



ANSWER TO JUNGLE WAR

A lightweight radio station that can be carried in two pouches on a signaller's belt.

For this issue we have been able to turn to the Minister for Supply for our feature, "What's New?"

On January 13th the Hon. Howard Peale, Q.C., made the following statement to the Australian Press:—

Australia has developed and is putting into production a midget radio transmitting and receiving set that will revolutionise field communication under actual warfare conditions.

Jungle warfare in the islands and more recently in Malaya showed that existing army radio sets were unduly heavy for fighting patrols to carry, that too much time was lost in trying to establish contact with the base station and that the life of the batteries was too short.

As a result of intensive research, the Department of Supply, working in conjunction with Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited, has now developed a lightweight radio set that can be carried in two

pouches on a signaller's belt.

Prototype sets tested recently in Malaya under actual fighting conditions showed that:—

1. Weight has been halved. The type in current use weighs 34 lb.; the new set weighs 17 lb.
2. Batteries have half the weight and twice the life.
3. Time taken in establishing contact with the base station has been cut from 10 minutes with present sets to 50 seconds with the new set. Where it is necessary to erect an aerial in heavy jungle country, the new set is operating in two minutes compared with forty minutes for the present equipment now in use.
4. The frequency band of the new set is twice as broad as in sets now used. This enables signallers to establish communication quickly and clearly under any weather conditions and without variation as between night and day.

Service chiefs believe the new set could bring about a radical

change of tactics in Malaya. The saving of time in establishing communication may make all the difference in capturing bandits or letting them slip through the net.

The new set has created considerable interest among Service Chiefs in Britain and America. No set so light, compact and powerful has yet been developed anywhere else in the free world. Experts believe the new Australian set may become widely used by other countries.

A first order of 1400 sets costing £340,000 is now being made for the Australian Army by Amalgamated Wireless (Australia) Limited.



Prototype sets were tested in Malaya under actual fighting conditions. So were our engineers. The infantry thought that if Ken Dean went on a patrol with the old set (70 lbs.) it would prove a spur to greater efforts to reduce the weight of the new set. It did!

