

Entertainers Travel Rough and Perilous Circuit Taking USO-Camp Shows to Remote Fighting Fronts

One Hundred Troupes Play to Soldiers in Open-Air Theaters

That familiar truism of the trouper—"the show must go on"—has taken on a new and vastly different meaning since the advent of USO-camp shows—those traveling troupes that follow our troops all over the world. True to tradition, the show, of course, does go on—from the back of an army truck mired in the jungles of New Guinea, to the accompaniment of grinding winches on a dock alongside a troop transport, amid the icy glaciers of the Arctic, at base hospitals behind firing lines, in the shadow of smoldering Vesuvius, or on newly won territory in Europe.

No longer, however, does the audience go to the show; the show is taken to the audience—an audience, by the way, that now numbers more than 11,000,000 men and women of our armed forces to whom, by orders of the War department, the show goes on in combat zones in every area where our fighting forces are located.

It's something new for both the show business and the army to include traveling troupes in the army's special services. That is, it was new until Pearl Harbor. Now they're as much a part of the army fare as GI chow, and equally as essential. One is a physical necessity, the other a psychological stimulant.

In the last two and a half years, USO-Camp shows have grown from a mere experiment to a far-flung activity that would stagger the most traveled old trouper to contemplate. Today, USO-Camp shows operate approximately 100 units in combat zones in every sector of the fighting fronts. For obvious reasons of military expedience no estimate of the "house count" at these performances has been made public, but it's a safe guess that the "SR" sign was out at every one. In the western hemisphere another 100 USO-Camp shows are appearing at army camps and naval bases, with an estimated monthly attendance of 2,000,000 men and women of the armed forces who are kept laughing by professional entertainers of stage, screen and radio.

USO-Camp shows are operated as activity of USO (United Service Organizations) and are financed by the National War fund, of which USO is a member agency.

Stage Stars Volunteer.
From headquarters occupying half a dozen floors in a building at 8 West Fortieth street, New York City, USO-Camp shows plan, prepare and direct the assembling of both talent and programs for the various units. Paid entertainers, recruited from theatres, night clubs and vaudeville booking agencies, constitute the permanent organization of the world-wide circuits. Augmenting the regular staff are stars of Broadway and Hollywood, together with well-known radio personalities, who volunteer their services for a limited period.

In obtaining volunteers from the screen colony, USO-Camp shows has the cooperation of the Hollywood Victory committee which has enlisted many of the foremost stars of motion pictures. Among notable of the cinema who have been members of USO-Camp shows to entertain our boys in combat zones were: Joe E. Brown, William Gargan,



Sgt. Robert Bank's pulse and respiration went up several points when this band of entertainers dropped into this hospital tent in the Aleutians. Players left to right are Naomi Stevens, Mary Lee, Grace and Harry Masters, and George Cerutti.

Marlene Dietrich, Adolph Menjou, Paulette Goddard, Gary Cooper, Una Merkel, George Raft, Phyllis Brooks, Frederic March, Louise Allbritton, Andy Arcari, Jean Clyde, Bob Hope, Keenan Wynn, Al Jolson and John Garfield.

Although the screen luminaries volunteer for a minimum of 12 weeks, some of them trouped the various circuits for as long as 30 weeks, enduring all kinds of inconveniences and hardships, but taking them in stride and actually enjoying the experience. Many of the lesser-known paid entertainers on "sleep-jumping" tours of 50,000 and 100,000 miles have been out for as long as 11 months, visiting little outposts in remote regions, isolated camps in Central and East Africa, army transport command stops in the Arabian wilderness, or lonely road camps in the snow-covered mountains of Iran.

The business of obtaining the talent and putting together a show unit is the function of USO-Camp shows, a function usually conducted on specific orders from the army special services division which requisitions entertainment by much the same method as GI supplies are ordered. In typical army terseness, a directive will be issued to camp shows for a certain type of entertainment to be provided for a specified number of performers for a designated area and time. USO-Camp shows follows instructions.

At the designated time and place, the show is turned over to the army, and thereafter it is practically as much a part of the army as the GI Joe. Where the show goes, when it goes, how long it stays and when it "does its stuff" are all prescribed by the army. Transportation, food, sleeping quarters are furnished by the army. Many performers give their service; others are paid nominal salaries.

