

## SHELL GAME ON ATTU



The fast-firing crew of a U. S. Army field piece popping away at Japs on Attu Island keeps the ammunition bearers busy passing up "refills." At left the bearers are unpacking shells, while the pile of empty shell cases in the foreground tells its own story of headaches for the Nips.

## Have You Heard?

Two Scotsmen were discussing the domestic unhappiness of a mutual friend. "Aye, aye," said one, "Jamie Thompson, has a sair time wi' that wif o' his."

"What else can ye expect?" said the other scornfully. "The puir creature marit after courtin' for only seven years. Man, he had nae chance to ken the woman in sic a short time. When I was courtin' I courted for 20 years."

An amused listener to this conversation ventured to ask if this long courtship had ensured conjugal bliss, whereupon the old Scotsman replied:

"I tell ye I courted for 20 year and in that time I kent what woman was, and so I didna marry."

Farmer: "I've never seen such a season. My corn isn't an inch high."

Neighbor: "An inch? Why the sparrows have to kneel down to eat mine."

A little boy in school refused to sew, thinking it beneath the dignity of a 10-year-old man.

"George Washington sewed," said the principal, "taking it for granted that a soldier must; and do you consider yourself better than George Washington?"

"I don't know; time will tell," said the boy seriously.

Foreman: "Now, Murphy, what about carrying some bricks."

Murphy: "I ain't feelin' well, guvnor. I'm tremblin' all over."

Foreman: "Well, then, get busy with the sieve."

A Chinese recruit being examined by an English officer was asked his name.

"Sreeze," he replied.

But the officer was unconvinced and asked for an explanation.

"Me very intelligent," the Chinese said. "Me translate into your language my name — Ati Sheo."

"Soanso is one of those fellows who has more money than brains, is he not?" asked Brown of his friend, Black.

"Yes; and he is not rich either," replied Black.

Magistrate: "You're a danger to pedestrians. You're not allowed to drive for two years."

Defendant: "But, sir, my living depends on it."

Magistrate: "So does theirs."

Mike: "I haven't seen my Uncle Pat for 10 years. Tell me what he's been doing all that time."

Ike: "Ten years."

## Soldiers Like Radio News Minus Frills

There is a radio here, too, writes Quentin Reynolds in Collier's from U. S. Air Base in Africa. Although the boys get no newspapers they are strangely apathetic toward our American news commentators and shouts of "Take him off" usually greet the pontifical tores of some men to whom millions of you at home listen intently. The boys seem to prefer the BPC, which merely broadcasts the communiques without comment.

## MALE HELP WANTED

Linotype Operators and Compositors apply to your nearest Employment and Selective Service Office. REFER TO FILE No. R0675.

## Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

1. If an invitation is received over the phone or verbally, may one say that he will let the other person know later whether he can accept?
2. Is it correct to have a wife's card appear on the letter box of an apartment?
3. What is the correct way to hold a glass in the hand?
4. If one wishes to attract the attention of an acquaintance who is standing near, should he do so by touching him?
5. Which is the larger of the two, the dinner plate or the service plate?
6. What is the customary way to mark the bride's wedding ring?

### ANSWERS

1. No; in this instance do some quick thinking, and give an answer one way or the other. 2. It is customary for the husband's card to be placed in the space provided for this purpose. 3. The glass should be held slightly below the centre, with the thumb and first two fingers. 4. No; many persons resent this. Merely call his name. 5. The service plate is usually one or two inches larger in diameter than the dinner plate. 6. With the initials of both the bride and bridegroom and the month, day and year of the wedding.

## Substitutes Found For Manila Fiber

Rope May Be Made From Jute, Cotton, Hemp, Nylon

Along with silk, camphor, rubber, and other items, manila fiber, best of rope-making materials, must be included in the list of Japan-caused shortages.

Rope, moreover, is quite an important article. Without rope, tugboats couldn't ply their trade; merchant ships and war vessels couldn't sail; rangers would have to do without scaling nets, etc.

Perhaps next best on the list of rope fibers is the sisal, an agave, which may be obtained from Africa. Another agave, henequen (principally used in binder twine), is obtainable from Mexico and Cuba. This sisal rope is only about 75 per cent as strong, size for size, as rope made from manila fiber. Henequen rope has only about 60 per cent of the strength of manila.

185,000 Acres In Hemp  
Rope also may be made from such fibers as jute, cotton, and hemp. Hemp is a familiar rope fiber. The old sailing vessels, before the introduction of manila to this country in 1820, were hemp-rope equipped. And hemp will soon be a real addition to the domestic rope fiber supply. This spring 185,000 acres of Corn Belt land are to be planted in hemp for fiber, and 50,000 acres more for seed. And in 1940 the entire hemp acreage in the United States was less than 2,000 acres.

