

**EIGHTH ARMY WEEKLY**  
*Issued to the Fighting Forces in the Desert*  
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# The BATTLE of EGYPT

**"DEFEAT HIM WE WILL"**  
 — GENERAL AUCHINLECK  
**Officers and Men of the Eighth Army**

**A**FTER the fall of Tobruk, Field-Marshal Rommel could attempt what he had not dared to do in his former campaign because of the garrison's threat to his lines of communication. He could try and invade Egypt.

Tobruk fell on June 22. A week later, on June 28, Axis forces had occupied Matruh. The garrison had withdrawn, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The opposing forces are ranged now, as Auchinleck and Rommel confront each other, for the biggest battle that has so far taken place in the Middle East during the present war. Rommel, no doubt, "his spirit with divine ambition puffed, makes mouths at the invisible event."

This "invisible event" is not ultimately the one that has so far unexpectedly materialised out of the treacherous desert sand and baffled all generals on either side who have had to contend with it — the problem of overstretched lines of communication, nor is it the much advertised Qattara depression, sloping up north-eastward to a thirty-miles bottle-neck south of El Alamein. The ultimate barrier is the 8th Army that stands resolutely under General Auchinleck across the enemy's path eastwards.

Events moved quickly after June 22, for it was now or never for the German command. Heavy concentration of Germans, including some of the 90th Light Infantry Division and the 21st Armoured Division, moved east along the Trigh Capuzzo to the area round Sidi Azeiz. Behind the Germans came the Italians, and the Littoria Division probably reached Gambut that day. Although air forces clashed it heavily between Tobruk and Bardia. The first day after the fall of Tobruk, therefore, the enemy moved east between the Trigh Capuzzo and the sea.

We had now the alternative either of holding onto the line Sollum - Halfaya - the Omars - Maddalena, or of choosing to withdraw to the Matruh positions and further back between the northern edge of the Qattara depression and the sea, positions which would make an out-flanking move difficult, though not impossible, owing to the treacherous nature of the ground. The key to the former positions is Halfaya. Guns mounted there command the escarpment and the coastal approaches into Libya from the east, into Egypt from the west. But it is a position far more formidable as a fortress against attack from the east than as a defence facing west. Westwards from Halfaya and the Sollum barracks on the escarpment the country is flat. But guns turned the other way are mounted on walls of solid rock commanding the coastal depression.

It was decided therefore to withdraw our forces to positions further back, keeping all the while strong harassing forces to the south of the enemy advance.

On the next day, June 23, the enemy stopped advancing eastwards and moved south along the wire. He was not at first aware of our withdrawal from Sollum and the positions south of it — we had, in fact, blown up supplies at Capuzzo and sent off Halfaya like a volcano. He trod tentatively, searching for a good point to thrust through in the Sidi Omar-Sheferzen region.

On the next day, June 24, it seems that Rommel at length found we did not intend to hold onto the positions round the wire. He pushed over the frontier at 7.30 in the morning in three main columns between the Omars and Maddalena. One column made off north-east in the direction of Halfaya and armoured cars reached a point on the road some thirty miles east of Sollum. Other enemy forces went through Sofafi to Mesheifa. The enemy had proceeded 90 miles during the night and the vanguard had got to within some thirty miles of the Matruh perimeter.

On June 25 and 26, the enemy closed in fast onto the western defences of Matruh towards the point in the outer minefield where the Barrani road converges from the west with the Siwa track. Harassed all the time by our columns hitting at their southern flank, the Axis forces came on in two parallel lines, the German 21 Division and light infantry along the Barrani road, the 15 Division and three Italian divisions some miles to the south. By June 26, the northern force was within 14 kilos of Charing

**YOU HAVE FOUGHT HARD AND CONTINUOUSLY FOR OVER A MONTH. NO TROOPS COULD HAVE FOUGHT BETTER. YOU HAVE HAD HEAVY LOSSES AND IN SPITE OF YOUR EFFORTS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF GIVING GROUND BEFORE AN ENEMY WHO HAS SUPERIORITY IN ARMOURED TROOPS. IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT HE TOO HAS HAD SERIOUS LOSSES. HIS UNITS ARE MUCH REDUCED IN STRENGTH AND HE IS A LONG WAY FROM HIS BASES OF SUPPLY.**

**THE SITUATION NOW CALLS FOR A SUPREME EFFORT ON THE PART OF US ALL. WE ARE FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF EGYPT; A BATTLE IN WHICH THE ENEMY MUST BE DESTROYED. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOU CAN STICK IT AND I KNOW THAT YOU WILL STICK IT RIGHT OUT UNTIL HE CAN STAND IT NO LONGER. UNTIL HE CRACKS THE ENEMY MUST BE GIVEN NO REST. HE MUST BE ATTACKED AND HARRIED WHEREVER YOU FIND HIM. THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER YET AND WILL NOT BE OVER UNTIL WE HAVE DEFEATED HIM, AND DEFEAT HIM WE WILL.**

JUNE 30, 1942.



General Sir Claude Auchinleck who has taken over command of the 8th Army. He will personally direct its operations in the battle for Egypt.

Cross and some German tanks had made a dent in the western perimeter.

On June 27 the enemy began to move columns south and south-east of Matruh with the intention of cutting it off from the east. Battles took place south of Matruh and Bagush and all the time the enemy was boring his way through the minefields running in a wide arc to the west of the town.

The next day, while battles raged south of Bagush, the garrison fought its way out of Matruh, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

The 8th Army is now in as favourable a position tactically at it has ever been in to put paid once and for all to Field-Marshal Rommel's account. With its back to the Delta, its feet are planted firmly across the coastal approaches to Egypt. Rommel cannot yet have any great number of serviceable tanks left. If he is beaten now, he will be badly beaten. Rommel has his plans, but the

further east he reaches, the more difficult do they become of execution. General Auchinleck also has his plans and the more critical the position becomes the more determined are his men of the 8th Army to carry them out successfully, and once and for all to exterminate the menace to Egypt and the Delta.

**Egypt-A Bastion**  
**"EGYPT calls for a supreme effort,"** says the "New York Times" in an editorial. "Egypt is not merely the crossroads and meeting ground of the eastern and western wars. It is the great bar to the junction between the Germans and the Japanese, the chief outpost to the defence of the Caucasus and the guardian of the supply line to Russia. ...It is imperative to hold the Nile."

**REVIEW FOR THE BLUE**

## CHURCHILL BACK IN BRITAIN

**T**HE day the Afrika Korps reached the outskirts of Mersa Matruh, Winston Churchill flew back to England after eight days' talks with Franklin D. Roosevelt. An intermediary statement issued simultaneously in London and Washington said the Prime Minister and the President had reached agreement on "how to divert Germany's strength from her attack on Russia," and on measures to combat the present heavy losses by U-boat action of Allied shipping. In recalling that the Prime Minister and the President had similar talks in August and December of last year, the statement concluded: "There is no doubt in their minds that the overall picture is more favourable to victory than it was either in August or December of last year."

Mr. Churchill returned to England (again quoting the United Press) to find "a nation angry as a result of the crisis in Egypt, which some quarters blame directly on his performance as Minister of Defence." The same source said that although the Prime Minister faces a serious political storm he probably brings back from Washington a trump card with which to sway the issue — some definite announcement on a second front. In the forthcoming two-day debate on Libya in the Commons, Mr. Churchill will answer personally Sir John Wardlaw-Milne's "no confidence in the central direction of the war" motion, the first of its kind since the establishment of the Churchill Government in May, 1940.

To command United States troops on the second front (officially: "European theatre of operations") the Americans have appointed Major-General Dwight D. Eisenhower, a tank officer of World War 1. An agency describes him as "the best possible leader... a high-powered strategist, whose policy is to drive right through the enemy. His energy is magnificent." The



EISENHOWER

Montreal Gazette predicts that Canada's Lieut.-General Andrew MacNaughton will be second front generalissimo.

On the distant Russian front, correspondents compared the position to the opening rounds of a boxing bout. Two huge armies, estimated at 200 divisions each, are probing for weak spots at which to strike during the brief summer campaign season. By steamroller tactics, the Germans are advancing on the Kharkov front, in what Swedish correspondents term the beginning of the big push. And Sevastopol's plight is described by the B.B.C. as "desperate."

### Tough Red Army

"Fight to the last man," is the Red Army's order to the defenders of Sevastopol, whom the Germans for five weeks have been trying to annihilate. Of this the New York Times says: "In every position of the United Nations were defended as Sevastopol is being defended, with a spirit not of defence but of impassioned attack, we need have no fears as to the outcome of this struggle."

Although Russia and the Western Desert displace the Far Eastern war from the headlines, the Pacific is far from quiet. Durban's anti-aircraft guns went into action on the night of June 24 when an unidentified plane was over the Natal capital. And in the Western Pacific, Japanese submarines shelled Vancouver Island and shore targets in the nearby American State of Oregon.

### Four Figure Bremen Raid

Presumably hampered by heavy shipping losses, Japan is concentrating on developing internal lines of communication. Domei tells how the Imperial Railroads Commission is working all-out for a through service by rail from Tokyo to Shonanko (ex-Singapore) and Mandalay through Korea, Manchukuo, China and Indo-China. The main missing link is a 300-mile stretch in Indo-China. But a bigger obstacle is Chiang Kai-shek's grip on key lines in China.

More than 1,000 British bombers were over Bremen on the night of June 25 — the third four-figure raid on the Reich in a month. With a population of 350,000, Bremen is Germany's second port; submarines and Focke-Wulf aircraft are made there. The raid was concentrated into 75 minutes, a 15-minute gain on the Cologne time. The night was so short and the journey so long that the planes took off and landed in daylight. Fifty-two failed to return. During the week, 200 Spitfires at a time raided the French coast while Boston bombers attacked French targets. Killed in action with a German fighter squadron over France was Walter Goering, nephew of the Reichsmarshal.

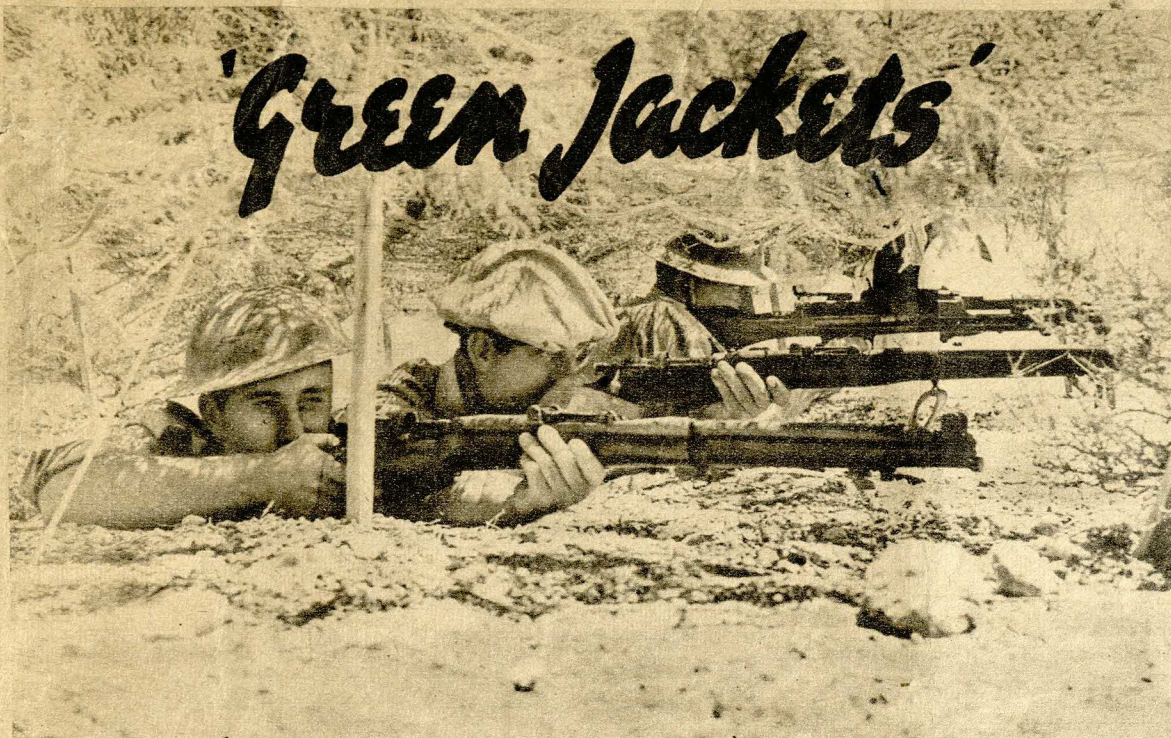


MACNAUGHTON

**VIVA ITALIA!**  
**CAUTIOUS** Berlin is not crowing about the Afrika Korps' progress.  
 But Italy sees the Axis advance into Egypt as a symptom of the renaissance of the military glory of Rome. Radio Roma says: "The Roman she-wolf now has her teeth deep into the British."  
 In hailing General Bastiano's "triumph," the Rome Radio mentions in passing the valuable aid received from German troops under Colonel-General Rommel.



# 'Green Jackets'



TWO and a-half years of nearly continuous fighting in the Western Desert—that is the record of the Rifle Brigade. This is an account as told by an officer of this regiment of the riflemen's "strange, eventful pilgrimage." The function of riflemen is now as it has always been—to move quickly, harassing the enemy with lightning attacks on the flank, patrolling, skirmishing—if need be, delaying. All this besides the infantry's role of taking and holding positions.

The Rifle Brigade, frequently operating in conjunction with the famous sister regiment, the K.R.R.'s, has moved about the desert dust, seeking out the enemy, either in patrols or columns, all this time, with only two short respites for refitting. Certainly their existence has not been monotonous. They have not had to stay put, cribbed, cabined and confined in one position for months on end, like the gunners in Tobruk. But many of them must be weary enough of travelling over stretches of desert that are mostly alike, sleeping short hours and hunting long ones.

### On the Wire in 1940

June 1940 saw the "Green-jackets" up on the wire. East Londoners mostly, like the 60th, the contrast between the purloins of the Commercial Road and the dockside and a nothingness of dust and scrub did not dismay them in the least. The East Londoner is at home anywhere.

For the first few months of a pretty "phoney" phase of the war, when Mussolini seemed to be waiting for Hitler to finish Britain off elsewhere, one contingent of the R.B. acted as the antennæ of the original Army of the Nile. It operated in carrier patrols by day and with foot patrols at night, harassing, observing—a terror to the Italians by night and a terror also by day. The hunting-ground was about Capuzzo and Sollum in the far-off days when these small outposts were not the plots of powdered sand and rubble heaps they are to-day.

When the Italians made that very tentative step forward in September 1940, which brought them past Sidi Barrani towards Matruh, and Winston Churchill remarked to the House that "our one platoon has withdrawn," the men of the Rifle Brigade formed columns between Sofafi and Sidi Barrani, still at their old task of night patrolling, shooting-up and causing the enemy considerable worry generally.

The conditions under which this sort of warfare is carried on are strenuous, to say the least of it. After being on the go all day, scouting and skirmishing, at dusk you withdraw to your leaguer. But it will be ten o'clock before the supplies have come up and the patrol has been watered, fuelled and the rations have been given out. You may with luck be in bed by midnight, but you must willy-nilly be up and on the track again by five next morning.

This lack of sleep combined with desert conditions—the terrible waves of the desert sea, rocks, hummocks and ruts, storms of dust, intense heat by day and in the winter intense cold at night—all this has been the constant lot of this regiment for over two years.

### Wavell's Great Trek

By the time of General Wavell's great trek forward in December 1940 the Rifle Brigade was in a support group with the 60th Rifles, 11th Hussars and the 3rd and 4th R.H.A. The job of this group throughout the advance was to sweep round



The "Sweeps" sit down to a "scoff" in their desert box shortly before the start of the battle. Mostly East Londoners, can settle down anywhere.

and cut off a succession of fortified positions. They cut the coast road between Bardia and Tobruk, preventing reinforcements from getting in and any of the garrison from getting out. They contained the town until the Australians came up and took it. Their rôle was the same with the storming of Tobruk. The group captured part of the western perimeter, chiefly by carrier patrols cooperating with gunners.

