

## Julius Caesar and "Bagoong"

WHEN JULIUS CAESAR'S army went to sea, it ate salted anchovies and oil-preserved tuna, and the officers took along their bathtubs.

Terracotta jars and bathtubs from the bottom of the Tyrrhenian sea have revealed these facts to scientists. The jars and tubs, as well as many other curious objects, were found recently in a number of wrecked Roman ships on the seabeds off Corsica and Sardinia and the coasts of Liguria and Salerno.

These oar and sail boats date back to the first century before Christ, during the reign of Julius Caesar, and were used by him for quick transport to the conquered lands of France and England.

Much of the ship's cargoes, however, have been fairly easily recovered. Many of the amphoras, or terracotta jars, were found intact and contained residues of spiced-salted anchovies or tuna preserved in olive oil. Others jar were filled with a wheat flour or wine. There were also a number containing a kind of fish sauce called Garum.

Garum was made of several species of fish cut up into small pieces and, together with most of their inside, put into a receptacle which was exposed to the sun. This broth-like mixture was then stirred until it fermented. It was used as a condiment for many meats and fish in ancient times.

Experts who studied some of the Albenga shipwrecks said there were about 3,000 wine amphoras in a single ship's cargo and that each of the amphoras contained 20 liters (five gallons) of wine. After nearly 2,000 years the wine had retained only a slight pinkish color, no longer alcoholic. It had a watery taste but was not salty.

—H. V. MACLENNON