

A E W S



The ARMY AND DOTE

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FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE OF THE MISSING ORDERLY ROOM ---oooo0000oooo--- SHEERLUCK JONES' AMAZING DEDUCTIVE POWERS ---oooo000000000000oooo---

"I have here a list of people connected with the crime and they must all need be suspect."

The GLC which the Army had very thoughtfully placed at the detective's disposal took them back to the mess, and the Major anxiously ran out to meet them.

"Any luck?" he demanded breathlessly.

"Major," said Jones, "this is one of the most baffling cases of my career - but I begin to see the light. Here is a list of those I would like to interview, if you would be so kind."

"Why certainly, Mr. Jones. The Army is at your disposal and we will assemble them immediately." And after three weeks everyone was available for the interview.

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The Sgt. Major headed the list and Sheerluck Jones judged him to be a man without scruples. A tiger with the men, but a rabbit when confronted by his superiors.

"Ah," said Jones, "I want you to answer a few questions."
(Continued on page 2)





" How do you suppose these got in here ? "

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"Y-Yes, Sir."

"Good. You, I think, are responsible for the disposition of tents and huts in this area?"

"Y-Yes, Sir."

"You know of this dastardly crime which has been perpetrated in the area, I suppose?"

"Y-Yes, Sir," faltered the Sgt.-Major.

"Tell me, whom do you suspect of the crime?"

"Y-Yes, Sir - I mean I don't know, Sir."

"That is all," said Jones briefly, "Oh, no," he went on as the other rose to go, "one other thing - have you missed anything from your tent lately?"

"Y-Yes, Sir."

"What?"

"Three magazines."

"Ah" cried Jones, "Rifle magazines?"

"N-No, Sir - magazines rifled."

"Papers?"

"Y-Yes, Sir."

"When?"

"About a month ago."

"Good," and the great detective stood up. "You may go," he added.

(to be continued)

Read next week's issue of "The Arty Antidote" and see the amazing deductions Sheerluck Jones makes from the evidence he has collected. It will amaze you (and probably us too).

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A Thought.

"Almost all our faults are more pardonable than the methods we think up to hide them."

(La Rochefoucauld.)

THERE WAS A SHOOT

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Without benefit of publicity or cheering crowds, scornful of anything savouring of the spectacular, the Field Artillery, as represented by "A" Bty, had their shoot last Tuesday morning. No open parade ground lined with spectators, no smoking guns pointing to the sky, no flashing planes for them. Instead, grimaced and tense, the gunners took their guns quietly into the bush.....

Fizz !! Crash !! Bang !! A.T.D. jerked itself from its customarily somnolence. The glassy stare disappeared from classes undergoing lectures, the men on the guns looked apprehensively for slit trenches, cooks cursed the dislodged dust, clerks forgot to look busy and Quartermasters ceased writing home in order to place the NZ 324's in a vulnerable spot. The barrage had started.

A moment's awful silence - well, perhaps several moments - then the barrage opened up again. The shell shined its way over the camp and a cloud of smoke appeared among the trees. Anxious ex-Infantrymen, veterans of the barrage at El Alemein hoped wistfully that it had not landed short. But the gunners knew their guns. There was lots of margin. Several hundred yards of it according to the sweating, swearing, officers.

Split minute corrections were made. Once again the camp was racked by the concussion as the barrage crept on. The other shell was rained home - and fired. A.T.D. shuddered and lapsed into somnolence again.

"A" Battery carefully cleaned its little gun and quietly and modestly trundled it back to the gun park. They appraised its virtues in sober tones. Four times had it Tored and only once had it Fizzed. Thank God their guns were not as other guns. The men squared their shoulders and looked into the future with quiet determination - ex-infantrymen shivered

MOTHER OF INVENTION

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INGENUITY'S LATEST

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The American Magazine advertises a shovel equipped with a folding seat to permit occasional resting. The wording is the magazine's not ours and its authenticity we can vouch for.

It has occurred to many who have viewed the advertisement with as much curiosity as genuine interest that its introduction to the Army would be a definite boon. Look at it from the QM point of view. Shovel handles are more likely to remain in one piece for longer periods except in the case where a user leans heavily on the handle in lowering himself to the seat. However, it is evident that broken handles would appear less frequently for replacement and reduce the bad language of most Quartermasters in some degree.