From Tobruk they went to Mechile, the axle from which tracks radiate like spokes from a wheel, north to the Jebel and south to neglected starting points of ancient caravans. From here they made a dash across the desert to the coast road, catching the Italians as they came out of Benghazi.

Followed the battle of Beda Fom where 30 to 40 enemy tanks were knocked out and 12,000 Italians were taken prisoner. General Gallina and his entire staff were made prisoners. They next proceeded to Agedabya and beyond to help hold the line.

After a while the men of the R.B. were relieved to re-equip, but were out fighting in the desert again when Rommel in his first advance had reached Halfaya. They played their old rôle, shooting up enemy transport and taking prisoners between Sidi Barrani and Maddalena.

In the push that started on November 18, 1941, part of the Rifle Brigade was with an armoured Brigade, taking part in the important delaying action at Mersa Brega, when Rommel had started his partial come back, but one company of one battalion was again with the K.R.R.'s in the famous infantry action at Sidi Rezegh, when these riflemen went in and took a position held by artillery and were afterwards almost completely wiped out by enemy tanks.

### Part of 7th Motor Brigade

In March, during the lull, they went back to refit for the second time, and when they returned they became part of the 7th Motor Brigade, roughly corresponding to the old support group, but consisting this time of the Rifle Brigade, the K.R.R.'s and the R.H.A. They were now operating in columns S.W. of Hacheim and as far to the north west as Segnali. These columns, which are fast and possess considerable hitting power from their twenty-five pounders and six and two pounder anti-tank guns, proceed in two parts, the



Lt. F. Smith, R.A.S.C. : "I have just read with great enjoyment the first number of "Crusader," Eighth Army's own paper. It's grand—good show." It is not a good show because the first number should have reached you before the second week in June when we got your letter.

Rfn. D. McFadden suggests : "What a wonderful subject life as I see it would make, expressing under a pen name the viewpoints of the General and the Private." "Crusader" doesn't know about the General's outlook so much as the Private's. In our first copy we began a series a "Private Reflects" and from time to time it will continue to appear.

We felt like throwing a party when L/Cpl. R. L. Shaw wrote to us : "I would be very grateful if you would put in your "Crusader" the following message of thanks : "I would like to thank the editor of our paper, the "Crusader," for giving to all members of Eighth Army an excellent paper which I know is gratefully read by all personnel of Eighth Army and many friends at home in England. May I wish the "Crusader" the greatest success. Trusting the above message meets with your approval."

We haven't stopped blushing and the Editor wrote straightaway for an increase in staff.

Says Sergeant J. A. Hall of the 7 Armed Div. : "One hears so much these days of the hardships and sufferings in that vast and savage country called England (so dearly beloved by all out here) that one begins to wonder if the lot of the troops out here is so bad after all. Anyway I dedicate this simple poem to them so that they may know that we in the desert do think of them." Sergeant Hall's poem was amusing but unprintable. It struck at the sort of person exposed by "Picture Post" who writes : "We are 10 miles from the nearest town. May we have a radiogram, a canteen, a Rolls-Royce, and Hedy Lamarr..."

L/Lpl. F. Madden was pleased with "A Private Reflects" which told of the overdue recognition of the good work done by British units who took part in the Eritrean campaign, Crete, Greece, and the desert. Says L/Cpl Madden : "I think it would prove of interest to many and educational value to some of your readers if brief mention is made of the work done by the Corps of Military Police in those actions and also at the present time." "Crusader" agrees that the Redcaps are doing a fine job of work and in the future we will publish a story which really gives them the credit they have earned.

munication. The end of this stage in Rommel's second attempt to invade Egypt and the fall of Tobruk found the Rifle Brigade actively operating still, and still splendidly bearing out that tribute paid to them by King William IV. "Wherever there has been fighting, there you have been, and wherever you have been there have you distinguished yourselves."

### Upheld Great Tradition

As in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, which they wear on their cap badges, as in the last war they have not only, in the western desert, proved worthy of their great tradition, they have all the time been adding to it.

And all the time they have been avenging the 1st Battalion, which, together with the 2nd Battalion of the 60th, fought on at Calais against two enemy divisions until they were all wiped out, but also until the evacuation from Dunkirk had been successfully completed.

## DESERT

Here is your waste land ! Not even prickly-pear  
But tufts and shrubs, twisted and stunted, seemingly dead,  
Salt marsh and dune, the mound marking notable bones.  
The main part a gravelly waste, sprawling, a void without use.  
Here only snails may live, groups of enamelled white snails  
And half of those are long dead, their shells left for tombs.  
This world is most unkind to life and those who inhabit the land  
Are rootless, in rags, and blown as the dust in the flat wind.  
All culture must crumble and vanish where all is so shifting and scant.  
Water sets limits to life, which is drawn from the deep-hidden wells  
Furtively storing their share of extravagant rains  
Which clawed and gauged at the stones and dry brittle earth and were  
lost.

So seasons pass by with the purposeless land little changed.  
But now there is mortal design in the folds of the grit,  
And meaning not lightly assessed in the hollow, the ridge.  
A transient quite disproportionate worth becomes theirs  
As semi-blind forces are spent in the eddy and sweep of the war  
And the battle gone by, the sand sets about its slow work.  
The weapon-pit silts to the brim but the stone piles stand firm  
With defenders all gone and no one to menace with fire,  
And the tanks, broken track, turret pierced or burnt black.  
In ones or small bitter-fought groups scattered over the miles  
Will stand wanly though years of chill dawns, irremovable marks.  
But is it not well that the war should move hither to rage  
Where man can destroy only man or the man-killing things?  
That the desert is puffed into dust and not the old cities, small homes,  
Cathedrals and shops, and the people who walk in the streets?

ALAN CRICK



## From Cabin Boy to Millionaire

Lord Glanely, one of Britain's most famous sporting peers, was killed in an air raid on a south-west town on Saturday, June 27. Though Lord Glanely was best known for his wide connection with the turf, he led an adventurous life, rising from a cabin boy to a millionaire.

Thirty-three of his 74 years were spent in racing and breeding. He won over 500 events to the value of well over a quarter of a million pounds, and the stud farm he founded at Exning is one of the most valuable in the world.

It was in 1908 that he developed a big interest in thoroughbreds, and was one of the foremost supporters of racing during the last war. His first big success was in 1919, when his Grand Parade won the Derby. Grand Parade was a cheap yearling purchase, but Lord Glanely, a keen ringside speculator, also had some costly disappointments.

He gave 14,500 gns. for Westward Ho, who never won a race, while he paid 11,500 gns. for a horse which won one race valued at £480. Grand Parade, however, proved a real bargain, having sired the winners of about 350 races worth a total of more than £180,000, since winning the Derby.

When Lord Glanely celebrated his 70th birthday on March 6, 1938, his friends had printed for private circulation a booklet entitled "Thirty Years on the Turf," which contains details of Lord Glanely's racing career with his record as a breeder and lists of his winners.

He was 12 years of age when he ran away to sea, was shipwrecked and took a job in a shipping office. Shortly afterwards he founded a steamship company with one small ship, but within a few years controlled a fleet of merchantmen and became one of the wealthiest men in Wales.

### NEW ARCHBISHOP ENTHRONED IN YORK

The big event in recent days in York has been the enthronement of the new Archbishop, Dr. Cyril Forster Garbett, who has taken up residence at Bishop Thorpe. Dr. Garbett, who was Bishop of Winchester before his appointment to succeed Dr. Temple at York, is 67, and a bachelor, and he and his sister, like Dr. and Mrs. Temple, are using only a few rooms in the riverside palace. The enthronement ceremony in the Minster was attended by twenty-eight bishops, four hundred robed clergy and about 3,000 people from all parts of the north of England. It was a great occasion. Those present will long remember the ecclesiastical pomp in the service that lasted an hour and a-half and the rare beauty of the music, which included fanfares specially written for the occasion by Sir Edward Baintow, Master of Music at the Minster. Senior officers of the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. were among the service people present, who were headed by the Northern Command chiefs, Lieut-General T.R. Eastwood and Air Vice-Marshal Carr.

### BACK HOME

The cool, calm beauty of the English scene. Like a call to a renewal of faith in the destiny and abiding qualities of our race comes this scene from Penhurst, Kent.

## Army Grows Food for 70,000 Men

The Army is often blamed for hindering food production; it is not generally realised that it is farming 7,148 acres and will soon be taking on another 1,000 acres.

The Army controls a considerable amount of land, and the general principle is to release as much as possible for civilian agriculture.

But the Army authorities are anxious that as little as possible of their land be wasted from a food production point of view. That is why they took up farming themselves.

Army training has come first, but ample supplies of manpower at other times have achieved wonders on some of the neglected lands of Britain.

In vegetables alone, for example, enough has been grown for 25,000,000 rations, enough to give 70,000 men their daily vegetable ration for a year.

### SOCIAL ASPECT OF SAVINGS

The Savings Movement is a vital part of British war finance, but the movement has an even wider scope than that of providing war finance. The President of the National Savings Movement has repeatedly insisted on its social and moral aspects.

In the case of "small" savings especially, the frequent "drives," such as Warship Weeks, have a profound psychological appeal. The movement starts increasing numbers of people on the path of regular saving.

A sum of £104 millions was derived from small savings, out of the £300 millions raised during the Warships Weeks campaign.

In the 984 districts for which details of the Weeks are available the small savings total represented as much as £3. 7s. 1d. a head of the population in those areas. This compares with £6. 7s. 6d. a head from large savings.

The President of the Savings Movement gave the following figures to indicate the progress of the Savings campaign. In the financial year 1940/41, large savings were £889,000,000, and small savings £550,000,000. In 1941/42 the corresponding figures were £1,298,000,000 & £659,000,000.

### MOVE OVER THERE!

Week-old chick, full of that commando spirit, is resolved that no old so-and-so is going to do him out of his milk ration.

## P.O. Sorters Had a Brain-Wave...

Troops serving in the Middle East are being brought days nearer to their families by a machine invented by two Post Office sorters in the airgraph section.

By mechanically folding and gumming airgraph letters the device enables the department to handle 80,000 a day.

Before the two sorters had their brain-wave, for which the Postmaster-General has awarded a prize of £20, these huge mails had all to be folded and gummed by hand.

Incidentally, the 10,000,000th airgraph letter to the troops in Middle East has just been despatched.

Members of the staffs of the airgraph section, G.P.O. and of the Army Post Office took the opportunity of using this letter themselves and sent greetings to their colleagues in the airgraph section in Egypt.

Had the 10,000,000 letters been sent by ordinary air mail they would have weighed 150 tons instead of one.

## 919 SUMMONSES IN SWANSEA CASE

Swansea is in the throes of a really local "sensation" which has a distinct wartime flavour. It is the prosecution by the Board of Trade of South Wales Transport Co. and seven of its principal officials for illegally using petrol from stock without authority. Among the defendants is Mr. Percy Blake, general manager of the company. Some idea of the case can be gleaned from the fact that originally there were 919 summonses before the court and the proceedings have already extended over seven days. It is the greatest "cause celebre" Swansea has known since the Jackson murder trial in pre-war days.

## SPORT JOTTINGS

It created no surprise in London soccer circles to find that the sixteen clubs who took part in last winter's successful competition couldn't accept the Football League's proposal that Portsmouth and Brighton should drop out of the League in favour of Luton Town. George Allison, chairman of the London group, said they knew the Government departments concerned had no objections to raise, so obviously they wouldn't want to spoil competitions that met with public approval last season. It was revealed that out of the pool that was created each club would receive at least £300 compared with £140 the previous year. As a gesture of their desire to keep friendly with the Football League the London clubs offered them a seat on the London committee.

\* \* \*

Joe Louis the world's heavyweight champion has gone to Fort Riley, Kansas, for strict training — this time for the Army. Not until he has passed out will he be allowed to box, except for the Forces. The big American negro is anxious to make all money he can to pay off 117,000 dollars income tax liabilities.

\* \* \*

Peter McWilliam who has resigned the post as manager of Tottenham Hotspur has been connected with the game for forty years. Now, at the age of 62, he has decided to live at Redcar, the ill health of his wife being one of the chief reasons for his decision. McWilliam was manager of Spurs when they won the F.A. cup and the 2nd Division championship. He left for a while, to manage Middlesbrough from 1927-1932, and after a spell with Arsenal returned to White Hart Lane. A great half-back in the vintage years at Newcastle, McWilliam has eight Scottish caps, a cup-winner's medal, four runners-up medals, and three League championship medals.

\* \* \*

Quite a galaxy of cricket talent took the field at Lords for the first big clash between the Services. The result was a 7 wickets win for the airmen. Leslie Todd, the Kent all-rounder was a bit of a problem for the Army, whose first six men were out for 56. Then the Cambridge stumper, S.C. Griffiths, started some hitting with Gover, putting one over the Tavern for 6. 73 runs were added for the last wicket, the amateur's score being 81. Todd took 5 for 70 in the score of 242, the R.A.F. getting the runs for the loss of three men. Washbrook (102) and Bob Wyatt (70 n.o.) put on 148 in 70 minutes. This was the first time Squadron Leader Edrich, D.F.C. had skipped the winner's. He handled his bowling well.

\* \* \*

Remarking "just can't play any more," Fred Perry, the world's professional lawn-tennis champion and three times Wimbledon champion, announced his retirement in Mexico City. Perry suffered an arm injury last winter, and the fact that this failed to heal has probably hastened his decision. Perry is 33.

## Builders Flying Squads

Great Britain now has a force of mobile builders who can tackle emergency building work anywhere in the country.

There are 600 mobile builders in 10 compact flying squads, complete with mobile feeding and sleeping accommodation, materials, and plant. Each squad is equipped with specially designed vehicles — three fitted with 16 bunks each, a fourth with 12 bunks and a kitchen to provide the squad with three meals a day for seven days, while a 5-ton lorry acts as tender to the convoy, carrying plant and sufficient materials to enable the squad to be independent for seven days.

Thus, in a town bombed overnight, they can arrive within a few hours and get to work without calling on local resources for billeting, food, tools, or even materials. Similarly they can instantly start an urgent job for one of the services in any lonely spot, without any need for huts, bedding, or canteens.

### HOBBY TO WAR JOB

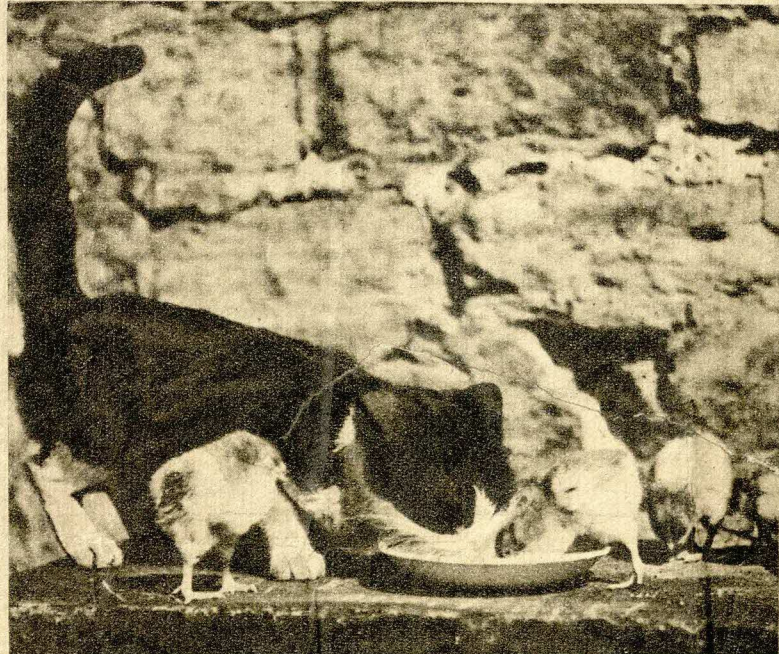
Mr. V.J.G. Woodason, whose peace-time hobby was making scale models of aircraft, is now doing the same thing on a bigger scale as his war-time job. He uses an old farmhouse and 14 highly skilled craftsmen to produce accurate models of all types of aircraft. Models are used for aircraft recognition purposes, for "shots" of crashing and blazing aircraft in films about the R.A.F.



