

(continued from previous page)

on the screen (142 of them) and day follows day in the story, the realism and the tension increase, reaching a peak when the survivors make a successful last stand on a hilltop against swarms of wily Japanese in a night attack. By keeping the sound-track silent for long intervals and the screen almost completely dark, the director (Raoul Walsh) manages to pull the nerves of his audience taut and convey a very real feeling of something horrible just about to happen.

BRING ON THE GIRLS

(Paramount)

WHEN a film producer announces so blatantly that he is about to bring on the girls it usually means that he hasn't got a new idea in his head for a story, that he has run out of gags, that all his most popular stars have left him for bigger salaries at another studio and that he has to rely on a display of Technicoloured pulchritude to dazzle the public and make them believe they are getting their money's worth. I don't know whether this film is worth your money, but if it's only 1/6 (or perhaps 2/3) it might be. In fact, as musical-comedies go (which usually isn't very far) *Bring on the Girls* is a passable entertainment. Don't get me wrong: the producer didn't have a new idea in his head for a story, but had to fall back on the one about the multi-millionaire trying to find a wife to love him for

himself alone; some of the gags are worn as thin as tissue-paper; and I have seen prettier girls before, even in Technicolour. But Eddie Bracken, as the maltreated millionaire, is an engaging sort of comedian; Sonny Tufts, as his bodyguard, is a brighter specimen than his name might suggest; and Veronica Lake, as a gold-digger, and Marjorie Reynolds, as a girl who doesn't need to dig because her father is a banker, are both easy enough to look at.

The best sequence in the film shows the poor little rich boy pretending to be deaf so that he may discover who are his true friends. It has been done before, of course, but is still good for some laughs. If it comes to that, you might say the same thing about the whole film.

NATIONAL FILM UNIT

ONE of the staff cameramen of the National Film Unit in the Near East has sent some very interesting items of the Jap prison camps in Java, Singapore and Siam, and this film will constitute the Weekly Review for release on October 12. There are some close-ups of well-known New Zealanders in the Syme Road camp, and shots of the crew of the Hauraki. The cameraman was on the spot at the Changi camp when the British brought in the Japanese guards who were so bestial to the internees and the British P.O.W.'s made the hostile demonstration that was headline news recently.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

G.R.T. (Ruawai): "Dangerous Moonlight"—Louis Kentner; "Song of Russia"—not the actress Susan Peters, but either Albert Coates or Ignace Hilsberg.

R. McGrath (Dunedin): No details yet available, but a film on this subject has been announced.

POCKET REPORTER

Tiny Magnetic Recorder Scoops The News

ONE of the dramatic scoops of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco was made by the use of a magnetic recorder which seems likely to have revolutionary effects on journalism (says *Newspaper News*).

An important Press conference was held at which news was divulged of wide general interest. A magnetic recorder was used by a radio reporter, who thus obtained a verbatim report which he put on the air while the other reporters were still transcribing their notes.

These recorders have been used by U.S. Army Public Relations Officers to get "on the spot" news at the war. One proved of great value to trained military observers who were able to record every phase of an important battle in the Pacific.

Elaborate secret dictaphones have been a part of innumerable detective stories for years and have been used by governments and police. But the simple little gadget now devised requires no elaborate wiring and can be carried in a pocket.

According to special stories in *Editor and Publisher*, New York, the *Milwaukee Journal* is about to test a tiny wire recorder which has been brought down in cost from 50 dollars to one dollar. This is, of course, in contrast to the General Electric Company's big war model, which weighs 35lb.

It is expected that miniature recorders made of magnetised steel wire will give interviews word for word, court reports, etc., even reproducing the intonation of

the speaker. With the exception of the tiny microphone, the miniature model would be out of sight in a pocket.

The idea of a wire recorder was suggested in 1896 by Poulson, a Danish physicist, who exhibited his invention at the Paris Exposition in 1900, but not until the present war have the opportunities of the recorder been realised.

It is claimed that the magnetic recorders have the following advantages over other types of recorders.

(1) Recording can be made with the machine tilted in any position, also under conditions of extreme vibration. This makes it possible to use the machine under battle conditions, in air-planes, on trucks, etc.

(2) Long, uninterrupted recordings can be made, an hour or more, and still keep the recording medium in a small package.

(3) Record requires no processing after recording, except rewinding. It can be played back immediately.

(4) Record is permanent. Records have been played over 100,000 times with only an infinitesimal loss in volume.

(5) Record is relatively non-destructible. Being made of steel, it is less subject to damage by the elements, and in air or sea transport in war.

(6) Record medium can be used an indefinite number of times. If a record has served its usefulness, it can be quickly and easily erased, leaving the medium clean and ready for another recording.

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HANDKERCHIEF MAGIC

No. 9

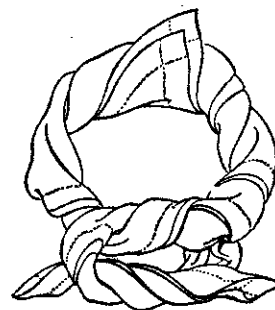
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THE REEF KNOT

Roll a Grafton handkerchief rope-wise and lay flat upon a table. Surgeons sometimes use the Reef Knot to tie up arteries in amputation work. The proper tie holds firm and does not tighten when pulled. The method in tying this knot is very simple. Always remember to pass the right end of the handkerchief over the left, and then pass the left end of the handkerchief over the right. You then have a Reef Knot.



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