

PUZZLES

WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT THE WAR?

ALTHOUGH the PP does not regard it as significant that The War started soon after The Page began, he has been interested, since they coincided, to see what effect one has had upon the other and the other upon the one.

The number of letters written to *The Listener* about puzzles during the last year could only be discovered by taking a number and doubling it several times with X to the Yth power as a common multiple. And that's a lot. In the main, this tremendous volume of debate, argument, and suggestion has been constant. But occasionally it has fluctuated.

When Norway and Denmark were invaded there was a week when only four or five letters came in. Then the correspondence built up again until the PP had more arguments on his hands than he knew how to deal with.

The invasion of Holland and Belgium, and the sweep of the German army into north-western France killed all puzzling in New Zealand for a week or more. Letters dribbled in, but there was no enthusiasm about them. When the Germans blitzed to the Channel none came at all; but after Dunkirk there was a slight recovery which failed again when Mussolini came in the back door and France wobbled off the pedestal of La Liberté. When the B.E.F. finally got back to England and events began to sort themselves out, The Page recovered its old standard. F.D.B.'s problem from Christchurch attracted a flood of letters. "Time for the Guard" brought in as many letters with as many different answers and even now is only sorting itself out after no less than two months of debate.

Last week the correspondence was heavy, as usual. The week before the PP found that Japan and America and Russia, and Italy and Germany, and Thailand, and Us, and the beautiful belles of Bali and the beautiful oil of Sumatra and the attractive tin of New Guinea and, particularly, the bombable Burma Road, struck another blow at The Page. However, all is now well, and our stock of munitions is up to the best standard. Our only hope is that our puzzles will not distract puzzlers from listening to Friedmann.

ANSWERS

(See issue October 11)

Scissors in Captivity: S.G.E., and all other Puzzlers who have written about this one, agree that all you have to do is pull the loop through the same place as the free ends and from there take it back over the scissors. Something must be wrong with the PP's view of this situation, because although he did this most carefully, he could only get the string off by pulling the loop over one blade and bringing the other down on it. (Problem from S.G.E.)

Three Little Girls:

1st Day	2nd Day	3rd Day	4th Day
1, 2, 3	1, 4, 5	1, 6, 7	1, 8, 9
4, 8, 12	2, 8, 10	2, 9, 11	2, 12, 14
5, 10, 15	3, 13, 14	3, 12, 15	3, 5, 6
6, 11, 13	6, 9, 15	4, 10, 14	4, 11, 15
7, 9, 14	7, 11, 12	5, 8, 13	7, 10, 13

5th Day	6th Day	7th Day
1, 10, 11	1, 12, 13	1, 14, 15
2, 13, 15	2, 4, 6	2, 5, 7
3, 4, 7	3, 9, 10	3, 8, 11
5, 9, 12	5, 11, 14	4, 9, 13
6, 8, 14	7, 8, 15	6, 10, 12

(Problem and answer from E.A.C.)
Exercise:

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      80809
124 ) 10020316
      992
      ---
      1003
        992
        ---
         1116
          1116
          ---
            0
  
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(Problem and answer from Ajas)
Farm Finance: Chicken 2/-; duck 4/-; goose 5/-. (Problem and answer from R.C.J.M., Invercargill.)

PROBLEMS

Tail Tally

Very many years ago, when musk still had scent, Father Peter reported to the Abbot of Uxton on the Ex that the priory was over-run with rats. The Abbot accordingly gave orders that all the cats for miles around should be assembled to exterminate the pest. A record of their kills was kept, and at the end of the year the good men found that every cat had killed an equal number of rats, and that the total of casualties was 1,111,111. How many cats do you suppose there were? (Problem from G.B., Mt. Eden.)

Palindrome

Here is a mixed palindrome. You are required to reconstruct it into a sentence of six words:

A A A A E E G G I I N N L R R
(Problem from R.G.)

CORRESPONDENCE

R.G. (Waikato): Tacked new problems on to letters giving answers. Says he found Three Smart Girls tricky and was inspired by Exercise

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

Answer to (No. 29)

S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E	B	O	A
P	B	E	L	N	O	C					
A	L	O	N	E	B	A	D	L	U	C	K
G	D	F	I	U	N						
H	U	E	Y	C	O	R	R	I	D	O	R
E			Y	N	I	E	E				
T	R	I	P	O	D	A	N	D	R	E	W
T	M	U	J	G							R
I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L	S	O	L	I
A	S	G	K	G	T						
P	A	R	V	E	N	U	I	N	L	E	T
E	T	L	A	W	E	E					
A	S	S	F	O	R	B	I	D	D	E	N

to give us some exercise. Much depends, as we said before, on the weather next week-end. He has sent some problems which will start some thinking.

J.P. (Lower Hutt): Thank you for the problem, which we shall use as soon as the drawings are done.

Rob (Ahipara): You knew your Archimedes. Thank you for the problem.

G.B. (Mt. Eden): Suggests that the Keep it Down problem (answered on October 11) could be elaborated by tacking a triangle on the other end.

