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Air Power for Peace

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GENERAL OF THE ARMY H. H. ARNOLD

Bahrein: Port of Pearls and Petroleum

With 6 Illustrations and Map
11 Natural Color Photographs

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

A City That Refused to Die

With 13 Illustrations and Map
9 Natural Color Photographs

HARVEY KLEMMER
B. ANTHONY STEWART

Holland Rises from War and Water

With 18 Illustrations and Map

THOMAS R. HENRY

The Face of the Netherlands Indies

20 Illustrations

Forty Pages of Illustrations in Color

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The Face of the Netherlands Indies



Three Lions

Paper-feather Headdress Crowns a Bali Temple Dancer; Her Collar Is Gilded Buffalo Hide

The Netherlands Indies stretch from Sumatra to mid-New Guinea—3,000 miles, a distance greater than the width of the United States. Because of the Netherlands' lack of troops and military resources, the British-American Combined Chiefs of Staff assigned to British forces the task of disarming the Japanese in Java and Sumatra and releasing Allied prisoners of war there.



© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

Parasol Hats of Split Bamboo Protect Shoppers from Sun and Rain at Palembang, Sumatra

These women carry purchases in a square yard of cloth. The salesman's fez testifies that Mohammedanism is the Indies' prevailing religion. Palembang's American and Dutch oil refineries were seized by Japanese parachutists in 1942. Peace revealed them as wrecked by B-29's and British carrier planes.



On His Bicycle the Barber Carries Razors, Lotion, and Mirror

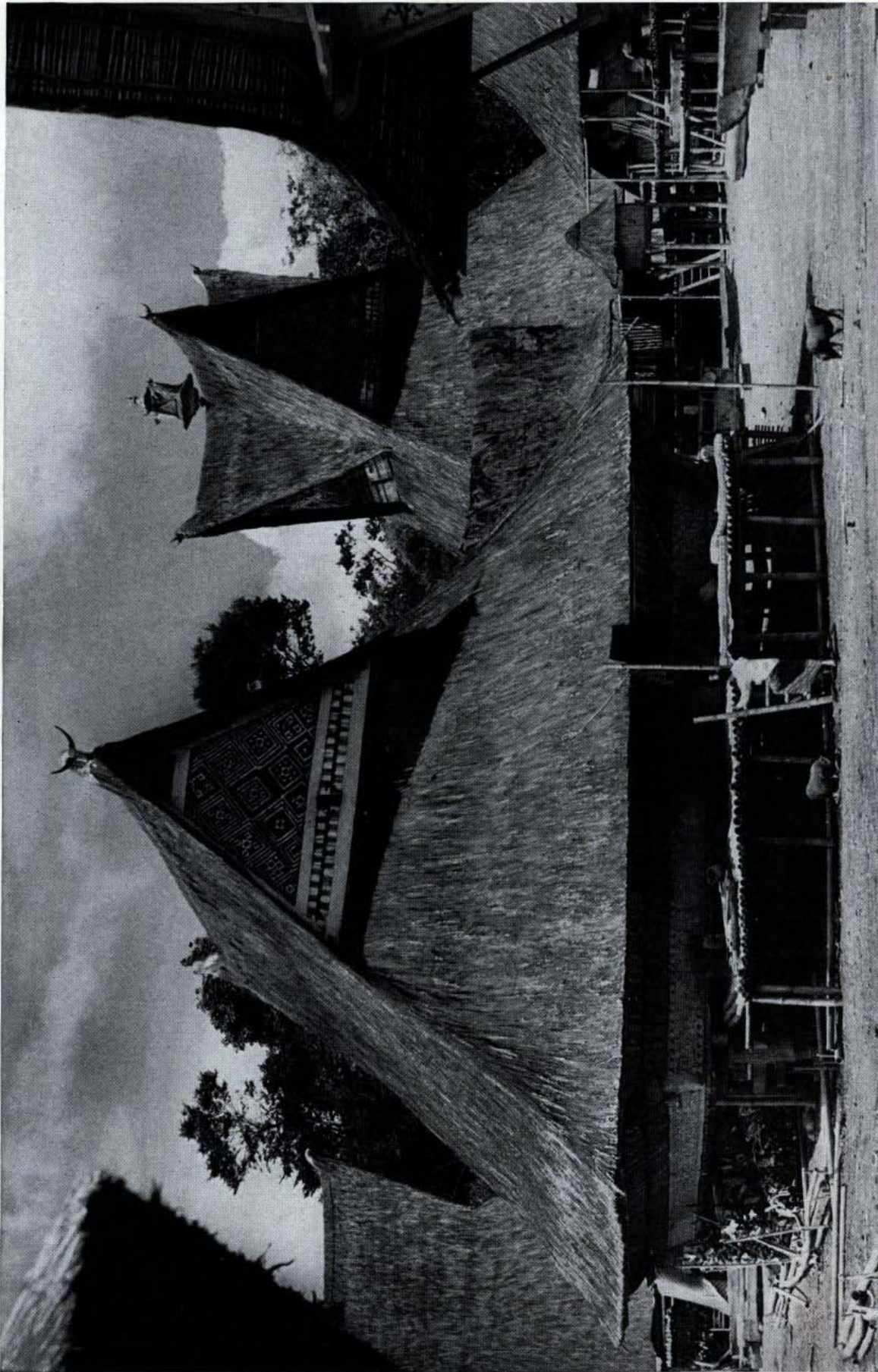
At Medan, Sumatra, he reads a Latinized Malay script as he waits for customers. Scarcely a human need in the Indies is neglected by the itinerant ironmongers, grocers, cobblers, and other peddlers.