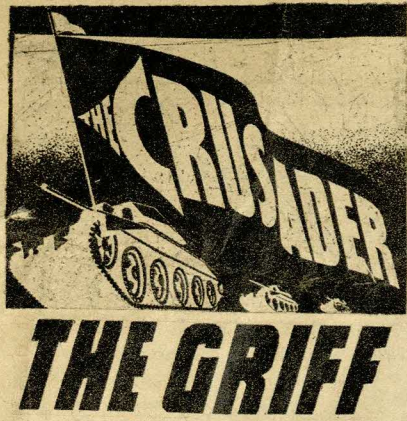
## SOUTH SHIELDS' UNENVIABLE CLAIM

All the world excepting, of course, the Axis gang, is singing the praises of our Merchant Navy, while we at home are constantly hearing stories of the heroism, endurance and hardships of those intrepid men who are facing the perils of attack from the air, on the sea and under the sea. It is claimed that South Shields has lost more men through enemy action at sea than any other town in the country, and this unenviable record has brought home to people here a full realisation of the necessity for action to help to pay off the enormous debt which we owe to the seafaring community. Chaplain Frederick Laight of the Tyne station of the Mission for Seamen has conceived the idea of providing a Rest Home for seamen who are recovering from the effects of their experiences at sea. With surprising speed he has brought the scheme to fruition by

opening a beautiful place in the country of Allendale, Northumberland, where many of you no doubt have spent a happy holiday. It was formerly a residential hotel standing in its own grounds, and the house has been specially adapted for the purpose. There are splendid facilities for recreation and entertainment of various kinds. Provision has also been made for medical attention should the necessity arise. Padre Laight's aim is to make the scheme self-supporting and he is relying upon the generosity of voluntary subscribers to meet the cost of maintenance, which, he estimates, will be about £2,000 a year. Each week 24 guests will be in residence, and they'll spend a week or two entirely free of charge during their period of convalescence. The first party has already arrived and there are more to follow during the next few days.







# THE GRIFF

Desert P.R. Officer Capt. Oliver has sent us an airgraph from his wife in England, which contains a picture of his wife and bonny babe. Capt. Oliver asks if this is the first airgraph photo to come from home. "Crusader," like Syd Walker, wants to know.

\*\*\*

Duplicated sheet headed Eighth Army News has been going around Eighth Army area for the past six months but recently a printed edition appeared. Readers have written in asking how we manage to print in the desert and some experts want to know why it is technically so sound. Bouquets must go to the Army Field Propaganda Unit. They offered to print the news and make history in the desert. The printers work in a lorry converted into a printing shop. Two Yorkshire printers work away under the sun we know so well and they turn out 3,000 copies daily.

Visiting the printing shop to see how "Crusader's" daily edition was going your correspondent noticed a third worker. Questioned in English he answered haltingly but managed to give out the information that he was a Czech and came from a village only 15 miles from the one the Germans wiped out as a reprisal for the well-earned murder of Heydrich.

\*\*\*

"So you Won't Talk" booklet produced three months ago has had an astonishing success. Outside Army circulation bounded to a quarter of a million and copies were sent home. This simply proves again that what Eighth Army learns—as the only British Army in contact with the enemy—the rest of the British Empire wants to learn too.

\*\*\*

This campaign has produced some interesting stories from men who have been taken prisoner and then escaped back to our lines. Most breathtaking of all we've heard so far concerns five South Africans who came along the Coast road out of Tobruk.

## SPORTING SAM . . . . . By Reg. Wootton



### "CRUSADER" CROSSWORD — 10

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8		9	10	
11			12		
13			14		15
16		17	18		
19	20	21			
22	23		24	25	
	26		27		
28					

#### ACROSS

1. First down may find it up against the front door
7. What a cave toad becomes at law
11. Thread holder
12. It's a question of time
13. Indoors signal
16. A man of many parts perhaps
18. A female is the making of him
19. Where you will usually find salts
21. His is boring work
22. Kate seems to accept here

24. Always behind
26. The first part of dinner
27. Winner of the V.C.
28. A cat dined at the election

#### DOWN

1. I cast cars by irony
2. Upset the trove, in public ?
3. Many devices are adopted to keep him from the door
4. The return of war
5. Charge
6. Edifice but not usually stately
8. Two of the pack
9. Take care of
10. A K.O. sound
14. Posters say every girl is
15. Vegetable
17. Sign
20. Related
23. Fit this to P.T.
25. The age we are.

#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Across : 1. Waistcoat ; 8. Immovable ; 11. Dapper ; 12. Ear ; 13. Son ; 15. Vice ; 16. Slopes ; 18. Whitebait ; 21. Aster ; 23. Anti ; 24. Keen ; 25. Dice ; 26. Annul. Down : 1. Wide awake ; 2. Amass ; 3. Impolite ; 4. Sop ; 5. Carve ; 6. Obesance ; 7. Alack ; 9. Vex ; 10. Erection ; 14. Note ; 17. Perdu ; 19. Bail ; 20. Item ; 22. Sea.

### African Miracle

She's Gene Tierney, heroine of "Sundown," new United Artists film about the Abyssinian campaign — but it is only Hollywood's Africa that can produce girls like these. Guy who has forgotten his sun hat is Bruce Cabot.

One of them removed his red shoulder tabs and stood up and looked grimly straight ahead as they drove past Axis convoys. The enemy thought the staff car and its occupants were important people and the South Africans received many an Axis salute. Said one of the escapees : "It was a strain on the nerves." We think this is an understatement.

\*\*\*

Mystery of this war is the absence of good songs. Readers write and recall "Tipperary" and "Pack up your troubles" and ask "Where are the songs of today ?" Wordy experts have written intricate explanations. "Crusader" investigator (still your correspondent) believes singing and songs go with marching or even the jog trot of a nag. The sound of a 15 cwt. Dodge or the powerful rumble of a tank hardly helps the likes of you and me to burst into song.

Lili Marleen which at present is the most popular song for desert rats is hardly a war song as it was composed 4 years before Hitler decided he had no more territorial claims in Europe and straightaway wanted the world.

\*\*\*

"Crusader" is fortunate enough to have acquired the desert's expert on cooking. We won't promise he can tell you how to make bully taste like chicken but he will let you know a variety of ways of making the best of what we have. Any enquiries should be addressed to "Jeff" cook-house Dept., c/o "Crusader," Main H.Q., Eighth Army.

\*\*\*

The Griff has started a series of the most amusing experiences in the desert. Asked to contribute the first, "Parade" writer Paul Chadburn replied : "Nothing amusing has ever happened to me in the desert."

What do you think ?

\*\*\*

Eyewitness accounts of actions are always required. There is no need to worry about literary style. Just write as if you were writing home. Send the result to the Editor, "Crusader," Main Headquarters, Eighth Army. Accounts should be verified by unit officers.



## Fighting Finish to Inter-Varsity Match

Despite a collapse of the Oxford "tail," there was a thrilling finish to the inter-Varsity match at Lords on Saturday, Cambridge winning by 77 runs. A draw seemed a certainty when Austin bowled Butterfield, the Oxford captain, with the seventh ball of the last over after Robins, a cousin of R.W.V. Robins, had taken three wickets in the previous over.

A crowd of 8,000, almost of peace-proportions, saw Cambridge bat

first and declare at 295 for 8, leaving Oxford 3 hours and 20 mins, in which to get the runs. They were all out for 218, after their score had stood at 200 for 6.

There was a surprise in the Bradford League. Saltaire, the leaders, sustaining their first defeat for two seasons when they met Lidget Green, who won by 22 runs. Many county players were engaged in this match, G.H. Pope, of Derbyshire, with 6 for 53, and G.R. Douglas, of Yorkshire, 4 for 34, bowling unchanged for Saltaire.

Saltaire made a disastrous start, five men being out for six runs, and they were dismissed in less than an hour for 66. Tom Mitchell, of Derbyshire and England, taking 6 for 44 with his leg-spinners.

In the same league, the Spen Victoria fast bowler, Render, had no

wicket for 19 in his first spell, and then came on again and took 5 for no run. Spen Victoria lost to Undercliffe, however, by 19 runs. Wood and Leyland, Yorkshire's Test players, batting well for the winners.

Another Yorkshire player, Barber, made 47 for Spen, while Brook, of Worcestershire, took 6 for 33.

F.C.W. Newman scored an unbeaten 143 for Nottinghamshire against an R.A.F. side at Trent Bridge, the match being drawn. Newman declared at 252 for 2, the all-rounder replying with 221 for 8.

At Hove, Sgt.-Inst. Denis Compton, Middlesex batsman and Arsenal footballer, scored a faultless century for the Army against Sussex, this game also ending in a draw. The Army declared at 275 for 9, Sussex totalling 224 for 5.

Sgt. Jack London, R.A.F., has entered the list as a challenger for Len Harvey's British and Empire heavy-weight titles. He has applied to the B.B.C. for a match with Harvey with the titles at stake, or an eliminating contest with Freddie Mills.

### QUESTION TIME

#### 1.—THE TRAIN

A train is half a mile long. It leaves station A, and the conductor waits until the train has just left A and jumps aboard the rear end of the train. He walks forward in the train while it is in motion, and alights at the engine as the train enters station B, four miles away. How far did the conductor ride ?

#### 2.—NOT SKY-HIGH

"This tree," said the gardener, "is 24 feet high. A year ago it was only 20 feet high." "Yes," said the expert, "but each year the growth of this kind of tree is only three-quarters of the previous year's growth. So it won't grow very tall, even if it lives until the Day of Judgement." What is the tree's limit in height ?

#### 3.—MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

I am a word of five letters. Without my 1,2,3, I am negative. Without my 1,2,5, I am one. Without my 1,5, I am a boy's name. Without my 2,5, I am a kitchen utensil. Without my 2,3,4, I am an Italian river. Without my 1,3,5, I am within. My whole is a musical instrument. What is it ?

#### 4.—SACKED

Can you get from JUTE to SACK in five moves, each move being a four-letter word differing from the preceding word by one letter only ?

#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1.—NUMERICAL PROBLEM  
£113,906 5s.

#### 2.—WORD FORM

C H A S E  
H A V E N  
A V O I D  
S E I Z E  
E N D E D

#### 3.—THE COINS

In order to get six coins on a side, place the coin numbered 5 upon 6 and 7 ; 8 on 9 and 10 ; 11 on 12 and 1 ; and 2 on 3 and 4.

#### 4.—A SINGLE WORD

A single word.

#### 5.—WORD ENIGMA

Problem



DUMB BLONDE : "Don't throw that junk out, darling. It isn't worth anything now but the way things are going up it'll soon be worth twice as much."  
by Arthur Ferrier (Sunday Pictorial)



# THE CRUSADER

## EIGHTH ARMY WEEKLY

Issued to the Fighting Forces in the Desert

No. 9 VOL. 1

JUNE 29, 1942

REVIEW FOR THE BLUE

## PREMIER IN WASHINGTON AGAIN

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Though no communicate has, at the time of writing, been issued from the White House, it is safe to assume that one of the major problems discussed was the all-important one of transport. It is just as clear to us as to those subject to undiluted Axis propaganda, that even though the U.S. is confident that the President's goal of 45,000 tanks this year, etc., will be reached and even surpassed, this will not help unless all this war material can be transported to the battle fronts.

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The Turkish radio expects the all-out German attack on the Eastern front to take place as soon as Sevastopol falls.

### British-Soviet Cooperation

Addressing a British-Soviet meeting in London, Sir Stafford Cripps said that the time would come when we would be able to launch a great and successful attack in the west. "When we strike let us strike hard, with determination to march through to Berlin before we call a halt." Mr. Attlee, opening an aid for Russia week at Stepney, said: "Supplies have been going through to Russia, and we will continue to help them. The Russians have blunted the German weapon but not destroyed it. They are putting up a magnificent defence which in due course will turn to offence and the utter rout of the common enemy, but all the help we can send will be needed."

On other parts of the front: General Zhukov has resumed his drive towards Smolensk, and the air war over Murmansk, where Allied supplies for Russia arrive, has flared up.

On June 18 the Members of the Supreme Soviet Council met in the Kremlin to ratify the Anglo-Soviet Agreement.

# "What has happened"

"CRUSADER" EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES THE SEQUENCE OF BATTLE EVENTS UP TO JUNE 23—AND SPEAKS OF THE NEW TASK THAT NOW FACES EIGHTH ARMY.

On the completion of their move after their advance from Mersa Brega to Tmimi in February the enemy settled down to a period of reorganisation and reinforcement, and our forces did the same. An uneasy lull of 3 months ensued. It is impossible to describe this as a static period; and on the whole great enterprise was shown by our forces in harrying and raiding the enemy. Had equal enterprise been shown by the enemy it is possible that they might have curtailed their casualties more than they did when the battle began.

IN March General Rommel visited Germany. He evidently demanded and received reinforcements on such a scale that he could renew the offensive with some confidence. Although the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. continued to take a toll of these reinforcements, the position was such that he received far greater quantities of reinforcements than was possible last Autumn. The Eighth Army also built up a formidable fighting force, and the newly-constructed railway line to the frontier greatly eased the problem of supplies.

### The Enemy Plan

On May 26 the enemy began their advance. Roughly, the plan was to send a large force South of our defended line, while containing our forces on that line from the West. This initial plan failed for two reasons, first the Southern extremity of the line at Bir Hacheim, held by the French forces, which was to have fallen on May 27 resisted all attacks till June 11. Secondly, our defended boxes and our armour gave a warm welcome to the large encircling columns from the South and on May 30 he was forced to withdraw his forces into gaps he had succeeded in making in our minefields covering the two main tracks East between the main road and Hacheim. His position was at this stage precarious and the fact that one of our Brigades occupied the position covering these gaps made it essential for him to eliminate this Brigade by every means in his power. This he did on June 1.

He next turned his attention to Hacheim, but all attacks by ground and air were defeated and the effective covering by the R.A.F. accounted for many enemy aircraft.

On June 3 our forces turned him out of Tamar, a small hill North of the "Cauldron" area, and caused a further contraction of the enemy forces East of the minefields.

On the night June 4/5 our forces counter-attacked the "Cauldron," and although successful in some respects, we did not succeed in turning him out of the "Cauldron." The enemy was forced to bring up his reserves, and left our forces in the Gazala area considerable play, of which they made full use. At this point, the situation could not stabilise. While we occupied Hacheim he could advance no further, and our forces were not quite strong enough either to eliminate the enemy in the "Cauldron" or to render the necessary assistance to Hacheim. Upon the evacuation of Hacheim positions on the night June 10/11, the enemy was able to concentrate his forces and once more threaten our positions South and South West of Tobruk.

During the next two days the enemy once more tried to carry out his original plan, i.e. to eliminate our armour and then attack from the East, cutting off our forces in the Gazala area. He inflicted considerable losses on our armoured forces and on June 14 the position at Gazala was successfully evacuated without serious interference by the enemy. The S.A. Div. moved through the Italian lines, causing consternation. The big problem encountered by this Div. was the number of prisoners, who were anxious to accompany them on their trek to the frontier.

At this stage, our forts West of Tobruk still held, and although during the days that followed they were in turn evacuated, the enemy only succeeded in taking one position by direct assault. The El Adem box alone on June 15 beat off three enemy attacks.

On June 17 the enemy succeeded in occupying Sidi Rezegh and shutting off our armour which was opposite him. This was really the last chance of keeping our garrison outside the perimeter and preventing the enemy from cutting the Tobruk-Bardia road.

On June 18/19 he pushed his columns towards the frontier while our forces were withdrawn to our positions in that area.

One of our Motorised Brigades throughout these difficult

## The New Task

A lost battle is not a lost campaign — the ups and downs of the Libyan fighting have established that truth securely. The British task now is to halt Rommel on the long and difficult road into Egypt, and to assemble the strength that may once again force his retirement to the west. It must be done, and it can be done — that will be the response of army and people alike.

("The Times")

We must re-establish our Middle East position, and shipping and supplies must be found to do it. Russia herself would not thank us for another front elsewhere which we paid for with the loss of the Middle East, on whose security — as her southern flank — she depends almost as much as we do.

