

JIBUTI AND NEW ETHIOPIAN ARMY.

The practically deserted town of Jibuti, French Somaliland, with trade at a stand-still and a grave shortage of food. The day the Fighting French Flag was hoisted in the coastal town at the entrance to the Red Sea, Jibuti looked to a new future. French Somaliland's adhesion to Fighting France brought all French Africa to the side of the United Nations.

The occupation of Jibuti saw troops marching in as if on a ceremonial Parade. General Platt and members of the Allied Mission took the salute as the contingents entered after crossing the frontier from British Somaliland. The French African Empire is now emerging for the glorious day of reconstitution.

One more link in the chain laboriously being forged overseas for the rebirth of a Nation.

400 miles away to the South West in Addis Ababa, the capital of Abyssinia, more men are marching. The new Ethiopian Army, which had grown from bands of primitive tribesmen, into a well disciplined force, schooled in the use of modern weapons. The British Military Mission to Ethiopia has been responsible for this transformation. To realize what amazing changes have taken place in the past year or two, let us look back to the days of 1935-37 when the Abyssinian warriors had to fight Italian bombs and automatic weapons with rusty swords and spears. Old muzzle loaders versus machine guns; shields dating back to the days of bows and arrows against poison gas. That's how Haile Selassie and his warrior chiefs fought Mussolini and his Fascist Generals.

Today, the Imperial body guard is the pick of the Emperor's Army. Well trained, and hardly recognisable as the same men who fought so bravely in the Hills of Abyssinia. Haile Selassie is justly proud of his Guardsmen as they parade past him in the Palace grounds.

This is the nucleus of an army born in the tribal hills, bred in adversity, and emerging confident in new found strength.