Troupes Endure Heat, Cold.
Although details of the tours are handled by the army with characteristic military precision, putting on the show many times isn't exactly a cinch. In fact, it is often attended by difficulties, hazards or interruptions. Even the army isn't able to provide transportable theatres, stage "props" and equipment. "Tramping the boards," a familiar expression of the trouper, is exactly that with Camp show entertainers, for the show is usually given from a crude, improvised stage of boards thrown up wherever the audience is stationed.

The locale of a show may be in a jungle where the temperature climbs to as high as 130 degrees; it may be at a lonely mountain side outpost, or in the midst of desert wastes. One USO-Camp show unit,



Improved Milking Method Saves Labor

Massaging Udder Stimulates Flow

Because of the labor shortage on dairy farms, many dairymen are looking to a new, faster method of milking. An improved system is described by Dr. George E. Taylor, extension dairyman at Rutgers U. The important steps, he says, are these:

1. Start milking at approximately the same time night and morning.
2. Have all equipment in readiness for use before starting to milk.
3. Properly prepare each cow just prior to milking by washing and massaging the udder with chlorinated water heated to 110 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Remove a few streams of milk from each quarter into a strip cup just before putting the machine on each cow.
5. Examine and massage each quarter just before milking is completed, pulling downward on the teat cups at the same time.

"Preparing each cow properly for milking makes for cleaner milk and a more pliable udder and stimulates the cow to give down her milk more promptly," Dr. Taylor says. Drawing a few streams of milk into the strip cup is equally stimulating to let-down of milk. It discards a little milk that is low in fat and high in bacteria and detects gargety milk at its source. Many dairymen find that hand stripping is no longer necessary.

"Young cows and first calf heifers respond and adjust themselves more readily to the improved milking method than older cows. Even older animals will become accustomed to faster milking, but it may require a little more time and careful handling."

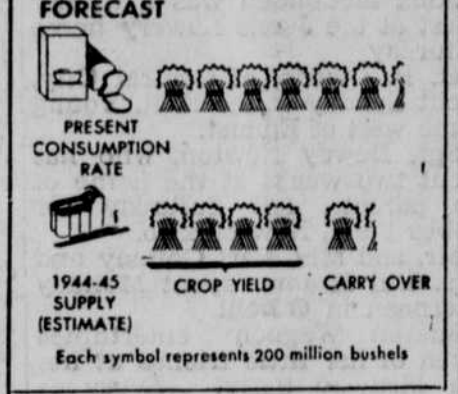
Wheat May Be Scarce

TELEFACT

U. S. CROP YIELD PER ACRE, 1943



TIGHTER U. S. WHEAT SITUATION FORECAST



Patch of Culinary Herbs Helps Fill Spice Needs

If you are planting culinary herbs for the first time, start with a few varieties. Select such old-time favorites as dill, sage, parsley, sweet marjoram, chives, and caraway that can pinch-hit for some of the seasoners now cut off because of shipping conditions.

Plant only what you can use to good advantage. Garden space is at a premium this year and seeds—even of herbs—are none too plentiful. Flavors and odors of most culinary herbs are highly concentrated, and only a very small amount is needed to season a quantity of food. Overplanting means a waste of time and energy as well as a waste of soil and seed.

Most herbs will do well on any rich, well-drained garden soil. All annual herbs and most of the biennials and perennials are grown from seed, but the mints, pennyroyal, tarragon and chives are propagated by cuttings or by division.

Homemade Egg Cases

To convert a citrus fruit box to an egg case, nail a 3/8-inch strip of board to the end boards and the divider, to make the box deep enough to hold the standard 30 dozen eggs. A 3/8-inch strip along each side also helps to make the box safe to use. Homemade boxes of half-inch lumber will last for years, if the farmer collects the empty ones each time he delivers eggs locally.

Million Farm Boys in Service

About one million farm workers have been inducted into the armed forces since 1940 when the selective service law became effective, according to War Food Administration figures. During the past year approximately 250,000 were inducted from agriculture. In addition to the loss of these men, many others have left farms for various reasons and several million have withdrawn from agriculture without changing their residence.

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Big Task for Voters

American voters of 1944 will elect not only a President, 33 senators, 435 representatives and 34 governors, but also between 150,000 and 175,000 officers for other state, county and municipal positions, says Collier's.

Also, the ballots will probably request a vote on between 4,000 and 6,000 proposed laws and other measures.

One of CLARION'S major plans after the war will be to serve towns, smaller cities and farms with radios best suited to the real America through which runs Main Street—the world's greatest thoroughfare.

