

# Parachutes, Jeeps, Halftracks, Flamethrowers, Will Be Used in Peacetime to Battle Forest Fires

## Methods Devised for War Are Being Adapted to Save Timber Resources

The swords of war become the plowshares of peace, and this time Mars has some weapons that are going to come in mighty handy in the never ending battle against forest fires. Some very logical questions are being asked today: Why not use fire-extinguishing bombs to drop on forest fires? Why not use bombers, equipped with precision sights, to aim these bombs? Why not use fire-fighting parachute troops to drop behind "enemy" lines or to transport to fire regions difficult to negotiate by land?

The man who is expected to take charge of this program is David Godwin, a veteran of the forest service, who has been active in anti-fire experimental work for a number of years.

Godwin already has investigated the possibility of dive-bombing forest fires, using bombs which in reality were exploding fire extinguishers. That, however, was a number of years ago, and didn't meet with much success. It was difficult, the experimenters found, to hit the exact spot where the bomb-extinguishers would do the most good, and there was difficulty in covering a sufficiently large area.

Aviation enthusiasts, however, are counting upon effective bomb-sight and other precision instruments to change this situation. As an alternative, they believe there may be great possibilities in the use of helicopters. No doubt a fleet of bombing planes could be used to advantage in blasting a fire out of a forest, especially with ground support from a parachute battalion.

The use of parachute-dropped troops to fight forest fires was first tried a few years ago, and they have been seeing action in this capacity ever since. But there never has been enough of them to combat a really big fire. This number can be expanded greatly after the war, and the wartime training of parachute combat units can bring about the organization of a formidable fire-fighting force.

**'Jeep' Will Be Fire Engine.**  
When it comes to post-war techniques in forest fire fighting, however, it may be not only the use of waves of bombing planes, and parachute troops to augment the present forces. The ubiquitous "jeep"—accustomed to the jungle trails of New Guinea and the difficult terrain of Africa and Italy—is already recommended by professional foresters as highly suitable for service as a miniature fire engine. Likewise, the "walkie-talkie" radio unquestionably will be used by the thousands to keep in contact between fire chiefs, their crews, aviation spotters, pilots and paratroopers overhead.

"Half-tracks," which combine automobile speeds with tank and tractor ability to negotiate swamps and rugged land, can serve efficiently as big brother to the jeeps, and for use as bulldozers to scrape fire trail barriers to the progress of flames. Bulldozers already are essential fire-fighting equipment.

Even flame-throwers developed by the chemical warfare service may be called upon for building "back



As soon as a forest ranger spots a fire he radios for the flying fire-fighters. Here a "smoke jumper" is making a "feather bed landing" in the tops of a young coniferous growth.

fires," burning out areas in the path of spreading flames. Accompanying them would be men with fire extinguishers, to guard against the back fires getting out of control.

The paratrooper, however, will doubtless have a glory and a duty all his own. His greatest service will come from the fact that he can get there first. Once a watcher from a fire-tower or from a patrolling plane spots smoke, it need be only a few minutes until a paratrooper can land within 50 or 100 yards of the blaze, and by getting there while the fire is just starting, he will be able in many cases to extinguish it without additional help.

**Paratroopers by Hundred.**  
But when long periods of dryness have rendered the forests highly inflammable and fires spread quickly, a radio summons from the spotters can bring reinforcements in a hurry. A single big plane may bring a score or more paratroopers; a dozen planes could bring them by the hundreds.

With their faces protected by plastic masks, heads covered with padded helmets, and bodies covered with non-ripping fabrics, to spare them injuries in case of tree-top landings; and with coils of rope handy for quick descent from the trees, the paratroopers can reach a fire many precious minutes sooner than men on trucks or horseback can generally arrive.

