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by W. T. DOIG  
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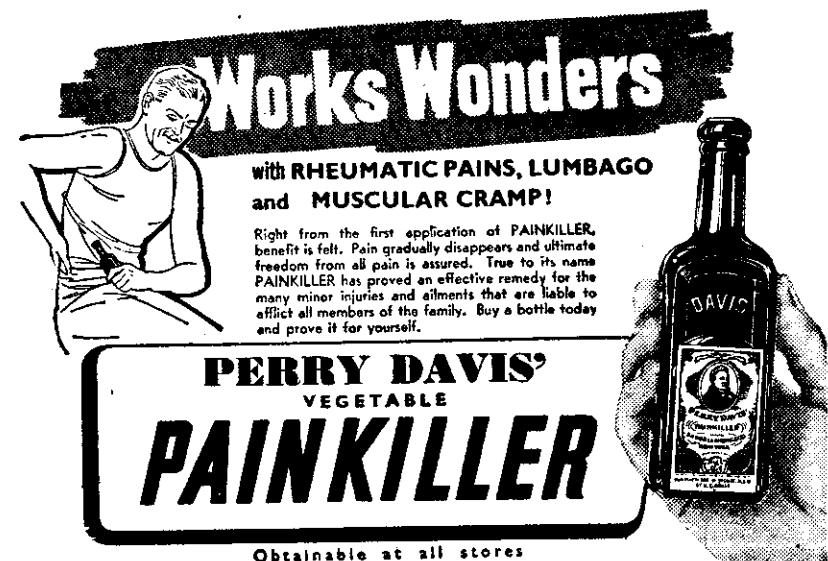
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**LISTENINGS** Perpetrated and illustrated by KEN ALEXANDER

FEW regret that Laval was shot, but many regret that he didn't stay shot. He is called The Rat; but events may prove that he is only a grown-up mouse. Laval is not France—which is lucky for France. This fact may eventually decide whether Laval is a small rat or a large mouse. In either case, he is a rodent, and so is bound to take the Nazi cheese once too often.

France's attitude to affairs depends not so much on how deeply she loves England as on how deeply she hates Germany. After all, hate will do her more good than love at the present moment. Mussolini is said to be suffering a mental collapse. He might have known that his nerves couldn't stand the strain of being Mussolini all the time, and that he would have to go "nuts" in self-defence. Mussolini's trouble was that, in addition to fighting the Allies, he had Hitler's friendship to contend with. Hitler borrowed his idea of brotherly love from Cain; but



Cain waged his brotherly affection more mercifully than Hitler.

The Germans complain that General Mud is in command of the Russian Front. It is true that things are getting pretty sticky for the Nazis. Their form of greeting is "Here's mud in your eye!" This is mud'n warfare all right! We regret to report that Hitler turned fifty-three last week. The recent American visit to Tokio went off with a bang. It was a real slap-up affair. The Japs can't expect to do all the visiting. Ban-zai! — also "Bombs-a-daisy" coupled with "Attaboy!"

**THE LISTENER CROSSWORD**  
(No. 97)

(Constructed by R.W.C.)

**Clues Across**

- Scots landowner.
- What we are fighting for.
- Studies? La! The result is weariness.
- Craze found in a brief adventure.
- Rivals the oyster as a symbol of reticence.
- Even rust (anag.).
- I ran to obtain this allowance.
- Niggardly.
- Stern aim (anag.).
- Slip of the tongue?
- Fuss and bother.
- Learns A.B.C. (anag.).
- Ornamental tufts.
- The person who usually endorses the cheque.

**Clues Down**

- I call for a flower.
- Taunt in season has immediate result.
- Drop.
- Left us in order to obtain musical instruments.
- Toothless.
- Really fine, Ted! (anag.).
- To me Syd. shows no vanity.
- Broil her? Ghastly!
- Mantrap (anag.).
- Asters (anag.).
- This may become a pest.
- Cavil.

(Answer to No. 96)

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

**The Navy Wants ...**

IF you have a pocket chronometer, an aneroid barometer (marine type), an azimuth mirror, a theodolite, or a ship's chart-house clock stowed away in your attic, the chances are the Navy will be able to make better use of it than you can. Following the big drive for binoculars for the Services, the Navy is now asking for instruments of several types. Whether it is a ship's chronometer mounted in gimbals and case, or a simple geometric instrument such as protractor, divider, or parallel ruler, the Navy can find a good use for it.

As in the binoculars appeal, the instruments may be given to the Navy outright, loaned for the duration of the war, or offered for sale. Most types of instrument can be forwarded to the Navy through the Post Office, but ships' and boats' compasses and mounted ships' chronometers should be delivered by hand to the Naval Officers in Charge at the four main centres. People in the country who by chance have one of these three instruments to offer should communicate by letter with the Navy Secretary, Naval Headquarters, Wellington. Details are advertised on page 14.