Staff Photographer Maynard Owen Williams

A Motorized Variety of the Tricycle Ricksha Pauses for Gasoline in Semarang, Java

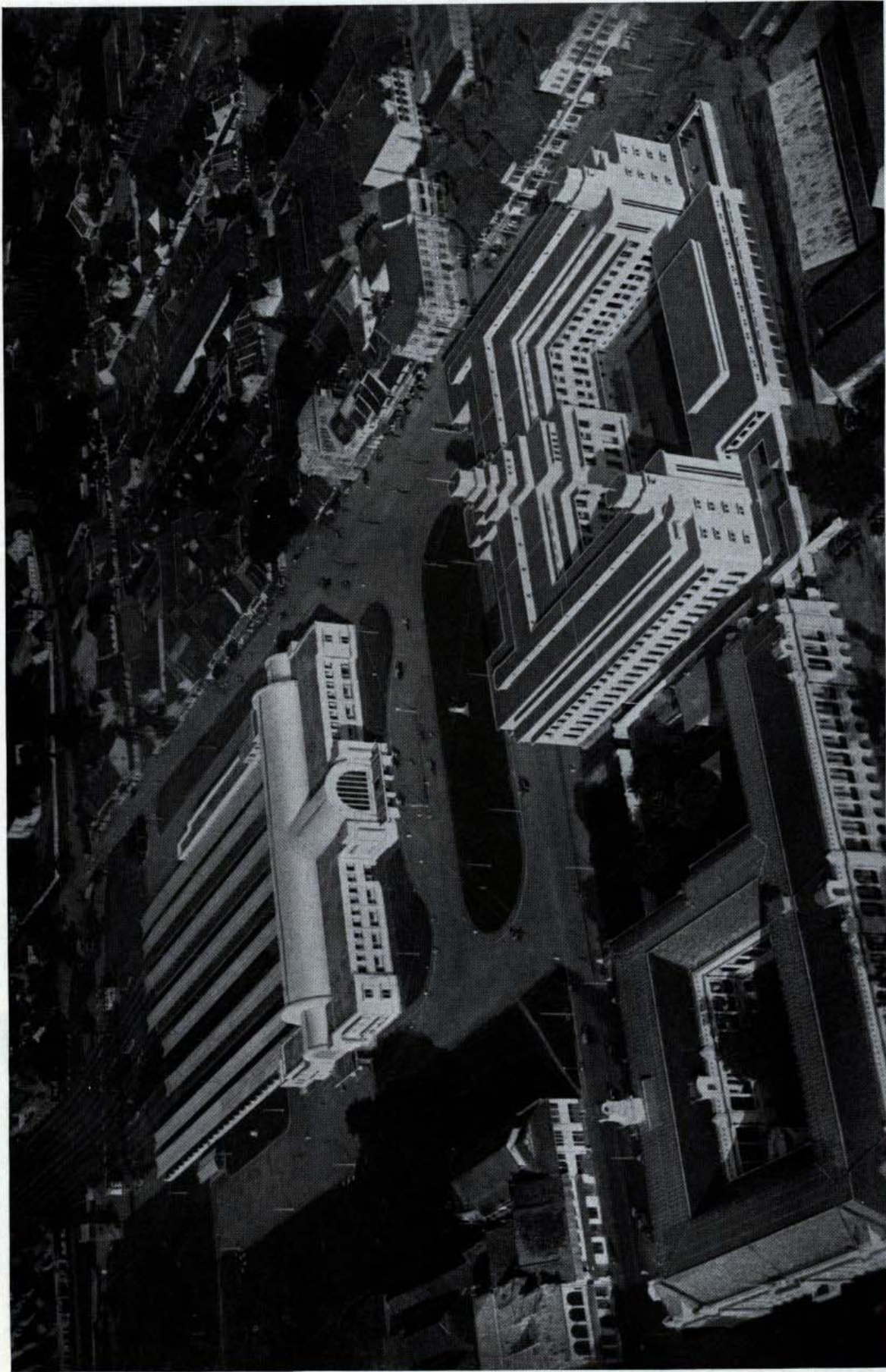
Power is applied to the front wheel. The motor has no hood, but it could use a muffler; the noise would shame a motorcyclist. This model, used as bus or taxi, became popular in the Indies about 15 years ago.



© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

Bataks, a Sumatran People, Construct Their Soaring Dwellings Entirely of Bamboo and Thatch

Handsome designs decorate the gables. Horned heads on ridgepoles indicate animals slaughtered at a housebuilding. Pigs roam among the supporting stilts. Bataks formerly lived in isolation and ate human flesh. Today civilization has infiltrated until—observe the mattresses on the veranda!



© K.N.I.L.M. from Orient and Occident

Batavia's Railroad Station and a Bank (lower right) Exemplify War's Rich Prizes in Java

Japan's collapse involved five peoples in a struggle over the Indies. Java's unrecognized "Indonesian Republic" represented native nationalists. Britain, as trustee for the Netherlands, resisted the rebels, and employed troops from India. Japanese, who surrendered weapons to the Indonesians, later fought them on Allied orders.



Staff Photographer Maynard Owen Williams

Canal, Washtub, and Bathub! What a Servant of the People Is Batavia's Millstream!

Down a wide avenue flows the Molenvliet (millstream). Laughing laundresses dip their babies in its water. If one tires of her work, she drops into her soapsuds and paddles off to visit colleagues. Ofttimes her pounding board is a bamboo raft tied to shore. From walls to plumbing, bamboo is rural Java's building material.



Deane Dickason from Ewing Galloway

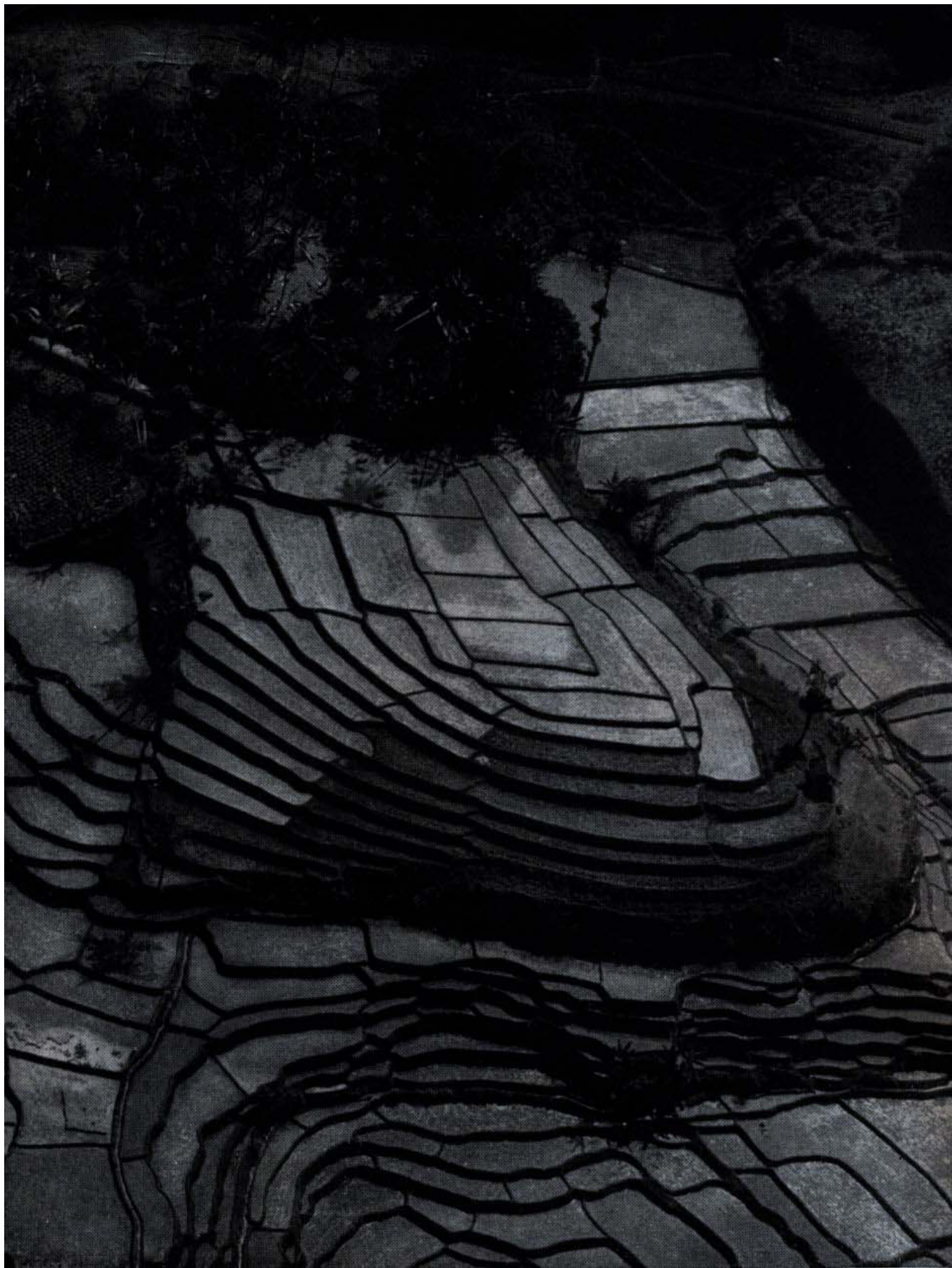
Cassava, Java's Bread and America's Tapioca, Dries in Bamboo Trays Near Bandoeng

