

EXPERT'S HINTS ON IRREGULAR WARFARE

(Continued from previous page)

Guerillas can do it, but so can other troops. I only mention it because Home Guard units should not be guerillas only. Whether there are 20 men or 2,000, such units can help to hold up the advance forces of the enemy, can drive their own regular troops through the country they know better than anyone else, and can guard some of the innumerable places that have to be guarded against the modern ways of attack. When they are doing these sorts of jobs, the Home Guard units relieve a great number of regular troops for counter-attack against the enemy. When they are acting as guerillas, they can do even more. By their raids and ambushes they can force the enemy to waste great numbers of his troops at points that are not decisive. Each ambush and each raid has to be carefully planned. At least one of the men taking part must know the ground well, and the same place can never be used twice for the same sort of job.

Guerilla fighting can be a very chancy business. It actually has to be organised

as thoroughly as possible, and one of the first jobs of any guerilla unit of any size that begins working behind the enemy's position is to try to make contact with the nearest of our own regular forces. It usually implies sending up a man who will travel at night and hide by day, and a captured wireless transmitter or even in some cases agreed signals with smoke or light can also be used. Guerilla fighting cannot be organised from a central command, but it should be linked up with the nearest command centre. Fire can be one of the best weapons of a guerilla force. Enemy-occupied villages or townships can either turn out all the inhabitants or behave in such a way that the inhabitants make tracks. Then that village must be burned, which was so difficult to do in Spain, where the villages were mostly made of stone or mud. But it is much easier in most countries. New Zealand is a good example, where houses are mainly made of timber; and in some countries a forest or bush fire started at the right point across the communications of an

enemy army might do as much damage as could be done by thousands of troops.

Use of Booby-Traps

Booby-traps of various sorts come into the game, too. The standard material for booby-traps is a sort of hand grenade that goes off a few seconds after you pull a little pin out of it. These can be arranged to go off when a door is opened or at night when a patrol trips over a piece of rope. Inside a house a good place to put a booby-trap is wherever food is kept. Any enemy soldier will fall for that. In mines and quarries there are elec-

tric exploders that were used by Lawrence in Arabia to blow up railway trains just as they were crossing bridges. Mines of that sort can be used against tanks or other vehicles.

Guerilla forces on land can check and worry an enemy army, but cannot expect to defeat it. A striking force that can follow the attack on a bigger scale than guerillas can manage, is also necessary. The Home Guard can meet both cases, releasing regulars from garrison duties to be our striking forces, and acting as guerillas wherever the enemy has a foothold. The guerillas hold and hamper, and the fighting forces can protect in a big way. That, I believe, is the formula for our victory.

TELLING AMERICA ABOUT US

NBC Correspondent Is On The Job

AN American film dealing with the adventures of a newspaper correspondent in France before the fall, ended with a sequence showing him broadcasting to America from a studio which was not sufficiently sound-proof to keep out the drone of the engines of many bombers, the muffled crump of anti-aircraft fire, the thud of bombs. "The lights are going out," says the correspondent. "They are going out all over Europe. Keep yours burning in America."

An heroic finale, but Mervin K. Slosberg, who arrived the other day to act as New Zealand correspondent for the National Broadcasting Company of America, deprecates heroics, and says: "Let's not think about such eventualities. If the war does come to New Zealand certainly I'll be on the job, but the way I see it is that Australia and New Zealand are the strongholds in the Pacific from which the democracies will fight back, and as such they are important to America. More than important enough to justify the NBC sending me here to tell America something about your country."

An Australian Wife

Mr. Slosberg, who is short and dark and has a good deal of restless nervous energy, is an American turned Australian to the extent of settling down in Australia and marrying an Australian girl. He is a graduate of the University of California, no, not Southern California, he protests. The one is in San Francisco, the other in Los Angeles. "There's some heat and rivalry, I can tell you." At the University of California (i.e., San Francisco) he graduated Master of Arts and also took a degree in political science. For a time he lectured on the political science staff of

the University, and was also editor of a literary agency in San Francisco.

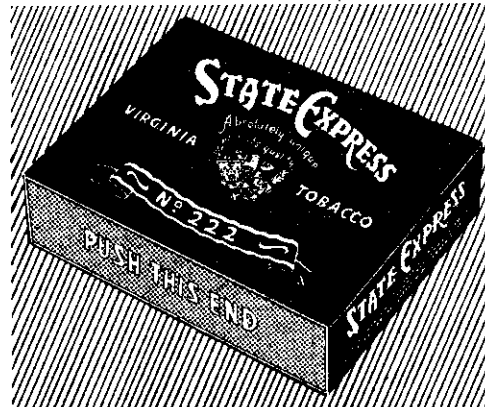
About four years ago he came to Australia. It was a vacation trip, and why he chose Australia he still doesn't know. He had intended staying six months, but married and settled down. He broadcast regularly for the ABC, giving talks and American slants on the news.

Recently he was invited to join the NBC, which now has four men stationed in Australia and New Zealand. Their chief is Martin Agronsky, an experienced correspondent who has covered battle fronts all over the world. Mr. Agronsky was up in a forward position during the fighting in Libya when one morning he received a cablegram telling him to pack up and proceed to Singapore, which was the first news he had of the outbreak of war in the Pacific. In Singapore, according to Mr. Slosberg, Mr. Agronsky "saw plenty," got out in time by the back door, and is now sending regular broadcasts from Australia to the 40,000,000 listeners who tune into the NBC's news.

It is a one-man organisation Mr. Slosberg is setting up in New Zealand. All he needs is a small room and a microphone. The Post and Telegraph Department looks after the rest. It is, in a sense, no small tribute to the "P. and T." that Mr. Slosberg is so little concerned over the technical difficulties attending on a hook-up between New Zealand and America. Mr. Slosberg's job will be to feed into the microphone talks, news, and commentaries varying in length from two to ten minutes, probably from four to seven times a week.

"I guess it is more important than ever it was to tell the people of the United States what New Zealand and New Zealanders are like," he says. "As you may realise, some Americans don't know very much about you. I may be able to remedy that a little."

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