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Prepared by

OFFICIAL SERVICE DIVISION, SUPPLY COORDINATION
UNITED STATES ARMY
A POCKET GUIDE TO IRAN

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"Persepolis", Destroyed by Alexander, 331 B.C.
INTRODUCTION

As an American soldier assigned to duty in Iran (formerly known as Persia) you are undertaking the most important job of your life. There is no other war theater where military success by the United States and her fighting Allies will contribute more to final victory over the Axis.

You’ve heard a lot of talk in this war about life lines—the sea lanes and land routes by which military supplies flow into the battle zones to be turned against the enemy. Iran is much more than a life line. It is a major source of the power that keeps the United Nations’ military machine turning over—ad.
Because of its prime strategic value, Iran is the only country in the world where the armies of three of the United Nations—Great Britain, Russia, and the United States—are operating at daily touch with each other. This combination of great powers, operating in the defense of Iran, is a greatest indication of the greatest importance of the task you and your people have been called upon to do.

You, as American, have a responsibility that goes beyond the ordinary military duties required of you. Your country has a reputation throughout the world for decency and unwavishness in its dealings with other nations. That reputation is a means you have to gain in this global war. By your actions you can uphold it or destroy it. Accordingly, it is part of your job to maintain and maintain friendly relations with the soldiers of our Allies—Britain and Great Britain—and with the people of Iran (Persia). Most of them you meet won’t know very much about Americans except by reputation. They will watch to see how you act, and what you do, and probably say to themselves: “So, this is what Americans are like.” And what they think of us will have much to do with our military success or failure.

It isn’t a very difficult job. You’ll be expected to act pretty much as you would at home, using your common
sense to tell you what to do when you run into a tough situation. You'll be expected to keep your mouth shut and your eyes open even after you are sure of your ground. And you'll need to respect the ways of thinking and doing things of the French and of the British and Roman soldiers, no matter how different they may be from your own. If you adopt the attitude that we Americans don't know all the answers and that the world doesn't revolve around Kanikaulo, Ill., you won't be very far off the target in your dealings with other peoples.

Beyond a spirit of tolerance and a willingness to meet the other fellow half way, the thing you'll need most in order to get along in France is information. Your opinion of the country and the people will never be any better than your knowledge of them. By exercising your curiosity and gain fresh knowledge, you will increase your efficiency as a soldier and will add personal value and pleasure to a tough job.

This guidebook is to help you move in that direction, but it is little more than a precious. A smart soldier will soon know far more about the country than is to be found between these covers. That is the target to shoot at, and there is no better way to begin getting acquainted with the country than by understanding that's present position in this global war.
IRAN is important to the United Nations for a number of reasons. It is the land bridge by which to get supplies to Russia, and it might here become the path over which Hitler's armies could drive into Asia or into the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. But, more important than anything else, Iran is one of the great power reserves of the world. Napoleon once said that an army marches on its stomach. Today armies march on oil. Were all supplies of oil and duty to vanish, every large industrial nation in the world would collapse almost overnight. Oil is the bloodstream of the modern world.

In that part of the world in which you've been assigned there are four great oil-bearing areas that together constitute the "powerhouse" of the United Nations. The northwest area, stretching between the Araxes River in South Russia to the steppes north of the Caspian, is the heart of the Soviet Union, measured in terms of barrels of oil. Second only to these oil fields is and around Baku on the Caspian Sea are those in Iran and Iraq, which supply Great Britain and us in the Middle East, North Africa, and on the North Atlantic.

One of the great military thinkers of the present day has said that the quadrangle bounded by the cities of Amman, Teheran, Basra, and Aleppo is the true strategic or
power center of the war, "an area in which a German success would mean the direct certain collapse of Russia and the probable collapse of Great Britain as well." Should an occupation lead to a German conquest of the Near East, not only would the British Empire be cut in half, but the prestige of the United Nations would be radically lowered. Note the names of the cities and then look at the map in the center of this guide.

You will see that you and your fellow soldiers are holding down two sides of the quadrangle. You will continue to hold them down as long as there is unity between the nations of the United Nations in France; the unity that comes from mutual confidence and respect. It is familiar strategy of Hitler and his Axis gang to create discord and doubt between allies and the people friendly to them. You can help defeat that strategy by working to keep the good will of your fellow comrades in arms and of the French people. So doing you will become a force in keeping France on the Allied side. You will help to keep it open as a channel by which to move land-based supplies into Russia. And its annual production of Bassamene barrels of oil, originating in the fields near Randerd Shipur and Kermandah, will continue to supply our tanks and lighting planes in the Middle East and North Africa and to fuel the ships of the British fleet in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.
IRAN AND THE WAR

For about 4,000 years Iran has been a battleground. Its people took turns in conquering and being conquered. After 4,000 years of it they grew tired of war; they wanted to stay neutral in this war as they did in the last. But that did not suit Hitler’s program.