Portable fire-fighting devices that are strapped to a man's back are already standard forest equipment suitable for the paratroopers. Sometimes these are hand-pumps with a small tank of water. An alternative device uses water but builds the pressure behind it with carbon dioxide, either in its liquid form or in the form of "dry ice." Some portable extinguishers use carbon dioxide itself to play upon the fires. It snuffs them out by driving away the oxygen. Extinguishers of greater capacity and other supplies will be attached to parachutes and dropped from other planes.

Meantime, the jeeps and half-tracks, trucks and bulldozers will be moving up with other reinforcements and supplies. They may bring the flame throwers to build back fires, if necessary. They'll bring long lines of hose and high-pressure pumps, powered by motors which are twins to those used on rowboats. With the high pressure equipment, they'll be able to combat fires in "snags," dead trees which are an especial menace because they tend to carry ground fires upward to the tops of other trees.

**Ground Reinforcements.**

When a forest fire goes into the tree tops it is about as difficult to check as any fire can possibly be. In an old forest a crown fire may be as high above ground as the 15th story of a skyscraper—with no automatic sprinkler system to help

combat it, and plenty of oxygen to make it burn freely.

Thus, if the original fire does get out of control of the first paratroopers to reach it, and proves too big for the first reinforcements also, it is almost certain that the third wave of paratroopers and ground forces will resort to building backfires and digging trenches as the maximum effort to check it. Bulldozers and plow-equipped half-tracks will mechanize a large part of the digging job. Men with flame-throwers and extinguishers will handle the backfires. Other men with gasoline-powered "chain-saws" will clear the path of the bulldozers and half-tracks of trees too big for them to bowl over.

America has a big stake in forest lands. Forest operators are seeing to it that our trees continue to grow, but they know that fire is the biggest menace to growth. They need weapons with which to fight fires, and they expect those that this war provides will help to keep a better control over this persistent enemy.

## On Land or Sea, Navy P. O. Gets Mail Delivered

### System of 5,000 Branches Reaches Remotest Islands

One of the most gigantic wartime tasks confronting postal men is delivering mail to mobile units of the fleet. The mounting tempo of operations in the last year means not only that greater distances must be spanned to effect delivery but that a greater number of men are involved in combat activities increasing all classes of mail to an unprecedented volume.

During March, 1945, 86,132,623 pieces of letter mail passed through Fleet Post Office, San Francisco to navy, marine and coast guard personnel in the Pacific. In March, 1944, there were 36,686,937 pieces of letter mail dispatched to the Pacific showing clearly that the mail volume increased well over 100 per cent in one year. It is expected that it will rise even farther.

The nerve center of the navy mail service is in the navy department, Washington, D. C. Here, ship and plane movements are traced and communicated daily to the fleet post offices by wire and airmail. Information on ship and plane movements come in from all over the world—by radio, letter and messenger.

Throughout the world, there are over 5,000 navy post offices, varying greatly in size and appearance—some within the United States but the vast majority are on board ship or at advanced bases or on captured and liberated islands. The large ones serving the mobile units are designated as fleet post offices.

**What Navy Men Want.**  
Extensive surveys show that navy, coast guard and marine corps personnel overseas above all want letters—letters giving local news and telling of things done and things planned. Secondly, they want objects with a personal sentimental appeal such as photographs, snapshots, drawings made by their youngsters, and newspaper clippings that can be enclosed in these letters.

Such surveys also show that they positively know what they don't want. They don't want cakes, soft candies, cookies, cigarettes and fancy toilet kits. These foods do not survive the trip to the Pacific and arrive in a battered, moldy condition.

To make sure your package arrives in good condition, the following suggestions are outlined:

1. Use a strong container (special boxes are designed for this purpose).
2. Pack each article in shredded paper or some filler material to prevent movement inside the package.
3. Inside each package put a sheet of paper with a list of the contents and the full address of the person to whom it is sent plus your return address.
4. Tie the box with cord, then WRAP it in heavy paper and tie it with strong cord.
5. PRINT the address in ink directly on the wrapping; don't use gummed labels which fall off when they are subjected to moisture.

