHES, PANS TO CAMOUFLAGE MINES

False Holes Dug in Roads To Delay German Advance. What Have Canadians To Sacrifice, So Precious To Them? Money Means Relatively Little But We Can At Least Give It.

By Gregory Clark

The Russian sergeant was explaining to the woman by the roadside that his 20 men — who had come in three trucks—were up to.

"We are mining the road," he said. "A whole regiment of German tanks has broken out of Stalingrad. They may come this road. We have been sent to delay them."

"Why are you swearing?" the woman asked.

"Because what can I do with 18 mines?" cried the sergeant bitterly. "When they hit the first one, they will all stop while the pioneers get out and search and find the other 17 . . ."

"They can't leave the road," said the woman cheerfully. "If they get out in these drifts, the swamps will swallow their tanks like frogs."

"I know, I know," said the sergeant.

"Then don't hide the mines," said the woman. "Just pretend to hide them. Dig here 20 holes, and put three mines at random in three of the holes. The rest are dummies. But it will take them just as long to test the dummies."

"You're a smart woman," said the sergeant. "What can we put on top of the dummy holes?"

"Plates, tin pots, anything," said the woman. "I'll get mine."

And while the mine layers dug holes and buried only three mines at random in the sett, the woman came back with a sack full of her precious dishes and pans.

At half-mile intervals along that ravaged road, the Russian sergeant and his party dug setts of 20 and more holes, burying only enough mines to make the sett deadly; the rest they topped with tin pots and plates that would ring dangerously to the German's probing rods . . . and delay them another half-hour. For a dummy takes as long as a real mine to investigate.

The Germans came. They were delayed. And the Russian anti-tank troops arrived in time to wipe them out, body, soul and hardware.

But you have nothing you possess which is as precious to you as those dishes were to that Russian woman living in a shanty.

What's your gift to the cause? Address it to the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund, 80 King Street West, Toronto.

The Pacific Ocean Calm and Peaceful

Greater In Area Than Entire Land Surface of Globe

The Pacific Ocean was named by Magellan, the great Portuguese who was the first man to cross it —ninety-eight days under sail, from the Straits of Magellan in South America to Guam, W. B. Courtney writes in Collier's. He called it "Pacific"—calm and peaceful. In this respect, Magellan was lucky—as many a Yank fighting man could testify, out of his green-faced misery. In its storms, as in all other things, the Pacific drives the most conservative to superlatives; it is biggest, widest, deepest, bluest, quietest, grandest and wildest.

* * *

Its area is greater than the entire land surface of the gobe. You could drop the whole United States in any one of several expanses of the Pacific, and none of its frontiers would touch as much as an islet. Yet its map in places is as salted with islands as the Milky Way is with stars; although even here you may cruise among them for days, as our transport did, and not sight land—so far are they apart.

* * *

The Pacific is nearly twice as large as the North and South Atlantic combined, and it has more than double their total amount of water. It contains more than half of all the water on earth, including oceans, seas, rivers and lakes. It is more than 9,000 miles long from Behring Strait to the Antarctic Circle; and it is 10,000 miles wide at the equator. It takes the sun ten hours to cross it, or nearly one-half of its day's journey. It has the greatest known deeps—the Philippine, east of the islands, and the Nero, off Guam, for instance, both going down six miles or more. Its average depth is over two and a half miles. By contrast, even the latest German U-boats cannot submerge with safety more than 600 feet.

Let Skeeters Bite To Aid Science

Six men sititng for hours every day in a sealed tent in Northern Australia encourage a cloud of mosquitoes to bite them, preferably at the rate of 10 a minute.

They are entomologists racing against time to develop a more effective repellant of the malaria-carrying anopheles mosquito as the rainy season closes up north. A repellant must be discovered, manufactured in large quantities and distributed to the troops. The main objectives of the researchers are to protect the troops in the New Guinea jungles and overcome the ever-present danger of malaria outbreak on the Australian mainland. Malaria can put out of action large numbers of troops for a prolonged period.

