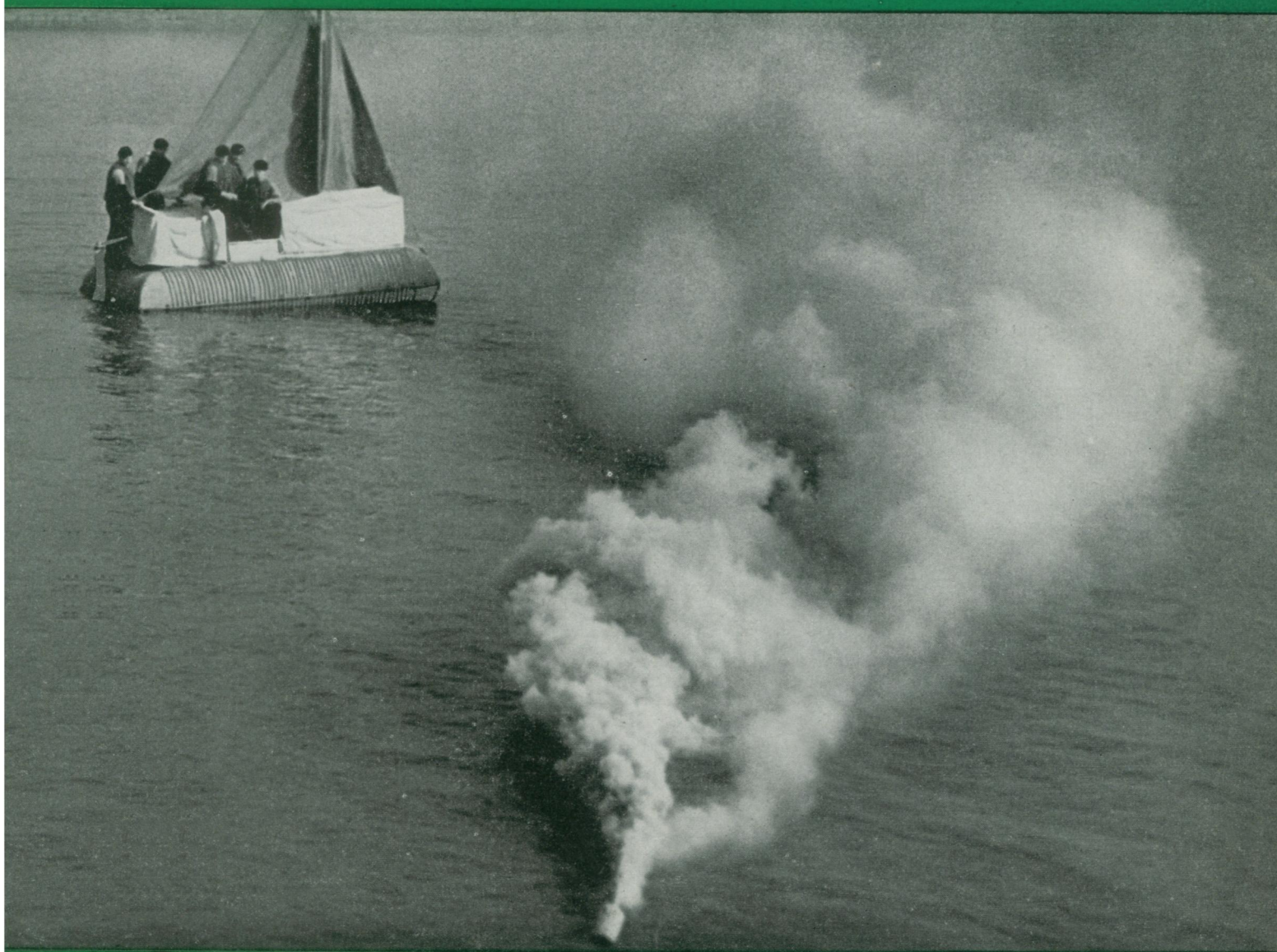


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • JUNE 19, 1943



Smoke Signal

See Page 396

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Virgin forests in America which covered probably 800,000,000 acres in 1643 now cover less than 100,000,000 acres.

Hunters can help in the manufacture of munitions by saving the *fats* from game and fur animals, previously wasted.

Guatemala expects to produce commercially a *wax* which may be used as a basis of shellac, from an insect related to the Asiatic lac insect.

Pickled pigtailed, Canadian, are a delicacy with some of the natives in Africa; the average pickled pigtail is five inches long and weighs a half-pound.

A live *sponge* four inches high and half an inch in diameter draws about 24 quarts of water through its body daily, straining out minute food organisms.

Roosters at the Beltsville farm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have lived four years after the surgical removal of their *gizzards*, proving these to be nonessential organs.

Production of *fats* and *oils* from domestic materials, it is estimated, will reach about 11,000,000,000 pounds in the 1942-43 crop year, a billion pounds over the production the preceding year.

Orange and grapefruit *juices* packed in glass jars darken and develop off-flavors in a few months at ordinary temperatures; no known method of processing them will prevent the deterioration.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

CHEMISTRY

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GEOGRAPHY

How are Japanese place names pronounced? p. 391.

INVENTION

How has smokeless powder been improved? p. 392.

MEDICINE

How do Army nurses toughen up before they go to combat areas? p. 390.

What advantages does the new life jacket of the Canadian Navy have? p. 389.

What are the purpose of a new medical society which just held its first meeting? p. 398.

What common chemical has been found in bones? p. 393.

What new clue has been found that may lead to the cause of myasthenia gravis? p. 392.

What proportion of the wounded in this war are being saved? p. 387.

What vitamin checks the growth of transplanted cancers? p. 393.

Why does the fighting flyer need a "family doctor"? p. 390.

NAVAL SCIENCE

What new devices are useful to men adrift at sea? p. 396.

NUTRITION

How are vitamins extracted from yeast cells? p. 392.

ORNITHOLOGY

How do African palm swiys build their nests? p. 398.

PHYSICS

What new device enables men in a life raft to be seen for 65 miles at sea? p. 392.

PSYCHOLOGY

What sorts of tests do the WAACs take? p. 399.

PSYCHOLOGY—SOCIOLOGY

What sort of young people are the Zoot-Suiters? p. 388.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What is the present health trend in the United States? p. 392.

STATISTICS

In what subject are new Ph.D. degrees being granted at Columbia University? p. 393.

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

Coffee tablets that can be dissolved in hot water and served are promised by a new development in Brazil by which the oil and salts are removed from the bean, the remainder being compressed into tablets.

Titanium, a dark-gray metallic element used in its oxide form as a pigment in white paint, is estimated to be the ninth commonest element in the earth's crust; 30 years ago it was regarded as a rare curiosity.

Tuna fish landings in Southern California ports totalled over 15,000,000 pounds during the first four months of this year, more than double the landings for the same period last year.

War industries using the *rare metals* tantalum, molybdenum and tungsten will request government allocations in kilograms in the future instead of in pounds avoirdupois; requests for tungsten and molybdenum chemicals will be made in pounds.

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The Army-Navy “E” flag, with one star, has been presented to the RCA Victor Division at Harrison, New Jersey.



The Army-Navy “E” flag, with one star; also the U.S. Maritime Commission “M” Pennant and Victory Fleet Flag have been awarded to the Radiomarine Corporation of America in New York City.

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