

Washington Digest

India's Army Force For Unifying Country

Common Language and Habits Tend to Break Down Former Prejudices; Troops Take Leadership in Communal Affairs.

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One heartening postwar picture arose out of the welter of hope, fear and expectation which held Washington in its grip through the news of the atomic bombs, the entrance of Russia into the war and then the exciting flash from Japan that kept us on tenter-hooks so long. When there seemed little to contemplate about but the lush growth of evil which had sprung from the planting of the dragon's teeth of war, I found, strangely enough, in the office of the representative of India in Washington the belief that the war would turn out to be, in one respect, a blessing to that perturbed country.

India has furnished an army of 2 1/2 million men (the largest volunteer force in the world) in the prosecution of this war and that army has turned out to be "the greatest school of adult education" in the world. That's what the Indians proudly call it. True, soldiers in other armies have been "taught while they fought," but few have ever been able to add so much to the total knowledge of their nation.

I am told that after the last war, when an Indian village was found, especially in the Punjab, which was a little better run, with more progressive ideas and a more active social consciousness, it would also be discovered that its moving spirit was an ex-soldier—an Indian (Hindu or Moslem, Rajput or Sikh, no matter) who had brought home ideas on sanitation and hygiene, co-operation and understanding, absorbed during his period of service at home or abroad. But now the potentialities of this military mission-aryship are immensely greater. Not merely because the Indian army is so much bigger, but because already it has served as a great melting pot, breaking down ancient prejudices and taboos which heretofore have made Indian unity impossible.

General's Spirit Hopeful Sign

If tall, lean and eager General Cariappa, with whom I talked at length when he was here on a mission connected with the founding of a new military academy in India, is typical, the army is indeed a force. His enthusiasm, his optimism and his energy are hopeful signs in themselves. I enjoyed that interview, seated in the office of the Agent General for India, where I heard this earnest man speak with an apparent sincerity and conviction which could not help but impress anyone who heard him.

General Cariappa was one of the first Indian cadets to be commissioned in the Indian army in 1920. As a young man he had not yet attained his majority. He has been in the army ever since and was the first Indian officer to command a battalion. He raised a machine-gun outfit himself and as lieutenant-colonel led his men through the bitter days of the Burma campaign. Now he is a general staff officer, one of India's four brigadiers, and also a member of the army reorganization committee. It was in the latter capacity that he has just completed a tour of inspection of the British military schools at Woolwich and Sandhurst, then the Canadian school at Kingston, and finally West Point and some of our specialist schools. He hopes to take acceptable features of all these schools and combine them in the new Indian Military academy, the site of which has not yet been determined but the plans for which are well under way. The committee on reorganization also hopes to revise Indian preliminary education so that it will develop leadership.

When I saw General Cariappa he was politely but none the less deeply pained over some of the reports in the American press which belittled India's participation in the war. He explained (which we in Washington knew) that there were two Indian soldiers to every one British soldier in the Burma fighting.

General Cariappa is working to prepare a completely independent Indian army. It is also, I dare to suggest, for an independent India. As a soldier, the general refused to discuss politics, but he said that naturally every loyal Indian looks forward to the independence of his

country — "Something," he said, "which every one of our soldiers who has been fighting for the ideals of the United Nations expects." Like his fellow-countrymen and the British officers with whom I have talked, General Cariappa is proud of the seeds of unity which have been sown in the army.

In the first place, the army speaks and also reads and writes one language. Most of the soldiers when they enlist are of the peasant class and are illiterate. When their training commences they are immediately taught to read and write in Roman Urdu, which is a simplified Hindustani written with English (Roman) letters. Aside from the value of eradicating illiteracy, the knowledge and use of a common language removes one of the chief obstacles to harmony and understanding among the people. (There are 12 principal languages and 100 dialects spoken in India.) Many prejudices go when the language barrier is broken down. When the war is over at least 2 1/2 million Indians will have the bond of a common tongue.

But more than that, they will have lived together, eaten together, in the field at least, lived in close companionship in barracks and developed teamwork and tolerance. There has been some suggestion that Basic English be made the official language of the army in India, and while, for the present, Hindustani appears more practical, the former has been taught on a large scale.