Guerilla Warfare Within France

Watch for reports of organized guerilla warfare within France not unlike that in Yugoslavia, though on a smaller scale, says Newsweek. Information leaking out of the country indicates that planned resistance is already under way. Disbanded French soldiers have been turning up at prearranged meeting places in remote sections, notably in Auvergne and the Pyrenees. These men have been responsible for several acts of sabotage that have slowed up traffic between France and Spain. There is one known instance of a German infantry patrol's exchanging fire with night raiders and suffering casualties.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

ARMY P.O. EFFICIENT

Owen Sound Pilot Officer has just recently received a letter with a record. Mailed to him in England in October, 1941, it followed him to Malta, Egypt, Libya and back to Egypt to West Africa, back to England and then to Canada where it caught up. But it caught up. The Army Post Office knows its business — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

GOOD ANSWER

An old lady in Holland gave a clever answer when charged with listening to BBC broadcasts. "The Fuehrer," she said in her own defence, "announced he would be in London in June, 1940. Since then I've listened to London every day to make sure I wouldn't miss what he said when he got there." —Toronto Star.

ALL IN ONE JUMP

A 16-year-old Toronto boy, missing since October 1, has been found in Georgia, where he is training with the First Canadian Parachute Battalion. His is a modern success story. He took off from his mother's apron strings and landed in parachute harness.—Windsor Star.

OUR OWN ENEMY

For high taxes, crowded streetcars, the shortage of gasoline, rubber, sugar, coffee and tea, we can blame Hitler if we like. But for outter rationing we have only ourselves to blame.—Ottawa Citizen.

THOUGHT FOR STRIKER

When his son asks him, ten years hence. "What did you do in the war, Daddy?" surely no father will relish having to answer: "I went on strike in a war industry plant."—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

IT'S WORTH SAVING

And don't take too much stoen in that rumor that the Germans are planning to scrap the Eiffel Tower. It's such an excellent jumping-off place for Adolf when the time comes.—Ottawa Citizen.

WHAT A QUEER WORLD

Sufficient evidence of the dislocation of the world: The Japanese are just as busy making gasoline out of rubber as we are making rubber out of gasoline.—New York Sun.

THE GERMAN HEELS

News stories say the Germans are being rocked back on their heels. The heels, no doubt, are Hitler, Goering, Himmler and and Goebbels.—Kitchener Record.

An instrument has been developed that enables blind persons to make precision inspection of certain machine products in war industries.

Air Base Built In Three Days

Engineers Use Air-borne Road-building Equipment

Home from North Africa, Brig.-Gen. Stuart C. Godfrey disclosed a new weapon of his aviation engineers — air-borne road-building equipment which makes it possible to construct advanced air bases almost overnight.

When it became necessary to establish advanced airdromes to support the action in Tunisia, General Godfrey said, a call was put in for the air-borne engineers. With their equipment, they were flown in cargo planes to points as close as possible to the selected sites. Within three days, Flying Fortresses were taking off from the first base, and a second base was completed the next day.

"Our Allies couldn't believe their eyes when they saw equipment being unloaded from airplanes and going right to work," he reported.

Portable Hangars

This kind of forehandedness, he said, is going a long way toward solving the difficult supply problem in North Africa, where for 1,000 miles there are only a single railroad and a narrow highway system along the coast.

Among the equipment, specially designed for transportation in planes or gliders, are light-weight, portable hangars, a gasoline-operated lighting unit for night construction work and lighting the field for night flying, a road scraper which can be hauled by a jeep, and rollers to be filled with water or sand.

The air-borne aviation engineers were first organized last summer. Their training was so rapid, General Stuart said, that within six months they were at work in England and ready for the North African campaign, where most of their work has been pioneering.

