Scientists View Gun That Won Battle Behind the Lines in Italy By George Kennedy. By George Kennedy. Brig. Gen. S. Bayne-Jones passed among the members of the National Academy of Sciences at the closing session of their autumn meeting the gun that won the Battle of Southern Italy—the battle behind the lines. Fascinated, the academicians passed the gun from hand to hand. It weighed no more than two the passed the gun from hand to hand. It weighed no more than two the last war. More than It weighed no more than two to in holder. This gun and others like it loaded will be sure than a million persons in the Balkans, the cleaning the sun and others like it loaded will be sure than the propulation was not important the lines. The seriousness of that attack is suggested by the experience during and after the last war. More than a million persons in the Balkans, the content of the sure of the National Museum in the propulation was not important the lines. The seriousness of that attack is suggested by the experience during and after the last war. More than a million persons in the Balkans, the content of the sure of the National Museum in the propulation was not important the lines. This gun and others like it loaded willow persons in the Balkans, the content of the National Museum in the propulation was not important the propulation was not important the lines. The seriousness of that attack is phus epidemics occasionally. But there had not been one there in 13 years. The population was not important the lines. Was introduced the Russian steppes died of typhus. Typhus was worse than Marshal Kessel-Tries of the National Museum in the situation of the American Typhus Commission as well as the Army's deputy chief of preventive medicine, told the story in detail to a scattered with the south the s

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cleanliness, crowding and wide-spread louse infestation," the gen-eral said, made Naples teeming

millions vulnerable. Ruling Naples out of bounds for soldiers was no solution of the military problem. Naples was the port of supply and it was necessary to keep the economy of the people behind the lines from complete collapse.

Closing of movie houses could not prevent mass assemblies. Ger-man bombers were crowding people into the shelters while the epidemic was at its height.

There were new weapons for the fight. There is a typhus vaccine. But more than 5,000,000 persons live in Southern Italy. The best that could be done was to vaccinate the leaders, the police, the govern-ment officials and the workers on the docks.

Spread by Body Louse. The typhus infection is spread by the body louse. Delousing large populations has been a terrific task heretofore in typhus infected communities. Tents have to be set up for men and women because they have to undress and bathe with medicated soap. Fuel is a problem. The places must be heated and the clothes steamed to kill the lice.

But the DDT gun won the battle won it in the first round. In December, 1943, there were 60 new cases a day. By January 8, 1944, they were over the hump. The typhus fighters, headed by the American and British military commands, the typhus team of the Rockefeller Foundation and the American typhus commission—joint Aarmy, Navy and United States Public Health Service, took the DDT guns to every typhus home. They powdered every one within and all persons who were "con-

tacts"—even remote contacts.
All they had to do with the DDT gun as Gen. Bayne-Jones demonstrated was to blow a little of the powder down the neck, up the sleeves and under the waist. It does not irritate the skin. And the clothes hold the DDT and continue to kill any new lice arriving on the person for a month. Isolation is no longer considered necessary for typhus victims. It is only necessary to kill the lice on the victim and his contacts and clear the home of louse infestation. Then the disease is no longer catching. Turned the Tide.

That turned the tide. They went on and deloused 3,500,000 persons. But the rate of incidence had fallen and the disease was no longer epidemic when this great mass deing occurred. Total number of cases were not much more than 1,000. Only two soldiers of the Allied

1,000. Only two soldiers of the Allied Armies were infected.

DDT, dichloro-diphenyl trichloroethane, was synthesized by Otmar Zeidler, a young chemistry student in Strasbourg in 1874 just after the capital of Alsace was taken over by the Germans. It has been on the shelf since. A Swiss firm, the Geigy Co., which owned the patents did some work with it to relieve animals from files before the war. The United States Department of Agriculture increased work on it when the Japanese attack cut off when the Japanese attack cut off importation of pyrethrum, the extract from Japanese chrysanthe-

mum-like flowers that was the basis of Flit and other insecticides.

The Army experimented with percentages of DDT, which is a poison, in neutral dust, to arrive at mixtures strong enough to kill insects that strong enough to kill insects that would not harm soldiers.

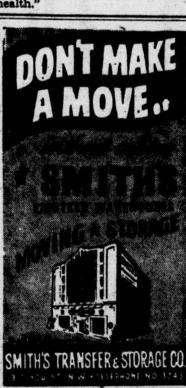
New Vi-tas Opened.

It was the cutting off of pyrethrum that led to the adoption of some-thing so much better that it may open continental vistas to habitation such as the highlands of East Africa, one of the pleasantest areas of the world, but hitherto uninhabitable because of the tsetse fly and the deadly sleeping sickness that comes from its bite.

Brig. Gen. James S. Simmons, chief of Army's preventive medicine

National Academy meeting:

"It is my belief that DDT gives promise of being one of the greatest contributions ever made to world health."





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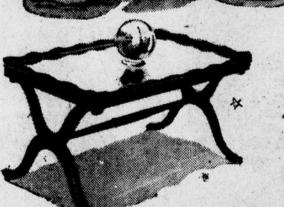
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