

## NUTRITION

# Jap Soldier Well Fed

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► THE JAPANESE soldier eats well, if not by American standards, at least by Japanese standards. Under most circumstances he eats twice as well as his family at home. While the folks at home are managing to live on a diet of rice, fish, and vegetables, the little yellow men of the Mikado's army get some meat, fruits, extra vegetables, and even candy to flavor and vary the staple diet of rice and fish.

The food problem in the Japanese army is a great deal different from our own. There are no company or squadron messes. Each Nip is his own cook, and he usually prepares enough at one time to last him for 24 hours.

There are no well-balanced field rations such as are supplied to our troops. The Jap soldier going into battle carries rice and small hard biscuits. On occasion he carries canned meat. There are two types of packaged field rations, each containing a complete meal. In one type there are cakes of compressed wheat or barley, sugar, cakes of dried fish, and cakes of salty dried plums. The other type contains two cakes of a compressed fish-and-vegetable mixture, looking like our

familiar bouillon cube, and a sack of pre-cooked rice flour. The soldier mixes the flour with water to make a doughy substance which he eats cold.

The Nip airmen fare a little better than the ground forces. Aviation rations include such items as dried fish, pickled plums, peas, hard candy, chocolate, whisky, canned pineapple, hardboiled eggs, cider, and cans of meats and vegetables mixed together in a stew or hash.

Water is always a problem for the Japs, since they cannot take the salts out of sea water. On Saipan, the Jap soldiers carried water sausages made of a cellulose sheeting filled with water and tied off into short links. When a Jap got thirsty he just bit into a link. This water sausage was draped around the neck or carried in the pocket.

Blind obedience is drilled into the Jap soldier from the time he starts his training. Before the war a company of Jap soldiers on summer maneuvers received orders not to drink from their canteens until given permission to do so by their commanding officer. About 20 men fell to the ground from thirst and exhaustion

and five died. An examination of their canteens revealed that they had not been touched.

*Science News Letter, March 31, 1945*

## HORTICULTURE


## Corn From One Planting Available All Season

► NEW HYBRIDS of sweetcorn developed during the past season, used in connection with older hybrids, will make it possible for the home gardener from one planting to pluck corn in the pink of condition every day from early summer to frost. These new hybrids were developed by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and although not yet thoroughly tested give good promise. One matures earlier than older early hybrids, the other later than the better-known late varieties.

If six varieties of corn, in what is called a succession series by the station, are planted at the same time, mature corn will be available throughout the season. As one passes maturity the next will be ready for the table. The new hybrids are expected to extend the sweetcorn season appreciably. Information on the succession series is available in the annual sweetcorn report of the station.

*Science News Letter, March 31, 1945*

A synthetic transparent *chemical* has been perfected that absorbs 99.9% of the ultraviolet radiations of the sun for use in plastic goggle lenses.



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