M.B. (Hamilton): Your letter was illuminated by the roseate glow of the PP's blushes. Modesty is difficult. Thank you. Sorry, but you have been anticipated with the Safe Day problem.

X.G.T. (Kopuawhara): Sends detailed workings to prove his point that there were two solutions to Time for the Guard. They are being forwarded to W. Robinson, with whom X.G.T. has his argument. Answers correct for all other problems.

Ajas (Dunedin): A welcome example of the truth of the theory that Scotsmen always answer one question with another. If puzzlers will

inspect Ajas's problem they will perhaps wonder if the Union was advisable after all.

P.J.Q. (Motueka): Says he cannot see how R.G. secured the answer to the Cat and Dog problem. P.J.Q. will have to keep jumping a little longer. He is right about the farm labour but wrong, alas, about the boat in the water.

A.G.T. (Picton): Disgrace abandoned. You are rehabilitated. Of course, we knew you would, really. The archaeologists have dug and will report later. Your offering will be emblazoned over The Page shortly.

R.G. (Kaiaua): It has been done and you will hear in due course.

R.G. (Te Aroha): We have had one R.G. for a long time. We have known for some time that there was one in Te Aroha. Now there are two in Kaiaua, which makes four, and all are keen puzzlers. Like his fellow R.G. in Waikato, this one correctly solves the Exercise.

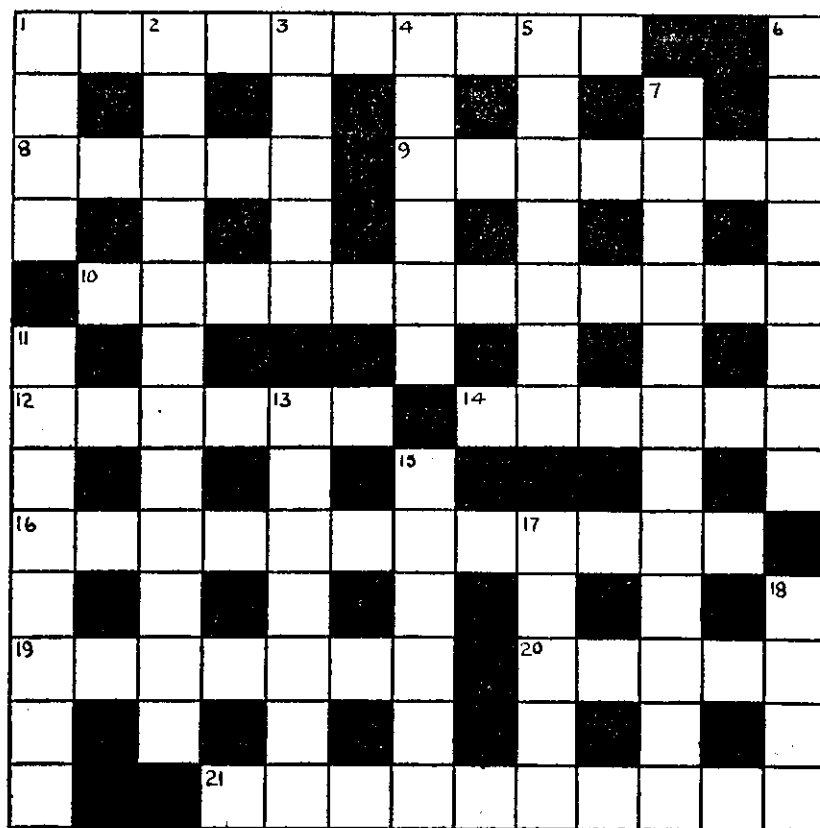
Rob (Ahipara): In another letter this correspondent gives his list of the placings for the schoolgirls, and comments that this method of mixing people was used until 20 years ago with a special class of convict in one of England's big prisons. He evidently enjoys The Page as much as we enjoy a homely letter recounting father's discomfiture when the answer to Rhyme for Time appeared after his family had watched him hunting high and low for a clue.

N.N. (Kawhia): Nice to hear from Kawhia.

L.W.J.S. (Tauranga): Have we deciphered your initials correctly? Thank you for the puzzles, but our smattering of French just does not matter when it comes to making head or tail of the second. Sorry, but would you please?

The Listener Crossword (No. 30)

(Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

- Two cereals measure one-third of an inch.
- At no time a matter of nerve.
- You find it denuded in agate.
- If properly arranged, this is receptive, Sir.
- Of vinegar.
- Ache dispersed by a little doctor.
- Miss no trains (anag.).
- No cream where violins are made.
- A mountain nymph to adore.
- Students of natural science.

Clues Down

- Poison from a bean.
- Serve beet with art—this echoes.
- Weird.
- One hundred and fifty small serpents.
- A liar is confused over a crooked arc in this modern form of transport.
- Simulates in a tender p.s.
- Noisier harps (anag.).
- A cat in peril for a minute amount.
- O! so thin, indeed.
- Couches from viands.
- Follower of Zeno.
- A dose of poetry.