General Cariappa has a sense of humor and a perfect command of English (basic, colloquial and classic) in which to express it. (He went to school in England as a boy.) He told me the following story to illustrate the ramifications of the language problem in the Indian army: A young British officer remarked to his native sergeant that it was really remarkable that in his comparatively small unit of only 300 men, six different languages were spoken.

"Oh, more than that, sir," the sergeant answered. "Nine different languages are spoken here. There are the six provincial languages. Then there is English, which you and I speak. Then there is Hindustani, which we all must speak. Then there is YOUR Hindustani."

Army With a Language Problem

It is true that most of the Indian army has remained within the continental limits of the country, but that is not really strange. General Cariappa explained, since it takes 18 men "in the tail" as he put it, to keep one fighting man going. Many foreigners, seeing so many uniforms in India, received the impression that the whole army was "sitting down." These men, of course, are not combat troops held back for political or other reasons, the general said, but are largely the work troops, the great service of supply required to keep the armies in the field going.

The general claims that Indian soldiers are second to none as fighting men. The greater proportion of them are Madrasi, not at all the traditional fighting tribes who in the past have constituted what was called the "martial race." That term, long outmoded, has long since been dropped. The excuse for its use disappeared much earlier.

In the past there may have been some basis for this concept. Fighting begets fighters. As the British conquest of India moved slowly northward it left peace behind it, but ignited war ahead of it. So the northerners were the last whose vocation, or at least avocation, was mortal combat. The southerners returned to the gentler arts. But to return to the general. He quoted that truism which all military men know is sound: "There are no bad soldiers. There are only bad officers."

Let me end this column as I began it. If General Cariappa is typical of India's officers, there is hope, not only for a powerful Indian army, which I, with the rest of you, pray India will never need, but hope that here among these 2 1/2 million men who have found a common tongue and a common purpose has been planted the leaven of tolerance that may bring about the unity of a free India.

BARBS... by Baukhage

Pravda (Russian newspaper) reminds us Stalin called Japan an aggressor in 1936. Large bodies, like the efficient Red army, move slowly.

Did you hear that one on the air the other day? Wife (in the year 1960)—Why are you so late dear? Husband—I had to go round the world three times to find a parking place.

So many Dutch citizens were arrested by the Germans that it is expected that all questionnaires in that country hereafter will ask: (1) Were you ever in jail? (2) If not, state why.

They say we'll be getting roasted eggs out of slot machines before long. It sounds like a shell game to me.



McGOFFEY'S FIRST READER

Oh, see the automobile! It is a new automobile. How do you know it is a new automobile?

Because no door is hanging by one hinge and most of the windshield glass is still intact.

Who is the man looking at the new auto?

The name is Joe.

Will it do Joe any good to look at the new auto?

No.

Why will it not do Joe any good to look at the new auto?

Because it is just a sample.

Is it the only sample of the postwar auto?

No, some company brings out one every week.

What is the sense of letting Joe see samples of the postwar auto if Joe cannot buy one?

The idea is to cut Joe in on a peek into the future, f.o.b. Detroit.

What has the postwar auto that the present models lack?

Everything, including a windshield wiper that works, and handles that don't come out in your hand.

Has the postwar auto many innovations?

It photographs as if it had.

What's so different?

The front.

But don't they always change the front of an auto?

Yes, but this time they have gone the limit.

What is that big thing behind which the car seems to be hiding?

That is the postwar bumper.

Will there be more collisions in the postwar world?

Perhaps not, but they will be louder.

Where is the engine?

The engine is where it always was.

Wasn't there some talk of putting it under the rear seat?

Yes, there has been talk of that ever since Henry Ford first frightened a horse.

Will there be an engine under the rear seat some day?

Not until they develop asbestos pants.

Is the gas tank in the same location?

Yes, the gas tank is in the same location.

Couldn't they put that up front as a novelty?

Only if you think fireworks constitute a novelty.

Oh, look at Joe. He is getting into his old flivver.

Yes.

Why? Because Joe knows a wreck in the hand is worth two blueprints in the bush in covering a distance between two given points.

INFLATION NOTE

Yearling race horses are bringing terrific prices at the summer dispersal sales. The average is around \$7,000. In some cases they are bringing \$30,000 and more. A few years ago at Saratoga there was the other extreme and we recall Tom Platt, a noted breeder, withdrawing his yearlings in a huff when the auctioneer found it hard to get bids much over \$500.