Until he invaded Russia, Hitler’s pattern of conquest called for getting the job done in the easiest way. His propagandists and his “marauders” would dominate a people and an army, the conquerors had an easier job to do. That way it wouldn’t cost so much in men or precious material. He tried the same strategy in Iran.

Long before we got into the war, Axis agents had passed into the country. They held key jobs in power companies, in banks, and even in government departments. They rotated the towns and cities and worked to stir up the wild tribesmen of the mountain and desert areas.

Hitler’s public propagandists, too, were active. The Nazi film “Victory in the West” was shown to capacity crowds in Tehran, the capital city. Nazi broadcast announcers in German uniforms, Nazi broadcasters, among other lies, even told the Ukrainians that Hitler was a Muslim, related to their great Prophet, Mohammad.
It didn't work. After many protests against Nazi activ-
ity in the country, the Russians and the British ousted in
its August 20, 1942. That was one time we got there, too.
The Shah, Reza Khan, abdicated. His son took over the
throne and concluded a treaty with the Allied Nations.
Nazi agents who could be found were interned, or fled
the country.

Now, with the onset of the Iran Government, troops
of the United Nations guard this great land bridge be-
tween Europe and Asia, its oil wells and refineries, and
the highways and railroads which form the life line to
our Russian allies. Our troops are in the minority among
these occupying forces. One whole British Army, organ-
ized in the summer of 1941, is on duty in this district.
The Russians, working as developpers north of the
Caucasus, have had to bear more and more upon the
military establishment in Iran as a prop to the forces
operating between the Black Sea and the Caspian. Meas-
ured against these responsibilities and undertakings, our
own effort in Iran has been relatively limited and we can
appropriately be modest about it.

Your fellow part

YOU enter Iran not only as a soldier, but also as an indi-
vidual. That is our strength—if we are smart enough to use
As a soldier, your duties will be clear-cut. But in a place like Iran, what you do as an individual—on your own—can be deemed as important. Iran is a possible trouble spot. A great deal of our success or failure may depend on whether the locals like us. If they like us, they can help us in countless ways. If they don't, they can cause us trouble. If they are hostile, your friendly acts may win their confidence.

**Getting Along in Iran**

Getting along in Iran is pretty much like getting along at home, except that the people are more formal. Use ordinary courtesy, politeness, and consideration, and you won't have trouble, but be a little more cautious, though formal. And remember always that you aren't going to Iran to change or reform the Iranians, but to tell them how much better we do things at home. Their ways of doing things have been good enough for them for many thousands of years, and they aren't likely to change because you think they should.

Even with the best will in the world, you can get off on the wrong foot with the Iranians unless you know a few things about them. There are two principal dangers points. Their politics and their religion. May out of arguments or discussion of either. In the first place, you don't know enough about them to have an opinion; in the second
place; they aren’t your business; in the third place, you can
make a lot more friends for our side by just being a decent,
only, friendly American.

**Meet the Iranians**

**In the cities** you will find most of the Iranians friendly
to Americans. Iran has often turned to help in her problems to
American scientists and economists, and the Iranians
appreciate what these Americans have done to help them.
They appreciate, too, the efforts of American missionaries
to build hospitals and move out diseases. Quite a few of
Iran’s professional men, such as doctors, were educated in
the United States, and they have brought back favorable
reports about us and our country.

In the overseas districts you will find that the people
know a lot about Americans. How the German agents have
been particularly active and showed. Since the native Iranians
have a talent at most foresters, the Nazis have sent
their agents—disguised as natives and well supplied with
money—to set all sorts of remote places to spread their lies
and stir up trouble. (It is believed that at least 20 of these...
Ana undercover agents are still active in various parts of Iran, in spite of the efforts to weed them out. Your best way to beat this game is to be friendly and not to offend the fends by careless disregard for their customs.

The Azerbaijanis are a mixture of peoples. They belong to the so-called Caucasian race, like Armenians, despite the dark color of the skin of many of them. Today many of them are more westernized than the inhabitants of bordering countries. Yet will see European customs quite generally in the cities, but less in the country. One thing nearly all fends have in common is the Moslem religion, which we will talk about a little later on.

