

## Napoleon of the Never-Never

WHEN Detective-Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte dons the *kadaitcha* boots—the boots of vengeance that leave no footprints in the bush—listeners can be assured that justice will be done. Patiently, relentlessly, Napoleon Bonaparte, the half-caste aboriginal detective, hunts down criminals in the huge expanse of backblocks Australia. He is a man of two worlds, for he combines the polish of a white man's University education with the black man's knowledge of bush lore and tracking. "Boney" has tremendous faith in his ability to solve difficult cases, but his sensitiveness to his half-caste status is such that he believes that if he fails



MORRIS WEST

to solve a case he will lose his faith in himself and become a tribeless nomad.

*Ininja the Avenger*, then, is an unusual (you might say, off-beat) crime-detection series. Bonaparte's creator, the noted Australian author Arthur Upfield (see also page 28), has set his stories in the real Australian outback, from the goldfields of the West to the pearl-fisheries of Broome, from the cattle-stations of the Northern Territory to the wheatlands of the South. "Ininja" is the name given by the aboriginals to a party of vengeance despatched against those who have broken any of the sacred tribal laws, but white men also who have broken the law must expect to face the vengeance of Detective Inspec-

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The fact is that Europe now has to co-operate to defend itself against the possible assault of the new enemy created through bad appraisals of the situation in 1945. And so Churchill can write, admittedly with benefit of hindsight: "Thus, in the moment of victory was our best, and what may prove to have been our last, chance of durable world peace allowed composedly to fade away."

If it has to be admitted that national leaders are fallible, miserably prone to error, it can just as easily be conceded that there is no doubt about the simple aspirations of the common man. The Frenchman wants to be at peace; the German wants to be at peace; the common man in Russia wants to be at peace. There is this common human denominator: men and women want to live out their lives with nothing more to irk them than the routine shortcomings that give light and shadow to life. But the hard thing, as we can see, is to translate these simple desires into workable international policies.

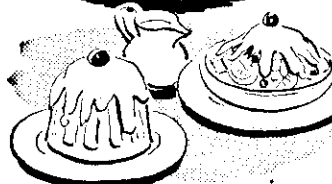
—IAN DONNELLY,  
August 28, 1954.

tor Bonaparte. Upfield has created an interesting blend of cultures and personalities in his stories: for example, Dickinson, the quaint old derelict with a philosophic turn of mind; Johnno, a cheerful Malay taxi-driver with a craze for speed; Bill Lung, out of Broome's Chinatown.

The producers of *Ininja the Avenger* have employed a special cast, comprising well-known players from several States, with George Fairfax as the famous detective. The incidental music was composed by William Flynn, and the programme produced by Walter Pym under the personal direction of Morris West, of Australasian Radio Productions—himself the author and producer of many Australian radio features.

*Ininja the Avenger*, in which each episode is a complete story, is being broadcast from 2YD on Tuesdays at 8.30 p.m.

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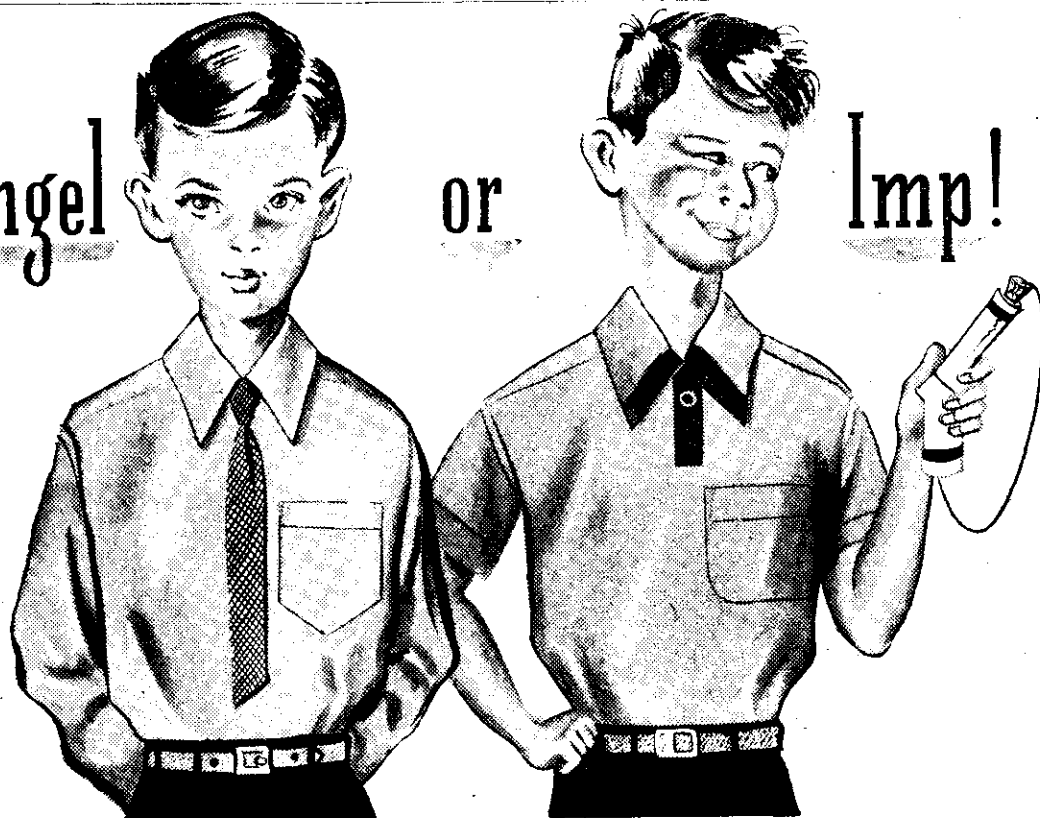
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