("Manchester Guardian")

days operated successful raiding columns against the enemy from the South, but the scale of these operations was not sufficient to prevent him attaining his main objectives. On the opening of June 19 the enemy forces were observed moving West again, leaving strong columns in the frontier area to prevent interference with his next move. This was a direct attack on Tobruk from the South East, in the manner which he had planned in November, but which our offensive at that date had anticipated. It would appear that this move was successful. The enemy is now free to turn against the Egyptian frontier without the

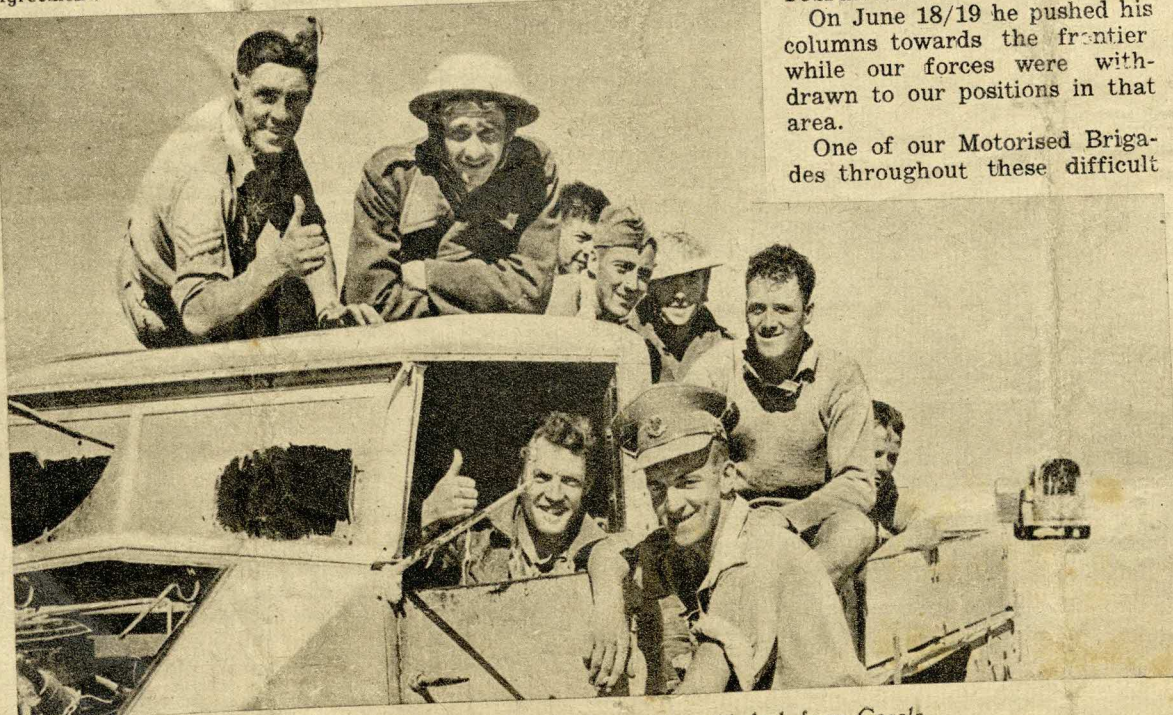
This has not been a battle of prisoners. It has been a battle of killed and wounded. Losses on both sides have been large. We have succeeded in preventing many large stores of ammunition and petrol from passing into enemy hands.

There can be no attempt to minimise the seriousness of the issue which now faces us. We know, however, that our forces ranged on the Egyptian frontier, the old "Tom Tiddler's" ground, are intact and full of fight. It cannot be denied that the enemy's morale will be heightened by the successes so far achieved, but our Commanders have already prepared defences against a serious attack on the frontier, and from these defences they can also issue forth to strike at the enemy.

### The Third Battle

Twice during two years of war our forces have driven the enemy out of Cyrenaica, and twice they have been driven from the profits. Both these battles have been waged for the defence of Egypt and the security of our position in the Middle East.

The third battle must now be fought with the same objective. Whatever may be thought by those at a distance, this third battle will be the toughest yet fought. Many times since May 26 the issue has balanced on a knife edge. One German officer remarked "If we attack Tobruk and reach the Egyptian frontier our stiffest fight has yet to begin." The only criterion for desert warfare is the elimination of the enemy's armour, and the Eighth Army so far from being eliminated is ready and willing to fight another and greater action.



Men of the 50th Division back from their wild dash from Gazala





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The Turkish radio expects the all-out German attack on the Eastern front to take place as soon as Sevastopol falls.

## British-Soviet Cooperation

Addressing a British-Soviet alliance demonstration on Saturday night in London, Sir Stafford Cripps said that the time would come when we would be able to launch a great and successful attack in the west. "When we strike let us strike hard, with determination to march through to Berlin before we call a halt." Mr. Attlee, opening an aid for Russia week at Stepney, said: "Supplies have been going through to Russia, and we will continue to help them. The Russians have blunted the German weapon but not destroyed it. They are putting up a magnificent defence which in due course will turn to offence and the utter rout of the common enemy, but all the help we can send will be needed."

On other parts of the front: General Zhukov has resumed his drive towards Smolensk, and the air war over Murmansk, where Allied supplies for Russia arrive, has flared up.

On June 18 the Members of the Supreme Soviet Council met in the Kremlin to ratify the Anglo-Soviet Agreement.



Men of the 50th Division back from their wild dash from Gazala





Soldier of 50 Div. gets down to maintenance of his carrier.

## "Good old 50 Div"

by RICHARD McMILLAN

BRITISH UNITED PRESS WAR CORRESPONDENT

Libya, June 17.

FROM the Commander-in-Chief to the lowest ranker, every man of the 8th Army today is saying, "Good old 50 Div."

Just when Rommel thought they were sure to fall in his bag as he worked to the rear of the Gazala line, the entire division went into action. In an incredibly daring and skilful offensive in which every man became his own commando, they drove right through the enemy's lines of communications, fought panzers and two Italian divisions and swept round in a large circle to safety. Here is a snapshot summary of the musketeering exploits of their night time marauding right through the enemy's lines which will surely send a warm throbbing through the hearts of those at home as it has done to every officer and man amongst our fighting men in Libya.

They caught two Italian divisions, Brescia and Pavia, off their guard, and shot them up mercilessly as they ran screaming over the battlefield, many of them in their pyjamas; passed through a Nazi panzer laager in convoy, shouting in German so that

the guards were deceived; brought 12 Valentines over a 150-mile trek under the noses of the Germans after we had resigned ourselves to losing all of them; burned, bombed and threw hand grenades at Axis trucks, troops, tents and dugouts, and generally indulged in a hilarious, breath-taking, fighting adventure.

### North Countrymen

Most of them came from the moorlands and seaports of Yorkshire, from the mines of Durham and from factories and docksides of Liverpool and Cheshire, with quite a sprinkling of Scots who were incorporated in the division after the battle of France.

Listen to Sergeant Peter Brogan, a husky Liverpool Irishman from Great Tower Street, Merseyside give his account of the grand slam back against the Axis — just as he told it to me under the blistering sun in the middle of the desert. Wearing a balaclava to shield his head from the sun and stripped to the waist, he said:

"We started about 8 p.m. on Sunday and moved south. I was with a

machine-gun party and the way was opened through the minefields by the East Yorkshires on the eastern gap and the Durham Light Infantry on the western gap. They held the bridgeheads for us from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m. The two gaps were made just north-west of the Italian main positions at Gabr-el-Abidi, about 15 miles south of the coast-line at Gazala. We linked up with a party of South Africans attached to the division. We were travelling in five trucks. Suddenly the Sergeant-major's truck stopped and I heard an Italian voice saying 'Qui.' I could see figures moving so I put out my Tommy-gun and rivetted one fellow. That began a regular "donnybrook" which went on until we were tired of chasing 'em."

A South African Sergeant-major grinning from ear to ear took up the story:

"The British tommies were magnificent. Why, Brogan here — I couldn't get him away. He'd dash into tents firing his Tommy-gun and then into dugouts in which the Italians were squealing. I'd call him off and he'd reply appealingly. 'Aw Sergeant-major, just one more please.'" Brogan resumed the story gleefully smacking his bared, bronzed chest which was tattooed all over, including a cherub and half a dozen cupids as well as an imposing Union Jack on his shoulder-blade.

"We routed out an interpreter who said the Ities had been shivering for a week waiting for us to attack. Rommel told them, 'You keep policemen and catch them. Don't fail.' It seemed as if a thousand "donnybrooks" were going on at the same time with pistols, Tommy-guns, machine-guns and artillery popping off; the sky was filled with tracer and the cries of the terrified Ities."

A Yorkshire lad from Leeds took up the narrative:

"One of our lads we discovered in the dark with his hands up. We asked him what the trouble was. 'Aren't we prisoners?' he asked, 'someone has got a gun in my ribs.' We found that another of our lads had mistaken him in the darkness for a Jerry."

A private in the Green Howards said the Divisional General set an example to everyone as he rode around the battlefield with trucks, assembling his men and guns and bringing them into the main convoy.

Sergeant-major Jack Frost from Worcester, Capetown, who was with the 50th Division said that if we'd had enough transport we could have roped in thousands of Italian prisoners. The scene was incredible; the desert was like Coney Island with fireworks. The machine-gunners showed themselves the doughtiest fighters.

A Manchester lad said it reminded him of the battle of Atlanta in the film "Gone with the Wind." Substitute trucks for burning buildings; add Verey lights, tracers, the flash

freely. Where tales are told and criticisms are made.

The desert Inn — and by desert Inn I mean anywhere where any men get together over a mug of anything whatever — is naturally productive of a great deal of criticism, but, unlike the bars at home, it is always inform-

of Bren guns and Tommy-guns, on the outline tanks firing madly, and you have it."

The rendezvous point where we were due to turn east was some miles below the starting point. "We went slowly, only 12 miles in four hours to begin with," a Glasgow lad said, "but we arrived at the rendezvous right on time — 5.30 a.m. — and continued to march. Altogether it took us 24 hours."

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Campbell Paterson, from Stellenbosch, Capetown, grinned. "It was like a glorious Christmas Eve fireworks show."

An officer who had been through Dunkirk said: "From a spectacular point of view it was a damn sight better show. It seemed as though a thousand battles were going on and each one had a private one of his own."

### Gunner colonel's exploits

As we moved slowly across the desert plateau we met a gunner colonel from Bath, who had just washed some dust off his shirt which was dangling outside his trousers. Joyfully he said, "I'll not trouble to stick my shirt in," and proceeded to relate his experiences.

"General Ramsden said: 'Look here, you have got to knock 'em out of the way and walk through.' We did. We tonked them aside, ran right through south and then east and most of the division was safe, even the guns and tanks. A young major of the Tanks was marvellous. Major-General Gott believed it impossible to get them out and thought we should have to blow up everything after having done the work of forcing the bridgehead, but the lad in command found a patrol in the desert, got some diesel oil and came back to our lines triumphantly."

His shirt blowing around his legs in the hot Libyan breeze, the Colonel went on: "Our barrage went on before we attacked until the guns were red hot. We formed a half-moon with our positions at the end of the Gazala line, just north of Gabr-el-Fachri where we forced the



Maj. Gen. Ramsden who led the 50th Division out of Gazala.

ed criticism, at least when it deals with the battle. Again, unlike many raconteurs in English pubs, the tales of the men up forward are true. It is often hard for the stranger, the wanderer in search of information, to get at these tales at all.

We came across a good one the other day.

We were hitch-hiking and living like hoboes, for we had given our truck and all our rations to a colleague bound on another job. On the first night out we fortunately hit the Enba Arms, a familiar sign, though hoisted in an unfamiliar place: for they are the "flying Inns" of the desert, the sign-board messes.

Among the guests that night there happened to be a certain Major of the Tanks. Let's call him "Kem." He came from Nottingham ("where the brave men and the pretty girls come from") and served in the last war with the 7 Lancers. Now he was with the field workshops, "all non-combatants and beer-drinkers," as he described the Ordnance men who took part in this fantastic epic. He told it as a joke — but it was far from a joke at the time.

One morning the men were working away as usual in the field workshops, getting A.F.V.'s battle-worthy in record time — 68 in three days gives some indication. Then, looking out of his lorry office, "Kem" saw an R.A.S.C. driver who had stopped

(Continued on back page)

bridgehead while the others forced Gabr-el-Abidi, the main Italian position. I was separated from my main party and had two trucks and a recovery truck. When I arrived at the Italian position I found it deserted and trucks laden with petrol were burning furiously. Then I heard some Italians talking. I saw the group and went up and stuck my finger in the back of an officer. 'Stick 'em up,' I said and they threw their hands in the air terrified. One party passed through a German tank laager. Someone in the party called in German to the sentries who allowed them to pass, but as the tail end of the convoy arrived they got suspicious and fired, and the battle began. Another group collected some Italians in a lorry. They said, 'Take us with you.'

### No Time for General?

Having consented, they all drove off when the Italians said, 'You can get a general too,' but our boys answered, 'Sorry, haven't time.' We took water, petrol and food and destroyed everything we couldn't take. We took the boots off one group of Italians, threw them away and left them sitting in the desert, howling in the dark. Most of the Italians were asleep and ran in their pyjamas when our Tommy-guns opened fire, tearing like frightened rabbits through the camp.

## American 'planes are everywhere

By an Air Correspondent

"A squadron flying Curtiss Kittyhawk fighters shot down 20 enemy aeroplanes in one battle in Libya."

"A Consolidated Liberator of the R.A.F. Coastal Command shot down two Heinkels and almost certainly sank a submarine in one Atlantic patrol."

"A Lockheed Hudson scored two direct hits with high-explosive bombs on an enemy merchant ship in the North Sea and sank it."

"Boeing Fortress bombers scored direct hits on five Japanese transports and two cruisers in the East Strait."

These are typical extracts from reports which come in from the battle fronts telling of the exploits of a dozen different nationalities flying American-built aircraft. American aeroplanes are proving their worth in action alongside the first-class products of the British Aircraft Industry.

### NIGHT FIGHTERS

In Great Britain now they have the Hudsons, Catalinas and Liberators of Coastal Command and a large number of Douglas Havoc night fighters, and the new North American Mustang single-seaters.

In the Middle East the Kittyhawk fighters are doing great work alongside the earlier Tomahawks from which they are developed. Martin Marylands go on day bombing raids reinforced by Douglas Bostons.

In Russia American aeroplanes are doing well. Curtiss Tomahawks are in service there in some numbers and, flown by Russian pilots, appear to have gained a large number of victories.

### IN THE THICK OF IT

American aeroplanes are in the thick of the War. To what do they owe their record of achievement?

In the first place, almost all American aeroplanes are excellent flying machines. In the past some of them were under-armoured and under-armed. But they all flew well.

Now the lessons of two years of war are being built into the American types and as a result some of them are as heavily armed as any aeroplane in the world.

Another excellent point of American machines is the reliability of their engines. Apart from the new Allison, all the American engines are developments of those which have flown millions of hours on the great civil airlines of the U.S.A. They need the minimum of attention and run an enormous number of hours without overhaul.

## "At the Sign of the Tin Mug"

By PAUL CHADBURN, "PARADE" WESTERN DESERT OBSERVER

Beside a truck in the open desert at dusk, over a mug of char; sharing some rare hoarded drop of gin with Guards' officers in a bleak M.T. — and 25 pounder — littered rest area; or in a tent beside a pub sign, stuck into the ground like a standard only a few miles from the enemy: these are the times when for brief spaces the battle looms out of the dust, comes suddenly into focus, not as a coherent picture of moves

and counter-moves, objectives won or lost, figures of gains or losses; but as a series of plain pictures of human initiative and endurance.

That Inn sign — The Spotted Dog, the Enba Arms, the Dewdrop Inn or the Duck Inn — whether in solid wood or just as a memory in the minds of men drinking salty char in a dug-out, is in fact the standard of the Eighth Army. Because it is in the Inn that men discuss things

## STOP PRESS

### REINFORCEMENTS ON WAY

In House of Commons today (June 23), Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, in statement regarding operations in Libya and Mediterranean, said that strong land and air reinforcements were arriving and others were on their way.

### NAVAL ACTIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN

Mr. Attlee spoke of attack on two of our convoys in Mediterranean, and stated that during two encounters, we had lost 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers, 2 escort vessels and 30 'planes. As against this, the enemy had lost one 8-in. cruiser, 2 destroyers, 1 U-boat; 1 battleship was hit by torpedo; and at least 65 'planes were lost.



