

## MEDICINE

# New Battle Belt

Devised by a Canadian Navy medical officer, new belt makes it possible to have the necessary tools and drugs always available even in the dark.

► TREATMENT of Navy men wounded at their stations is simplified by a battle belt to be worn by medical officers, designed by Surgeon Lt. Comdr. C. M. Oake of the Royal Canadian Navy, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (August) reports.

During the darkness and confusion that go with naval action, Lt. Comdr. Oake points out, certain essentials for treatment are easily lost or difficult to extricate from an ordinary medical haversack when they should be available instantly for treatment of dangerous casualties.

A panel holder of plasticized material is worn around the chest or waist to hold a few necessary instruments and medicines that the medical officers may want to produce instantly.

The five pockets of the battle belt contain syrettes, small disposable tubes for administering morphine; wound labels and skin pencil for marking the kind and time of treatment; scissors and a long, narrow surgical knife, called a bistoury; a vial of morphine; and an emergency kit for treatment of eye injuries.

Clamped to the outside of the belt are hemostats for controlling hemorrhage, a length of rubber tubing, four cartridges of sulfathiazole crystals, and a flashlight with an adjustable beam.

Approved by the Medical Director-General, the unit is now being redesigned and will become available for issue to all Canadian ships which have medical officers.

*Science News Letter, August 21, 1943*

## RESOURCES

## Mediterranean Fishing Could Feed Impoverished

► SARDINIA'S SARDINES, for the past two decades or so, have been consumed mostly in Italy. Small quantities were still being imported into America before the war to satisfy the taste of Italian-Americans who have a particular liking for this especially cured and packed-in-olive-oil little fish. The commercial sardines used in America come from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and are packed principally in Maine and California. Some have been imported from Norway, France and Portugal.

During the past year or so, fishing in the Mediterranean has practically ceased, it is reported. Sicily and other Mediterranean islands and countries caught, packed and shipped much tunny, or tuna, in pre-war days. The Tun-

sia campaign brought this activity to a standstill.

Other fish is more or less plentiful in the Mediterranean. With the collapse of Italy's war resistance, the industry may start again. Much food to feed former Fascist followers could be obtained from this great body of water.

Except for local consumption, commercial fishing was never a great industry in the Mediterranean. Pre-war Italy, including Sardinia, Sicily and a number of the smaller islands, landed about 50,000 to 60,000 tons a year. Northern African fishermen together slightly exceeded Italy's catch. Eastern Mediterranean Asiatic countries caught a few thousand tons. Data for Greece and other European nations are not available, but their catches were small and used only locally.

France and Spain carry heavy fishing activities. Together they landed nearly \$88,000,000 worth of sea products a year, but only a small part of this was from Mediterranean waters. These figures do not add up to big business as do fishing figures in America.

There are possibilities, however. With the food shortage in all the Mediterranean countries that have been occupied by the Nazis, the fishing industry could be expanded far beyond its past extent. Modern methods would have to be introduced. The industry could well be assisted by the United Nations in order to save long hauls of other foods to relieve the underfed Mediterranean people.

*Science News Letter, August 21, 1943*

United States and Brazilian business organizations are cooperating by sharing machine designs and manufacturing processes, thus recognizing the importance of *standards* in industrial developments.

Literally thousands of tons of *magnesium* are being mined from sea water at a location along the Texas Gulf Coast which three years ago was a dismal swamp.

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