

HE SEEMS SHY

IT was a combined interview, specially arranged for representatives of weekly publications to ask leisured questions of Commander Gene Tunney.

The biggest surprise: not the height or the breadth of the Commander, but the slimness of his fingers (which he clasped and unclasped continually, far from stolidly), and the diffidence of his manner. Looking at the newspaper photographs, reading the interviews, I had thought "easy and hearty manner" would be the description. But no. I found myself astonished as I sat there deciding that this world-famous man was shy. At any rate, not hardened to publicity.

* * *

THEY asked him questions about famous people, including Joe Louis, whom they called Joe Louey and he called Joe Louis; and we all asked him questions about his ideas of the right exercises for Service personnel, both men and women.

He has designed a course of exercises for training personnel and also a series of keep-fit, or what he calls maintenance exercises, used for every rating and every officer in the U.S. Navy.

Everyone must be able to swim, and swim well; so training includes three hours' swimming weekly for those who can, six hours' teaching for those who can't. Exercises in wartime will have to be done in all kinds of climates; therefore, no prone positions are included, and the men can do their tuning-up in any mud that's going. Conditions may be crowded camp life; so exercises can all be done in a small space — about five square-feet to each man—and with the minimum of equipment. Rules for preliminary training include: "No smoking before breakfast; a two-miles run or 20 minutes' setting-up exercises first thing every morning," the run or the exercises to be done rain, hail, snow, or dust storm.

"You can make the average man fit in six weeks on proper exercises and training—and he can make himself unfit again in six weeks, too, if he's left to his own devices."

"And would you say the same about women in the Services?"

"Yes. A woman should get fit in about six weeks on the right exercises."

"And become unfit again in six weeks without the exercises?"

"Yes, about the same as a man."

"And what about women putting on the gloves? Have you any opinion about that?"

I thought he was going to explode.

"Oh, goodness me, yes!" Then he stopped, looking very disgusted. "I hope you'll withdraw that question," he said. There was nothing else I could do. But I had not meant to insult his very skilful and scientific profession; I had meant, seriously, to find out his views on women's sporting activities, to find out if he approved or disapproved of women taking part in all sports perfected by men. I had meant to remind him of the Spartan girls, who were trained in wrestling, running and swimming, and who learned to throw the discus and the javelin, and to race on horseback.

But this was a combined interview; Commander Tunney asked me to withdraw my question; and someone else was waiting to ask him another.

* * *

IT had been reported in an overseas magazine that New Zealanders were the world's best-fed people, someone said. Did Commander Tunney agree?

Yes, in wartime the New Zealanders and the Australians were surely better-fed than other peoples of the world. It stood to reason. But in peacetime the Americans were a mighty well-fed nation; and the English certainly knew

(continued on next page)



Free

*Fashion Catalogue
Post Coupon Below*

*Summer Fashions
Extended Credit Terms*

You choose from the smartest clothes—you pay by the easiest payments. Garments sent on receipt of first payment. Write now for our latest catalogue of Furs, Frocks, Suits, and Coats—or visit our showrooms if you have the opportunity. All prices marked in plain figures. There is no charge for extended credit.

DRESSWELL

COOKE'S TEAROOMS
TOP FLOOR
QUEEN ST., AUCKLAND

DRESSWELL, AUCKLAND
Please send me, without obligation,
your latest fashion catalogue.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



*Serenely
Confident*

Feminine beauty inspires courage and serenity, things men need so desperately these days. Morale is a woman's business now more than ever. Preserve and enhance your loveliness the MONTEREY way. Clip this advertisement and post it to the manufacturers who will send you your personal Cosmetic Blend Chart from which Monterey can discover the correct powder, rouge, and lipstick for YOUR particular make-up. This service is absolutely free. Send today.

N.Z.L.D.43

Monterey
PERSONALIZED
Make-up

WILFRED OWEN LTD.,
104-106 Victoria Street, Christchurch.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, DECEMBER 2