Prisoners cage in the desert.





**BACK HOME**  
Lass with Lamb. The young shepherdess with spring lamb makes a charming picture among the daffodils on the fells at Troutbeck, Lake District.

## Muns 'A 1' college at prison camp

A FORMER headmaster who became a C.Q.M.S. and is now a prisoner of war in Germany has established a school at Stalag VIII B which he considers, "has the status of a first-class technical college."

He has applied to the educational books section of the prisoners of war department of the Red Cross and St. John war organisation for the largest single consignment of books for study ever received by the section.

The curriculum of his school includes:

History, geography, mathematics, English, French, Spanish, German and Greek.

The theory of music and harmony.

Physiology, anatomy, first aid, commercial advertising and art.

Law and accountancy, electrical engineering, elocution and the drama.

Each subject is taught by men recruited from among the prisoners.

The classes in accountancy are conducted by two chartered accountants and a barrister supervises the law studies.

Three qualified engineers look after the engineering courses and three surgeons deal with physiology.

## Stage coach rides again in Eire

The "four-in-hand" stage coach, complete even to horn and scarlet and white driver, is Eire's answer to restricted transport facilities through wartime fuel and petrol rationing.

Daily over the highway between Limerick and Rathkeale, a distance of 24 miles, it rocks on its way, to pull up at Adare for a change of horses on each journey.

The idea originated with Lord Adare, who lives at Adare Manor, near the coach road.

Less than a century ago this route was operated by Bianconi, an Italian who established a coaching service all over the south of Ireland.

Transport of goods from Oughterard to Galway by sailing boat is to be revived after 30 years.

## BEE'D OUT

A swarm of bees settled on a fire-call box in Portsmouth. Civil Defence workers who have faced Hun bombs for months would not face the bees! An expert was sent from the countryside and even he took two days about the job. The standard had to be cut off and the swarm taken away. As the queen bee had gone to the bottom of the hollow standard, her bodyguard refused to move. A new call box has now been installed!

## 41% say Hitler can be beaten this year

"Do you think it is possible for the Allies to defeat Germany this year?"

According to the latest Gallup Poll, the British public is evenly divided in its opinion on this question.

41% said "Yes."

40% said "No."

19% said "Don't know."

On a supplementary question in which those interviewed were asked:

"How do you think Great Britain can best help to defeat Germany this year?"

the analysis of the results showed that:

36% said: "Open up another front; develop an offensive somewhere."

15% said: "Help the Soviet Union in every way we can."

13% said: "Increase the weight of our bombing offensive on Germany."

9% said: "Improve our war production."

6% made miscellaneous suggestions.

21% made no suggestion.

## "Houses for heroes"

— real this time

Can we after this war make "Houses fit for Heroes" something more than an empty and hollow slogan? Sir Stafford Cripps says we can and must.

### KEYS TO VICTORY

"Pennies on the drum" — the famous phrase from the "Old Town Hall" programme — was changed to "keys on the drum" at Birmingham when genial Clay Keyes, compère of this popular radio show, opened a new type of salvage drive. He appealed to Birmingham people to help the metal salvage campaign by throwing all their old unwanted keys onto a huge drum which had been placed in front of the bandstand facing the century-old Birmingham Town Hall. In the queue of people waiting to throw their keys on the drum was a tiny tot who had to be lifted to hurl onto the drum seventeen keys. Attached to them was a note reading "To unlock the doors for all British prisoners to come home. My dad's been a prisoner for two years. From his son, aged three."

Opening an exhibition at St. Martin's School of Art, London, recently, he looked forward to a slumless future.

The old assumption, he said, that anything was good enough for the poor was killed by the realisation that every citizen was entitled to a standard of decency, health, cleanliness, and even convenience.

The problem of rehousing was not primarily one of destroying slums. It was one of building new houses for the ordinary man, his wife and children.

The exhibition, largely pictorial, shows post-war modern homes. It was designed by Miss Elizabeth Denby, who has studied housing in Sweden.

One sitting room with little furniture has built-in cupboards, corduroy-covered chairs (easy to wash), a hair cord carpet and painted, light-reflecting walls.

Two million homes have to be rebuilt to replace those destroyed by bombing, and it is suggested that they should have central heating, diffused lighting and wide, steel-framed windows, with communal lavatories and communal gardens for workmen's flats.

## Managers - workers get together

NEWEST idea in industrial Britain is the formation of Joint Works Committees in factories, composed of representative members from both management and workers. Mr. C. J. Thefaut, pictured here, a centre lathe turner, is the workers' Chairman at the factory where the idea originated and takes over at alternate meetings.

Through the Joint Works Committees inventions have been brought to light and grievances settled, and the management, through their representatives, explain their problems also to the workers, as a result of this one increase by forty per cent, since the introduction of the system.

The Government are taking a keen interest in the formation of these committees which are rapidly being started in factories all over the country. They are being introduced into the Royal Ordnance Factories as well as in other Government-controlled munition factories.

Members of the Council are elected at a secret ballot held in the works and both men and women are eligible. Matters covered by the Trade Union Agreements are not, of course, discussed by the Council.

## Joint and two veg - flaked

Joint and two vegetables delivered by letter post for meals any day may follow official experiments in "dehydration" of food—removal of water from food, leaving flavour, essential minerals and vitamins.

America, New Zealand and Australia are handling the meat side of the experiment and are already sending us dehydrated beef, mutton and lamb.

The saving in shipping space snip is in postage. One nary carcass meat.

Dehydration of vegetables is being tackled at a factory in the Eastern Counties under supervision of the Food Ministry.

Potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbages, parsley, lettuces, and mint are being dried and flaked.

They merely require addition of water to make them ready for kitchen use.

"One hundredweight of dehydrated carrots is equal to 13 hundredweights of natural carrots," the manager of the factory said yesterday. Another authority put it:—

"An 8-ounce can of dehydrated food contains the equivalent of half a stone of fruit or vegetables."

If the experiment is successful it is expected to help storage of vitamin-rich foods against emergency or scarcity; to reduce shipping tonnage for taking food to troops overseas, and to simplify, after the war, feeding of war-starved nations.



## Girls fare well in war jobs

YOUNG women on war work are enjoying better health than ever before, thanks to factory canteens.

There they are eating good, wholesome food, properly cooked. No longer do they have to rely on "snatch" bun and tea lunches as they did in their old jobs.

"The risks of under nourishment among young women have been lessened by wartime conditions," a public health official told the "Daily Mirror."

"If you look around you will see many young women workers and members of the women's forces who look far fitter and better in health."

### SLIMMING DYING OUT

Ministry of Health statistics show that there was a slight increase in tuberculosis among women in the danger age group—18 to 25 years.

Recently the number has decreased.

"Slimming was one of the greatest dangers to young women in peace time," a doctor said.

"When carried to extremes, it caused death."

"This fetish has died out now that most girls are in the women's services or in war industries."

### R.I.P. ?

Sunderland Royal Infirmary received a battered 10/- note the other day from an anonymous donor with a letter headed "Heydrich," saying: "In execrable memory in lieu of a wreath; a rather dirty note for a very dirty man."

## SCHOOLS — "KEEP RABBITS"

SCHOOLS should keep more rabbits.

This advice was issued by the Board of Education yesterday.

Any school which has a garden allotment or access to hedgerow waste could support four breeding does and their off-spring, and this would produce about 2cwt. of meat in a year.

Feeding stuffs and wire netting can be obtained by forming co-operative clubs.

### COBBLER WILL DECIDE

When you next take your boots or shoes to the repairer he will advise how much repairing is necessary.

Instead of putting a new sole on a slightly worn shoe he will indicate the most suitable repair.

No more long soles from toe to heel in shoe repairs; and the repairer MUST patch instead of re-sole or re-heel when he judges it possible.

This is part of a campaign to save leather — small patches only for small repairs.

## YOUNGEST C.O. ?

Squadron Leader Cattenach, the youngest commander in the Australian Air Force, has been in Scotland seeing the land of his ancestors. At the age of 20 he has claimed to be the youngest C.O. of any air force. He was delighted to know his grandparents came from the north, where the Cattenachs formed a strong clan in the days of highland-lowland warfare.

## Holiday fun at home

REAL stay-at-home holidays are being planned for over 1,000,000 war workers in the North-East this year.

The scheme provides for workers in the big industrial areas of Tyne-side, Tees-side and Wear-side.

Twenty-seven local authorities in the area began to arrange for all the attractions of the big amusement centres.

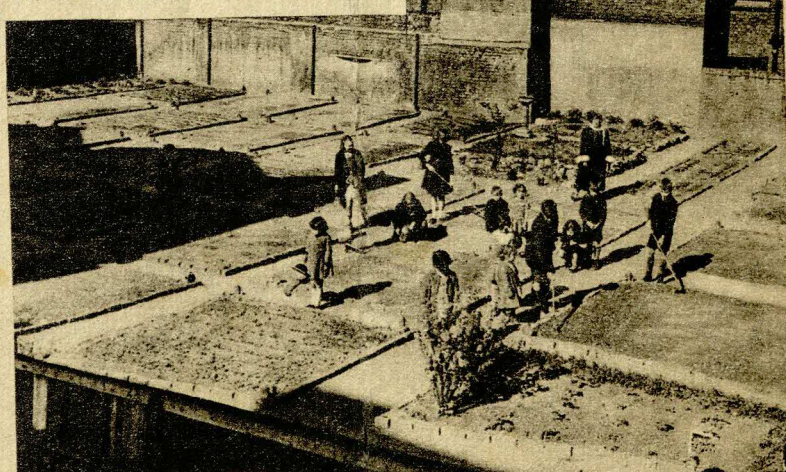
Fun fairs, side-shows, and even donkeys for the youngsters, will be brought into the heart of steel making, ship-building, and munition making districts.

The programme will continue from June to the end of August.

It has been drawn up in full collaboration with employers and trade union officials to ensure that there shall be no falling off in vital war production.

## Blitz Patch

London's bomb-scarred face is gradually taking on a new and strange appearance. Under the London Children's Garden Fund scheme children are being encouraged to give their spare time to the growing of food on allotments on what were formerly sites of buildings demolished in the blitz. The children of Finsbury, E.C.I. as shown here, are no slugs when the call goes forth to "dig for victory."







## At the Sign of the Tin Mug

(Continued from page 2)

his truck in the middle of the Workshops and was brewing himself some tea. "A strange place to camp," "Kem" said to himself and went over to ask the driver what he was doing. "Only making me self a cup of tea — seems to be quiet like over here", the man explained, and added laconically, "just got away from a lot of Jerry tanks over the ridge there."

There had been rumours all morning of an enemy column somewhere about, so "Kem" jumped into his staff car, took the only two completed armoured jobs with him as an escort, and departed on a "look see". He drove eight miles to the East and saw nothing, eight miles South and still saw nothing, but eight miles West he saw a vast convoy, several miles broad, going back along a depression between two ridges. Over the next ridge he saw five German tanks, forerunners of a column of 25. The threat was not only to the workshops but to the great convoy lumbering Eastwards. Leaving the two armoured cars to "fox" the enemy and keep them in view, back went "Kem", hell for leather, to "rustle up the lads" back at the workshops. "Round up all the tanks that'll move at all—and find men to crew'em," he shouted. Every tank and armoured car in the workshops was then under repair and the crews were miles away. But some of the tanks, although they were not "runners", would run, somehow, for some

time, and the Ordnance men, "non-combatants and beer drinkers" all, were spoiling for a fight.

In a short time "Kem" had got together what must surely have been the strangest collection of tanks ever to set out against the enemy. The only thing they had in common was that they all moved, though at different speeds. Some were without ammunition, others without drivers' vizors or telescopes. None had wireless. The crews were made up at haphazard from Tank Corps and Ordnance men, from odds and ends of experts from Cavalry regiments — Royals, Lancers, Hussars — who had come into the workshops to advise on the repairs.

"Who can drive a tank?" — "You'll do, get cracking" — "Now for a gunner." "You'll do for a loader". It was like picking a team at a charity fête. Altogether, "Kem" scratched together a force of four armoured cars, five light tanks and eight heavies.

So as to look more impressive and scare off the enemy by cumulative effect they were sent off in two waves to reinforce the original armoured cars, bobbing ambiguously over the ridge. The last lot were "real wrecks," toothless limpers, "old jades that could neither whinny nor wag the tail".

"What about fire orders?" somebody asked. No tank had wireless. "Kem" jumped on the running-board of his staff car, lined up his "terrible" host on either side of him, drew his revolver. "I'll be fire orders — when I bang this, let'em have it."

Over the crest of the far ridge rumbled the ragged line of crows. There were the 25 German tanks, hotly engaging the first wave of convalescent Valentines, Crusaders, Matildas. A wireless-controlled force of Mark III's and IV's against this rag, tag and bobtail team without a leader, without communication. A Lieutenant of the Tank Delivery Section who had been put in charge of a Matilda blinded off right into the middle of the German array — it was no good shouting to him. They shot a hole through his turret, blew off a sprocket and brought the tank to a standstill. The crew slid out and lay flat on the ground.

## My Friend Elizabeth

At the bottom of the steps it is cool, and the water looks inviting, but Elizabeth Fraser pauses to smile for the cameraman and us before jumping in.

But at this moment over the ridge came the third and last wave of "Kem's own tanks." "Kem" was on the running-board, revolver at the ready to give the fire signal to which only 25% of his tanks could hope to respond — and they were by no means certain.

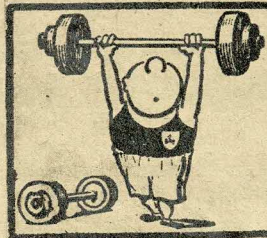
But the Germans had had enough — here, beyond, doubt, were heavy reinforcements coming up. As "Kem" put it, "They got the breeze up and just slid off." And so the convoy continued to roll back for more supplies, the field workshops went back to normal. The scratch force of creaked tanks returned to hospital — but not alone; they brought with them two enemy lorries towed out of a minefield.

However, these trophies were small compensation to the driver of the wrecked Matilda. He came up to "Kem" with a long face, "Left my coat behind," he groaned, "and it had all my money in it, besides my pay-book."



## SPORTING SAM

By Reg. Wootton



## Harvey knocked out - Loses three titles to Mills

Pilot Officer Len Harvey tumbled from his three cruiserweight titles when he was knocked out in the second round by Sergeant Freddie Mills, R.A.F., at the Spurs football ground, White Hart Lane, London, on Saturday, June 20. And "tumbled" is the right word, for Harvey, in receipt of punishment at this stage, ~~stunned a book that~~ ~~paralysed him~~ over the ropes and into the timekeeper's lap.

Actually Harvey was on his feet outside the ring, but could not get back and had to listen to the referee count his championships away. Thus Mills is now World, Empire and British cruiserweight champion... three titles that will be worth thousands of pounds to him won inside six minutes.

This was the first time in his long career that Harvey has been knocked out, and yet, at 35 years of age, he still holds the British and Empire heavyweight championships. After his defeat at the hands of Mills Harvey said that he was quite prepared

to defend his heavyweight crowns, but he did not mention an opponent. Yet who can be a more logical contender than Mills after his cruiserweight defeat of the Cornishman?

Mills's claims are certain to be pushed, and it is most unlikely that Harvey will sidestep him. In fact Harvey may welcome another meeting with his conqueror at a weight which will give him no trouble. The heavyweight champion is 12 years older than Mills, and obviously can not afford to lose strength by training himself down.

For the White Hart Lane contest, Harvey came in at 12st. 3lbs. 2 ozs. and Mills 12st. 5lbs. 6 ozs. Whether his R.A.F. job has caused him to lose weight normally or not doesn't alter the fact that Harvey has gone in in the



LEN HARVEY

past at 12st.6 or more, and in the region was in possession of his normal strength and fighting qualities.

So long as he refused to retire from the game, Harvey had to be beaten some time or other, but his battle with Mills did not go far enough for anyone to give a definite opinion as to whether Old Father Time waived his scythe or whether Mills was the better man. Scores of times in the past Harvey has had a rough passage at the beginning of his contest, but has eventually brought his masterly skill to bear, turned the proceedings in his direction and come out points winner. Rarely has Harvey knocked 'em cold; he has always been a ring craftsman rather than a fighter.

