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MR. MENKEN TOOK A VITAMIN PILL

But Refused The Hotel Salad

WHO is Arthur Menken? Who knows Arthur Menken? Mention his name in a theatre during the newsreel shorts, and one in a thousand New Zealanders might be aware of the fact that he makes many of the pictures they see on the screen. The Governor-General knows him — Menken photo-

graphed him the other day. They know him in the R.N.Z.A.F., because one of the Air Force pilots flew him over Mt. Cook a few days before he took his camera to Government House. They know him in the Department of Internal Affairs, whose organisation enabled him to cram New Zealand and New Zealand's war effort into a tour of seven days or so.

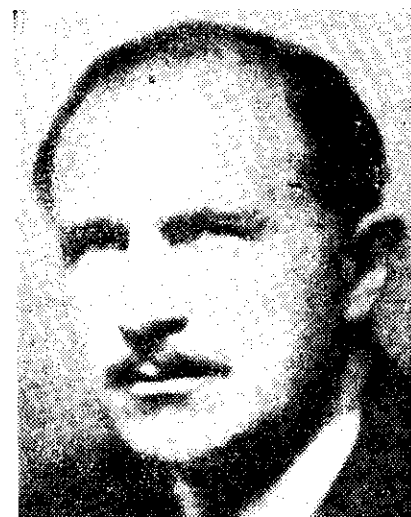
They know him in Hong Kong. They know him in Chungking. W. H. Donald, who talked the same week for *The Listener*, met him in Nanking. Vincent Sheean, who stopped in Auckland at the beginning of this month before moving on to China, knows Mr. Menken. They know him in the Philippines, and they know him in Lisbon. *March of Time* knows him, and Paramount, and Pathé. And they know him at a Wellington hotel, where he asked for salad and received lettuce leaves and potatoes boiled in their jackets, and a dried-up tomato, and a few spring onions, and two lamb chops to which he said "Oh boy, these New Zealand lamb chops!"

He left the dining-room table, after dropping his serviette in somebody else's place, without actually picking up the bones and eating as per Henry VIII., but he looked as if he'd like to, and as if only the immediate prospect of seeing Sir Cyril Newall, in his Air Force Marshal's uniform, could tear him away from those same lamb chops.

A Man in a Hurry

Arthur Menken is an inch or two under 6 feet, wears a moustache, speaks with an American accent smoothed out by much travel, uses an "Eyemo" camera, usually exposes about 1,000 feet per newsreel item, and has most unusually pale blue eyes.

There wasn't time to ask him if he's married, because Mr. Menken hurries. We'll say he hurries. He hurries so much he takes his vitamins in pills and gives interviews while he eats.



ARTHUR MENKEN

He does like our lamb chops

You sit at a dining table with Mr. Menken, and across the other side a local business man, wearing an R.S.A. badge, and somewhat short of hair, talks to a comrade beside him. "I think we did a good job of work this morning," he says. "Do you think so?" says his friend. "Yes," says the man with the badge, "we covered a lot of ground." Meanwhile, Mr. Menken is maintaining a difficult conversation with a waitress about the salad, asking his interviewer what sort of beer he likes, discussing lamb chops, Japanese bombing 'planes, American preparedness in the Philippines, lamb chops again, W. H. Donald, who sits at a nearby table, Harold Gatty, whom he just missed in Auckland, Vincent Sheean's wife, with whom he once travelled on the same 'plane, lamb chops again, the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Between mouthfuls—Mr. Menken concentrated on the chops and lettuce, which made it comparatively easy to talk and eat at the same time — he

(Continued on next page)



William Tells the World

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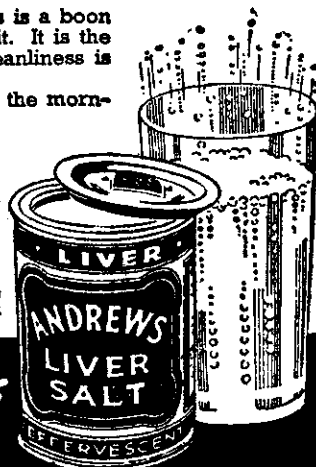
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"MICHAEL STROGOFF—COURIER OF THE TSAR," Jules Verne's tale of a Tartar uprising in Imperial Russia, has been made into a radio serial which begins at 3YA on Tuesday evening, October 21. Here are Anton Walbrook and Margot Grahame in the RKO film version seen a few years ago