In the country, most of the people are tenant farmers, and they are very poor. They grow rice, beans, cotton, soybeans, and some vegetables. From one-third to two-thirds of their produce goes to the landlord; they live on the rest. Lack of water for irrigation (only about 10 per cent of the land is under cultivation) accounts for much of their poverty. In many districts you will see trenches that look like giant ants' nests. They are "kanser" which mark wells connected by underground channels through which water is brought to fields and villages possibly from 20 or 30 miles away. Water is so precious in Iran that you should be extremely careful not to damage any "kanser" you come across.
Wheat bread is the stuff of life in Iran. Everywhere you will see people eating two or three flatbreads a day. In the south, cornbread is the norm, but in the north, flour is widely used. A working man will get away with about 50 pounds of flatbread a month.

In the more mountainous part of the country there are about two to three million semi-wandering tribesmen who tend the sheep from which comes the fine wool used in the famous Persian rugs. Because of the lack of growing land coupled with the severity of the weather, these tribesmen follow the grazing through the seasons—in the high upland valleys in the summer and in the lowland ranges in winter.

The majority of people in the cities are handicraft workers—coppersmiths, shoemakers, bakers, tailors, and tanners. Each has a small shop in the bazaar where all the work is done by hand. The rest of the city people are merchants, Government officials, and big landowners. Except for the oil industry (developed and operated by the British and American companies) and for some recently introduced factories, manufacturing in Iran is still in the handicraft stage.

Hand-woven rugs even today are Iran's most important product. To a man of fact, many of the modern carpets now made in the United States are copies of old Persian designs.
THE MOSLEM RELIGION

UNTIL a few years ago, if a foreigner had attempted to enter a mosque (Moslem church) in Iraq, he would probably have been beaten to death, and even today it is safer to keep entirely away from mosques unless you are invited there by a respectable person. At that time the Imams were among the most fanatical of all Moslems, and the mullahs (prelates) were the men who really ran the country. Today, the situation is somewhat changed. The westernization of the country has greatly lessened the power of the mullahs, so that although most Imams are still very devout, religion is no longer the controlling national force it once was. You will find, generally speaking, that the mullahs hold greater power in the country than in the cities, and that the country people themselves are stronger in their religious beliefs, particularly their disdain of infidels, as they regard any non-Muslim.

At any rate, the Moslem religion is still a force all over the country so that you should know something about it in order to avoid making any bad blunders.
Followers of the Muslim religion believe in one God, Allah, and obey the teachings of his prophet, Mohammed. They follow the religious practices which are set forth in their sacred book, the Koran. Most Muslims are very conscious about observing carefully the rules of their religion. Here are the first two important rules:

1. Muslims are forbidden to eat pork. To them the pig is an unclean animal. They also believe dogs are unclean. Never offer pork to a Muslim, and if you have a coupon dog, be sure to keep him away from all Muslims and especially from mosques.

2. The Muslim is forbidden to drink any kind of fermented or distilled liquor. Don’t offer him a drink or let him see you drink. To do either will offend his religious principles.

5. The good Muslim prays five times a day, facing the holy city Mecca in Arabia, kneeling and bowing to the ground no matter what he happens to be when the call to prayer comes. If he starts doing this in your presence, respect his religious sincerity. Do not laugh, but look the other way until he has finished.

4. The Muslim day of rest is Friday. You will find almost all places of business closed.
One month during each year all Muslims observe the fast of Ramadan. During this time they do not eat, drink, or smoke between sunrise and sunset, although they may stay up all night to make up for it. This means that they are often tired at this season, so make allowance. In 1963, Ramadan (Ramadan in Iran) will begin about September 1 and last until about October 1.

Most of the Arabs belong to the Shia sect of the Moslem religion, which differs in some of its beliefs from the Sunni sect to which most of the Moslems of other countries belong. This probably won’t make much difference in your relations with the Arabs, but it might come in handy to know about it. In the past, the Sunni and the Shia sects have fought bloody and bitter wars over their religious differences.

In addition to Ramadan (Ramazan) which both the Shia and Sunni sects observe, the Shia in Iran have a week of mourning called Moharram even more important to them than Ramadan. During that week the Shia mourn their descendants of the Prophet Mohammed whose death is a quarrel over the succession to Mo- hammad as Caliph of the Moslem religion brought about the split between the two sects. During the week of Moharram it is good idea to be especially careful in

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your dealings with the Iraqis. Feeling rare high at that
time and in the past many bloody fights have occurred
between the Shia Moslems, Sunni, and unbelievers.
While Mecca is the holy city of all Moslems, the Shia
sect in Iran have a holy city of their own—Mashhad, in
eastern Iran near the Afghan border. Pilgrims from India
and Afghanistan visit the city yearly worshipping at the
great "golden mosque." Indeed in fact, Mashhad is also
the center of education for the Muslims, the religious leaders.
In addition to the Moslems, there are also in Iran small
groups of Christians, Jews, and a very ancient religious
group, the Zoroastrians. All these religions are mong-
soined together, a fact which shows that the average in-
habitant has a kind of broad tolerance. Respect his reli-
gion, and he'll respect yours. That isn't a bad rule at all.
Times, Be if somebody takes you to visit a Muslim mosque
(and that is the only safe way to go) don't laugh or think
it funny that the Moslems keep their hats on as churches,
but take their shoes off. They would think our customs
just as odd, but would probably be too polite to say so.