### PUNCHES HARDER

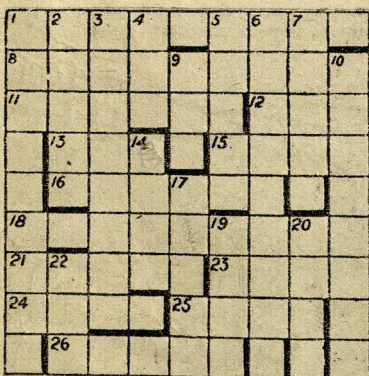
At the same time, it has now been proved that Mills carries a heavier punch than Harvey. Mills was able to ride Harvey's left and score himself, and actually sent Harvey down for a count of seven just before punching him over the ropes with a fierce hook.

There can be no doubt that 23-year-old Mills has now cornered a big place in British boxing. He could not be at a better age for being built up into a heavyweight, but this by no means the time to hail him as the "white hope" Britain has been looking for for years.



Americans of the U.S. Air Corps who, with their Liberators, took part in the attack on Italian navy discuss the job with R.A.F. pilots.

## "CRUSADER" CROSSWORD — 9



### ACROSS

- Saw nothing in the attic but this garment
- How can I move lamb when it's this?
- Neat
- Listen
- A certain clerk is par this
- Has it an evil grip?
- Bound along in the steamer
- Fishy but we habit it somehow
- Stare in the garden

- One of the nays
- Sharp
- A marked cube
- As the Army might say, wash out

### DOWN

- Batsman should be this for a weak wide (2 words, 4 and 5)
- Collect from Assam
- Could one limit Poe to this
- Bribe
- Strange way of showing five to the acre
- The homage I pay when I see bacon
- Sorrowful expression
- Con this for exterior curvature
- Nothing to go in Crete this way
- Con this to imply
- How the prude is hidden
- Put on in court, whipped off at cricket
- Small measure of time
- This side usually tans.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- Across : 1. Handlebar ; 6. Over-time ; 10. Mine ; 11. Arabs ; 13. Earr ; 14. Ena ; 15. Tickling ; 18. Rich ; 19. Taffy ; 20. Hermes ; 22. Ned ; 23. Apse ; 24. Tidy ; 25. Petty. Down : 6. Home Front ; 2. Aviation ; 3. Drenched ; 4. Eire ; 5. Rush ; 7. Enriched ; 8. Tank trap ; 9. Manifest ; 12. Ban ; 16. Lamp ; 17. Gypsy ; 21. Set.

## QUESTION TIME

### 1.—NUMERICAL PROBLEM

Starting with a capital of 10,000 a man increases his wealth by 50 per cent. every three years. How much will he have in 18 years?

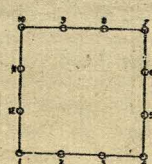
### 2.—WORD FORM

The following definitions fit five-letter words, which spell the same words horizontally as vertically in the same order when placed under one another.

- Pursuit ; 2. Harbour ; 3. Shun ; 4. Forcibly take possession of ; 5. Came to a completion.

### 3.—THE COINS

Arrange twelve coins as in the diagram. Without adding or taking away any coins, move some of them so as to have six on a side instead of four.



### 4.—A SINGLE WORD

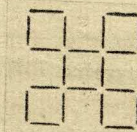
From the letters S,A,I,L,D,O,N,G,R,E,W, spell a single word.

### 5.—WORD ENIGMA

I am a word of seven letters. Without my 1,5,7, I am a garment Without my 2,4,5,7, I am a poet Without my 1,4,7, I am a character Without my 4,5, I am a preface Without my 5,7, I am an inquiry My whole is a difficult matter.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

#### 1.—MATCH PUZZLE



#### 2.—REBUSES

- Indiana ; b) Salem ; c) Saxony.

#### 3.—BEHEADINGS

Score, Core, Ore, Re

#### 4.—NUMERICAL PROBLEM

18 years old.

#### 5.—WORD ENIGMA

P-at-ent.



FRIEND: "Why do you say your mouth is like a parade ground, darling?"

DUMB BLONDE: "Two dentists have been drilling in it all the morning!"

Arthur Ferrier (Sunday Pictorial)





No. 11 VOL. 1

JULY 13, 1942

REVIEW FOR THE BLUE

# Commons Vote Confidence in Churchill

AFTER a two-day no-confidence debate opened by Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, the House of Commons, by a Tory-Labour block vote of 475 to 25, last week supported Winston Churchill's "central direction of the war."

Wardlaw-Milne demanded a completely revised defence organisation, more modern weapons and the yielding by Churchill of his "portmanteau" post of Prime Minister and Defence Minister. Wardlaw-Milne asserted that by the time the troops received it British war equipment was out of date and that some of it was not of good quality. He recalled that Germany's Mark IV tank was three years old and claimed that the German anti-tank guns now in use in the desert first had seen service in Spain.

### QUALITY SACRIFICED

Oliver Lyttelton, Production Minister, answered Sir John on behalf of the Government. His main counter to criticism of design and quality of British war machines was that "numbers come first" and that "had we looked for perfection, we should have had only a quarter of the equipment we have today." There necessarily was a lag between the learning of a tactical lesson and the placing of the subsequently-designed weapon in the hands of the troops. The Americans now were producing for the British Army a flood of tanks even finer than the General Grant. Britain was producing an anti-tank weapon even more deadly than the six-pounder. Recent desert defeats were due to "tactical mistakes, the unsuitability of Crusader tanks for the desert and the superior armament, weight and range of German tanks."

But the Government's big gun was the Prime Minister. His main points were:

1) "Everything that can be thought of or raked up has been used to weaken confidence in the Government, to prove that Ministers are incompetent, and to weaken their confidence in themselves, to make the Army distrust the backing it is getting from the civil power, to make workmen lose confidence in the weapons they are striving so hard to make, and also to represent the Government as a set of nonentities over which the Prime Minister towers, and even to undermine him in his own heart and, if possible, before the eyes of the nation... But I am in favour of this freedom, which no other country or house would dare to use in a time of mortal peril."

2) "In Cyrenaica... we have lost upwards of 50,000 men, by far the

greatest number of them prisoners..." The decision to surrender at Tobruk came from the commander of the garrison and nobody else. Extreme exertions have been made by His Majesty's Government over the last two years to strengthen the Middle East. From Britain, the Empire and the United States there have gone to Middle East: more than 950,000 men, 4,500 tanks, 6,000 aircraft, nearly 5,000 pieces of artillery, 50,000 machine-guns and 100,000 motor vehicles."

3) "My conversations [with President Roosevelt the week before] were concerned with almost nothing but movements of troops, ships, guns and aircraft, and with measures to be taken to combat losses at sea and replace and more than replace sunken tonnage..."

4) "There has never been any case in this war of successful defence against superior air power being made by aircraft with only two or three airfields to work from. Malta is the first exception... At one time they were worn down to no more than a dozen fighters... A continuous stream of Spitfires has been flown in from aircraft-carriers of the Royal Navy... and from the United States aircraft-carrier *Wasp*."

5) "Most of the leading air marshals think little of dive-bombers... It was from that source that the eight-gun fighter was designed, which destroyed so many dive-bombers in the Battle of Britain... There is no doubt whatever that the Army desired dive-bombers. Nearly two years ago, orders were placed for them. But they have not come to hand in any numbers yet."

6) "So far as the central direction of the war is concerned, I can plead that we have not failed in the exertion we have made or the energy we have shown."

### NAZI GRAVEYARD

Over the smouldering heap of ruins which eight months ago was Sevastopol fly the flags of Germany and Rumania. From Moscow, the "News Chronicle's" Paul Winterton wires: "To the very water's edge, Sevastopol is a German graveyard." The loss to Germany in men may well be out of all proportion to the gain.

Along a 160-mile front between Kharkov and Kursk, there is strong German pressure at four main points: east of Kursk, where fighting is heaviest; at Byelgorod; at Volchansk; and in the region of Kharkov, where the Russian line is east of Kupyansk.

# STEMMING THE FLOOD

## World Watches

by PAUL CHADBURN

"Parade" Western Desert Observer

EXACTLY a week ago, on July 1, Rommel was as near his objective—the Nile Delta and beyond to the oil of Irak and Iran—as seemed to some people there, but not perhaps to Rommel himself, to make no matter. Those people did not know the 8th Army, nor did they know the R.A.F. and the South African Air Force. Rommel did — and by now knows them even better.

The battle that has gone on all this time may be recorded in military manuals as the Battle of El Alamein; in history it will probably go down as the Battle for Egypt. In little over a month, since May 26, Rommel's two panzer divisions and one light infantry division had travelled 400 miles eastwards, taking the two fortresses of Tobruk and Matruh on the way. By July 1, the 90 Light Infantry Division was digging in outside El Alamein, preparing to attack the box there, and the two armoured divisions were moving along to the south, guarding the enemy flank and waiting for the "success" signal from the infantry to smash on forward into the Delta.

At this time Goebbels' propaganda thought fit to announce to the world that the El Alamein line had been taken and the "victorious" German and Italian soldiery would soon be revelling in the reward of their labours in Cairo and Alexandria. Though Rommel himself may have been jaunty enough, he was taking no chances.

The so-called El Alamein "line" is composed of a number of strong points or "boxes" running south west across the 40 mile bottleneck between El Alamein and the north-eastern tip of the Qattara depression. It might have been possible for the Axis forces to push on between the "boxes" towards the Delta and leave the strong positions to "winkle out" later on. But Rommel was determined to leave no thorns in his side. He therefore decided on an all-out attempt to reduce the "boxes."

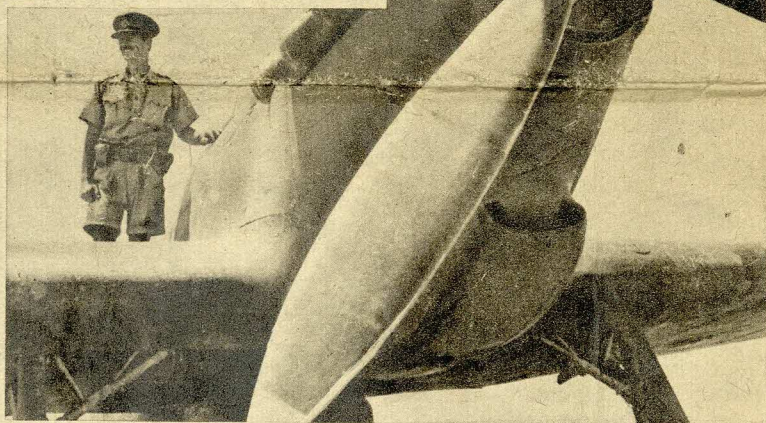
The position on July 1 was that the Axis forces with three German divisions and seven Italian ones faced the 8th Army some seventy miles west of Alexandria. Between the Germans and the Delta were the 1st, 7th and 50th divisions, New Zealanders, Indians and South Africans. Our artillery — 25-pounder field guns, 6- and 2-pounder anti-tank guns — was in position to blast off enemy attacks on the "boxes" and to go in to the support of our tanks. To the south, our columns, including New Zealanders and Indians and South African armoured cars, were preparing to strike at the enemy's right flank.

Rommel had, to strengthen him, a number of guns captured from us and a certain amount of captured supplies. Although it was estimated that his tank strength would be up to 400 by the end of June, he had in fact about 90 German tanks and 100 Italian ones for the battle that was about to be

joined. His advantage did not lie so much in superiority of armour as in the momentum of his advance that had given his troops a certain élan to set against their battle weariness.

General Auchinleck's advantage was the proximity of his supply bases and the good tactical position into which he had forced the enemy to engage him. But perhaps even more important was the mastery of the air. At no stage in two years of constant activity have our airmen put in such an intensive, continuous and destructive onslaught. The Luftwaffe has not been able to cope with the fury of this assault.

On July 1, the battle was on, and immediately Rommel's difficulties started. A German column moving east was seen by some of our tanks to be shedding vehicles behind it as their engines became overheated. The stragglers were summarily dealt with. An Italian division trying to move up was stuck for two hours in the sand. Though the Germans, according to prisoners' statements, seemed to have sufficient water, Italian prisoners complained of acute lack of it. To cap



He led the squadron which brought down 13 Stukas out of 15 as they peeled off to bomb men of the 8th Army. Other two were damaged. everything, attempts of the German light infantry to attack and reduce the El Alamein box were broken up and came to nothing.

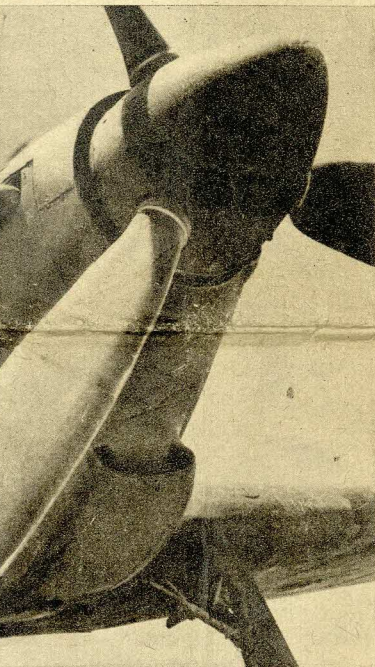
The next day, July 2, was no luckier for the Axis: the infantry was again checked and the German armour, waiting in vain for the "success" signal, was met by our tanks and driven back. Rommel's forward momentum was being checked by the South Africans in the northern sector, English troops in the centre, and by English, Indian and New Zealand troops striking up from the south.

By July 3 there were obvious signs that the German commander was worried at the turn events had taken. His programme had been put out and the check to that triumphant advance of his bound to tell on the morale of his German troops,

THE anti-Axis world watches the Eighth Army. Everywhere it is realised that on the Eighth Army and the desert squadrons of the Royal Air Force depends the immediate fate of the Near East. Here is what the greatest newspaper of Britain and the greatest newspaper of America say of the Western Desert.

In London, "The Times" says: "If the enemy can be halted, his daring strategy will recoil on his own head. But the prizes before his eyes are glittering. Straight ahead is the great port of Alexandria, the foundation of British sea power in the Mediterranean. The Siwa Oasis is a difficult stepping stone on the way to Cairo and Suez, beyond which lie the outlet to the Indian Ocean and the route to the oilfields... A supreme effort is required if the day is to be saved."

And the "New York Times" says: "The shadow of a blacker night than the so-called dark ages ever saw hangs over Alexandria, Cairo and the entire Near East. Inside the Nazi lines there is not only no due process, no Bill of Rights, no house that is the inmates' castle; there is not even a city of refuge, a church, a monastery, a cave in the desert to which those who love peace and justice can retire... The Eighth Army defends more than a selected line of battle. It holds a frontier between civilisation and the creatures of the abysmal slime."



He led the squadron which brought down 13 Stukas out of 15 as they peeled off to bomb men of the 8th Army. Other two were damaged.

though this had previously been very high. On the evening of this day the initiative was beginning to pass into our hands. We succeeded in breaking up enemy preparations for a still greater thrust against the El Alamein box and at the same time our armour further south moved forward and struck hard at the flank of the 90 Division and the German panzers. Dominion forces round Deir El Hama struck northwest with great success against both Italians and Germans. They got in behind some German lorried infantry and inflicted heavy casualties on them. Recently captured prisoners confessed that this attack came as a most unwelcome surprise.

