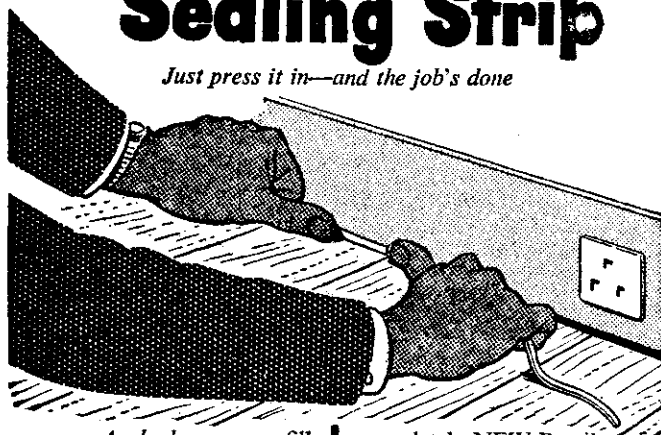


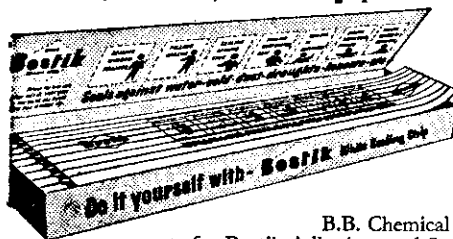
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KIWIS IN THE JUNGLE

★ L/Cpl. BOB WITHERS, of Geraldine, is interviewed by Ian Watkins after a jungle patrol. ★

AT the request of the New Zealand Army and with the assistance of the R.N.Z.A.F., the NZBS sent Ian Watkins, of 12B, off to the Far East for a month last April. In a Hastings aircraft of No. 40 Squadron, he travelled to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaya, via Brisbane, Darwin and Singapore, and he spent two weeks with the New Zealand paratroopers stationed at Wadiburn Camp. There he was able to see them training and learnt a good deal about the fight against terrorists from patrols just returned from the jungle. He accompanied a truck convoy into a "black" area where terrorists had successfully ambushed an Army pay van only the week before. And he discovered how intelligence officers keep track of every one of the 2000 terrorists left in the jungle.

"The survivors are the hard core of the terrorist movement," Ian told *The Listener*, "and they are so fanatical they will shoot themselves or chew cyanide rather than surrender. Ex-terrorists help our patrols to identify the fanatics, and tracking them down is entrusted to tribesmen from Borneo."

On his return to Singapore Ian Watkins stayed for three days at Changi, where the Bristol freighters of No. 41 Squadron, R.N.Z.A.F., are stationed. They play a dual role, he explained. They assist the R.A.F. in carrying cargo and provide support for our patrols in the jungle. Ground support is also provided by New Zealand's No. 14 Squadron, stationed at Tengah, which Ian also visited. There the New Zealanders fly Venom fighter-bombers, and Ian was able to listen to the radio-telephone account of a jungle strike when 1000-pound bombs were dropped on a terrorist hide-out.

The R.N.Z.A.F. later flew Ian to Hong Kong, via Borneo, and the Philippines, and returned him to Singapore via Saigon in Indo-China. He said that the New Zealand airmen always felt a sense of achievement in flying in and out of Kai Tak airfield in Hong Kong,

for it is notorious as one of the most difficult in the world to approach.

The highlight of his visit to the New Zealanders serving in Malaya was an early morning practice parachute-drop, Ian said. The men had butterflies in the stomach even though they had all jumped several times before, but as Major Hugh Mercer, second in command of the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, explained, jumping from an aircraft is psychologically an unnatural act, and he should know—he's done it 80 times.

The tape recordings that Ian Watkins made of this and other experiences during his recent trip have been edited by Arthur E. Jones into two documentary programmes. They will be broadcast in the Main National Programme at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, and on the following Sunday. The first is called *Jungle Green*.

The World of Arabs

TWENTY years ago a schoolboy if asked Who are the Arabs? might well have replied that the Arabs are the people who live in Arabia. These days, when the Middle East is constant news, the same question might get a more precise answer, though what could be called the world of the Arabs would be difficult to draw on a map. In a series of three talks called *The Arab World*, H. C. Jenkins, a former editor of the *Wanganui Chronicle*, considers the Arab peoples' history and heritage from the past, their thought and the impact of the Arab character on the events of the day.

"The Arabs are a branch of the Semitic group," says Mr Jenkins; "they are akin to the Jews, for the Jews are part of this Semitic group, and they, too, if the story of Abraham is accepted, came out of Arabia." But though Arab and Jew are now antagonistic it does not mean they will always be so. People of the same ethnic group have a basic start in understanding one another. (YAs, YZs, each Thursday at 9.15 p.m., starting June 6.)

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 31, 1957.