

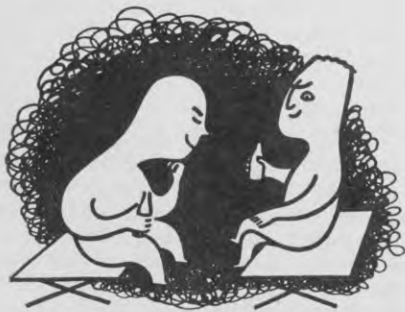
cement. The poorer people live in hovels made of "barasti" (closely-woven palm leaves). There is also a very serviceable fort which was built for British Overseas Airways and is occupied by them to-day.

The Bedouin Arab is a very different customer from the semi-civilized Arab of the coast. He regards all white people of whatever race or creed as being of the ferengi (foreign) tribe, and no matter if you are British, Italian, or German, you are still to him a ferengi. He does not view the white race in general with any special regard, but because of the endeavours of the British political agents on the coast he is slowly becoming more friendly. Every so often the feared Benecitti tribe from the desert descends upon Sharjah, where, after several days of palavering, suitable presents in the shape of animals, women, pearls, and clothing are found for the tribe, and they depart in peace. They are warriors of great renown and are much feared by all coastal towns.

When flying over Arabia, pilots and aircrew are still furnished with blood chits, which are addressed to the Arab people in general soliciting good attention and delivery to the nearest civilized town with a promise of reward.



Now they said "To fit the landscape we shall make it flat and bare,  
We shall give it barasti billets with a lily here and there,  
It shall be the very edge of desolation and despair."  
And the Air Force drank a solemn toast to Sharjah.  
"There shall be no sort of shelter from the all oppressive light,  
Neither bush nor shady palm tree to relieve the searing white."  
And the only time a man may breathe is when he prays at night  
When he prays to God to take him out of Sharjah.



"Remember back home?"



MILNE

"Remember on Nissan?"