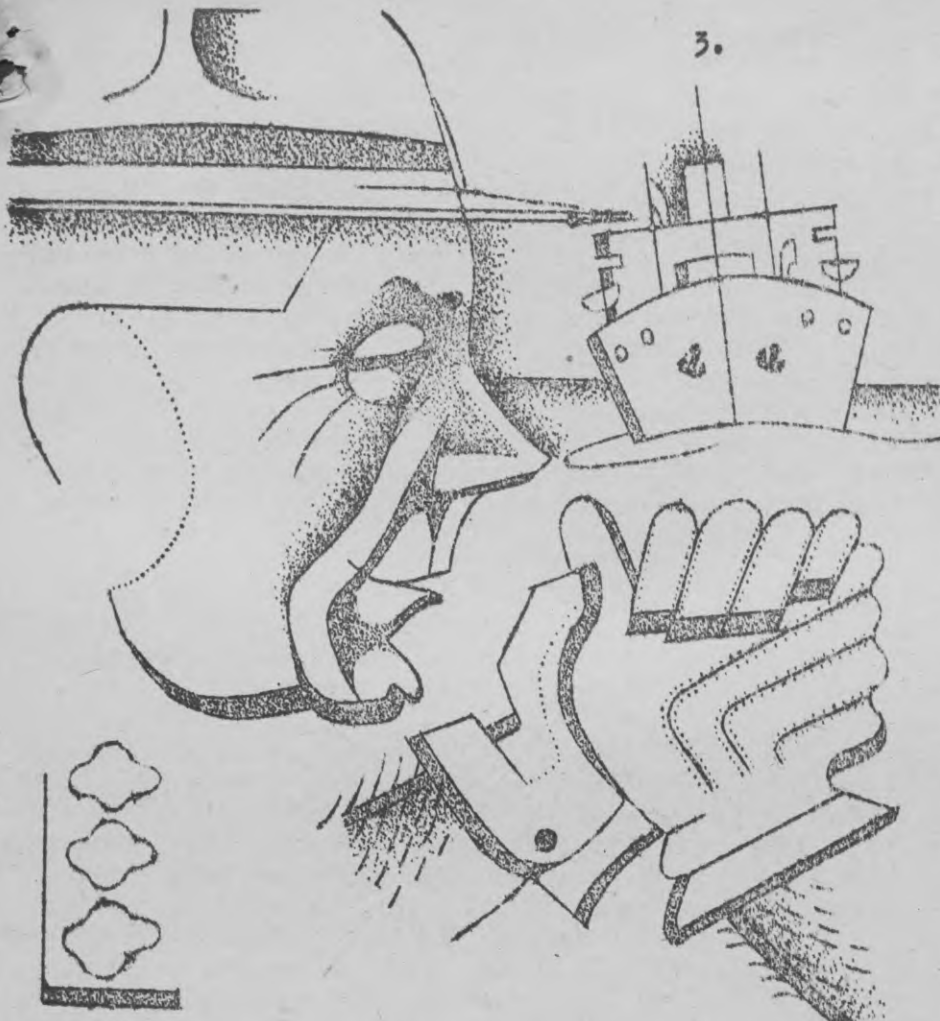


CAPTAIN F.J. CLARK



I asked Captain Clark for an interview. He told me to be on the Bridge at eight bells and waved vaguely at a bark lined Buré on the hill.

While waiting for him I wondered if he was "Tropo" or merely an enthusiastic yachtsman over-excited about his job of Dock Officer. I decided it must be the latter.

He told me to sit on the starboard side under the porthole; I looked inquiringly at him but sat on the M and V box without comment.

Obviously he had some interest in the Humorous Concrete Company for the walls were lined with pierced-slabs, the furniture formed of them and at the door

was a box of pamphlets headed "Squat for health" and with a notice "Take One". I didn't. He admitted that he was manager of the Company, and, as I already knew, the director was also an Englishman, which I felt explained the infamous conduct of the firm.

To him, every ship for unloading is a potential buyer of his wares. So far all have been New Zealand ships and it will take more than the Company's catchwords to shift those sailors off their old fashioned but comfortable eight holers. Of course he blackmailed me into buying a dozen slabs so this year my relations will receive a very unusual Xmas present.

He was the engineer to an Auckland District and on his return intends enforcing the use of Dorothy Lamour Latrines (for health of course) in all old and new buildings. He so greatly admires her interest in native things that he feels certain she will be delighted to hear her name used in connection with a native type convenience. I suggest the firm sends her an autographed photograph of the director and manager with a slab as a frame - ready for use.

As the wind rushed through the Naiouli's the Captain (perhaps he is in the Navy) bellowed through the hole in a slab "Batten down the hatches".

I felt seasick and cleared.

lightly and lots you do not take lightly enough. You are made to feel that your suggestions and co-operation are vital to the "success" of the work undertaken; you take for granted that you have his backing where you have justification, but try to put "one over" and it will be just too bad for you.

That was my first impression of Colonel Jones, and one that subsequent meetings confirmed. One of my secret ambitions was to be walking along the road with him and suddenly come upon an empty jam tin.... I still feel that were I to have kicked the tin, he too would have joined in the fun.
Editor.

The Kiwi Concert Party gave a very bright concert in this camp on Wednesday night. It was their first visit since the building of a movable stage by Works Service Constn Coy, and, as the producer said (and the production showed) it made possible a non-stop entertainment of a high calibre.

Some of the sketches made the audience uncomfortable, but some of the remarks (particularly to female impersonators) must have made the players more uncomfortable.

Lieut Tremain thanked the party, who then went for supper. We hope they enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed their show.

Thank you, Kiwis.

To Sgt Paul....

Glad the supper was O.K. Hot sauce was much appreciated
Cafe De Tropo.

Ossie Gray has returned from his triumphal tour with the Kiwi Concert Party. A ny rumours that he slept with certain of the performers are emphatically refuted.