The average Javanese farmer has a patch of large, starchy cassava plants. Bitter cassava root contains prussic acid. When it is baked into thin, round cakes, heat eliminates the poison. Sweet cassava is a harmless vegetable. Tapioca is made by hanging damp flour in bags, where it forms pudding's familiar "fish eyes."



Like a Giant's Staircase, Rice Terraces Climb a West Java Mountainside

Mud walls separate the fields. Irrigation ditches trickle beneath the railroad viaduct. A fourth of the country is under irrigation, without which Java would be just another jungle island. Native engineers have harnessed mountain streams and graded paddies for uncounted centuries.



Horace Bristol from *Three Lions*

As Midday Approaches, Fields Are Empty. The Farmers Rest in Their Hilltop Kampong

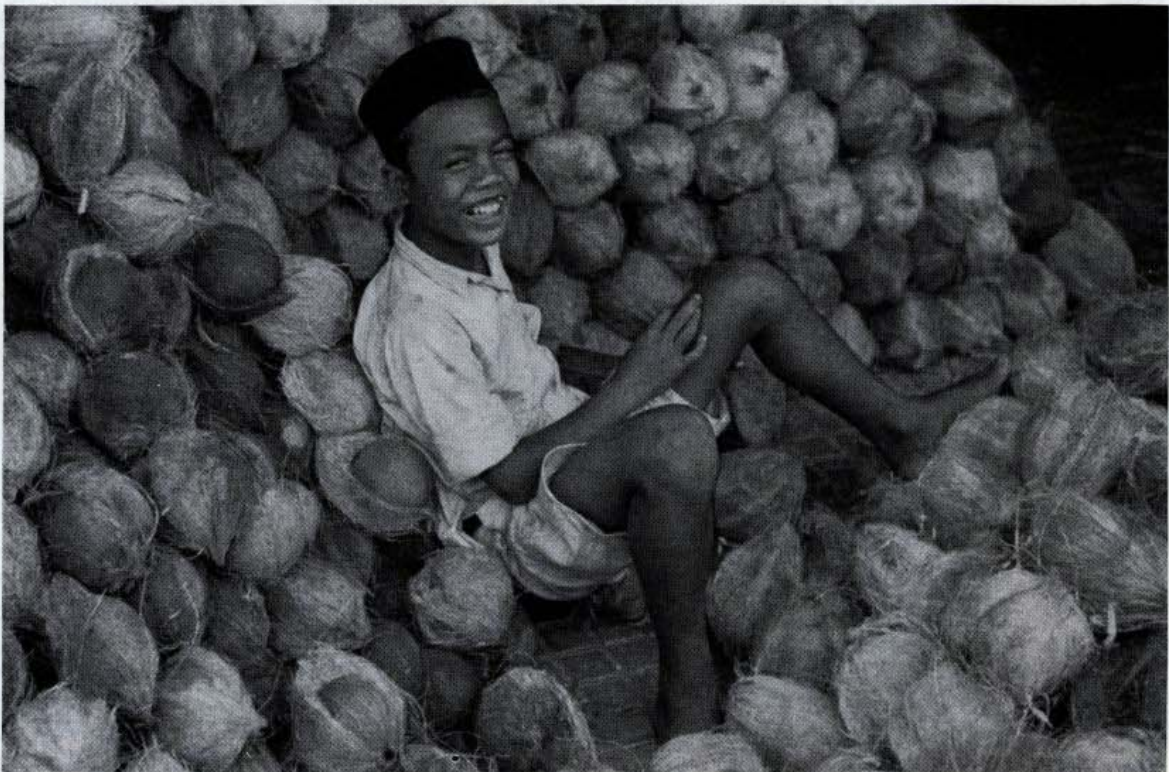
A dozen homes comprise the village. Coconut palms provide shade and food. Clumps of bamboo yield irrigation pipes. Cassava, which requires no irrigation, grows to the left of the settlement. Women do the rice planting lest the crop be unfruitful. Even Javanese Mohammedans honor Sri, the rice goddess.