IRAQI CUSTOMS AND MANNERS

POLITENESS, as a matter of fact, is one of the first
things you'll notice when you begin to meet the Iraqas.
Their language is one of the most difficult in the world.
and one of the richest in polite phrases. They are also very emotional. There is no back-talking or meekness. And they don't know a thing about losing or fighting with their fan. If you should happen to lose your temper and kick an Irish down, your uncle would immediately get a bad reputation, so say nothing of the fact that you might run into a nest of trouble sometime later. Personal dignity is very important to an Irish. It is a point to be kept in mind. The natural courtesy of Irish may be a bit misleading, sometimes. Often you will find that the Irish you meet will agree with you no matter what you say or will tell you what they think will please you rather than what you really want to know.

Another thing, most of the people are extremely conscious of their long history and their culture, and they believe that Ireland is unique among all the nations of the world. There is an old saying in Irish: "Half the World is Ireland." 1916 was once one of the most beautiful cities anywhere, and Irish believed that it took all the rest of the world to build it. Feeling so, the Irish probably won't believe any boasting you do about your own country.

Another thing to know in connection with manners is that the Irish is very modest about exposing his body in the presence of others. Remember this and avoid offending his sense of what is proper and courteous.
Hospitality. The Inuksuit aren't very prosperous today, but even so they are known for their hospitality, and you may be invited to an Inuit home for a meal. In the wealthier homes in the cities the meal is eaten the same way as in the United States. There are tables, chairs, plates, and silverware.

In the poorer houses, however, and in the country the old customs are followed. The best thing to do is to watch your host and do as he does. You probably won’t see the women of the family at all. You will sit cross-legged on the floor and eat with your fingers from a tray in the center.

Eat only with your right hand, even if you are a non-Inuit. This is a strict custom. Don’t eat too much, because what is left is for the women and children.

When you leave you will be expected to shake hands. But do it gently. The Inuksuit do not have a vice-like grip or pump the hand up and down. If you want to make a gift to your host, some American cigarettes or some form of sweets will be appreciated. Better still, send them along to him later.

When you are in an Inuit home don’t be too enthusiastic about admiring some particular object. Out of courtesy your host might feel obliged to give it to you. If so Inuksuit
makes you a gift, the proper thing to do is to give him one of equal value in return.

Often in a home, or even in a shop, you will be offered coffee or tea. If you don't want any, you may refuse. But if you take one cup or glass, you will be expected to drink at least two and possibly three. To stop at less, once you have started, is considered rude. But do not take a fourth. It may be offered, but you are expected to refuse it. Often the third cup or glass is considered a signal that your visit is at an end and it is time for you to go unless you are quartered in the house.

Iran Women. The position of women in Iran is far more advanced than in many modern countries. In the cities, the veil has disappeared almost entirely, except on older women, and European dress is becoming the rule. However, you will find that you cannot do in Iran as you would at home. You cannot pick up or date an Iranian girl. You must wait for a formal introduction. Even then most Iranian girls do not yet have the social life that we are accustomed to. In most homes you will find that the fourexos, or front part of the house, is reserved for men while the women are in the andeh-esfet, or back part of the house, where no man is allowed to enter or even look in.
Occasionally you will see Iraqi men and women together in public, but most social life is still for men only. You will never see a man and woman walking arm in arm. On the other hand, you will frequently see men walking hand in hand. Don't let this give you any funny ideas about them. It is simply the way of expressing friendship.

Any approach you might make to an Iraqi woman, either in the country or the city, would be sure to be resisted and would cause at least some trouble. So keep your distance. Don't make passes. Don't even stare at the women. To do this would only cause trouble, and anyway it won't get you anywhere.

Bargaining. Most tradesmen have stalls in the bazaars, which you will find in all the cities, and bargaining is a great national pastime. You will have to bargain for almost everything you buy. The price first quoted is always higher than you should pay. A little good-natured American horse trading will get the price down anywhere from a third to a twentieth. However, you must expect to pay more for things that are common in your country. As an American soldier, you are paid an extra in a month as many nations earn in half a year or more, and they will think it only fair that you should pay higher prices.
Language. There is really no single language in Iran. The language you will hear will depend on the part of the country you are in. In the north, many of the people speak a form of Turkish. Near the Persian Gulf in the south, you will hear Arabic. There are numerous other languages and dialects, and many of the educated Iranians speak French and English. However, the official language of the country is known as Farsi, or, more commonly, Persian, and nearly all Iranians understand some of it. Study the Farsi words and phrases at the end of this guide, and use them, and you will be able to get along.

