



BBC photograph

TOMMY HANDLEY and Mrs. Mopp, just after they have returned from visiting the R.A.F. and been given the honorary ranks of Air Thief Marshal and Leading Charwoman (XYZ/2).

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it lived in his head. Then one day, just as Archimedes might have cried "Eureka!" he shouted it out at the Wednesday script conference with the producer, Francis Worsley, and Kavanagh. And "Peter Geeke," the character who never arrives—who may never arrive—swam into the world at the performance next night.

How does the script conference work? Miss Irene Goss, right-hand woman to Francis Worsley, stays in the room with the principals when the ideas begin to flow. She it is who cuts off the telephones, and bars all the messengers from lunchtime on Tuesday until Wednesday night. Years of work with films gave her the right temperament to act as a shock absorber between what Handley would call the cerebral concentration at Francis Worsley's desk, and what Kavanagh considers to be the larger lunacy outside.

Kavanagh is an impassive man with a large face and red eyebrows who never smiles. Handley, says Miss Goss, begins to laugh delightedly at his own ideas; the "wisecrack" comes afterwards. Worsley stares with a faraway look, coming back to earth to make alterations to the script as the ideas develop.

Kavanagh brings his original script in, partly written, on Tuesday. This is the framework, the wild, fantastic plot which always looks as if it is just going to break into sense but never does.

### Scratch a Duchess

Dorothy Summers, who plays Mrs. Mopp, looks in her own person something like a duchess. Scratch a duchess, says Kavanagh, and you find a Mrs. Mopp. Newspapers pile high on Worsley's desk while the work goes on. Down to the last stop-press items they are combed for topicality.

Handley is married. A girl named Jean Allistone was in radio shows with him. During a lull in the conversation, he proposed to her. Greatly to his astonishment she accepted him; greatly to her astonishment, he married her.

And how did the catch-term "Itma" come into being? It was during the vogue for the use of initials, such as "Ensa," and so on. "It's That Man Again" arose through Handley cropping up so frequently in the entertainment world.

## MONOTONY AND MOUSTACHES

### Surprises For Dad And Mum

"AREN'T you in a hurry to get ashore?"

The three soldiers squatting on the deck looked up and smiled. "There you are," said one. "Ace, king, queen. Care to take a hand?"

Doubtful of our card-playing ability, we declined. Those chaps had had a lot of practice, for a game of cards is one sure way of combating the monotony of a long voyage.

We gathered, however, that there are other ways of passing the time. One tall young man we spoke to caressed a moustache waxed to pin-points. It had been produced with the utmost care and affection. We asked him how he achieved the decoration.

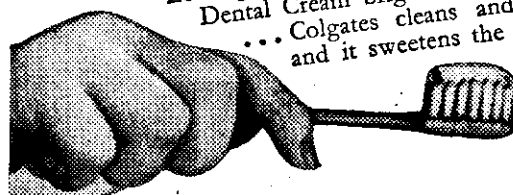
"It was for a bet," he said. "But I've gazed in the shaving mirror so long now, trying to get the right angle, that I'm sick of the sight of my face. But isn't she a beauty?" She was.

While other journalists were busy seeking information about artillery fire, service views about when the war would end, and other high military matters, we nailed another "O.R." in the lounge. He was sporting a moustache which rippled over his upper lip and gleamed in the sunlight. He was quite frank about its production. "Just patience," he said, "and a surprise for Dad and Mum!"



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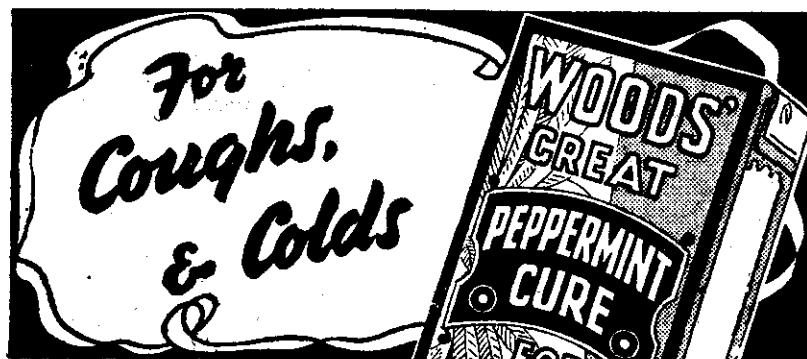
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