



TV FOR BATTLEFIELD—Portable television transmitters have been used in a mock battle to demonstrate how commanders can direct operations from remote points.

TECHNOLOGY

Remote-Control Battles

► **THE PRESIDENT** in the White House and high military officials in the Pentagon will be able some day to watch on television the actual progress of battles as they occur in far-off corners of the earth.

This was indicated during a demonstration at Ft. Meade, Md., of combat television that has been developed by the U. S. Army Signal Corps and the Radio Corporation of America. (See SNL, Dec. 26, 1953, p. 403.)

All combat TV needs today to bring battle progress into the strategic command centers and the nation's capital is a method of carrying TV signals across the ocean and the scientists are working on that. Thus, large scale invasions or A-bomb or H-bomb strikes may be watched as they occur.

As a result of what appears on the TV screen in the Pentagon or the White House, plans can be changed and new orders sent to the front.

A distinguished audience including Gen. Matthew Ridgway, Army Chief of Staff, and Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, chairman of the Board of R.C.A., watched the demonstration of combat TV at Ft. Meade as guests of the Second Army. The Third Armored Cavalry Regiment staged a river crossing and hill assault under mock combat conditions to demonstrate how commanders could use TV.

Seven hand-carried TV cameras, one mounted in an Army plane and another on an amphibious assault craft, actually went

into battle with the troops. They brought to the battle commander's post instant pictures of what was occurring. These allowed him to redirect his troops and order additional artillery fire as needed. He interviewed a captured "prisoner" through the medium of TV and thus gathered valuable information about the "enemy."

The equipment used in the demonstration was part of the Signal Corps Interim Tactical TV System devised for use on the battlefield.

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ASTRONOMY

Spot New Comet In Little Dipper

► **A NEW** comet has been spotted in the familiar constellation of Ursa Minor, the little dipper or the little bear, which contains the most important star of our skies, the Pole Star.

The comet is of 15th magnitude, too faint to be seen without a very large telescope. It was found on July 31 by Dr. Walter Baade of Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, Calif. News of its discovery has been sent to observatories by Harvard College Observatory, clearing house for astronomical information in the Western Hemisphere.

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GENETICS

These Little Mice Lose Their Fur by Heredity

► **A NEW** kind of furless house mouse has been discovered. The mice that have this hereditary hair deficiency have a thinning of the hair at about 19 days of age and they lose their fur when a new coat is produced. They are never completely naked like "hairless" mice.

Spotted in a mouse colony of Ohio State University's department of zoology, two female mice of this sort were used to raise families that had the furless characteristics.

Dr. Earl L. Green reports in the *Journal of Heredity* (May-June) that this unusual kind of hair deficiency is due to a single recessive gene or factor in hereditary make-up and that it is not related to the gene causing hairlessness.

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ORNITHOLOGY

Scientist Needs Tumorous Parakeets

► **A SCIENTIST** studying cancer in parakeets at Ohio State University is on the hunt for live parakeets with tumors or parakeets which have died from tumors.

If a bird is sent him under proper conditions, Dr. Hans G. Schlumberger offers to send a non-technical diagnosis of the bird's disease to the owner. Dr. Schlumberger placed an advertisement for the diseased parakeets in *All-Pets Magazine* (June) giving details of how to send the birds.

An unusual lump or enlargement on the bird often indicates a tumor. Bad vision and the bulging of a bird's eye, the Ohio scientist said, are particularly significant indications.

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INVENTION

Patented Milling Cutters Adjust for Grinding Wear

► **MILLING CUTTER** blades that permit metalworkers to use them even after they have been ground down by repeated sharpenings have been patented.

The blades clamp into notches in a cutter wheel. The backs of the blades are ribbed with tiny grooves that grip similar grooves in the cutter wheel. The bases of the blades are inclined sharply so that as the blade is shortened and made more narrow by grinding, one simple adjustment will compensate for the lost metal.

When the blades become too small for the cutter wheel, they can be put on the next smaller machine and used as full-size cutters. Ole C. Severson of Derby, Conn., who assigned patent No. 2,684,520 to The Viking Tool Company, says this permits "substantially complete use" of the expensive cutter blades.

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