

'Ever Talk to Back of a Helmet? I Did Once'

By CARL RITT
Of The Evansville Press
NEW GUINEA (By Air Mail)—
Did you ever carry on a conversation with the back of a helmet?
I did, once, coming back from a road block.
There were a half dozen of us and I was third from the front. Directly in front of me was this rear of a helmet. It was atop the head of a young lad named Collins, from Missouri, who had been at the road block as an artillery spotter.
Our way led along the Numa Numa Trail—a fascinating name, isn't it?

WE STARTED back in a hurry, attempting to beat the inevitable afternoon rain. Our way led back and forth across the Laruma River, a swift flowing stream with a bed of slippery rocks.
I had met young Collins at the roadblock and chiseled a cup of coffee from him.
Our talk for a while was mostly Army chitchat—cussing brass, rain, food. He asked me if I had any kids. I said yes, one.
"I always wanted one," the back of the helmet said. And after a while: "I'm 20. I always wanted to have a kid when I was 20, then I could sort of grow up with him." We climbed a slippery ridge.
"But now I'm 20 already, and I haven't even got a girl—any more."

There was nothing I could say to that. He didn't elaborate on the "any more."
BUT A little later, the back of the helmet, now streaming water onto his pack, said: "I sure miss my buddy. We were together for almost a year in the army. We were on a little island once. We had a radio and used to listen to it."
"We used to listen to somebody singing some songs. My buddy was married. And he'd just sit there and look at her picture."
"We'd listen for a long time. And then it was just like he couldn't stand it any more. He'd say 'Let's walk.' And we'd go out and walk around this island and we wouldn't say anything. Sometimes we'd just walk for a couple of hours. Not saying a thing."

THAT'S the way we went, too, for quite a while. The jungle growth was thick and he saved his breath for squirming through it. After we had struggled across the river for the tenth time, he said: "I wonder what it's like?"
"What is what like?" I asked.
"Being in love," the helmet said, moving slowly side to side in a puzzled fashion. "I just wonder what it really like."
"That can't be explained," I said, in what I considered my most fatherly manner. "Some-

times you think you are and you aren't, and then again you'll go a long time thinking you aren't and you are. If you get what I mean."
THE HELMET kept wagging from side to side, making the stream of rain pour first on one shoulder then the other.
I thought it best to change the subject.
"Ought to be pretty close to the outpost now, shouldn't we?" I asked.
"Just over the next hill," he laughed. "That's the way a guide used to answer us when we were training in the Fijis. We used to go on long marches and we'd ask him how far we were going and he'd say 'Just over the next hill.'"
For some reason, that tickled Collins.
We climbed up a hill and down the other side.
"See?" the helmet said. "I told you. Just on the other side of the hill."
AHEAD was the last river crossing—and the outpost. We slipped and slid out of the river, into trucks, rode back to our lines and said goodby.
I never saw Collins again. He's probably in some dugout, wondering about love, and wishing he had a kid, and thoughtfully considering the problems of living off the fat of the land.

DOWNSTAIRS at AYRES Special Selling! Wonderful, Wearable Casual Coats



- Chesterfields
- Belted Coats
- Double-Breasteds
- Box Coats
- Boy Coats
- Wrap-arounds

\$18

Left: All-wool shetland Chesterfield with sweetheart lapel and velvet collar; large buttons.



MATERIALS:

- All-Wool Suedes
- All-Wool Meltons
- All-Wool Shetlands
- All-Wool Fleeces

COLORS:

- Black
- Blue
- Brown
- Natural
- Grey
- Fuchsia
- Green

SIZES:

- Juniors', Misses' and Women's
- 9 to 15
- 12 to 20
- 38 to 44

Right: All-wool shetland. Six-button double-breasted box coat; patch pockets.

—Coat Department, Downstairs at AYRES.

BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME FOR AUTUMN AYRES DOWNSTAIRS STORE

DRAPERY and SLIP COVER FABRICS
—Remnants! —Full Bolts!
79¢ YARD
A large assortment of beautiful fabrics in 30, 36 and 45-inch widths. Ideally suited to making draperies and slip-covers for every room in your home.
—Draperies Downstairs at Ayres

Curtain Materials

Gay fabrics for your kitchen windows! This is government net with a processed strawberry design. Limit of 25 yards to a customer.
69¢ YARD

Printed Cretonnes

36 inch... lovely cretonnes for draperies and slip covers... pretty printed and plain patterns.
39¢ YARD



Knitted SLIP COVERS

For Chairs **\$5.98** For Sofas **\$9.98**

—New and attractive! Heavy Quality Slipcovers that are as easily washed as they are slipped on over ordinary conventional type furniture. Colors—Blue—Wine

Jumbo Dish Clothes... 3 for 29¢

Grand knitted extra large size tape-bound edge all around dish towels from a famous mill.