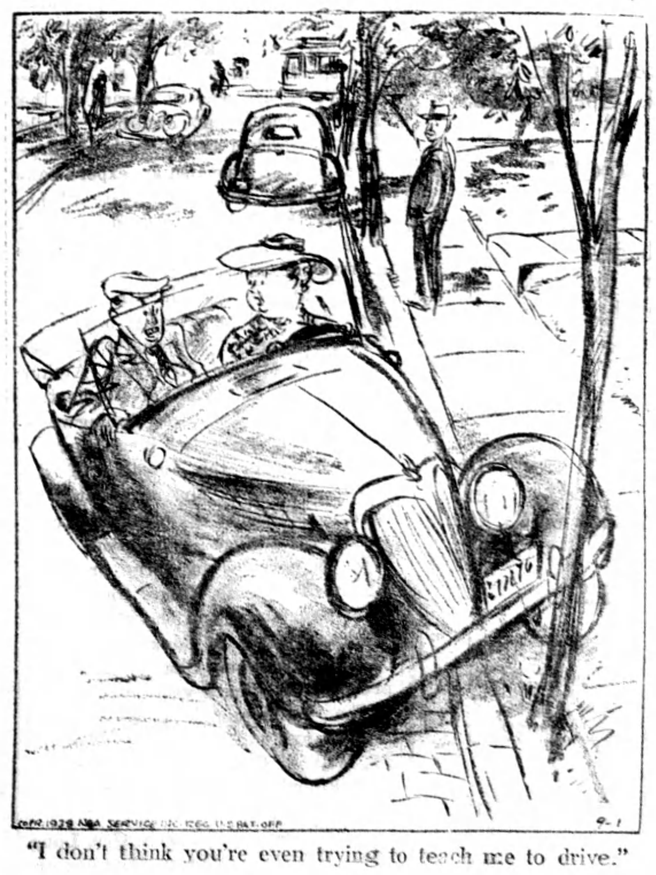
Tough Training

"The idea behind them," he explained, "is that they can get into fields captured by paratroops or on invaded islands right with the attack units to make ready for air operations with a minimum of delay.

"The saving of a few hours or days in the construction of such airdromes may have a great bearing on the outcome of a whole campaign."

The air-borne aviation engineers go through a tough training course. They are chosen from the Air Forces personnel for their stamina and special skills. They must have both basic combat and engineering training. Then they are instructed in operations of their specialized equipment, special engineering courses, advanced training with such weapons as submachine guns, carbines and rifles, and a course in Commando exercises.

SIDE GLANCES — By George Clark



"I don't think you're even trying to teach me to drive."

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Churchill, Roosevelt Meet In Africa Leaders Agree On 1943 Strategy

Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt, together with their chiefs of staff and other military and civil officials, have concluded a ten-day conference at Casablanca, Morocco, in which a general programme of military strategy for 1943 was worked out. It has been disclosed that the United Nations would be satisfied with nothing short of the enemy's unconditional surrender, excluding the possibility of a negotiated peace. This was qualified by Mr. Roosevelt's statement that the destruction of populations was not intended, but rather the destruction of a philosophy based on conquest and terror.

General Giraud, High Commissioner for French North Africa and General de Gaulle, leader of Fighting France, were also present at the conference.

For obvious reasons, no details of the decisions reached at this historic Casablanca conference have been given to the public.

French Problem

It is evident from the place chosen for this meeting, held within a few hours' airplane flight from the African battlefront, that the French problem was uppermost in the minds of both Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt. Neither felt it safe to temporize longer with a situation which found French factions in an open quarrel and British and American opinion drifting dangerously apart.

Fortunately Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill have more in common than have most of their critics, on both sides of the Atlantic, when any question regarding France becomes the issue, says the New York Times. Both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill know France intimately, understand France, and cherish a long friendship with the French people. Both are men of action, impatient with words, and the disagreements growing out of words, when there is fighting to be done. Both passionately desire the rebirth of the French Republic.

French Leaders Meet

Sharing this faith, and meeting on French soil, they could not fail to end the schism which has divided Frenchmen bearing arms against a common foe. The joint statement made by General de Gaulle and General Giraud has in it all the essential elements of an understanding that will suffice until the war is won. The two leaders have met. They have talked. They are "in entire agreement on the end to be achieved, which is the liberty of the French people and the triumph of human liberties by the defeat of the enemy." They will attain this end "by the union of all Frenchmen fighting side by side with their allies."