It was on this day also, July 3, that the R.A.F. and S.A.A.F. created an all time "high." Our

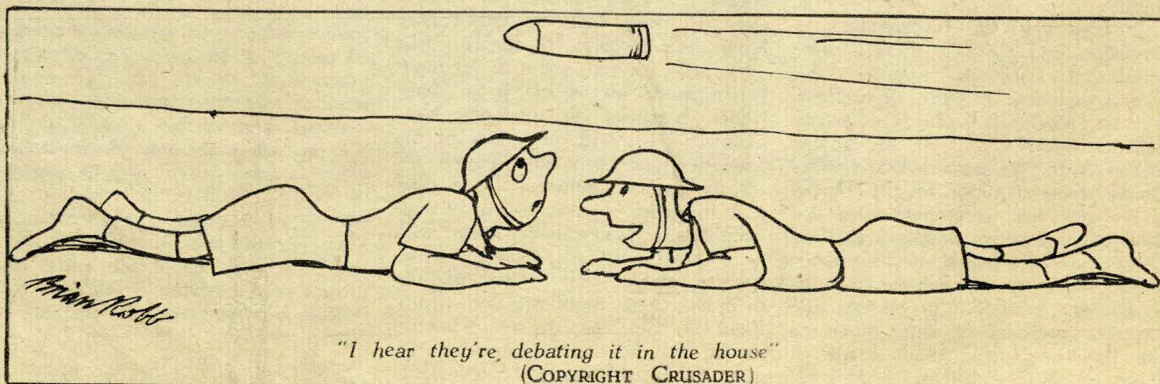
(Continued on page 3)

## BRIAN ROBB

This week your paper prints the first of a series of cartoons by Brian Robb. We are going to begin by saying they are very good but Brian Robb, who has drawn them, is a very good artist. His work is well-known back home and it has appeared in a number of the top-rank journals, including "Punch."

At the moment Brian Robb is in Eighth Army where he is doing a job of work in camouflage. We hope he is going to draw a lot more for us. He has a free hand and there will be times when his pen will express a few home truths.

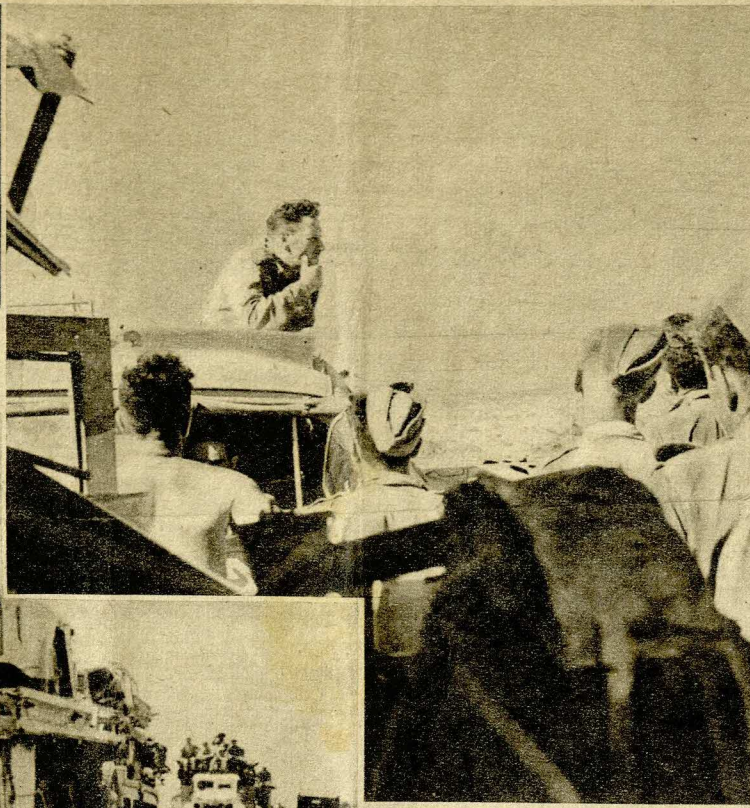
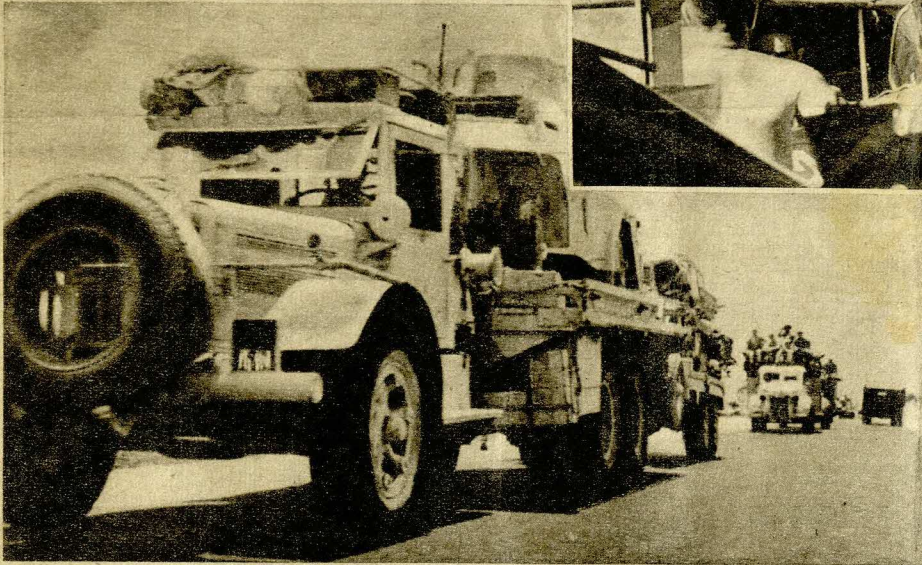
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# BATTLE PICTURES

Reinforcements rumble up the roads. An almost continuous line of vehicles throngs the road to the desert.



General Auchinleck talks to men of the Eighth army.

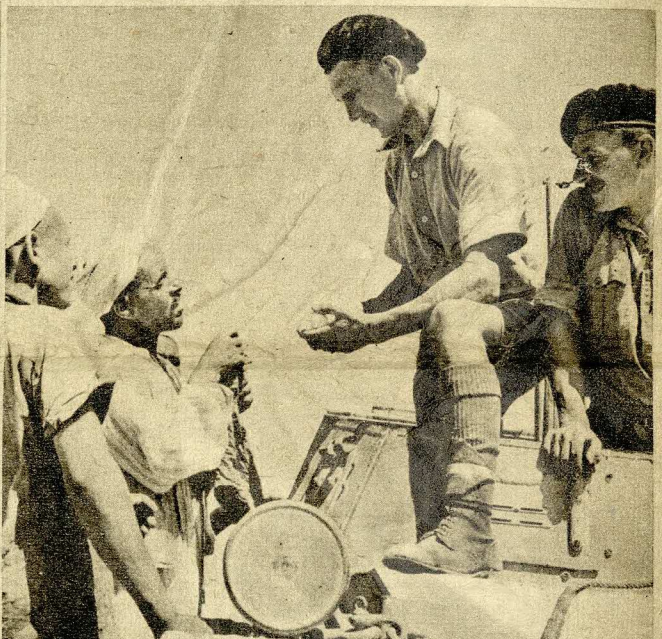


Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, A.O.C.-in-C. visits his men in the Western Desert.

Between them they destroyed two Stukas and one M.E. 109 when the S.A.A.F. knocked out 13 out of 15.



Guards advance behind tanks and smoke screen.



Well-known scene in desert. Troops barter sugar for eggs

## "The Itis"

THE "Iti's", the "Wops"... In normal English pre-war life, not too well informed on matters extraneous, these two words evoked a more or less set of images according to one's interests. Ice-cream, opera, bolony, fascism, Dante's Inferno and the tourist's Paradise, while, somewhere, possibly wedged in between the Holy See and a picture postcard of the Bay of Naples, would arise a vision of the wagging jaw and bald pate of the swollen bullfrog of the Pontine Marshes.

All that doesn't amount to much and, as it's no bad thing to know something about the chaps we are up against out here, we might as well run over a few of the things we have learnt about them. The Fascist Regime we have all heard too much about, but what about the "Iti" Army, the "Iti" soldier. "Comic opera stuff" you'll say, "sheep in wolves clothing". Yes and no. It doesn't do, to dismiss them quite so lightly.

In June 1940 the Italians had 14 Divisions in Libya. Of these 8 were regular, if conscript armies merit that appellation, 4 were Blackshirts, 2 were native Libyan. The senior officers and N.C.O.'s of the regular and Libyan divisions were professional soldiers, those of the Blackshirts with few exceptions were militia. Rivalry between militia and regulars, already latent, became more acute when, in the September push to Barrani in 1940, the leading role was for political reasons, given to the Blackshirts and much made in Italy of their "gloriosi whatnots." Italian regulars owing allegiance

only to the House of Savoy were quick to point out their weaknesses; officered in the main by Fascists, who obtained advancement by a show of enthusiasm instead of for soldierly qualities, in consequence the discipline and training of the Blackshirt divisions was extremely poor. That no amount of "gazzosa-like" enthusiasm could make good the lack of discipline and the steadiness it gives was amply demonstrated during our Winter offensive 1940-41, which swept away and utterly destroyed all the Blackshirt divisions in Libya.

### Few Amenities for Iti's

If the discipline and training of the conscript soldiers of the regular divisions was better, their morale was distinctly lower. Large numbers of them had already been in Libya for over two years when war was actually declared and the lot of the common Italian soldier in Libya, even in peace time, though it may have been largely "fa niente", had very little "dolce" about it. It might be summed up as life in a bug-ridden barracks on tuppence halfpenny a day, with very few of the amenities our own boys enjoy. By far the greater number of the rank and file were peasants; sturdy, unenlightened, materialistic souls with a fund of everyday common sense. Empire meant little or nothing to them — their roots are too firmly fixed in their native soil. Fascism meant scarcely more; its noisy bragging of epoch-making achievements gave them a comfortable feeling of

something for nothing which, however, did not stand the strain of individual sacrifice. The peasant's one deep seated but unthinking loyalty is to the House of Savoy.

Of the world beyond his frontiers he is not entirely ignorant, but from the welter of fact and fiction which constitutes this knowledge, two basic ideas emerge that psychologically no amount of propaganda can destroy. Firstly, a profound, not merely mercenary, respect for the wealth of Great Britain and the United States and all it implies. Secondly a feeling, equally profound, of mingled fear and admiration for the German military machine. Today the ideas these feelings represent are in conflict and since the puppet Italian has no personal control either way though committed to one side, he suffers agonies of awful doubt when things do not go well.

War to these troops brought no wild enthusiasm, only the hope that it would soon end with a cheap victory and that they would then be at liberty to return to their farms. The Battles of Barrani, Bardia and Tobruk, dashed all these hopes in the winter of 40-41 and the Italian soldier faced by a greatly exaggerated picture of British superiority, and unsupported by the Hun, showed a tendency to rely more on the use of his legs than on his arms. Fight he did, on some occasions, but the Italian alone is no "sticker" and he showed it; 10 of his 14 divisions were destroyed, the others considerably weakened, over 100,000 prisoners were captured. This was true to the worst traditions of the Italian Army, and traditions are not made and unmade in a day.

The arrival of the Germans, in February 41, put fresh heart into the

"Iti's" and reinforcements were sent. It is symptomatic that fresh heart should have been needed at all and not merely fresh troops. The Italian army comprises over 70 divisions of various kinds, but it was felt in Rome that these would not suffice to safeguard Tripolitania. Eight million bayonets... The Bull-Frog's bluff was called... he threw in his hand... after all his partner would give him a portion, however small, of his winnings. In this way the Germans took over operational control on the Libyan front at the very moment when Wavell's men were seeking fresh fields in Greece.

### Seven Divisions in Libya

Within the next few months changes were many. In November the Italian army in Libya consisted of 7 divisions; Tobruk was being invested after a glorious advance in the wake of German armoured formations, the Libyan frontier was being held, Halfaya and Solum were in Axis hands. The situation, yes, had changed, but was there any change in the fighting value of the Italian troops? Now there were no Blackshirt divisions to excite jealousy, no Libyan divisions of doubtful worth. Here was the pure unadulterated Iti. No... here was the Iti, brilliant engineer, sound artillery man, valiant wielder of the spade, alongside his ally, a real fighting man.. Did it make any difference? Yes and No. In June and November when flanked by Germans at Halfaya the Italians fought with determination. Round Tobruk, unsupported by Germans, they were less resolute and more a prey to the various reactions of their mercurial temperament as the following extract from a captured diary will show:

Tobruk July — Great alarm tonight at our OP.

1. Suspicious noises are heard.
2. The patrol leaves the OP in a rush.
3. Capt. — arms himself to the teeth with rifle, pistol, hand-grenades, etc., and throws the telephone away.
4. Lt. — makes a heroic forward recce of between 300 and 400 yards.
5. 2/Lt. — gets a good smack on the head with the barrel of a rifle.
6. My batman takes refuge in the tent with a rifle in each hand.
7. It is established that there are no British in the neighbourhood.

The OP is manned and the telephone is recovered. — a shot or two is then fired.

When in exalted mood they see themselves as the bravest of the brave and indeed, in all fairness, are always liable to act as such. "Tis better" they say in a Fascist slogan "to live one day like a lion rather than a hundred years like a sheep." Many Italians have lived up to this motto. Unfortunately they are as it were tempero-mentally unfitted to live two days like a lion, in other words the stress of battle if prolonged, will always find them out. Brave as he may be at times the Iti cannot stick it, — in the end he always cracks; he did at Sidi Omar, he did round Tobruk, he did at Gazala... and he will again. That is the one thing that counts in this war, that is the one thing we do supremely well, better than Wop or Jap or Hun... STICK IT.



# Channel Isles work for Germany - pray for Britain

PRAYERS for the King and Queen, but forced labour in the fields ; B.B.C. programmes, but a mass of German propaganda ; butter for the Herrenvolk, but no more clothes for the islanders—these are some of the contrasts in the Channel Islands today.

At the end of September, 1941, an islander escaped and gave the only authentic account of life there since the occupation. This is incorporated in the annual report of the Channel Islands Refugees Committee.

"The Germans are using more and more labour," the report states.

"The local authorities are obliged to supply all labour free for the Germans, and have also to provide billeting and food.

### TWO CURRENCIES

"Two currencies are circulating, British and German. The mark was given the value of 2s.1d. Where people had regular incomes from England the banks are advancing up to two-thirds of their normal income.

"The stock of cattle is increasing as there is no normal export trade. The Germans require butter to be made for them, so milk is rationed—half a pint a head, but more for children.

"The weekly rations are 2oz. of sugar and 4 1/2lb. of bread for men 4 lb. for women and 3lb. to 3 1/2lb. for children. The bread is made from rye or bran, and sometimes from crushed beans. The meat allowance is about 5d. a week.

### 10 CIGARETTES A WEEK

"Cigarettes are rationed to 10 a man weekly. There is no soap or salt, but vegetables are not rationed. Food prices are controlled, and are reasonable.

"No sweets, cakes or jam is available for adults. Blackberry leaves are used as a substitute for tea and baked parsnips take the place of coffee.

"No useful clothes are left in shops. Shoe leather is running out.

"Crowds are not allowed, but church life can be carried on if no political sermons are preached. A newspaper notice said churchgoers were allowed to pray for the King and Queen and the British Commonwealth of Nations."

## 'Laughing Gas'

Cries of "Resign," amid laughter, greeted a vote in the House of Lords when a division was demanded on a motion by the Duke of Montrose and the Government was defeated by one vote.

Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, had announced that the Government was ordering operators to equip 10,000 commercial vehicles with producer gas apparatus.

The Duke had urged in a motion that 50,000 vehicles should be converted.

He declared that private enterprise was being excluded from equal terms with the Government, and following the Minister's statement demanded a division on his motion which was carried by 20 votes to 19.

### "EMERGENCY PRODUCER"

Lord Leathers said that the vehicles would be equipped with the apparatus known as the Government emergency producer as recommended by the technical committee.

After the vote on the Duke of Montrose's motion, Lord Strabolgi asked the Leader of the House what action he proposed to take.

Lord Cranborne : The Government will give the fullest consideration to the views expressed by the House and the vote. You will not expect me to say more than that.

A result of the vote may be that more producer-gas vehicles than the 10,000 mentioned by Lord Leathers will be put on the roads.

### CHURCHILL-III

Another tough addition to the Churchill clan is little Winston Churchill, 20 months old son of Captain and Mrs. Randolph Churchill, and grand-son of the Prime Minister. Up from his wartime home in the country recently he simply took London in his stride.



## London brothers meet in desert

Two soldier brothers from Hornsey, N., have had an unexpected reunion in the Western Desert.

Douglas Clifford Heard, Royal Corps of Signals, left England on his 21st birthday in 1940 and went through the first Libyan, Greek and Syrian campaigns.

Eight months ago, his elder brother, Edwin, a Royal Artillery driver, was also posted to the Middle East, but chances of their meeting seemed remote.

