

# a waterfront where shacks and lean-tos fringe the water edge; javanese women in nondescript garments cooking food over an open fire; a bakoship wharf where a cumbersome barge is awkwardly berthed; odd looking natives in tattered french uniform coats and round peaked hats; tiny native and javanese children barefooted in the mud; sweaty rain and an atmosphere of desolation all went to create our first vague impression of noumea the morning we landed. from this unusual, almost fantastically unreal spot we were rapidly carried out into the land of nautilus. \* \* \* our second impression, almost four months later, finds the waterfront swallowed up in what appears to be a turbulent rush of army waggons, trucks, lorries, cars, jeeps and motor cycles. the simplicity of the first scene is gone. instead there is chaos, screeching brakes, a disturbed ant hill. it is not to the natives, but to the traffic map we look. he along is the symbol of order. the noumean population, but a tiny fraction of the whole, which is an army on leave, a navy ashore. the barefooted javanese children do not fit in. \* \* \* in a few hours the chaos becomes orderly, one thinks of "who do i know?" and one turns to the u.s. red cross. one hopes to meet n.z'ers from a former unit we were "in" from auckland, wellington, or elsewhere. or maybe someone from another part of the island.....you want to compare notes .....

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UNCLE SAM INVITES YOU.

# u.s.a. red cross services club makes noumea something different. apart from the buffet snack bar, there is the writing room, magazine room, ping pong table and billiard room. or maybe you want something more highbrow such as the artists group which meets on tuesday night at 6,30. then you can sketch a model...last tuesday a red cross girl posed...dont ask if she were a made model...we don't know. if you have the scribblers itch the writers group which meets at seven o'clock will give you plenty of practice and something to think about. \* \* \* if you want further information drop in to the awa hut, or get in touch with lucy crockett when your on leave. on wednesday evenings a radio programme is on the air. units are invited to make a up a programme. what about it WORKS. it is up to you to get a haka under way. make for the awa hut with suggestions.

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# 353rd engineers and 8th gen. hospital generously place canteens at our service. a gesture we appreciate and acknowledge with thanks. beer and cigars both of which are rationed to u.s.a. servicemen are rightly reserved for them. the boys behind the counters can teach us a lesson in cooking scenes elsewhere.

# cases of dysentery among our men on this island have been few and far between, and when they do occur they are restricted to the hot summer season. naturally, dysentery is a disease with which we are not familiar, but it would be regrettable were we to remain unacquainted with the causes of the diseases. this article is an attempt to supplement what we already know on the subject. \* \* \* there are two main types of dysentery, the AMOEBIC which is produced by infection with a microscopic animal parasite which enters and clings to the wall of the lower parts of the intestines. as is known, we have approximately twenty six to thirty feet of intestines in which our food is digested. this parasite has plenty of room to work and soon produces inflammation, and later, ulceration sets in as the parasite burrows under the intestinal wall. \* \* \* BACILLARY dysentery attacks the intestines in a similar manner, but this time the parasite is a minute rod shaped bacteri ( bacilli ). the result of these organisms is firstly, frequent bowel movements resembling diarrhoea. later discharges become scanty, slimy and mixed with blood and shreds of ulcerated bowel linings. these discharges are highly infectious.....h person in such a condition is seriously ill. \* \* \* the next point that arises is how are the bugs contracted? first, shall we say, by faeces, next by flies and third, by food. the flies feed on the faeces and flit on to the food (army rations excluded i) we fly off to the food (or do we?) and feed. we contact the infection....and thus the circle is complete.. no, there is another link. the person who so contacts the disease develops one absorbing interest. he skips most race meetings, such as the hurdles and gallops, but he takes to the "trotts" without any thought of the tote, \* \* \* water, as well as food, it must be remembered act as a medium. the natives, we must remember, have not heard of the products of the humourous concrete coby, and their household furniture does not rise to the old fashioned po. they just "squat" over a stream when nature calls. the emphasis which the army places upon the danger of drinking untested water is well justified. today, the infected may rest sure of a complete cure, thanks to the advances made in medical treatments with such drugs as sulphaguandine and injections. there is not even a fifty fifty chance for an honest "homer". so remember !---

dont forget to close the concrete lid.

drink only purified waber.

dont imagine every case of belly ache or the "trotts" must be dysentery.

# lieutenant s. tremain arrived on friday morning with a party of bldg section. he said: "this is like coming back to civilisation."