

GAUMONT BRITISH NEWS CAMERAMANS REPORT.

Cameraman S.R. Bonnett. Batch No.9. 2 tins. Date 14th July, 1941.

SUBJECT - Desert recovery repair shop and Depot

LOCATION - Western Desert.

Length - 380 ft. plus 20 ft. to be continued on a future sequence.

Negative used - PLUS X. Light conditions - Bright Sun SILENT. ROTA.

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Sequence shows a Desert Recovery and Repair Depot.

This important section has the dangerous work of 'hanging around' during battles in the desert, detecting and recovering damaged vehicles, guns etc., which are transported back to the Open Air Depot, where, under skilled hands, they are soon made serviceable and returned to their units.

Shots show arrival of 'Snow White' - one of the many recovery vehicles. On it's back is seen a tank, later we see the tank, now unloaded - its track is unrolled and examined.

Further shots show the Blacksmith's shop - dug in and surrounded by sandbags. A new engine being dropped into a waiting frame. A repaired Field Gun being dropped by crane and assembled in its carriage. Machine shop lorries - "Shop" signs for quick cuts etc, finishing with a Bren Gun Carrier doing a fast test run before being returned as O.K.

The last 20 feet showing a Scorpion is to be held for a future sequence - This is on end of tin No.2. of the above Batch number.

GAUMONT BRITISH CAMERAMAN'S REPORT.

S.R. BONNETT.

Date. 17.7.41.

Subject: South Africans on Patrol in Western Desert.

Length. 335 ft.

Stock used. Plus X.

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Scenes show a sequence of Patrol shots pictured amongst the snow-like sand dunes - Although shots were not taken in order, you will find that sequence shows the Patrol arriving at arranged detrucking location - the point where they commence patrol on foot. Shot continues with them coming over sky line, down slope and across sand dunes in extended order. After miles of this hard and hot work, pictures show them returning through wire defences. Bren Carriers who do long distance reconnaissance runs are also seen passing through an oasis.

The last scenes show how they "wash away their cares". Camera lense is blocked out by their backs - they run away from camera (Censor had better keep his eyes open here") and plunge into the sea.

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PATHE.

Story:- R.A.F. save man bitten by snake, in desert.

Cameras:- H.E. Ashwood.

Location:- W. Desert.

Date:- 19th July.

Length:- 400 feet.

A dramatic story of the desert is told in these thrilling pictures from a R.A.F. Squadron in the Middle East. It starts with four men of the R.A.F. camped in a lonely spot in the W.D. while carrying out their duties, their only contact with the outer world being the portable pack wireless set used in their (?) and which afterwards proved the salvation of one of the men., from whom a cry of pain is suddenly heard. His comrades ran to his side, and it is ascertained that he has been bitten by a desert snake (an asp). Snake bite calls for special treatment. How can this be obtained in such a remote spot? The wireless provided the answer and a message is flashed to H.Q. asking for instructions. The message is received and its importance is realised. The medical officer is informed immediately - he in turn forms another link in the chain which is to save a mans life. The M.O's orderly prepares anti-toxin and syringe while the N.O. writes instructions as to how they must be used. These are rushed to a pilot standing by with plane. The medical supplies and blankets are put in a special metal container with parachute attached which ironically is fitted into the bomb-rack of the plane. The pilot takes off with life-saving cargo. The plane sights the lonely tent while those below wave to make sure that they have been seen. The pilot released the parachute and those below rush out to get the metal container. It is taken back to the tend and a man's life is saved. Such is the fine co-operation of this fine fighting service and its medical arm.

Shots Show:-

Reel I

Shot from inside of tent showing man lying on blanket with two comrades at his side and one operating wireless. Ditto outside tent. Flash pan to H.Q. Wireless masts pan down to mobile wireless station. Shot inside H.Q. Station. Operator handing message to despatch rider, later arriving at M.O. and handing message. M.O. writing instructions while orderly prepares medical supplies.

Reel II

Various shots of orderly and M.O. preparing medical supplies. Close ups of Anti snake serum-syringe and instructions written by M.O. GOOD LUCK written at foot of instructions. M.O. packing up serum, etc. Ditto with orderly - M.O. medical supply satchel to D.R. - ditto to moving off. D.R. arrives at plane and hands pilot medical supplies.