The unofficial vote of the camp is that indents are immediately forwarded so that those of us unfortunate enough to be caught in the draft for the next war may have some prospect of acquiring one when on fatigues.

When the men's wants were made known the QM staff looked up from the books they were reading and told the "A" Battery Labour representative in no uncertain terms that the Shovellers' Award could not be altered in wartime.

Nevertheless, none will deny that it would look far more regimental to see rows of contented shovelers sitting in orderly fashion than see them as at present in a variety of attitudes on the end of the handle which inclines at all angles, that most comfortable for the individual leaner being chosen.

Athletics has been popularised in the last week by the necessity to accomplish the Latrine Spring in 10s.

NEW CALEDONIA AND THE FALL OF FRANCE

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ATTEMPTED BETRAYAL BY ISLAND'S GOVERNOR

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The fall of France found New Caledonia of two minds -- one was to follow de Gaulle and the other to support Petain. Although it was evident that the greatest majority of the islanders were for de Gaulle attempts to place the colony under the control of Vichy nearly succeeded.

Governors often succeed one another with amazing rapidity. Three arrived and left in 1939 and the last of the series entered office on October 21 after the outbreak of war. He was Governor Pelicier.

Upon the fall of France Henri Sautot, then French Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides, took a clear equivocal stand with de Gaulle. Pelicier, on the other hand, showed himself to be sinuous and double-faced. Nevertheless the New Caledonian General Council on June 24, 1940, intimated its decision to fight alongside the British Empire. That evening 3000 people demonstrated in favour, marched to the British Consulate and sang the national anthems of the two countries.

Notwithstanding the decision, the "Official Journal" of July 31 published a decree of the Petain Government concerning the judiciary and police, also that every legal decision must carry the formula: "In consequence the Marshall of France, head of the French State, orders....." The people interpreted this as a betrayal. For how could official decrees be published or executed in the name of that Government after the General Council's action.

To a demonstration in the street two days later the Governor offered the explanation that the so-called "new constitution" was not promulgated. The General Council censured the Governor for acting without first

consulting the council.

The Governor reaffirmed his promises of political and economic co-operation with the British Empire but people lost faith in him. On the night of August 18 about 8 o'clock Government House was rocked by the explosion of a piece of dynamite which broke the windows on the ground floor. In the garden the police found another stick with a half-burned fuze. A sentry in the rear of the building noticed nothing unusual. Acts of the Governor at the same time both officially denied and admitted the Petain Government to the confusion of the islanders.

A special session of the Council on August 28 demanded the departure of the Governor. The Governor left on September 4 for France and Vichy appointed Lt-Col Maurice Denis, military commander in the French Pacific to succeed him in the meantime. Within a week letters from settlers expressed the general sentiment and a free referendum of the population was asked for. Insistent requests failed to produce results.

To show the people's feeling against the Governor it was decided by the de Gaulle Committee in Noumea to hold a public demonstration, assembling at 5 on the morning of September 19 in front of the Noumea Town Hall.

The march of events in the previous days caused the Governor to send for the "Dumont d'Urville", a French gunboat. This arrived on September 18, and the "Admiral Charner" was on that day on its way from Indo-China. The idea was to keep the population cowed. The demonstration was an open secret and Governor Denis proclaimed a state of siege. (To be continued)

CALLISTHENICS -- MAORI STYLE

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CELEBRITIES IN A NOBLE ART

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Brought to New Zealand by the intrepid Polynesians who first peopled our land, the art of Calisthenics, Maori style, is one of the few that has survived this modern world, and, indeed, is the only one that has made any semblance of progress.

The ancient Moriori was an expert teacher and the various movements (or rather lack of movements) were handed down through the ages. We have their teachings preserved in the songs and verses of that period, extolling their prowess. The Maoris in turn passed it to the Pakeha who proved more adept with each succeeding generation. So, now we have a race more proficient than any yet.

