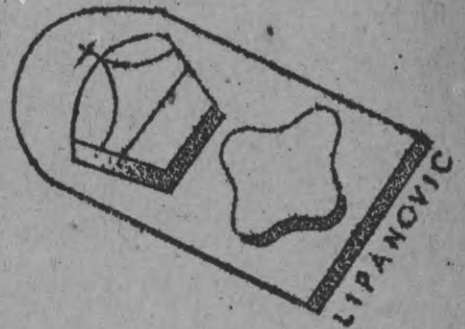




LT. COL A MURRAY



there is a delightful informality in the personality of lieut. colonel ~~the~~ murray which puts you at ease when first meeting him. " have a beer? " he asked as he motioned us to a seat...." but for god's sake dont say yes " he added as we piped up a hearty " thanks ! * * * on explaining the purpose of our visit he turned to our art edit or...." go ahead, but dont take too many hairs off the top, he said facetiously as he settled into a chair. * * * while the rough was being taken, he chatted on the activities of the engineers in new caladonia. and one soon became aware that running parallel with an unassuming cordiality there were other qualities that would make him a dangerous man in the field of battle. * * * the short, thick set figure, well formed neck and square jaw set in oval features gives the impression of great physical endurance backed up by a tenacity of purpose that does not know defeat. once roused he would make the lion of judah look like a contented tabby-cat, and when that square mouth closes it snaps like a steel trap from which there is no escape. * * * shrewdness in the sense that he would not be caught in a booby-trap of his own making, and would not allow others to catch him in indicated by the small and piercing eyes that miss no details. what he sees he does so very clearly; in judging men he brings to bear the practical common sense based on long experience and pretty keen observation. one does not need to be told that he backs his own judgement which, to one who does not think fast, makes him difficult to understand and tabbed as too independent. * * * it may be that independence which led him to talk of his men rather than of himself. in the course of the interview he did not mention the part he had played in the engineers, but he paid a high tribute to officers and men under him. it is to the men one turns if one wants to tap a fund of rich and amusing anecdotes which surround the character of lieut.col. murray. you will hear some repeated in r.z. camps and many more in new caladonia. * * * " if you see me wandering around up there say, ' hi buddy what about a beer! ' is one we are going to remember