

a towel to dry, estimate 18 to 24 hours for drying, but the Bureau of Standards says the welts and soles must have 24 to 36 hours for safety.

Directions given by one manufacturer, the American Viscose Corporation, tell you to put them on carefully, wash them after wear in mild suds with tepid (and they mean tepid!) water, squeeze gently, don't rub, twist or wring; hang

on smooth rod away from heat and sunlight; never use clothespins; and let them dry for two days.

This may sound tedious, but in these days the most important fashion advice is how *not* to buy clothes, but to conserve the ones we have. And that's one patriotic duty which has definite advantages to the pocketbook.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1942*

## MILITARY SCIENCE

## Natural Vegetation Used in Highly Successful Camouflage

### Camp in Everglades Is Scattered Over Nine-Mile Site With No Streets and Buildings Hidden Under Trees

**S**OMETHING revolutionary and logical in the art of camouflaging an army camp has been developed in the jungle back of Hobe Sound, Florida. Instead of imitating nature with artificial disguises, easily discovered by the camera, nature has been drafted to provide the black whiskers.

Camp Murphy, the latest training center for Signal Corps radiomen, has been so ingeniously planned that it is almost as invisible from the air as from the ground. The 5,000 men it will accommodate will be as well hidden as though they were the native rattlesnakes, lizards and chameleons working in underground bomb shelters.

The site of the camp is a wild spot on the fringe of the Everglades. It is covered with dense tropical growth. Shrub and cabbage palmetto, swamp maple, Australian pine, palm, live oak, cactus and impenetrable mangrove in the wet places, flourish on the reservation.

Instead of making a big clearing and massing the barracks, bakery, meat storage plant and the rest of it into a crowded town—an inviting target for enemy planes—the camp is scattered over the nine-mile-long reservation. There are no streets. The buildings face every point of the compass. It is a town planner's nightmare.

The contractors were ordered not to remove one tree or shrub unnecessarily. Workmen disobeying were fined. The buildings are painted a dull green to blend with the subtropical flora that often brush their walls, or, if bending palms, shade their roofs.

You can walk through the camp and not know you are near a building until you bump into it. Radiomen don't need a big open space for maneuvers, so there is no tell-tale white sand drill ground to give the camp's location away to enemy planes. It would be waste of bombs, anyway, to drop any on such a sparsely populated area. Not so far away there are as many alligators per square mile as there are buildings at Camp Murphy.

Florida trees being evergreens, Camp Murphy's protective covering will be as effective in the winter as in the summer.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1942*

## ENTOMOLOGY

## American Cockroaches Produce Large Families

**W**HY so many cockroaches manage to appear just where they are least wanted is revealed by studies of their family life at Iowa State College.

Experiments showed that prolific American lady roaches raise a family of 163 offspring, on the average, during an adult lifetime of less than one year. In some cases reproduction was found to occur even in unmated females. Others continued to produce offspring from several months up to a year after a single mating.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1942*

## ENGINEERING

## El Salvador Opens Big Suspension Bridge

**T**HE Republic of El Salvador has just completed the largest suspension bridge in Latin America, thus tying the two American continents by the 14,000 mile ribbon of Pan American highway.

The new bridge is another step in the completion of the road which will eventually carry military or civilian traffic from Alaska to Argentina. Spanning the Lampa River, the 1,350-foot bridge replaces ferry service by a scow propelled only by the river's current, according to Lieut. Col. Evelyn E. Valentini, technical adviser of the Pan American Highway Confederation.

*Science News Letter, August 8, 1942*



LARGEST LATIN AMERICAN BRIDGE

*New step in completion of the road which will run from Alaska to Argentina.*