With the advent of the war, the cream of the nation's manhood went to fight with the glorious 3rd Division and with them went the greatest exponents of the art. After a time there came a purge, and only the best men were retained while the lesser artists were relegated to the infantry. With this final sifting of talent, the Artillery Training Depot, consisted entirely of men who had made names for themselves at horizontal or Maori P.T.

Never before were so many talented artists gathered in one unit, and the rolls were illuminated by the names of such men as "Leatherhead the loafer", "Tired Tim Trigonometry", "Flea Bag Fox" and "Stick to the Stinker Stewart". Truly an array of talent to make the press reporters go wild-eyed with excitement.

Many books have been written on this art. The most noble literary contributions include "Maori P.T. in Necal", an excellent, concise handbook by that expert and author, Sgt

"Nugget" Robinson, now gathering material for a new book on "Foxholing and Fleabagging in the Solomons!" The author of the well-known book "Bed sores, and how to aggravate them", Bdr G.P. Grödg is also gathering material up above. These authors are accompanied in their peregrinations by the greatest exponent the world has ever known, Butch Armitage. They form the spearhead of a movement to popularise Maori P.T. among the Melanesians.

With so many books written on the subject by more competent pens than mine, it is not necessary for me to discourse on the positions, but in closing I earnestly recommend that all students read at least two books of those mentioned above. If the A.E.W.S. library cannot supply you with copies, I will be only too pleased to lend you my own autographed first editions. -- R.T.S.

CRICKET VICTORY FOR D.H.Q.

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Depot HQ clinched victory by 11 runs in a cricket match against a combined A and B Battery team at the former Brigade HQ ground on Wednesday. Depot HQ's tally of 78 included a good 28 by Pelham with Murray scoring 12. Bowling for the combined team Beard took four for 16 and Edwards two for 7. The Battery eleven made 67, the top scorers being Brown, 15, and Jack and Scott, 14 each. Hazelden took four wickets for the cost of a single run, including the hat trick. Pelham embellished his batting performance by taking three Battery wickets for 6 runs.

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ATHLETIC	BOXING
ATHLETIC	BOXING
	AND
	AND
WRESTLING	MEETING
WRESTLING	MEETING

The Base Unit Championships will be held at B.T.D. on Saturday 27 Nov.

The events are as follows:-

- 100 yds Champ
- 220 yds Champ
- 440 yds Champ
- 880 yds Champ
- 1 Mile Champ
- 1 Mile medley relay
- Long Jump
- High Jump
- Hop, Step and Jump
- Shot Put
- Tug o' War

A boxing and wrestling tournament will be held in the evening, commencing at 1900 hrs.

Anyone desiring to enter for any of the above should hand their names to their Battery sports representatives, intimating the events for which they wish to compete, not later than 1200 hrs Thurs 18 Nov.

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Depot HQ: Licut Ballantyne
Cnr Tuckerman

"A" Battery: 2/Lt Frew
Bdr Hart

"B" Battery: 2/Lt Christophers
Bdr Balks

Entrants for boxing or wrestling events should submit their weights with entries.

DONT FORGET THE DAY	--	27 NOV
		27 NOV
ENTER BEFORE THURS	--	18 NOV
		18 NOV

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT ATD

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Monday, 8 Nov 43:

- 1800 hours: Wool class.
- 1845 hours: Art Class in Bourail.
- Transport leaves Depot H.Q. at 1800 hours.

Tuesday, 9 Nov 43:

- 1800 hours: French Class.
- 1915 hours: Sister Farlane will give a talk, in the YMCA, on the Solomons, with special reference to Vella Lvella. Sister Farlane was in the Solomons for some 18 months subsequent to the entry of the Japs into the war, and did not leave until April of this year.

Wednesday, 10 Nov 43:

- 1900 hours: Pictures.

Friday, 12 Nov 43:

- 1830 hours: "500" tournament. Intending players please enter their names on the sheet on the YMCA notice board.

Saturday, 13 Nov 43:

- 1845 hours: War commentary.
- 1915 hours: Pictures.

Sunday, 14 Nov 43:

- 1845 hours: Usual song service.
- 1945 hours: Padre Castles - lantern talk. (Subject will be announced later).

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Another Thought

All of us are going to do better tomorrow - and we would, too, if only we started today.

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