Various other natural fibers are being experimented with for cordage. Among these may be mentioned the yucca, scrub palmetto, and such plants as caroa of Brazil, fique of Colombia, and malva blanca of Cuba.

Nylon Too Costly  
Not all rope fibers are obtained from plants. Rope spun from man-made nylon fibers is proving invaluable for glider tow-ropes and has been an important factor in making practicable the flying pickup of motorless craft. At present the matter of cost stands in the way of the general use of nylon fibers for rope, but it is thought that the cost may drop considerably under quantity production.

Researchers are also experimenting with other substances from which rope can be made, and viscose and acetate rayon fibers show promise.

## WHAT SCIENCE IS DOING

### WOOD OF GROWING TREES CAN BE DYED

The staining and dyeing of finished lumber is a process in which, in most cases, the color does not extend very deeply into the body of the wood, writes W. P. Keasbey in The Christian Science Monitor. An experimenter, however, claims to have developed a means of coloring the wood of living trees in such fashion that when the treated trees later are felled and sawed into lumber, the wood thus obtained will be uniformly and beautifully colored from heart to bark.

The color thus introduced into the wood is said to be practically indelible, being resistant to the bleaching action either of acid or of water.

The inventor of the process maintains also that the use of dye does not injure the tree.

The trees dyed experimentally include small beech, birch, and maple trees. The treatment involves first, the boring of several holes at the base of the trunk. Next, the holes are fitted with containers hung from the tree branches and serving as reservoirs for the dye.

The liquid flows through the tubes by gravity into the holes in the trunk, where it mingles with the circulating sap of the tree. The movement of the sap carries the coloring matter (the composition of which is kept secret by the inventor) to every part of the tree. The time required to complete the dyeing process is given as two days for small trees and four days or more for larger ones.

By means of this dyeing system, natural wood has been colored lavender, blue, yellow, and orange. Tests indicate that dyed-treated trees have harder wood than untreated trees of the same variety, which, for some wood-working purposes, may be an advantage.

This new dyed wood has been made into colored umbrella handles, candlesticks, buttons, etc. These products need no staining or painting—only polishing.

**THE SOLDIER'S PAL—**  
**MECCA OINTMENT**  
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## RECTAL SORENESS AND PILE TORTURE QUICKLY RELIEVED

If you are troubled with itching piles or rectal soreness, do not delay treatment and run the risk of having this condition become chronic. Any itching or soreness or painful passage of stool is nature's warning and proper treatment should be secured at once.

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## How Can I? ?

By Anne Ashley

### HOW CAN I?

Q. How can I preserve a thermos bottle when storing it?

A. Do not put the thermos bottle away with the cork inserted, as the bottle will become musty. Keep the cork elsewhere, but do not forget the location when the bottle is again required.

Q. How can I keep the bathroom disinfected?

A. When cleaning the bathroom add a few drops of disinfectant to the water. It will give the room a clean smell and will kill any germs that may be in the bowls.

Q. How can I easily stem strawberries?

A. It is much easier to stem strawberries, raspberries, or any other kind, if the berries are poured out on a table, or other flat surface.

Q. How should blankets be laundered?

A. Do not handle blankets roughly when washing them. Allow the water to soak through them, then pat or squeeze until saturated with water, and use the same method for drying. This will keep the fibers soft.

Q. How can I keep fish from losing its shape when boiling it?

A. Place a wire rack in the kettle in which the fish is to be boiled, place the fish carefully on the rack, and it will avoid the necessity of wrapping it in cheesecloth to retain its shape.

### Food For Tunis

The first train carrying food for civilians of Tunis since the Axis defeat arrived in that capital of Tunisia recently amid cheers from crowds gathered at the station. The cars were draped with flags of the Allied nations. The city was stripped of food by the Germans.

Because serious sabotage resulted, Germany has stopped the use of prisoners of war in loading railway cars and ships.

# Picobac

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## Nazi 'Blonde' Shot Down In Bomber

A story of girl gunners in Nazi bombers is being told by American soldiers wounded in Tunisia. "One of the girl gunners shot down near us," said Sergeant Victor R. Woodward, of Seymour, Ind., "was a very pretty blonde."

Girls are small enough to fit into the tail position of German bombers, and there is no reason why they can't shoot as well as men.

Paint brush bristles for essential war purposes come from China, and are flown out of that country by returning Allied fliers.

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**ISSUE No. 25—43**

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