

NEWS *for* the Troops on Crete...

CANEA, BUILT originally by the Venetians, in the words of the news-reel travelogue "still retains much of the character of its origin." This is not the newer residential Canea, spreading up the hillsides, but old Canea huddled around the toy port—a picturesque town of cafe dives, cobblestones, remains of the walled defences and narrow lanes meandering along rows of unspaced houses.

But it seems nowadays that no people, however sturdy and independent, however poor in terms of this world's goods, can indefinitely live their own lives in their own way. In May the machine came to Canea, and it was a sudden and spectacularly brutal introduction. During a hectic fortnight, into this tiny backwater of modern life, swept the full torrent of the death struggle of machine-age mankind. When it had passed, mediæval Canea was left a desolate little area of blasted and smoking ruins and piles of rubble. The irreparable loss of a quaint and charming survival or the clearing-out of an old near slum which should have been rebuilt long ago anyway, depending on your point of view.

Many little institutions of ancient origin were blasted out of existence by the thorough ruthlessness of the unopposed Luftwaffe, and also at least one with no roots at all in the past—the British troops' newspaper *Crete News*.



Among the newspapers of the world *Crete News* can claim to be exceptional not for its size or the excellence of its editorial content, but because for half its short life (four issues) it was produced in the midst of the first great air-borne invasion in the history of the world.

For troops almost entirely without information from the outside world some sort of news service rapidly became more than a necessity on Crete after the Greek Campaign. General Freyberg deputed 2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Cox, of the New Zealand Division, to produce a newspaper. A former Rhodes Scholar who had been present at most of the great scenes of the European drama over the past five years as representative of famous English dailies, Lieutenant Cox nevertheless took up this assignment with enthusiasm.

It was arranged that *Crete News* should be printed at the same establishment as produced one of the two little Greek newspapers of Crete. This Canea printery was as similar to the modern metropolitan idea of a printing-plant as a gondola is to a transatlantic liner. Everything was manual or womanual. Men