Fine Wash Cloths... 10¢ Ea.

Seconds... from a famous mill in a grand assortment of patterns and colors in all the various qualities made... at this price only because they are seconds.

Plaid Double Blankets

Size 72x84
Blue, Rose or Cedar **\$3.50 PAIR**

SEW and SAVE!

Printed Rayon

French Crepes... Yard 69¢
Fine "Purdy Prints" and "Wongo Best" prints in a splendid grade of rayon French crepe; washable, fast colors; all 39 inches wide.

Percale Prints... Yard 33¢
New selection of fine washable percales in lovely patterns and colors. Bolts and remnant lengths; some are slight seconds.

36" Chambray... Yd. 59¢
Washable fast colors. Good selection of colors in various width stripes.

Twill-Back Velveteen Remnants... Yd. \$1.25
One to four-yard lengths of good velveteen, in black, blue, green, gold, rose, brown. Limited quantity.

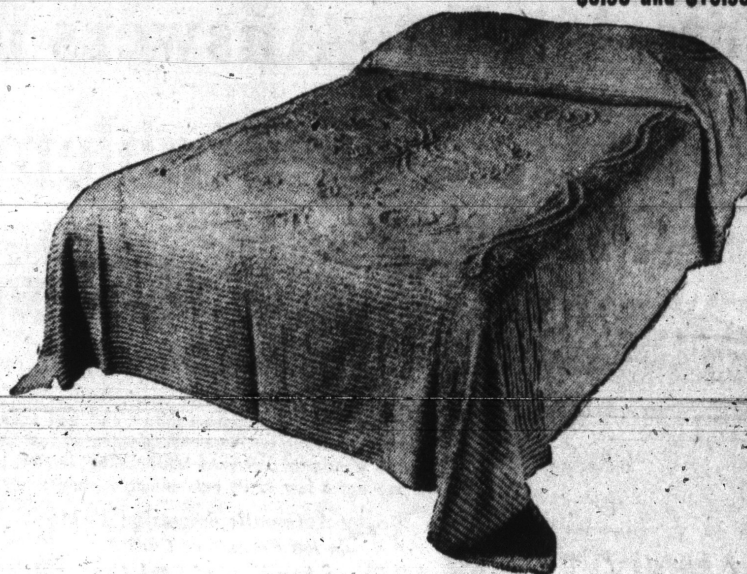
Narrow-Wale Corduroy 89¢ YARD
Full bolts, 36 inches wide, in royal blue, wine or white. Fine for fall coats, suits and sportswear.

Multi-Colors! Solid Colors!

Chenille Bedspreads

A big assortment of new chenilles in solid colors with sculptured design—and in cheerful multi-colored floral designs. Dip-dyed grounds and white grounds; full-bed and twin sizes; washable fast colors. Choose now for Christmas gifts! Blue, green, rose, gold, peach, white.
\$5.95 EACH

Other Chenille Spreads \$3.98 and \$10.95



Irregulars From a Famous Mill!

All-Wool BLANKETS

New, 100% wool blankets in solid colors of blue, rose, green or cedar—with matching three-inch satin binding. You save because these are irregulars of better qualities. 72x84-inch size, 3 3/4 pounds each.
\$8.95 EACH



Part Wool Blankets... \$2.50 Pr.
"Fieldcrest" 5% wool double-blankets; 70x80 inches; rose or blue plaids. Irregulars.

White Sheet Blankets \$1.39 Ea.
"Fieldcrest" all white cotton sheet blankets with whipped cord edge. 70x95.

Nashua Blankets... \$1.59 Ea.
Size 90x95 all white with a whipped cord edge... they give good warmth.

Blankets, Irregular... \$1.29 Ea.
70x95 Irregulars... ideal for a cold winter night... all white... whipped cord edge.

Soft Bed Pillows... \$1.98 Ea.
Floral art ticking filled with prime curled chicken feathers. 21x27-inch.

Large Huck Towels... 19¢ Ea.
All-white cotton huck towels from a famous mill; 17x30-inch size.

Bed Pillows... \$2.98 Ea.
35% Curled duck feathers 65% curled chicken feathers... 21x27 full bed size.

Sports Denim... 33¢ Yd.
Sanitized... 36-inch... in usable remnant lengths in fast color and washable, in medium blue shade.