

BRITAIN GUARDS ARAB HOLY OASIS

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Title: Texas Ranger.

Track: Ditto

Lines: Stagg.

Voice: Mellor.

*British Garrison Accounts
at Siwa*

Supply columns in the Western Desert now make regular trips to Siwa, sacred city of the Semesis. A British garrison has been there since Wavell's Army ousted the Italians. Centuries before Christ Siwa was the centre of a large population. Now its few native inhabitants live a cave-like existence in the ancient ruins. Remnants of a civilization long past they lived till a few years ago in houses of clay, which were themselves ruined by the unprecedented deluge of 1935. Two hundred miles south of Tobruk the city was a forgotten name till war drew attention to it again. The donkey's skull is believed by Arabs to ward off the evil eye. Siwa owed its ancient importance to the many oases that surround it - the only water in a vast wilderness of desert. The Tommies turn it into a swimming pool, so somebody's now got to drink bathwater.

For thousands of years water has bubbled up here, enough to irrigate small fields.

"Your hair wants cutting" said the Sergeant to some of the garrison who were overdue at the barber's. There's a man in every army unit who believes he can cut hair, though the troops don't always agree with him afterwards. Here's a good head to get on with. He'll feel a lot cooler with some of that thatch off.

(SV CLIPPING) You can cut it short at the back - but for heaven's sake don't scalp him.

They seem amused. What's going on now ?

.... It'll look all right parted in the middle. Next gentlemen, please.