Experience has shown that a man overseas places a far higher value on a letter from home than a package of candy, or a long delayed newspaper. Because of the great morale factor, the navy delivers first class mail to the far Pacific as expeditiously as possible.

## A Great Opportunity

We'll see if our big boys in the studios can take it. They're getting overseas shots like mad. Two top men from each studio have been invited by the government to go over. Idea is for them to be shown the horrors of Nazism, Fascism, concentration camps, torture chambers, so that from now on they can keep this in mind when planning pictures. Hordes of slaves from many countries must be reeducated. Pictures will teach them the meaning of freedom.



**HOLLYWOOD**, the town that's made "colossal," "gigantic," and "stupendous" the keynotes of the movies, likes nothing better than giving the fans their money's worth. Where the stage supplies a line of 20 girls in a musical, the movies (bless 'em) give us 200. Such prodigality pays off and always has. That's one reason studios do things in a big way.

Some of the boys recently sat down and figured that the fans who pay to see Fred MacMurray or Bette Davis in a picture would be twice as eager to see their favorites if said favorites were to do two roles in the same film instead of the customary single stint. Two for the price of one is the bait held out these days. Imagine how the bobby-soxers would queue up if a marquee were to read: "Tonight: 2—Frank Sinatra—2!"

The dual role (one star playing two parts in the same movie) is back in vogue with a bang. Actors are delighted—and why not?—since this means twice as many closeups. But camera men and technicians are cursin' right out loud, for making a pair of actors sprout where there should be one is a tricky and tedious job. It was bad enough in days of silent movies to match such action, but with dialogue the problem takes on the tone of a Russian trying to translate a speech done in Chinese.

## It's an Epidemic

Over at Mutual, Fred MacMurray is playing twin brothers in the comedy "Pardon My Past," on which Leslie Fenton serves as both producer and director. This comedy has Fred playing two distinct characters, one comedy, the other a heavy. When I asked Fred how he liked being a split personality he quipped back at me with: "Don't forget, Hedda, it isn't every man who gets a chance to shake hands with himself. And it isn't every man who gets the chance of being his own rival for the affections of pretty Marguerite Chapman."

Over at Warners', Bette Davis is having herself an emotional daisy day as two girls—one good, 't'her bad—in "A Stolen Life." Bette's a triple-threat gal on this. She's also producing it. Bette about emotes herself to pieces when she plays a single role, so you can imagine what this is doing to her.

**Cornel Wilde** of "A Song to Remember" is also hitting the dual role trail in "A Thousand and One Nights," a technicolor extravaganza of old Bagdad. Al Green, director, had his hands full on this one, for not only does Cornel do a dual stint but Dennis Hoey works in double exposure throughout the story, impersonating an eastern potentate and his wicked twin brother, Hajji. Ray Rennahan, camera man, told me he went berserk trying to keep the characters straight on the film.

In "Scared Stiff," which comes from Pine-Thomas, Lucien Littlefield also plays two parts, eccentric twin brothers, who get mixed up in the theft of a jewel-studded chess set, of all things! Danny Kaye in "Wonder Man" plays identical twins, too.

## The Hard Way

On the stage a few plays have had a star play two separate and distinct parts in the same show. This causes the actor or actress to make quick costume changes just off the stage and switch wigs as quickly as possible. But it really takes a movie camera to present anything as boisterous and blatant as Betty Hutton singing a duet with herself in "Here Come the Waves" or Gene Kelly's startling alter ego routine in which he serves as his own dancing partner in "Cover Girl."

The dual role, however, is as old as the moving picture itself. Way back in the days of short-reelers technicians discovered how to make half a film, take a scene, then wind back and expose the other half which had remained unexposed. Crude double exposure was thus obtained, but it was a far cry from such smooth achievements as having Fred MacMurray hand himself a letter in "Pardon My Past" or Cornel Wilde's duel with himself in "A Thousand and One Nights."

The stars enjoy the glory of a showy dual assignment. No, they don't get twice their salary, but the extra footage, applause and glory make up for the lack of bulge in their bank accounts.

