

jaundice if given before the skin-yellowing stage, the doctors suggest in their report.

"The results obtained in this epidemic are sufficiently encouraging to warrant further trials of gamma globulin in the

control of future epidemics of this disease," Dr. Stokes and Capt. Neefe state. "This is especially desirable because no other effective control measures have as yet been developed."

Science News Letter, January 27, 1945

MILITARY SCIENCE

Novel Military Devices

The Nazis have four-man sleeping quarters that can be rolled to the front line; Russians fit loud-speakers onto airplanes.

► SLEEPING QUARTERS for Nazi soldiers on the eastern front are being made with logs in the shape of a huge cylinder so that they can be rolled to the main line of defense by a team of horses. Each bunker is constructed from about 45 logs obtained from the forests in the area, and is equipped with bunks to accommodate four men. They are buried in the earth at a suitable depth and heaped over with earth.

This is only one of several examples of Allied and enemy ingenuity reported in *Military Review*, published by the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

Worried by the magnetic mines which the Allies have been latching onto the outside of their tanks, the Germans have developed a plastic coat, somewhat like rough linoleum, to prevent the mines from being attached. This coat is put on the exterior surface of the tank and colored with camouflage paint.

In World War I, the Germans used disguised freighters and fishing boats to trap Allied submarines and destroyers. When one of our boats would get in close to investigate, hidden guns would pop out and open fire. Today, German trains, beating a swift retreat from French battle lines, are trying to trap low-flying Allied strafing planes by waiting until the attacking aircraft has reached a low point over the railroads cars, then dropping the sides, uncovering rapid-fire Bofors anti-aircraft guns. Reports from the front indicate that they have not been very successful.

A further example of Nazi ingenuity is the use of turrets from knocked-out German tanks to form miniature fortresses. The turret, and its 75-millimeter gun, are removed from the damaged tank, sunk low in the ground, and imbedded in cement. A hole is dug adjacent to the emplacement to house ammunition and crew, and the surrounding

area is mined. British 17-pounders find it difficult to dislodge these tank-turret fortresses, and rocket-firing aircraft, which can dive straight onto the strong-points have found them difficult targets to hit.

But the Nazis do not have a corner on inventiveness or ingenuity. Reports from German sources, published in England, reveal that the Russians are using airplanes fitted with loud-speakers. These talking sky-giants fly low over concentrations of Nazi troops and civilian areas spreading propaganda designed to lower their morale.

The British have revealed a formidable weapon in a new special mortar mounted on a vehicle similar to a Churchill tank, the interior of which is designed to accommodate a large crew and special explosive charges. Known as the AVRE, the assault weapon hurls a charge containing many times the weight of explosive of any other known projectile of similar dimensions against concrete, steel, or masonry obstacles. This bomb is called the "Flying Dustbin." The AVRE is also equipped to carry and place in position carpets of flexible tracks (made from chestnut palings) to enable vehicles following after it to cross beaches, sand dunes, or patches of marshy ground.

The Royal Air Force is chasing cyclones these days in the Bay of Bengal with a long-range flying meteorological station. When land reports suggest that a treacherous storm is brewing, they fly out hundreds of miles deliberately seeking out bad weather. The flying meteorological station was put into use when it was discovered that ground reports might not give enough warning of devastating cyclones which spring up in that part of the world. As much as three days warning of the approach of bad weather can be given by making these weather flights.

Our own Wright Field's equipment

laboratory has developed special emergency equipment for the Air Transport Command's India-China Wing. This specialized rescue kit contains both Arctic and tropic accessories for crews that might have to bail out over snow-covered mountains or jungle areas when flying "over the Hump." Because some of the trees in the jungle grow to a height of 100 feet, and jungle growth makes parachutes difficult to spot, a 300-foot red and white streamer is attached to the kit to make it easier to spot.

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