In every locality there will be CLARION dealers displaying the red-coated figure which since 1922 has been the symbol of good radios.

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JUST THINK

Minds in Reverse
Two mind-readers met after an interval of some months. One of them immediately exclaimed in a hearty voice:
"You're all right! How am I?"

Not Even an Old One
"And, doctor, do you think primes are healthy?"
"Well, I've never heard one complain."

Everybody is able to give pleasure in some way. One person may do it by coming into a room, another by going out.

HOW TO "KNOW" ASPIRIN
Just be sure to ask for St. Joseph Aspirin. There's none faster, none stronger. Why pay more? World's largest seller at 10¢. Demand St. Joseph Aspirin.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

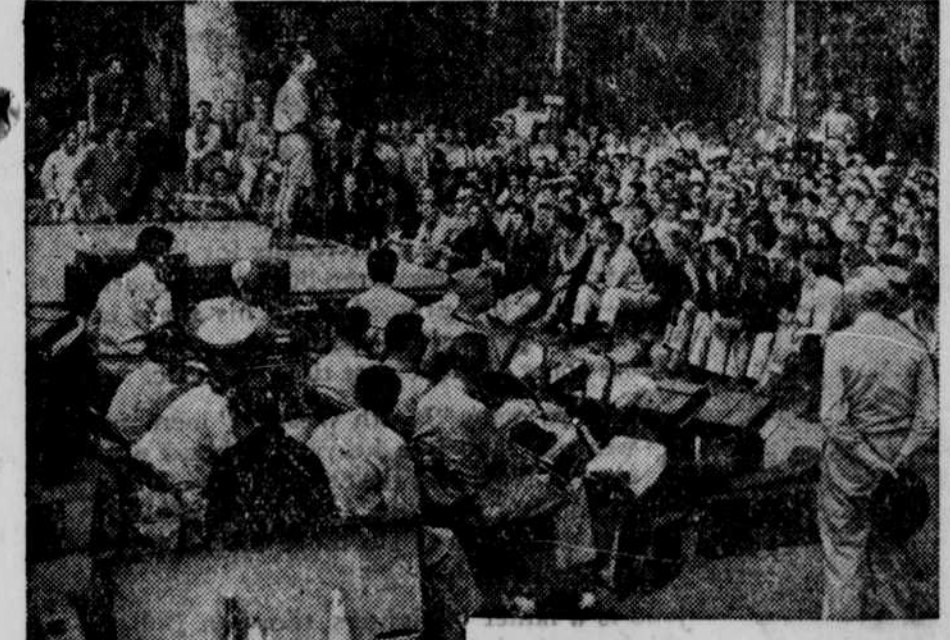
Alcohol base butadiene is expected to provide an important portion of the synthetic rubber used in the U. S. in 1944. One instance where alcohol and the automobile go well together!

Passenger car tire shortage is expected to continue well into the summer months, at which time synthetic tires may make their appearance in growing numbers. That's why extreme tire care is important now.

In 1910 crude rubber sold for an average of \$2.06 a pound in New York. Since September 12, 1941, it has been fixed by a government agency at 22 1/2 cents a pound. In 1932 the average price was 3.4 cents.

Jerry Shaw

In war or peace
B.F. Goodrich
FIRST IN RUBBER



Comedian Joe E. Brown toured the south Pacific area for many months, pushing into remote jungle islands. Here he is shown entertaining soldiers as an open air theater in Australia.

'Home Talent' Skits Prepared by Army Special Services Give Soldiers a Chance to Entertain Themselves

There aren't enough U. S. O. troupes to get around, so Brigadier General Byron of the army special services division decided to help the boys entertain themselves. He had some playlets written under the direction of George Kaufman and other playwrights that men could produce themselves anywhere, with little equipment and costuming. These are grouped into a sort of

review called "About Face" a broad farce on military life, draft boards, sergeants, WACs, and similar subjects. It was presented first in Camp Shanks, N. Y., where it made a hit with the G. I. audience. Soldiers and WACs played all parts.

"About Face" is full of army jargon and wisecracks. It consists of a series of short skits which General Byron said can be selected, improvised upon and adapted to various local situations in the different combat areas. The show can be staged with props and costumes made from scrap materials.

"The show has to afford the maximum possibility for versatility," General Byron explained, "and appeal to the average soldier, who, if he had more time, could work out the details himself. They not only like to entertain themselves, but also want to do something in this line for themselves."