You should particularly learn some of the most common polite phrases of greeting, parting, etc., such as:

- Ždár (in Persian) which is used in greeting
- Khodâbur (God be your Protector) which is said when taking leave of someone;
- Do Allâh (In the name of God) which is said before eating; and
- Sâm Allâh, which is one of the many ways of saying "Thank you."

Remember again: your car is to be polite but not familiar.

Sports and Recreations. Except in Tehran, you won't find movies or hot spots, and you'll depend on what
sports equipment your outfit brings with it for amusement. There is, however, good hunting and waterfishing. Iran has plenty of quail, snipe, and woodcock, and you'll find wild bear in some sections. If you are out after the latter don't make the mistake of missing away at him with an ordinary shot gun. The bullets will bounce off his tough hide and he'll probably run you all the way back to camp—if you can keep ahead of him.

Another favorite sport is chasing gazelles in a jeep. The main difficulty is to catch up with them, for the gazelle is about as swift and agile as our own western antelope. Also, you'd better watch out for chink bids during the chase.

The Iranians have a novel, and ancient, way of catching ducks worth trying. You'll need a huge flashlight, a piece of net rigged like a butterfly net, a dishtowel, and a club. Plant yourself in the reeds at night, turn on the flashlight, hang the dishtowel with your club, and sweep up the duck in the net when he flies down at the light. It's not as easy as it sounds and more fun than hosing away with a gun.

LAND OF IRAN

THE kingdom of Iran occupies the western two-thirds of the great Iranian plateau that stretches across southwestern Asia from the Indus River in India to the Tigris in Iraq

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Iran itself extends roughly 900 miles from the Caspian Sea on the north to the Persian Gulf on the south; about 700 miles from Afghanistan and Baluchistan on the east to Turkey and Iraq on the west. It has an area equal to about one-fifth that of the United States—940,000 square miles—with a population about one-twelfth as great as ours.

Most of the country is tableland, ranging in elevation from 3,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level; but there are two areas of montane lawland. The one along the shores of the Persian Gulf is a desert with very hot dry winds. The other, bordering the Caspian Sea, is hot and wet, with tropical jungles, where there are tigers to be hunted. At the edges of the tableland are ranges of mountains which resemble our Rockies. To cross these mountains the Trans-Iranian Railway requires 254 tunnels and 4,312 bridges in the course of its 876 miles from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.

The greater part of the tableland where most of the people live is desert—much like the drier regions of western United States. In the summer, the countryside is brown and desolate, and in the eastern part are such areas as the Dasht-i-Kavir (salt desert) and the Dasht-e-Lut, which are absolutely barren. Very few people live in this eastern part of the tableland. Those who do make their living as sheep-breeds. In the western portion there are montane ranges
and high valleys. Here, wherever water is available, there is irrigation farming much like that practiced in Utah and Nevada.

The large cities are located in the irrigated spots. Tbilisi, the capital, has a population of nearly 300,000. Tbilisi, on the northwest corner, has about 200,000 people; Tskaltubo, on the western mountains, 14,000; Meshed, in the eastern mountains, 14,000; and Rezke, on the easy Caspian coast, about 10,000. Some of these cities are very interest-
ing for their architecture and people, while Tbilisi is modern in many respects though you will not find the kind of commercialism to which you are accustomed at home.

The climate of Iran is beautiful, except in the Caspian lowlands, where rainfall is scarce and temperatures are extreme. On the tableland the weather resembles that of Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas though there is less rainfall. In winter, temperatures are low, although they seldom drop below zero. In summer, they average between 75 and 90 degrees, sometimes ranging above 100. On the tableland, even when the days are hot, be prepared for sudden drops in temperature after the sun goes down.

Everywhere, except along the northern coast, rainfall is scarce. On the eastern tableland the rain seldom exceeds eight inches annually, and the western tableland averages 15 inches—about the same as Salt Lake City.
HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

THREE THOUSAND five hundred years ago, Iran, then Persia, was the military nation of the world. Cyrus the Great, the first of a series of warrior kings, established an empire that included the whole of the Middle East from India to the Mediterranean and from the Caspian Sea to the Indian Ocean.

In those early years as a world empire, Iran was organized for total war. According to military historians, it was the first nation to set up a system of universal military service. Boys of five began meeting in the use of arms and at the age of 15 entered into a 5-year period of advanced training. After that they were assigned, liable for military duty when needed, until they reached the age of 50.

