



The staff was cosmopolitan. Compositors shown working on *N.Z.E.F. Times* include a Copt, an Italian, two Arabs, and a Greek.

28 pages, 63,000 copies of which were distributed, it was decided to expand the paper still further, and at the end of January, 1942, the width was increased to five columns. The staff also was increased—to five, listed as editor, business-advertising manager, assistant editor, literary assistant (responsible for sport and other reports), and an advertising-distribution clerk. As the volume of news grew, and as more and more Cairo merchants were persuaded of the excellent advertising field, 16-page issues appeared, frequently with a double-page centre of illustrations.

Production

Production difficulties were great. The technical staff at the S.O.P. included representatives of a dozen or more nations, and language at first was something of a problem. The foreman on the setting floor (there are twenty-three machines) was a Rumanian. The chief compositor for *N.Z.E.F. Times* was an Italian who had lived most of his thirty-two years in Egypt. The other compositors included several Arabs, a Greek, and a Maltese, while an elderly Russian often lent a hand in between efforts at organizing a union. The linotype-operators, who ceaselessly mangled perfectly good copy, included an Italian who was deaf and dumb, two or three Greeks, several Palestinian Jews, a Cypriot, many Arabs (who are good artisans), and several unable to claim any definite ancestry.

The machine-floor manager was an Austrian, and the folding-stapling-cutting department was controlled by an Arab. It may be mentioned that the administrative staff of this publishing firm, with the exception of the editorial sections of the English and French newspapers, was of a similar cosmopolitan character.

As the language used for a common means of communication was Arabic—the colloquial version—the difficulties of production were real, and early issues saw a good deal of vigorous New Zealand profanity wasted on the more or less desert air. Operators setting copy in a language they could not understand had to be forgiven a good deal, but the proof-reading was a reader's nightmare. Record all-time high was a page proof which was read thirteen times before it could be sent away, and this followed three or four readings on galley proofs. On one occasion the last forme was dropped as it was being carried down a flight of stairs. Slugs were retrieved by a hurriedly organized body of operators, compositors, and machinists, each taking a handful to search when the Italian foreman called for a line from the make-up sheet.

Distribution

The *N.Z.E.F. Times* is published primarily for 2 *N.Z.E.F.*, but as far as possible an effort is made to reach New-Zealanders serving with the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, and U.K. Army Forces throughout the Mediterranean, Middle East, African, and Indian theatres. There is no charge for the paper. Distribution throughout the scores of units comprising 2 *N.Z.E.F.* and to other



A Syrian linotype operator sets copy. Faulty setting was by far the biggest problem.