

" No one has yet succeeded in computing the number of melons and pumpkins eaten and thrown away in Egypt, but practically all of them proceed in procession along the Mad Mile. Heaped upon carts, heads, camel humps, and other points of vantage, they move in a steady stream towards the city, while lines of trucks, staff cars, jeeps, and Don R's are dammed up behind them. A similar conglomeration of W.D. vehicles and drivers is damming in front of them. It is one of the great occasions when Mr. Kipling is proved utterly wrong and East and West meet head-on.

" To add variety to this colourful Eastern scene, a row of vehicles, loosely described in this part of the world as trams, set out into the Great Unknown from this point. Pursuing their way with majestic impartiality while the driver eats his breakfast over the front railing, they fend off melons and three-tonners alike, and go on their way rejoicing.

" In the maelstrom a General or a Brigadier is less than the merest pumpkin and a staff car a mere plaything of Fate. Red tabs and red faces may lower threateningly through unshatterable glass, but

the men in the galabieh and the ladies coiffed in tin cans are invariably colour blind. Occasionally Egyptian policemen, in their pure and incorruptible white, speed the passing guest, but more often they merely stand and think. Grim-faced men in red-topped caps loom through the dust clouds, but go down before the avalanche of perambulating vegetables. At intervals strident-voiced gentlemen in tarboushes organize auction sales, betting rings, and study circles which encroach further and further on to the road as the day goes on . . . "

### Introducing the Bloke

After a year or so writing in this form Johnny Enzed decided that he required a companion with whom he could discuss matters: perhaps as a spur, perhaps a butt, but certainly in the interests of clearer expression. And so the bloke (never with a capital B) was introduced. The bloke was unknown except to Johnny Enzed, but he represented a composite of the grumbling, cheerful, disappointed, sergeant-hating and sergeant-baiting, happy, sand-happy, browned-off, average soldier.

