

CANCER FUND SOLICITORS TAKE A BREAK - The Stonewall Junior and Senior 4-H groups and their leaders canvassed part of Hoke County for the Cancer Fund last Sunday. After the drive was completed the workers retired to the Grover McMillian

## Besieged Gibraltar Cut Off From Europe Once again the "Scorpions of Ghraltar" are Rock-bound. For the fitteenth time in the

past 1,200 years, the people who call Gibraltar home are under siege, cut off by land and sea from the rest of the European continent, the National Geographic Society

The Union Jack still flies over the Rock of Gibraltar, just as it has for 265 years, since July 24, 1704. But in the long, roud over who has ightful claim to the Rock. spain now has barricaded the athmus that links Gibraliar to the shore and has stopped

Food and water can reach there only by ship, usually from British of North Africa. New workers commute across the strait from Morocco, only partly replacing the 2,000 Spaniards blockaded from their

Gibraltar's economy, may continue to arrive by cruise ship or airplane, but no longer can visitors to southern Spain take advantage of the Rock's shopping bargains.

Living under siege is an old story for the inhabitants of the mile peninsula and its 1,400 - foot promontory. Since earliest times the Rock of Gibraltas has been at the crossroads of history.

The ancients knew Gibraltar and its African counterpart as the Pillars of Hercules, the limits of the known world. Phoenicians sailed the straits a thousand years before the Christian Era began, and Romans camped on the shore near the Rock

The Moors used it as a stepping stone in their invasion of Europe in A. D. 711. Troops of Tariq ibn - Ziyad named the Rock Jabal Tariq, Mountain of Tariq - which centuries have slurred into Gibraltar.

The Moors held the Rock, fending off attacks and sieges, until the Spaniards finally were victorious in 1462.

Spain garrisoned Gibraltar for 242 years, losing it to the British and their Dutch allies in the Spanish War of Succession. The British occupied the Rock, and one of history's great sieges began.

Ruthless artillery barrages split the air almost daily from July 1704 until the final assault four years later. British guns, aiming from galleries carved in the Rock, discharged red - hot cannon bails that set fire to the attacking Spanish

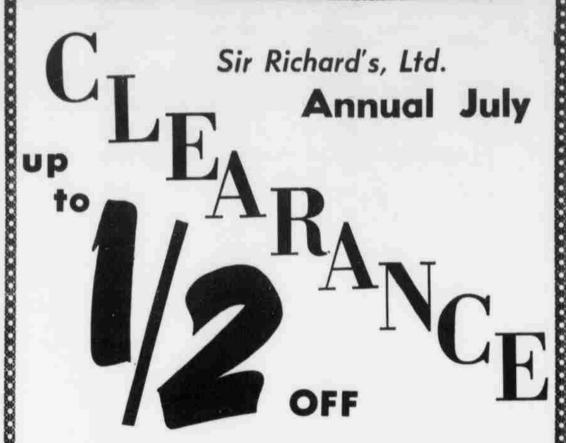
barges, winning the day.
The siege ended with Spain signing the Treaty of Utrecht, giving Britain permanent rights to Gibraltar. It also gives Spain first claim to the Rock if its British Sovereignty ever

Spain now charges that a recent streamlining of constitutional responsibilities shared between London and Gibraltar invalidated the pact.

Despite the United Nations' vote calling on Britain to give up Gibraltar by October 1, the British pledge full support of the people of the Rock

Gibraltarians themselves stem more from Mediterranean than Angle - Saxon stock and speak both English and Spanish. Their hearts seem to belong to Britain. In a recent referendum they voted 12,138 to 44 to remain British.

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