Deane Dickason from Ewing Galloway

By Using Her Hot-wax Dipper Like a Pen, a Javanese Makes "Written" Batik

When she dips the fabric in dye, only the unwaxed design will be colored. Waxing and dyeing, she repeats the process as many times as she has colors. Her painstaking technique originated in the Indies.



Staff Photographer Maynard Owen Williams

His Hard, Lumpy Couch Is His Stock in Trade at Market in Pematangsiantar, Sumatra

Flesh of these ripe, husked coconuts is cooked into pudding, boiled into oil, or converted into "milk." The fiber makes rope and brushes; the shell, cups and firewood. Copra, the dried flesh, is an export.



© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

A Basket Peddler's Springy, Balancing Pole Makes Light of 60 Awkward Pounds

From door to door he walks in Bandoeng, a Java health resort. At one cent an item, his prewar price, he does not grow rich. Here are rice servers (top, left), a lidded dish holder (left), and catchalls.



Horace Bristol from Three Lions

Only Allah Knows How the Javanese Herdboy Masters the Fierce Water Buffalo

At the unfamiliar scent of a white man, the animal is likely to charge. Though a white buffalo is rather rare, a clean one is quite uncommon. The buffalo so loves to wallow that its coat is usually caked with mud.



© Screen Traveler, from Gendreau

Java's Mount Batok, Its Symmetrical Cone Ribbed as by a Cupcake Mold, Stands in Sand Sea, a Desert of Volcanic Ash

Batok is dead. Steam and sulphur rise from Bromo, a crater here obscured by its taller neighbor. Both cones are enclosed within the walls of Mount Tengger, their parent volcano. Viewed from Tengger's wide rim, this wasteland seems as awesome as a pit on the moon. Natives once hurled human sacrifices into Bromo.



Like Water Hurling over Niagara, a Cloud Cataract Flows Down into the Crater of Mount Tengger, Java

This fleecy cascade sinks on an atmospheric eddy set in motion by varying wind velocities above and below. It evaporates as it meets morning's heat rays rising from the warm, dry Sand Sea within the crater (opposite). Greater atmospheric compression at the lower level helps warm and dissipate the cloud droplets.

© Royal Dutch Geographical Society



Deane Dickason

Straw Pagodas Rise as Javanese Colonists in Sumatra Stack Newly Harvested Rice

Overcrowded Java averages 817 inhabitants to the square mile; Sumatra, about an eighth as many. Here at a new Sumatran settlement the Netherlands Indies Government sought to relieve the pressure of Java's growing population. Celebes, another Netherlands Indies island, was the scene of a similar experiment.



Horace Bristol from Three Lions

To Make Quinine, a Javanese Strips Cinchona Bark

Java, once virtually the world's quinine monopolist, stands to lose a large part of its market. War revived the industry in South America, where it originated. Meanwhile chemists developed atabrine and a type of synthetic quinine.



Staff Photographer J. Baylor Roberts

A Sumatran Clips Rubber Flaws Revealed by Illuminated Glass

Japanese in the Far East scattered half the native labor force and killed one of every 5½ trees, but left a stock pile of 250,000 tons of rubber. Estimated production in 1946 will be less than half that of 1941.



Staff Photographer Maynard Owen Williams

Bikes and Billboard Reveal Two Javanese Delights, Cycling and "Opera"

Western plots adapted to the Malay tongue are popular opera fare. A distorted version of *Hamlet* is a favorite. Banquo's ghost brings down the house. This show, run by an Armenian, occupies a mat shed in Semarang.



Three Lions

Before Japan Deposed Him, a Javanese Prince Maintained This Private Army

Two toy kingdoms, Soerakarta and Jogjakarta, surrounded their Dutch-advised sultans with courtiers, dancing girls, and all royal trappings. These troops guarded the petty chief of an enclave within Soerakarta.