## Can You Remember—

Away back when a butcher's wife thought nothing of asking him to bring home a steak? And when the navy was thought to be the less dangerous branch of the service in wartime?



## THOUGHTS ON HORSE RACING

Horse racing is a form of competition between horses to determine what shape the customers are in.

It is a demonstration in durability for all participants except the horses.

It is a type of sport that combines all the features of a subway jam, a food riot, a Christmas shopping rush and a panic in the madhouse.

A man can get the same sensations in any subway station during the rush hour for a nickel. And in addition he won't have to listen to any tips that the local can beat the express if the smart money is up.

Racing is proof of the claim that, for a chance to lose \$2 swiftly, a man will undergo all known forms of inconvenience and torture, provided they are endured in an aroma of steamed frankfurters, beer, B.O. and fresh roasted peanuts.

Once horse racing may have been the Sport of Kings. But the proletariat has taken over. If a king gets to his seat today with no ribs broken you know he had the king's horses running interference for him.

Where once a few thousand persons spent leisurely afternoons, tens of thousands today blitz the tracks, panting, peeped and perspiring as they reproduce Custer's Last Fight with the tomahawking done in technicolor.

When pari mutuels stepped into American racing brotherly love, order, dignity, common sense and laws regarding mayhem flew out the window. Window is right!

We used to go to the track now and then for recreation. Now we go a couple of times a season to take off weight, test our stamina, and get a fair idea of what Indian warfare was like.

We used to see a horse occasionally. Now we do well if we see a horse's ears.

Once we watched 'em come down the stretch, neck and neck. Now the best we can do is to get it by loud-speaker while hanging onto our watch, pleading for the women and children first and wondering where our hat went.

Once inside it is every man for himself and no accident or health insurance sold on the grounds.

## THE JAP LEADERS TO THEIR EMPEROR

We offer our apologies, As planes above you swarm, For putting you upon a spot And making it so warm; We're sorry bombers do Your royal dwelling skirt; Excuse it, please, if it appears That we have done you dirt!

We are so very sorry that You even smell the smoke And that our busy firemen The royal grounds must soak; We abjectly apologize And shed a bitter tear That war we planned so far away Should ever come so near.

It is distressing just to know That "smoke gets in your eyes"— And for each whiff of it we are Glad to apologize; We're sorry that you had to know The brutal facts of life; We hoped to run this conflict as Our little private strife.

Again we do express our grief; We're broken hearted, too, When we see war so near at hand It's right next door to YOU We didn't plan our war that way It fills us with remorse, So, once more, deep apologies To you and TO YOUR HORSE!

President Truman's old home at Independence is being painted. All we hope is that, as President, he will get a better paint job than most folks are getting these days. Ye ed had the barn painted twice in the last three years and the first heavy rain washed it off. What are the painters using for paint today? And if so why perpetuate the custom of thinning it out? Good luck, Harry; you'll need it!

"Hotels will not be permitted to collect service charges on long distance phone calls, the U. S. Supreme court announced."—News item.

Wanna bet?

Can you remember— Away back when a butcher's wife thought nothing of asking him to bring home a steak?

And when the navy was thought to be the less dangerous branch of the service in wartime?

The Federal Reserve board is against lifting restrictions against time payments in buying new automobiles. It realizes that never in history have Americans been so little appreciative about going into permanent hock.

## SEWING CIRCLE NEEDLECRAFT

### Practical Pinafore for Little Girl



Two pinafore motifs in one pattern. Pattern 844 has transfer of 12 motifs from 1/4 by 1 1/4 to 6 by 9 1/2 inches; directions; stitches.

Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.

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**SNAPPY FACTS about RUBBER**

Before the end of 1945, synthetic rubber production will probably be at the rate of a million tons a year. This record has been accomplished in three years, since the fall of Singapore.