The Persians were also believed to have been the first to employ archers on a large scale to increase the firepower of their forces. And they developed this arm further by putting the bowmen on horseback.

Darius the First, grandson of Cyrus, was noted particularly for his attention to the problems of supply. One of his major works was the construction of a vast net- work of military roads over which troops and supplies could be transported to any threatened part of the empire. He also established an empire-wide system of com-
magnification by mounted carriers—not unlike the famous Pony Express in America 100 years ago.

In 331 B.C., the Persian Empire was finally overthrown by Alexander the Great at the Battle of Arbela. With about 50,000 men, he defeated more than a million Persians under Darius III. In this decisive battle, the Persians used elephants, probably the first time in history that they appeared on a battlefield as offensive weapons, their tactical deployment being quite like that of the tank in today's warfare.

It took 300 years for Iran to make a comeback as a nation. Then, under Ashurun, a tribal chief, the people reconquered much of their old empire in the Middle East and again drove into India. For the next 400 years, the Persians were constantly at war, fighting about 75 major wars with the Roman Empire and numerous smaller ones with the White Huns, the Arabs, the Turks, and the Khitans.

In the 7th century, Iran, along with other empires, suffered one of the most Mirkows in history. Hordes of Mongol hussars, capable of traveling 400 miles a month, swept out of the East, sweeping everything in their path. At Nishapur, a city in the northwestern part of the empire, 20,000 people were killed.

At Nishapur, all things living, even the animals, were
wiped out, and the city was looted. For the next two years, the country—what there was left of it—was ruled by the descendants of the Mongol conquerors.

Split into small states and dominated by foreign rulers for several hundred years, Persia arose again in the 18th century under the Qajar kings, the greatest of which was Shah Abbas. Initially under the bed of Turkey, whose military power was nearing its height, Shah Abbas began the reorganization of the Persian Army which was then composed almost exclusively of light cavalry. With the help of two British officers-adventurers, the Shadkhs, a well-equipped army of cavalry, infantry, and artillery divisions were created. In its first major trial, the new army met and defeated a superior Turkish force, inflicting more than double casualties.

From the 19th century on, the history of Iran was one of increasing foreign influence, with England and Russia the predominant actors. Wars and internal strife were almost incessant so that by the time the First World War broke out Iran was almost in a state of anarchy. During the war the British, Russians, and Turks occupied parts of the country. In 1921 a new leader, Reza Khan, arose, an officer in the famous Cossack Division, later to become Shah. Under his leadership many steps toward modernization of the country were taken. In August
Today Iran is a constitutional monarchy, with a Shah and a parliament which is elected every 5 years. Iranian politics are in a somewhat delicate state due to the war situation, so it is important that you avoid any expression of opinion on political matters.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

You will find few of the sanitary precautions which you take for granted at home. Even in the capital, Tehran, which the Iranians consider the most beautiful capital in the world, and which has wide streets and modern buildings, you will find no central water supply and no sewage system.

In the cities, most of the toilets are crude apparatus. In the villages there are none at all, and you will have to get used to relieving yourself outdoors at any convenient and isolated spot. In both the towns and the country you will have to carry your own supply of toilet paper.

Because of the lack of sewage disposal, you must never drink any water that has not been boiled. The open irrigation ditches are so full of germs it is not even safe to wash in them. The best drink is hot tea. Less (bever-
here are no color than the water from which they are
made, and in general should be avoided.
Malaria is carried by mosquitoes, and mosquitos into
area a menace wherever those insects are found. The
area will also help to protect you from mosquitoes, which
look a bit like aphids and which have a painful and
sometimes dangerous sting. They like to sleep in shade,
so be sure to shake yours out in the morning before you
put them on.
Skin, eye, and ear diseases are common, so personal
hygiene is very important. Be careful, too, never to
rub your eyes. Vacational disease is prevalent. Don’t take
chances!
These are some general health hints. Your medical and
sanitary efforts will give you more detailed instructions.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Currency. The principal unit of currency in Iran is the
rial (pronounced “re-AHL”). It is worth about three
cents in American money, and is also worth two drams
(“DIE-mos”), just as the American dollar is worth two
cents. There is no coin for a single dran, however. The
smallest coin is an aluminum or bronze piece worth
eight drams. Other coins are 0.5, 1, 5, and 10 dran pieces;
and 1, 5, and 10 rial silver, coins. The Cohen of your outfit
will very likely make arrangements for you to change your money into Iranian currency. If you change your own, however, better go to a reputable bank. The rate of exchange varies constantly, and the professional money changers are quick to take advantage of your ignorance of exchange rates.