One evening as Douglas sat in his company's office in the desert three sergeants from a battery passing through the outpost came in to report. He found that they were from Edwin's unit.

He made for their lines and soon the brothers were clasping hands.

### FAMILY SNAPSHOTS

Douglas entertained his brother royally that evening. He provided him with a shave in hot water, a luxury in the desert, and a meal of egg and bacon as a change from bully beef.

### APPLE BLOSSOM TIME

Planted in good Gloucestershire earth this old tree has borne its fruit year after year, will continue its God-given work long after the evils of the present day have passed from the world.

## Making more room for lone fathers

London's hostels for war-separated husbands and children have now completed arrangements to double-up accommodation space in the event of an emergency.

The 28 hostels, which have been set up in every district where a demand has been made, were established by the Ministry of Health just over a year ago to look after London's lonely fathers.

They soon became so popular that the authorities prepared these club-hostels for women as well as youths and girls.

To-day there are 13 hostels catering exclusively for men, four for boys, two for girls, three for women, and six provide accommodation for men and women.

Mr. H. Ablitt, manager of the London Hostels' Association, told a reporter: "We set up four hostels for grandmothers and grandfathers, but we have now passed those over to the care of the L.C.C.

### ONE CASUALTY

"In spite of heavy raids in the localities where the hostels are situated, only one building became a casualty.

"Although we have done our utmost to maintain our low tariff of a pound a week for accommodation and two meals a day, we have had to increase it to 25s. a week—but girls are only charged 22s. 6d.

"Even at this rate we still consider that we are among the most inexpensive landlords in London, for in addition to comfortable quarters and big meals, we provide first class club facilities and excellent recreation rooms."

### CIVIC BODY DOOMED

Belfast corporation is doomed. The government has jut forward a bill which will mean the end of the civic body except as an ornamental body. The city will be run by administrators appointed by the Minister for Home Affairs. They will have full control of the whole city and its affairs. Many members of the council very rightly don't like the idea of being at best dummies and talk of resigning. But whether they'll do so remains to be seen.

## Books.. BOOKS.. books.

Eareham hit on a novel scheme in the paper salvage campaign. A mile of old books were asked for an obtained within a few days. The kerb of the main street was heaped with books for a mile. Service men and women took part in what they called "The Book Show."



### DESERT PUPPY REVERIE

Well, what if I do look a bit down in the mouth. As squadron mascot, you'd think I was entitled to some consideration. But much more important things are happening these days apparently to bother about me. Makes you wonder what it's all about though.

## Army commandeer 5 villages

Open-air meetings were held in five East Anglian villages, at which the people were told why, in a few weeks, they must leave their homes.

The villages are in an area taken over by the military and several hundred people will have to find homes elsewhere.

Farm workers came straight from the fields to hear the fate of the crops on which they had spent so many months and of the houses in which they have lived a lifetime.

### A NECESSARY SACRIFICE

All took the news in the spirit that while it was a blow, it was a sacrifice necessary to win the war.

Arrangements are being made to harvest as much of the crops as possible.

## OLD BLADES SCRAPE THROUGH

War-time shortage of steel has partly solved the peace-time puzzle, "What happens to old razor blades?"

The answer, at the moment, is simple. They became "new" razor blades.

Firms are buying thousands at 1s. to 2s. per lb., reconditioning them and reselling.

In two weeks over 100,000 blades were collected at Southern Railway stations—and from the sales nearly £40 has been given to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. One station, Holborn Viaduct, has gathered 14,000 from passengers in two weeks.

"Razor blades are little use as salvage," an official of a blade manufacturing firm said "They are too thin to melt down, and actually burn under heat. A ton of them would probably ruin a furnace."

Footnote : At first glance this looks like the happy ending to the razor blade worry. It is not; because no one has yet solved the final problem—what happens to twice-used razor blades?

(Continued from page 1)

bombers and our fighters made a record number of sorties. Stuka attacks were intercepted and one squadron alone had a bag of 12 of them. This day may well prove to have been the turning point in the battle.

Both on the ground and in the air, it was we who decided to a large extent what course the battle would take. We captured over 40 guns, including some of our own 25-pounders, which were immediately put back into action, and on a conservative estimate destroyed 18 German tanks. The new Zealanders took 380 Italian prisoners. The Germans, using about a third of their remaining armour, made a series of ineffectual attempts at advancing along a ridge near the Deir El Shein box ; each time we met them and turned them back.

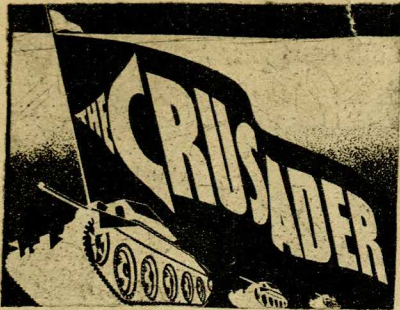
On July 4, the situation became definitely clearer. The enemy's attack had stopped and we were moving forward. The most significant episode of the day, though, came when several hundred Germans who were surrounded made no effort to fight on, giving themselves up, it seemed, almost with alacrity. Little less indicative of the state of German morale was the desperate ruse of a number of them who surrendered to our tanks and after they had walked some distance forward with their hands up suddenly flopped on the ground as German anti-tank guns behind opened up. These Germans were not dealt with kindly.

By evening Rommel decided to draw in his horns all along the front. He must have been beginning to remember — if indeed he had ever forgotten it — that the British nut is not so easy to crack after all.

The position at the time of writing is that Rommel's first attempt to break through the El Alamein positions has failed, and he has withdrawn westwards. His armour and anti-tank guns south of the El Alamein "box" where he had made a sort of defended semi-circle, have been strung out over a wide area, presumably as protection against attack by the 8th Army from the south.

The Afrika Korps is by no means a spent force and is probably being reinforced at the rate of several hundred men a day by air from Crete and Greece. The 8th Army is also receiving reinforcements. Meanwhile, ground activity was slight after July 5, except for patrols and artillery duels. There is no knowing what a wily opponent like Rommel will do next. We have the example of more than one of his "come backs" to temper wild optimism.





# THE GRIFF

We must apologise to Private E. Bates, R.A.S.C., who wrote "A Private Reflects" for us in "Crusader" 8, the best we have printed to date. Base "intellectuals" were worried when first of these series appeared. Expressing the normal views of a normal man "A Private Reflects" was not involved enough for some of the back area population and others declared it was proper-something-ganda. It still remains our most popular feature and we must apologise once again for leaving out Private Bates' name — after all this feature is a private opinion and it should appear as such.

Way back in Daba—you have been through the place — the boys were betting that we would be in Derna by five weeks. Bet was for five pounds and it was accepted at even money (Somebody has been missing pay parade). Punters may be a bit out in their estimate but your correspondent reckons the right spirit is there.

Driver T. Cartwright has been distributing "Eighth Army News" in duplicated form for nine months. Recently he drove along convoys and into battle areas to pass around the new printed edition. Said Driver Cartwright: "They would have paid me a piastre a copy—I wish I had more." "Crusader" regrets that copies are limited. Printers work hard to turn out three thousand copies daily on hand press. Soon we hope to get an automatic press and then 1st Army A.P.C. will be able to give us five times the number.

The following conversation actually took place.  
 A. Have you read this old man?  
 B. No—let's have a look.  
 A. It's something called the Griff.  
 B. Griff? Wonder what it means?  
 A. Sounds foreign to me—no doubt from the German word 'Angriff'  
 B. You're probably right and anyway if it doesn't come from the German 'Angriff' it is vulgar.  
 The conversation then returned to K.R.'s. As a matter of interest, Griff does not come from the German word 'Angriff' which means attack, and is the title of a German newspaper. Before the war griff was in current use on the racecourses back

## Divine Peggy

Who was this Sarah Bernhardt, anyway? She couldn't, in our eyes, have had anything on 20-year-old Peggy Drake, coming R.K.O. star, whose entrancing loveliness strikes like rain on sun-parched ground.

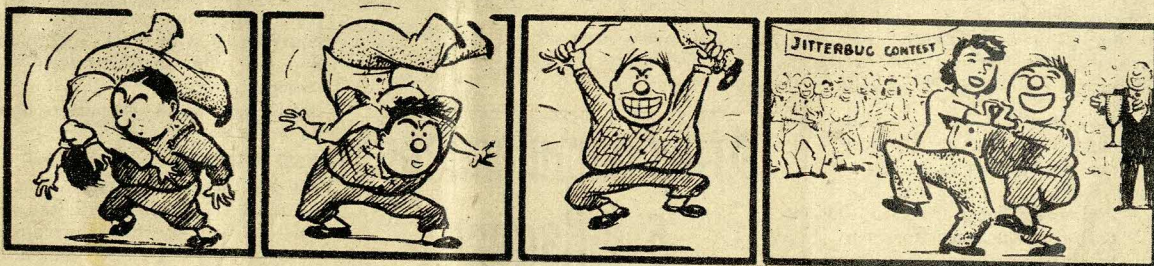
home. People in the habit of losing their shirts on sure things usually got their information by asking touts, stable boys, or other ignorants. "What's the griff?" In other words it means "inside news."

Prettiest sight we have seen was that of German prisoners pushing one of our tank transporters carrying them to a cage. They got it going.

A padre who was captured on his way out of Tobruk with a number of Guardsmen managed to throw off his captor who was sitting behind him with a machine-gun. The padre gave his captor a bottle of gin and a number of severe jolts over boulders. The enemy guard became ill and he was relieved of his machine-gun.



## SPORTING SAM . . . . . By Reg. Wootton



## 1942-1943 FOOTBALL PLANS

**M**OST important sports-news from home since Big Game ran down the field in the Derby is that the Football League have partly drawn the "outlawed" London League back into the fold. But you couldn't, by any stretch of imagination, call the understanding that has been reached a victory for the Football League.

The official statement says: "...it was finally agreed that the London clubs should run their own competition under the aegis of the League." This can only mean that the London League, formed on the eve of the 1941-42 season by sixteen teams in and around London, will still function as such and will continue to manage its own affairs.

The only difference is that the London League will now be known as "Football League South," and that two clubs, Southampton and Luton Town, have been added to bring the competing teams up to eighteen. Football next season will be run in five regional groups, those in addition to the Football League South being Lancashire, Yorkshire, Midlands and North East.

However, before the London League clubs would give way even to the small extent they have there was a stormy meeting in Nottingham the night before the annual meeting of the Football League was held there recently. Mr. Stanley Rous, secretary of the Football Association, was called upon to take the chair, and it was only after much bitter comment had been made and a more complete break from the parent body threatened that the London clubs agreed upon the action they took.

Two much-disappointed clubs, however, are Norwich and Bournemouth. The Football League have taken the extraordinary step of leaving them right out of the regional grouping. On the other hand, the Midland competition will be considerable strengthened and made much more attractive by the return to active participation of Aston Villa, Birmingham, Derby County and Coventry City.

Aston Villa have not played football since the war began, partly because their ground was required for other purposes. As there has been no statement to the effect that they can

Sergeant Freddie Mills, R.A.F., new world, British and Empire cruiserweight champion, going through part of his routine training in preparation for his recent contest with Pilot-Officer Len Harvey. It was with a second round knock-out that Mills took the three titles from Harvey on Saturday, June 20, at the Spurs ground, White Hart Lane. Sgt. Mills now challenges Pilot-Officer Harvey for the British and Empire heavy-weight championships which the famous Cornishman still holds.



now use Villa Park for football, they will probably play their home games at St. Andrews providing Birmingham F.C. are in agreement, and there is little doubt that they will be. Other clubs for whom, apparently, there is no room under the new regional scheme are Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea. It is understood, how-

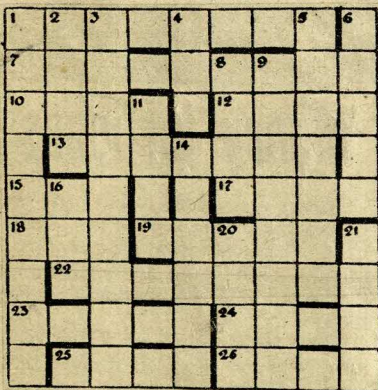
ever, that a Western tournament has been mooted, and may be formed by the three clubs named and Lovell's Athletic, the famous pre-war amateur side.

A notable withdrawal from the Lancashire group is that of Preston North End, winners of the League War Cup in 1941. They say they will have difficulty in fulfilling fixtures in the proposed Lancashire group — rather extraordinary in view of the fact that they travelled well out of Lancashire on several occasions last season.

Football officially resumes on August 29, with League matches ending on December 12. The remainder of the season will be mainly occupied with the Cup competition. In this tournament the first ten games will count for qualifying purposes, after which the top thirty-two clubs will compete in a knock-out competition on the home and away principle just as they did last season.

The disappearance in a boating accident at sea a few years ago of James Hampson, the Blackpool and England centre-forward, is recalled by the recent death of his brother, Harold Hampson, the Sheffield United inside right. Harold Hampson, who was 24 years of age, was the first footballer to enlist under the Militia Act and took part in the Dunkirk evacuation. He helped the United to gain promotion just before the war, and his death took place in a military hospital.

## "CRUSADER" CROSSWORD — 11



### ACROSS

1. Funny posh lids should come
7. Fuel marts (Anag.) [from this]
10. The result of a dry raid
12. Envelope of spirit
13. Many rap out the victory V with this
15. This would show possession mix-
17. Otherwise [ed in Ben]
18. Implement
19. Joy
22. What made Lent regretted?

23. A hoarder of sorts
24. Left in confusion when fifty leave
25. Notice [the local]
26. Peas in the choir?

### DOWN

1. You don't need these to carry these in the Army (Two words, 5 and 4)
2. The bird for a bit of fun
3. On reflection I see my likeness
4. Water
5. Restraint
6. Has a smoothing influence
8. Implement
9. End of chapter (Two words, 4 and 4)
11. If this were an ell longer it might be found in the gymnasium
14. What the comedian sometimes takes as salary
16. Its habits are nocturnal
20. Cain changed in old Peru
21. Does this Yorkshire town waste time?

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- Across:** 1. Snowdrift; 7. Advocate; 11. Reel; 12. When; 13. Curfew; 16. Actor; 18. Adam; 19. Sea; 21. Miner; 22. Take; 24. Stern; 26. Din; 27. Hero; 28. Candidate.  
**Down:** 1. Sarcastic; 2. Overt; 3. Wolf; 4. Raw; 5. Fee; 6. Tenement; 8. Deuce; 9. Cherish; 10. Thud; 14. Wanted; 15. Carrot; 17. Omen; 20. Akin; 23. Ada; 25. Era.

## QUESTION TIME

### 1.—ANAGRAMS

In this sentence the spaces are to be filled in with the same letters arranged in such a way as to form words which will fit into the sentence.

The \* \* \* \* \* lady \* \* \* \* \* the young man because he was \* \* \* \* \* and she had to stand.

### 2.—NUMERICAL PROBLEM

A number is multiplied by one less than itself; and the one-half of the product taken. If the result thus obtained is twice the original number, what is the original number?

### 3.—OLD PROVERB

I am an old proverb consisting of twenty-three letters.  
 My 22,4,12,10,8, spell a bird.  
 My 6,2,17,13,23, spell appears.  
 My 9,20,16,11,3, spell a violent disturbance.  
 My 18,5,1, spell a girl's name.  
 My 15,7,19,14,21, spell to expend to no purpose.

### 4.—HANDY

Change Foot to Hand in four steps, each step being a four-letter word differing from the preceding word by one letter only.

### 5.—WORD FORM

The following definitions fit five-letter words, which spell the same words horizontally as vertically in the same order when placed under one another.

- 1) Pursuit; 2) Harbour;
- 3) Shun; 4) Forcibly take possession of; 5) Came to completion.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1.—THE TRAIN  
3 1/2 miles.

2.—NOT SKY-HIGH  
36 feet

3.—MUSICAL INSTRUMENT  
Piano

4.—SACKED  
Jute, lute, late, lace, lack, sack.



DUMB BLONDE: "I suppose that fan in front is to cool the driver when he feels the heat of the engines?"

Arthur Ferrier (Sunday Pictorial)