THOUGHTS ON A SUNDAY NIGHT RADIO PROGRAM

Does mother quarrel with her kin? Does dad get ugly on one gin? Oh, daughter, will you ride or hike Quite swiftly to the nearest mike?

Does little Jennie think her pop Loves some girl in a barber shop? Does popper think it's wrong or right You'll have to listen Sunday night!

Does little Edgar, nearly eight, Play pool and drink and stay up late? Should he be spanked or viewed with pride? The air-wave judges will decide!

Their troubles some folks love to share When they can get upon the air; Their private lives to all they'll show— If they are on the radio.

There will be poems very deep With organ tunes to make you weep; I think I'll beat my wife up so We'll both get on the radio!

W. B. Stout, past president of the Society of Automotive Engineers, predicts that an atomic engine no bigger than a human fist will some day drive an auto for life. There will probably be some fellow who will always complain that he is not getting high test electrons.

HONK! HONK!

His motor ran by atoms— He thought that it was swell; He merely pressed a button... Farewell, old man, farewell!

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

Pretty Lingerie Makes Nice Gift Smart Two-Piecer for Fall Time



Pattern No. 8899 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14, short sleeves, requires 3 1/2 yards of 35 or 39 inch fabric. Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers. Send your order to:

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Nightgown and Jacket.

EVERY woman likes pretty lingerie and this enchanting nightgown and matching jacket is as lovely a set as you'll see. Make it in dainty all-over flowered fabric or in soft pastels. It will be a lovely gift for the fall bride.

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For Special Occasions.

A FASHION favorite for fall—the two piece frock. This one, buttoned down the back, nipped in smartly at the waist, makes you look your best on those extra special occasions.

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. What part of the United States was once known as New Connecticut?
2. What determines the price of gold?
3. If one could stand at the North pole, in what direction might one face?
4. Can you complete the following proverb, "When you take out and do not put in, expect—?"
5. How did the United States acquire Florida?
6. What is the name of the breed of tailless cats?
7. In what capacity was Buffalo Bill connected with the U. S. government?
8. Which of the following are likely to use the word hegemony, a mining engineer, statesman or chemist?
9. Who said, "We must all hang together, gentlemen, or we will all hang separately?"
10. What is the common element contained in all acids?

The Answers

1. The Western Reserve in Ohio.
2. It is fixed in the United States by an act of congress.
3. Only south.
4. "To reach the bottom."
5. By purchase from Spain.
6. Manx cats.
7. As a scout and pony express mail rider.
8. Statesman (in referring to the preponderant influence or authority of a state).
9. John Hancock and Benjamin Franklin. After Hancock had affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence, he said: "We must all hang together, gentlemen." And Franklin added: "Or we will all hang separately."
10. Hydrogen.

Jefferson's Epitaph

Thomas Jefferson wrote his own epitaph, now on his tomb: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statue of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and father of the University of Virginia."



A Boeing Superfortress lands on enough nylon to make 4,000 pairs of stockings. B. F. Goodrich builds Superfortress tires reinforced with nylon cord.

California not only has more passenger automobiles than any other state in the Union but also has more than any foreign country.

Using a road magnet, the Michigan State Highway Department recently gathered 400 pounds of nails, tacks, and other metal objects from 200 miles of highway.

Press Manning

In war or peace
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Space-Saver Racks For Closet Doors

WHY wish for more and bigger closets if the ones you have are not organized so that all the space is used? Handy racks on the door add readily accessible space for things used every day leaving inside shelves for storage. The racks shown here are carefully



planned to hold the things you use the most, yet they are less than three inches deep.

Everyday hats are held in perfect shape by a curved front made to fit crowns. Both small and large articles are held conveniently in the lower rack which also has a hanger rod. These racks are also useful for children's toys and toys. They are easy to cut out of scraps of plywood with an ordinary compass saw from the dime store.

NOTE: Pattern 233 gives actual-size cutting guides for all parts of both of the racks shown here. Illustrated directions for assembling and a list of all materials required are included. To get pattern 233, send 15c with name and address to:

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WNU-13 34-45

Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot act in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulate the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

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