

MILITARY SCIENCE

# Rolling Service Is U.S. Army Invention For Battle Front

## Quartermaster Corps Providing for Morale and Efficiency Under Fire by Facilities for Cleanliness and Repair

**R**OLLING service is the newest invention of the Quartermaster Corps of the U. S. Army to make men at a fighting front cleaner and more comfortable.

In thick of battle, soldiers can't fight all the time. Shoes wear through. Insects—maybe the World War cootie—get into clothing. Tired fighters want a bath and wish they were on Main Street where you could buy a bottle of pop.

So, at the Quartermaster Replacement Center, at Camp Lee, Va., officers have just given the feminine press a view of new rolling shops which have been undergoing testing and improvements, and are ready to roll to Florida and other maneuver locations to prove usefulness "under fire." The mobile units, as the Army calls them, are on trucks and tractor-drawn trailers. They can be rolled to within 1,000 yards of a fighting line.

No other country has devised a rolling service of this type, so far as Quartermaster officers have heard. Canadians have inspected the U. S. Army's new idea with interest.

A walk through the shoe repair shop on wheels shows both walls ranged solid with stitching machines, whirring polishers and tools, and in between, somehow working at top speed, two rows of busy shoe repairers. In tests, the Army's trained workers have hit a high speed record of repairing 200 pairs of shoes in a day, in these quarters, and, says a Colonel, the work was good.

Besides shoes, the mending shop can also tackle emergency repairs to uniforms at a front. "Seamsters" is the name coined for the Army's masculine clothing menders by one officer casting about for a word similar to seamstress to describe this job.

Thirty-two selectees have been learning to operate the first mobile sterilization and bath unit. The Army describes it more informally as "the latest offspring of the old 'de-louser' so familiar to boys of the AEF."

This trailer has six showers on each

side, mounted on a porch-like extension of canvas. The men throw their clothes into the sterilizer which is inside the trailer itself and then take a shower. The steamed clothing goes on to a mobile laundry and the men get clean clothes as they leave the bath house.

The mobile laundry is another workshop on wheels, mounted with washing machine, surplus-water extractor, and two steam-heated tumblers to dry the clothes. A unit like this can handle a batch of clothes every half hour. At a fighting front, clothes are not ironed.

To aid morale of troops at a front, the Quartermaster Corps has designed a store on wheels to sell toilet articles, candy, cigarettes and cold beverages.

All of this equipment, officers emphasize, is not for men in permanent camps, where shop work and services

are housed with more elbow room. These are fighting line units, part of America's preparedness.

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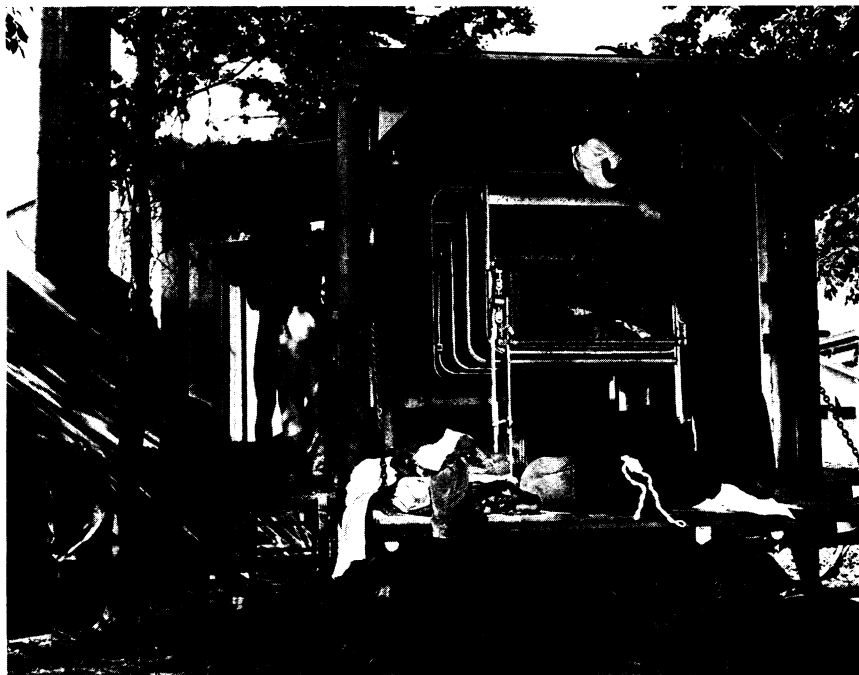
## Send Soldiers More Candy, Fewer Cigarettes

**H**ERE is good news for candy and chocolate bar manufacturers and bad news for cigarette manufacturers. The frequency with which stomach ulcers have developed in the Canadian Army has led the editor of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (July) to suggest that friends and relatives of soldiers should send them malted milk tablets, candy and chocolate bars rather than "deluge" them with cigarettes.

"Peptic ulcer is undoubtedly the major cause of illness in the Army," he declares.

While it is debatable whether smoking increases stomach acidity and thus increases the tendency to develop ulcers or aggravate them, most doctors advise their ulcer patients not to smoke, he points out, adding that athletes in training are denied tobacco on the ground that its use lessens stamina.

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**BATHS FOR SOLDIERS**

*This mobile unit will roll right up to the front. Soldiers hot, tired, soiled and possibly insect troubled can toss clothes into the sterilizer and then step under a refreshing shower. Clean clothes are issued to the men as they leave the shower.*