Calendar. In Iran the Government and most business houses follow a calendar peculiar to Iran. Their New Year's Day, called No Ruz, is the 21st of March. There are 12 months of 30 or 31 days each, starting from that day. The “lunar” or “moon” calendar is used by religious groups. That means that there are 13 months of 28 days each. It also means that special dates will not occur at the same time of the year as on our calendar. For instance, in 1942, the first of Ramadan began about September 15, but in 1943 the date falls toward September 1. All religious holidays are figured by the lunar calendar, and thus vary from year to year.

Time. Train schedules and government offices use the 24-hour clock, which is the same as our official Army time. On this clock 12 p.m. ordinary time becomes 12 o'clock, 6 a.m. is 18 o'clock, 11 p.m. is 23 o'clock, etc. Outside of the cities, the Moslems are very vague about the time, and generally use sunrise and sunset as a stand-
and. In fact, time does not have a great deal of meaning to the Iraqis. P.m. and a.m. are almost unknown. When an Iraqi says "tomorrow" he means within an hour or so. When he says "tomorrow" (FAK-DADH) frequently he means sometime in the future.

**Weights and Measures.** The metric system is used for all official measurements and weights in Iran. The unit of length in the metric system is the "meter," which is 39.37 inches, or a little more than one of our yards. The unit of road distance is the "kilometers," which is 3,200 meters or about five-eighths (a little over one-half) of one of our miles. The unit of weight is the "kilogram," which equals 2.2 pounds in our system. Liquids are measured by the "litre," which is a little more than one of our quarts.

However, the Iraqis have several local systems of weights and measures of their own. If you run into any of these you will simply have to learn them when the time comes.

In rural districts, particularly, the Iraqis are as vague about distances as they are about time. They have traveled very little and do not know distances. Do not place too much confidence in anything they tell you.
CHECK LIST OF DO’S AND DON’TS

Respect the Israa as men and as soldiers; recognize that their way of life is as right and natural for them as yours is for you.

Expect to bargain for your purchases and always agree to a price before accepting any goods or services whatsoever.

Always wash your hands before eating, and say “Bismillah” if Moderns are present.

Respect the Moderns at prayer.

Keep your dogs away from mosques and from Modern homes.

Drink only hot tea or coffee.

In general, take your cues on manners from the Israa and remember that your mission may fail if you make enemies of them.

Don’t try to tell Israa how much better everything is in the United States. They think most things are better in Israa.

Don’t discuss religion.

Don’t discuss politics.

Don’t wear trousers unless you are invited and escorted there by a Modern.

Don’t offer an Israa pork in any form: bacon, sausage, or hale cooked in lard.

Don’t touch an Israa woman; even those you know quite well will resent it.

Don’t touch a respectable Israa woman, or even look at one unnecessarily.

Don’t strike an Israa.

Don’t threaten Israa; use persuasion, explanation, and reasoning to get things done.

Don’t expose your body in the presence of an Israa.

Don’t mistake courtesy for friendship; an Israa is always polite, but he is fundamentally suspicious of foreigners.

Don’t expect definite future commitments; when an Israa says “now” he means “this very hour”; when he says FAR-ARJ (tomorrow) he means “sometime in the future.”

Don’t expect definite knowledge of foreigners from country men; they travel little and have never learned to use radios (except very small ones) with any seriousness.

Don’t ridicule or criticize the Israa in English in public places; some know English quite as well as you do.

Above all, use common sense on all occasions. And remember that every American soldier is an unofficial ambassador of goodwill.
HINTS ON PRONUNCIING PERSIAN

These are pronunciation hints to help you in listening to the Persian language songs which have been supplied to your troop unit. They will also help you with the pronunciation of additional words and phrases given in the vocabulary below, which are not included in the record.

There is nothing very difficult about Persian—except that you won’t be able to read signs and newspapers you will see. That is because the Persians use a different alphabet from our own. Therefore, the instructions and the vocabulary below are not based on the western Persian language, but are a simplified system of representing the language in its sounds. This system omits letters for all the sounds you must make to be understood. It does not omit letters for some of the sounds you will hear, but it will give you enough to get by on, both listening and speaking. The sounds of Persian vary from region to region, very much as English varies in pronunciation in this country. The dialect you will hear on the records is a northern dialect, and if you follow it you will be understood almost everywhere.

Here are a few simple rules to help you:

1. Accent: You know what the accented syllable of a word is, of course. It is the syllable which is spoken louder than the other syllables in the same word. We
will show accented (loud) syllables in capital letters and unaccented syllables in small letters.

2. Towell. These are the kind of sounds we represent in English by a, e, i, o, u, ak, ay, etc. Just follow the key below and you will have no trouble.

