

A DAY WITH A BANKER

Do not allow the title of this article to mislead you--- Dozerdust is not yet in the hands of the Banks, is not in need of an overdraft, and the mortgage is not due yet for some years. We are on good terms with Big Business, particularly Brewers.

Nevertheless, we cannot escape the Bankers. At least that was what we found when we paid a visit to Services Section Orderly Room when we set out to interview Cpl. Alf Black on Orderly Room routine. Our aim was to find out what our friend Alf did from first thing in the morning until bat-time. Before we had opportunity to ask, in came Sgt Charlie Rye with the request "Could you let me have the loan of a brace and bit for a minute, Alf?" What the Transport Sgt required the tool for we did not have time to ask, for he had no sooner gone than in came Cpl Newman with a request for something else, and he was followed by several others after one thing or another.

Between the "one thing and another", we learnt that Services Section consists of three clearly defined sub-sections, each with a specialised set of jobs, and that attached to the Orderly Room is a small store room from which Alf issues tools etc.

Sub-section one, is the Mechanics, which is concerned with repairs and attention to mechanical work from driving to "jacking-up". Under Sgt C.D. McHae who has the following team of NCO's under him:- Cpls N. Hansen, N.J. Laurie; L/Cpls R.R. Whitten, H. L. Palmer and R.B. Georgeson. This section gets to work on Bulldozer, Grader, Plainer and other implements of destruction. If you want to know more about the business keep an eye on S/Sgt G. Barry, who has them at his finger tips (that is, figuratively speaking). He might even tell you something of the "drag line". That is something very close to his heart, even though it was at the bottom of the river when we saw it.

Next come the Construction Section, which swings into line under Sgt C.E. Bishop, who has Cpl Newman, L/Cpls F.T. Black, J. Paterson-Kane and D. McIntosh with him, as they turn from preparing the way to make WAACS happy to helping make the bread ovens more breadlike.

In the third Section we have Sgt W. Charleton, who has Cpl. E.B. Brownlee, L/Cpls J.M. Blair and W. Morrissey with him. Their job, one at least, you will soon discover when

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you strike a patch of road that rides as smoothly as bitumen. No one would try to estimate one section's work above that of the others, but that new road makes us wish all the roads round here were as good.

This you will no doubt think, is the very place for a Banker (Don't misunderstand me, I don't mean the road) in an Orderly Room where there are so many strings leading to important work. And that is just what Alf does. Though not in the conventional way. His job is to make all things move smoothly and smooth out the wrinkles of all things. We don't suggest he didn't do that back in the Bank of N. Z. in Cambridge, where he was third man in charge. Alf could hardly do otherwise. He has that way with him.

Talking of "having a way" reminds us of the jaunt round the "jobs" the other day with Lieut R. Torrie who must possess the patience of a Job and the constitution of a man who has lived in North Auckland...we've never been bumped and banged about in or out of a Jeep as we were the other day with him, but he took it as part of the routine of inspection. And it would seem that he has to ride in that bouncing baby of a Jeep every day since he is the officer in charge of jobs on the spot. He did not say what he thought of the potholes, the wind and rain, but he did say with some conviction that "They are a damn good team of men I have on the jobs", and you could tell he meant it.

The same opinion is shared by Lieut R. Gilmour, who is OC Services Section, and who has the organising and dispositions to make out, as well as a host of other duties on his hands. The way in which the Services work together, the camaraderie of the "boys" out on the jobs, and the good spirit in the camp is a tribute to the leadership of the OC, and in keeping with the unit as a whole.

But to return to our Banker....we learnt that he too is going back to "the" Bank after the war (worth keeping in with him), and that he was going to finish the day by writing to "MUM and the family".

Congratulations to L/Cpls Les Lane, Bill Hanlen, Alan Wagner and Les Boyd on attaining NCO rank. Just think there might be a potential Colonel among them!!!

"Ace" Norton, his friends will be pleased to learn, has had to take to playing draughts. He's a bit slow on the moves, but shows promise.