

(continued from previous page)

map. As the proofs are returned from Intelligence, etc., the comments are incorporated on the main proofs. If there are very few alterations and mistakes (and sometimes there are practically none) the proof is returned for printing in its ten of thousands; if there are many mistakes, a second proof is called for. In some cases four or five maps have to be made before the map is considered correct.

Some Countries Still Almost Unmapped

In many cases the best maps available—that is the most reliable—are printed in the language of the country. These have to be transliterated, and a native of the country is employed for the job wherever possible. The transliteration is done by means of tracing paper over the map and the English letters are printed over the corresponding foreign name. The "trace" has to be checked by the officer in charge, and is incorporated in the next proof.

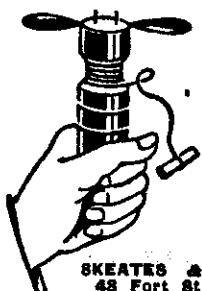
The amount of work on a map depends on how well it has previously been mapped. Many are well mapped, and little remains to be done, but some countries, even in Europe, are practically unmapped.

I was working on one such map just before I left the Middle East. The only existing maps were very old and very inaccurate Italian ones. We had to have good maps, so the country was flown over by our planes and air-photo strips were taken of the whole country. This is not an easy job when a country is occupied by the enemy, but it is often the only way to get the necessary information. The strips overlap. They are fitted together, and compared with the existing maps. In several parts of this country we found that the coastal features on the old maps were quite wrong, and two of the rivers were flowing in the wrong direction. If those maps had not been covered by air photos and corrected, subsequent landings would have been hazardous. In another case a road that we had built in from Air Intelligence road reports was proved correct by the air strips.

Air photography is invaluable in map-making, and is used very largely. An air-photograph interpreter can tell immediately where there is wire, or pill-boxes, trenches, even what type of gun is in the gun positions shown. Enemy lines are flown over and all these details overprinted in vivid colour. These "defence overprints" are published weekly, in addition to ordinary maps.

Once printed, the maps are passed to distribution, and so to the battlefield by sea, or road, or sometimes air. The battle goes on, and Survey prepares for the next campaign.

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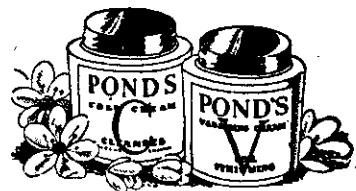
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