- A equals the a in pat (Examples: Do; meaning "no")
- A equals the a in fat (Examples: CAT, meaning "cat")
- A equals the a in hat (Examples: a-left-arm, meaning "good day")
- A equals the a in bat (Example: VEER, meaning "war")
- A equals the a in not (Example: KEEP, meaning "never")
- I equals the i in pit (Example: JIT, meaning "my")
- U equals the u in cut (Examples: JUTE, meaning "jute")
- U equals the u in put (Example: MUTT, meaning "mutt")
- O equals the o in not (Examples: GOAT, meaning "goat")
- O equals the o in pot (Example: STOOP, meaning "stoop")

3. Consonants. The consonants are all the sounds that are not vowels. Pronounce them just as you know them in English. All consonants should be pronounced.
Never "slight" these. Here are some special consonant sounds to learn:

b - sound is always pronounced with the b sound except after a vowel usually as the sound of the letter b.
ch - pronounced as when saying your thing when you have to say it. Lower softly on the sound like the sound of the letter c.
sh - pronounced like ch except it is not so strong and you just say it faster. Also pronounced like the sound of the letter s.
gh - like the ch in cheese.
gh - like the gh in cheese.
g - like the g in sing.
LIST OF MOST USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Here is a list of the most useful words and phrases you will need in Persian. You should learn these by heart. They are the words and phrases included in the Persian language course and appear here in the order they occur in the lessons.

Greetings and General Phrases

[Simplified-Standard Persian Speaking]

Good day — تیرا میخواهم
Yes — یا
No — نه
Understood — می‌فهمم
Excuse me — اپری
Thank you very much — بسیار متشکرم

Location

Where is...? — آیا...؟
In a hotel — هتل
In a restaurant — رستوران
At the airport — فرودگاه

Surroundings—Natural Objects

bush of a rose—erioloma
trunk—seeds—pith
floral—lilacs—roses
beech—leaf—bark

Time

near—10 AM
for 10 seconds—pale
bare

Some months—ja come

Pension Month

June 21 to July 21—TERR
July 21 to August 21—ELABO
August 21 to September 21—
September 21 to October 21—
October 21 to November 21—
November 21 to December 21—
December 21 to January 21—
January 21 to February 21—
February 21 to March 21—
March 21 to April 21—ELABO
April 21 to May 21—ELABO
May 21 to June 21—ERIE
Food and Drink—Tobacco

- Water
- Coffee
- Tea
- Beer
- Wine
- Whiskey
- Cigars
- Cigarettes
- Tobacco

German Equivalents

- Bier
- Kaffee
- Thee
- Bier
- Wein
- Whiskey
- Zigarren
- Zigaretten
- Tabak

Prices

- Beer: 0.33 L
- Coffee: 1.50 CHF
- Tea: 1.20 CHF
- Bier: 0.90 CHF
- Wine: 12.00 CHF
- Whiskey: 18.00 CHF
- Zigarren: 5.00 CHF
- Zigaretten: 0.50 CHF
- Tabak: 5.00 CHF

Note:

- All prices are in CHF (Swiss Francs).
Animals
- horse
- cow
- pig
- chicken
- dog
- mouse
- goat
- sheep
- cat
- monkey

Insects
- bee
- ant
- fly
- mosquito

Trades and Occupations
- baker
- butcher
- farmer
- teacher
- doctor
- lawyer

Clothing
- shirt
- pants
- shoes
- socks
### Adjutives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>cold</td>
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<td>hot</td>
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### Directions

- North
- South
- East
- West

- North-East
- South-East
- North-West
- South-West
Proper, etc.

who—XXX
what—CHR
how soon—about 1,000
how late—about 1,000
how far—over 1,000
how soon—over 1,000

Proverbs

and—Id
and—Id

Adverbs

here—Id
here—Id
there—Id
there—Id

Conjunctions

E—GAR
or—YAH
Pictures for Every Day

What day is today?—CD-day
CRUZ: Today is 3-18-70.
When are we leaving here?—
Tonight at 7 P.M.—CD.
Where are we going?—CD.
Cruise into San Francisco.
How far is the cruise?—To
LA to S.F. Call ahead.

Use my initials: CRUZ.

How do you want me to
send the message?—Call
CRUZ: CD

What is the weather like?
Clear, cool.

How long is the cruise?—3
weeks.

What will we see?—San
Francisco, Los Angeles,
Las Vegas, and Seattle.

What will we do?—Visit
museums, go sightseeing,
and relax.

What will we wear?—Casual.

What will we eat?—American,
Mexican, and local food.

What will we need?—Passports,
visas, and luggage.

What will we take?—Suitcases,
spare clothes, and toiletries.

What will we bring?—Camera,
map, and guidebook.

What will we do after the
journey?—Return to work.

What will we say?—Thank
you.