Reel III

Pilot and men putting blankets and medical supplies in parachute container - ditto close up. Ditto putting same in bomb rack - ditto - ditto - showing pilot getting in cock-pit - prop starts revolving - shots of plane leaving ground and one or two shots of tent and men waving to plane taken from air. (Put shot of plane leaving ground after prop. relolving shot).

Reel IV

Ground shot of men at tent waving to plane-flash pan to plane circling over tent. Parachute and container coming down. ditto. Men running out to get same. - plant making off - men carrying container back to tent ditto unpacking same. Ditto - ditto - reading instructions - Ditto with syringe and needle in position. Entering the tent to give injection

PATHE PICTURES

B163/B1

CAMERAMAN'S DOPE SHEET

Cameraman: H.E. ASHWOOD  
Story: Desert Fly Squad.  
Location: Western Desert.  
Date: 18.7.41.  
Footage:

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"Kill that Fly" is not just the slogan - but the battle cry of a small group of men who are waging a "Blitz" on flies. These men are known in the W.D. as the "Fly Squad" and it is through the ingenuity of their officer Lieut E.V. BURTON A.I.F. in designing the traps, that an average of a quarter of a million flies are already being destroyed every week. The traps are similar to lobster pots and are made of fine mesh gauze, while the cans underneath are filled with meat to act as bait, and once a fly enters the trap it cannot escape. The traps are lifted after a period of 4 days when the meat is burnt and the flies destroyed. The basis of the scheme is the destruction of natural breeding grounds substituted by the traps which form controlled breeding grounds. The success of the scheme depends on trapping and destroying large numbers of flies in a short time (hence the traps being lifted every 4 days) and so breaking their breeding cycle. At the moment the squad have 150 traps in operation. Shots show - setting off with the Traps. Ditto - Baiting traps - Ditto - ditto setting and leaving traps. Close ups. Flies in traps - Ditto. One of the squad with a trap.

The dead flies being emptied from traps - Ditto  
A shovel full up with the catch from one trap -  
Other shots of heaps of dead flies - A desert show case full of preserved flies caught to act as publicity and make troops fly-minded.

Please Note. When using first shots on reel of flies on troops faces - use 2nd close-up - which should be much better than the first close-up.

## CAMERAMAN'S DOPE SHEET.

Subject: A Desert Laundry.

Location: Western Desert.

Cameraman: H.E. Ashwood.

14th July, 1941.

Length: 200 feet.

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Lines of cleanliness - are practically as important as our lines of communication in Desert Warfare and this unique Laundry at an R.A.F. base in the heart of the Western Desert is responsible for keeping our lads smart, clean and comfortable at all times. Every day is wash day at this laundry in the sand for it deals with thousands of bundles of washing every week, and although it cannot boast of drying machines and other mechanical appliances, the warm desert winds soon dry clothes that are pegged up on these extensive lines.

Shots show - The laundry van collecting at tents in the camp. - Ditto arriving at laundry. - Various shots of the washing in progress. - Close-ups etc. shots at the ironing table. Taking HOT water from a large copper. Two R.A.F. Officers have a slight argument over a shirt when they called at the laundry over some "lost" washing. Another couple of Air Force men wait while their "Urgent" laundry is finished - Ditto leaving with same.

"Where did that come from" (a bundle of washing drops into tub) followed by 'plane flying over laundry.

Please use best of 2 shots of bundle dropping into tub and 'plane flying over laundry.

No suggestion must be made in commentary that bundle has been dropped by 'plane - the connection between these shots should be left to public's imagination.

B163/B2

PATHE GAZETTE.

Cameraman: H.E. ASHWOOD.

17th July, 1941.

Length: 200 feet.

Subject: Foot inspection in the Desert.

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"FEET OF ENDURANCE".

Tramp - Tramp - Tramping through the sand might easily cause many foot complaints amongst our troops stationed in the Western Desert if it were not for care taken by our Medical officers to see that the lads feet are inspected daily and treatment is given for the slightest signs of blisters and cuts.

Shots show - Close-ups of feet tramping through the loose sand - ditto ditto ditto.-

Halt, and preparing for inspection @ Boots off. Ditto close-ups and unusual angle shots.

Close up of sand being emptied from boot.

"Feet up" is the order given as the Sergeant takes the inspection - Various shots of Inspection and feet being treated for slight blisters etc....

Water is scarce in the desert, hence this scramble after the inspection for a cooler.

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