Since Pearl Harbor, passenger cars have carried 75 per cent of the country's local essential transportation load and have been the means of carrying four out of five war workers to and from their jobs.

*Rosa Marnery*

In war on peace

**B.F. Goodrich**  
**FIRST IN RUBBER**

SHE'D rather wear cute embroidered pinafores than her frilliest party dress! Her friends will envy her the baby ducks or bears.

**Household Hints**

For cooking fresh asparagus, use an old percolator. Stand the asparagus in the percolator, add boiling water, cover and cook.

To starch men's collars very stiff, add a tablespoonful of epsom salts to an ordinary-sized pan of starch.

To protect the heels of rubbers or overshoes, cut pieces of felt just the size to fit into the heel, then cement it in place. This will receive the impact and protect the rubber.

Since fiber door mats are hard to replace, keep the old ones in good repair by cutting off frayed edges, rebinding, or overcasting worn places.

If a rubber ring around the top of a jar preserves is inferior and causes a leak, pour melted paraffin wax around the top.

Insert small wads of cotton into the fingertips of your rubber gloves. This will prevent the fingernails from cutting through.

To crush pills for a sick person, place the pills between two tablespoons fitted together and press hard. There will be no mess or loss.

**Flavor Delights Millions!**  
**Kellogg's CORN FLAKES**  
"The Grains Are Great Foods" — K.H. Kellogg  
Kellogg's Corn Flakes bring you nearly all the protective food elements of the whole grain declared essential to human nutrition.

**Easy Raised Muffins a Welcome Change**  
Make them with Fleischmann's yellow-label Yeast—the only fresh yeast with more EXTRA vitamins.

**RAISED CORN MUFFINS**

1 1/2 cups corn meal	4 tablespoons melted butter or margarine
1 1/2 cups milk, scalded	1 cake Fleischmann's Yeast
2 teaspoons salt	1/2 cup lukewarm water
3 tablespoons brown sugar	2 eggs, well beaten
2 cups sifted flour	

Stir the corn meal very slowly into the scalded milk. Mix in salt, brown sugar and melted butter or margarine. Cool to lukewarm. Dissolve Fleischmann's Yeast in lukewarm water and add to lukewarm corn-meal mixture. Add eggs and flour; beat well. Fill well-greased muffin pans half full. Cover and let rise in warm place, free from draft, until light, about 1 hour. Bake in moderate oven at 375° F. about 30 minutes. Makes 20.

**FREE!** Clip and paste on a penny post card for your free copy of Fleischmann's newly revised "The Bread Basket." Dozens of easy recipes for breads, rolls, desserts. Address Standard Brands, Incorporated, Grand Central Annex, Box 477, New York 17, N. Y.

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After landing the "smoke jumper" unstraps his parachute and goes to work with his portable fire extinguisher. He carries other tools such as axes and spades. The heavier equipment can be dropped by parachute when necessary.

## Host of Small Fires Do More Damage Than the Few Great Ones

A tough forest fire is a terrible enemy to combat. It sometimes attacks on a front from one to more than twenty miles in width. It can sweep forward at a speed to overtake a man on horseback. It develops a heat that can ignite a stump more than 100 yards removed from any flames. It stirs air currents to the speed of a tornado.

The great forest fires, the ones we read about, are the more spectacular and do terrific damage—but

there are 10,000 times as many little fires, which we seldom hear about, and the sum total of their damage is the greater of the two. Anyhow, every big fire was little when it started. Who starts them? The public accounts for approximately 98 per cent of all forest fires, according to the official records of the forest service, careless tossing of burning matches or tobacco is described as the most frequent cause. Incendiaries—people who start fires for a

thrill or for malice—rank second. Approximately 61,000 men are kept constantly subject to fire fighting duty today. Of these, some 52,500 are responsible to state foresters and administrators of privately owned timberlands, and about 9,000 are members of the federal land administrative agencies which include the forest service. In spite of their efforts, however, fire annually destroys as much as 800,000,000 cubic feet of timber.