This is as much as we need ask. Nor have we the right to ask more. We cannot expect Fenchmen, in France itself or in any part of the French Empire, to surrender honest convictions about the political needs of post-war France. We cannot expect the political disagreements which so deeply divided pre-war France, and so dangerously sapped the strength of the Third Republic, to vanish miraculously overnight, merely because we would like to see all Frenchmen united in every hope and every purpose. What we can ask, and what we can now expect, is that Frenchmen of every party and of every faction will subordinate political disagreements to the immediate and essential task of driving from the soil of France the arch-fiend, Hitler, who poisons and corrupts and tyrannizes the French people.

A Fair Bargain

We are entitled to believe that the agreement reached between General de Gaulle and General Giraud at Casablanca under the auspices of the chiefs of state of the two great English-speaking democracies carries this implication and this promise.

Certainly it carries, on our side, a commitment from which we cannot escape with honor: a commitment to use all our intelligence and all our power to make certain that no post-war government is set up in France except in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the French people.

This is the fair bargain signed at Casablanca.

Complete Agreemgent

Concerning the military decisions reached at the conference we are not entitled to go beyond the language of the communique itself. But that language is crisp, confident and promising.

"Theatre by theatre," the entire field of the war was surveyed, "and all resources were marshaled for more intensive prosecution of the war by land, sea and air." There was "complete agreement * * * upon war plans and enterprises to be undertaken during the campaign of 1943 against Germany, Italy and Japan, with a view to drawing the utmost advantage from the markedly favorable turn of events at the close of 1942."

The Americans and British were at all times in close touch with Stalin and with Chiang Kai-shek. Attending the conference were field officers from the African campaign, fresh from experience with the newest weapons and the latest tactics. The whole discussion took place in the reality of a present battlefield from which attacks may be launched in a half dozen directions at the Continent of Europe.

The communique ends on a businesslike note: "The President, the Prime Minister and the combined staffs, having completed their plans for the offensive campaigns of 1943, have now separated in order to put them into active and concerted execution."

THE UNCONQUERABLES

They Still Retain Their Sense of Humor

Laughter continues to be a potent secret weapon of Europe's conquered peoples, and the grim Nazis have yet to find armor thick enough to ward off the thrusts of wit, sarcasm and satire directed against them.

In Norway recenty the Quislingists had to forbid all newspaper mention of Oslo's rat-extermination campaign. One leading journal lent enthusiastic support of the drive two years ago, with a strong editorial entitled: "Out With the Rats!" To readers who substituted the word "Nazis" for "rats," the editorial provided no end of delight and it was plain that the writer had planned it that way. When Quisling's official newspaper ran an indignant editorial in reply, the laughter was all the louder.

In more sober vein, a Swedish newspaper reports that the Nazis have forbidden the singing of Martin Luther's famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," in Norwegian churches becaue of the stanza containing the lines:

Their dreaded prince no more
Can harm us as of yore;
His rage we can endure,
For, lo! His doom is sure.

Suspicious Nazis fear that the Norwegians may at times think of Hitler when they sing about the "dreaded prince."

Meanwhile in the Netherlands the able subjects of Queen Wilhelmina continue to find ways of drowning out unwelcome Nazi speakers. When a crowd does not peal its bicycle bells for this purpos, it may resort to such cheering and applause that the speaker gives up in disgust.

* * *

But a new stratagem was used to bait a Dutch Nazi propagandist who sought, by loudspeaker, to address the town of Hilbarenbeek. No sooner had he begun orating than the carillon of a nearby church inexplicably began to play. The Nazi shouted for 15 minutes, his every syllable drowned out by the bells. Finally he had to compel the burgomaster to order the air raid sentry atop the church tower to turn off the music.

By such tricks and thrusts, by subtly-phrased newspaper announcements and by anti-Nazi jokes that spread like wildfire, the unconquerable people have made humor and derision a powerful part of their "war of nerves" against the Nazis.

Bluey and Curley of the Anzacs — "Careless Curley" — By Gurney (Australia)