

## KIWIS ON TOUR IN EGYPT AND ITALY

by A. S. HELM

Here is another fascinating travel book by the author of "Fights and Furloughs in the Middle East." This is not a war book, but deals with his travels and adventures as one in charge of the sight-seeing organisation for the entertainment of Kiwis on leave. He had unique opportunities to visit the historical places in Rome and other cities, as well as the less savoury districts of Cairo and other eastern centres.

Those who are interested in travel, art, music and the strange customs of far-off people will find this a most entertaining and enjoyable book.

Fully illustrated.

Price 13/6

**WHITCOMBE & TOMBS  
LIMITED**

AUCKLAND, WELLINGTON, LOWER HUTT,  
CHRISTCHURCH, DUNEDIN, INVERCARGILL.

**WINTER  
SKIN  
SORENESS**  
calls for

**LEMON  
GLISCO**

—the "loveliness from lemons"  
sure protection!!

Rub a little well in to defy  
chaps, roughness and soreness.  
Soothes tissues of face, neck,  
hands, arms and legs.

Glisco Glorifies the Skin!!!

Only 1/7 from Chemists & Stores  
—or post free from the manu-  
facturers: Cook & Ross Ltd., 779  
Colombo Street, Christchurch.



DESERTED by its people, Bikini awaits the coming of the bomb



CHIEF JUDA with his wife (right) and children

## X-DAY AT BIKINI

ONE day early this month (the date will depend on the weather, though as we go to press July 1 is named), United States airmen will drop two atom bombs on the anchorage at Bikini atoll, in the Marshall Islands, as the first act of an experiment which has been significantly named "Operation Crossroads." The primary object of the tests is to determine whether future battleships will be large or small, surface craft or submersibles—or, indeed, whether it will be worth while building battleships at all—but a number of other questions no less important will be on the agenda. One of critical importance is: what is the effect of an atom-blast upon living things?

ALREADY, weeks before the release of a single neutron-stream or gamma-ray, human life upon Bikini has felt the disruptive impact of the atom. The native population of 167 have found their lease of this nondescript little atoll determined by the course of history, and in a clearance more thorough than ever emptied highland glen or Hebridean islet, have been shipped to Rongerik, 109 miles away.

The natives agreed to give up their home, states *Life*, because they were told that the United States wanted the atom bomb's destructive power to be used for the "good of mankind," but none of them appears to understand the utter destruction which awaits the island, and they talk of returning to Bikini some other day. It is thought that the United States Navy will have to run excursions to the island after the explosion to convince the people that they can never live there again.

Before Bikini reached the crossroads, the natives had lived more or less uneventfully, ruled in turn by Germans, Japanese and Americans. In religion, the natives are Congregationalists, converted by New England missionaries but led by their own native preacher. The ubiquitous coconut palm was their main source of income, securing for them cotton, rice and tobacco, and their diet was largely fruit and fish.

But wholesale transportation has changed more than their dwelling-place. Before the islanders, shipped overnight to Rongerik by LST, had properly settled down in their new home, Chief Juda and the elders of the community found their young people already suffering from the brief contact with civilisation. In a few weeks they had become content to depend upon the U.S. Navy for food, clothing, and shelter. Temporary Navy tentage at first housed them at Rongerik, while permanent huts were built by Seabees and the more energetic of the natives. But fishing, said Chief Juda, was being neglected.

At Bikini preparations for the tests have been in hand since May. The lagoon on which the target fleet is being