



"Like a handful of spaghetti thrown on a blackboard" is how Wilym Jenkins describes this picture. It shows a single Chinese road. Can you trace its course?

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"Some do regular ambulance work along the Burma front. Others are doing civilian health work—at Government request of course—in the backward corner of Yunnan, where women still have bound feet and a village headman may have several wives. But there is also an UNRRA type of work. It consists in shifting in to some town that has been knocked flat and building life there up from the bottom again. I am thinking of one place, for example, where a girl walked four days—one of those days under Japanese gunfire—to start a hospital, where she is to-day the only European in hundreds of square miles. When community life is got going again in such a place our team just hands over everything we have built up—buildings, plant, supplies and organisation—to the provincial authorities and move on to the next blitzed village."

"And will this work carry on when UNRRA itself gets going?"

"It will have to. Because the F.A.U. has been called up by the China Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, through which UNRRA will work in China, to remain and to expand as a channel for supplies. You see, our men know the language. They don't ask for special rations or conditions, but live on the Chinese level right among the Chinese themselves. And they have stood alongside them in the toughest places right through the war."

Replacements Wanted

"And how are they standing up to it?"
"Our men you mean? Some are pretty well done in after five years in China without a break and must be pulled out soon. Mostly they came from Britain and America. But it is up to you Pacific countries to replace them. Capability and a solidly-based Christian outlook are what we require in volunteers. And from an international point of view you can think of them as helping to cement good-neighbourly relations among Pacific nations—the sort of people the Chinese will listen to now and after the war."

"Two things more, Mr. Jenkins, that we have to ask a visitor from China: First, what really is the political situation there? Second (of course), what do you think of us?"

"The political situation? Well, all I will say at the moment is that there are bigger dangers to Chinese unity and welfare from certain elements in the Kuomintang than from the Communists. Chiang Kai-shek has the difficult task of directing a social revolution in the middle of a desperate war."

"As for New Zealand, the convenience of life and your spaciousness is what strikes me after inland China in wartime. I start walking to see someone, and then I realise there is a tram I could use, or a telephone. I look out of the train window and I see hundreds of miles between the rails and the fence that would be in use growing crops in China. I am invited to dinner, and there is milk, lots of it, with body in it, and food to spare and to waste—three times a day."

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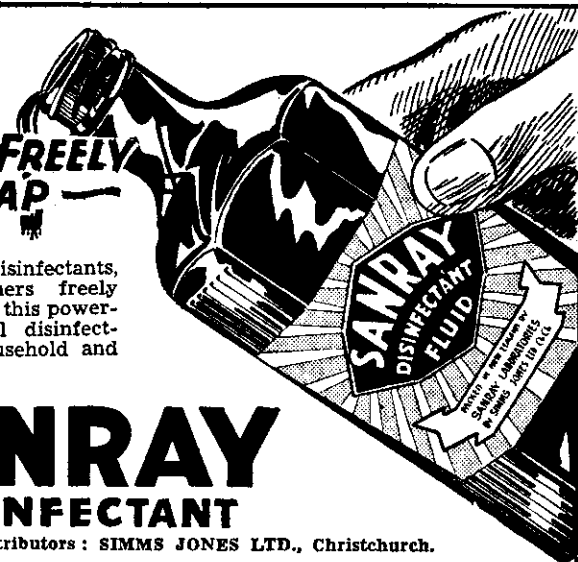
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