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Balkans. Concurrently within the Nationalist Party a progressive deterioration has set in which makes the ultimate test of strength difficult to determine. The shrewdest observers believe and hope that there will be no outbreak of civil war between Communists and Nationalists until the Japanese are defeated. The leadership of both parties realises that if civil war breaks out, the enemy marches in.

The Nationalists who control most of free China desire above all else to present to the world the aspect of United China. This makes their voice strong in international councils. Therefore, their censorship policy on all outgoing despatches has been to suppress any reference to the activities of the Communist armies in the north or any impression of serious internal opposition to their rule.

As a matter of fact, however, the Chinese Communists rule independently over vast and populous territories in North China. Between themselves and the Government there exists so complete and wide a cleavage that their representative in Chungking is almost an ambassador of a foreign power. Their armies, several hundred thousand strong, are fighting the Japanese all through the vital provinces of Shantung, Hopei, Shansi and North Kiangsu. Completely cut off from supplies by the Central Government of China, they have woven a net of popular resistance about the Japanese garrisons and railways. Their arms are seized from the Japanese or home-manufactured. They fight by night, move like formless wraiths through the hills, flicker about the Japanese garrisons and lines of communication like dancing tongues of flame.

But underlining the existence and importance of these Communist armies at this point it is necessary to re-emphasise the fact that the great burden of the war has been borne by the armies of the Central Government itself. These armies were responsible for the great victories about Taierchwang and Changsha, for the heroic defences of Shanghai and Hankow, and in recent years of the gorges and the rice-bowl area.

Blockade of "Red Area"

Because the Nationalist Party has steadfastly refused for the last five years to permit any observers past their blockade of the Red Area, it is impossible to judge the veracity of the Communist claims. According to the best information available, the Communist army numbers to-day between 200,000 and 300,000 men, and hold down about the same number of Japanese troops.

In their rear, the Communists are sealed off from all aid by the Central Government armies. Perhaps 10 divisions of the best troops which might be employed against the Japanese are employed on the border guard in mid-Shensi. Through this blockade only the most daring smugglers can pass. Even medical supplies destined for the Communist armies have been seized by the Central Government cordon.

Conditions of health are as bitter in the Eighth Route Army area as in Central Government areas, and there are far less supplies and tools to work with. At the central hospital of their army there was this winter only one set of surgical tools, and this incomplete. Amputations are done with butcher

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Any Ipana Today?

Perhaps you cannot always get a tube of Ipana Tooth Paste when you ask for it. The reason is—shortage of tubes due to war conditions. Tin and other metals have gone into action!

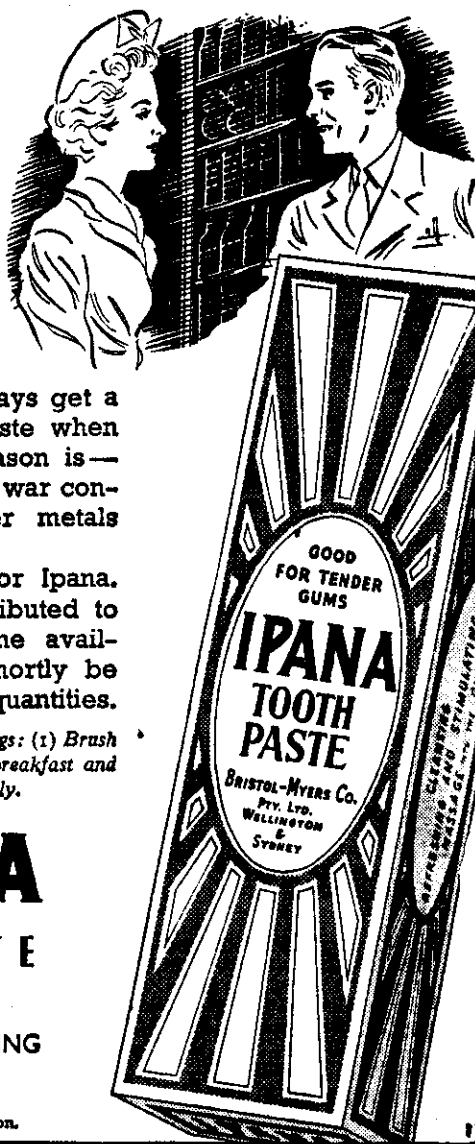
But—keep on asking for Ipana. Supplies are fairly distributed to retailers as they become available, and tubes will shortly be available in increased quantities.

Dental Helps!—Do these two things: (1) Brush teeth at least twice a day, after breakfast and before bed; Visit dentist twice yearly.

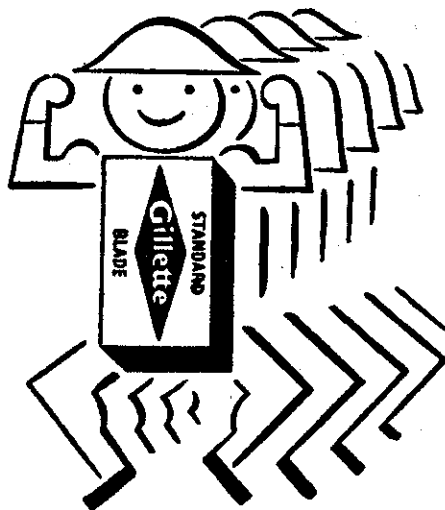
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