



Dozerdust

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WORKS SERVICE ENGINEERS.

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THIS IS NOT A HOME ISSUE.

WE hear that Lieut Brooker overheard an interesting expression of opinion one day recently. That so, sir?

"DUMP" HUNTER* McLean at last rewarded with a full US mess kit. Pays to persevere, eh?

CHARLIE Hardwick says sun beginning to affect him - some services agree. (Too bad Charlie)

WHO offered "Butch" Miller a "homer" if he kept up his lessons on the Windjammer?

THEY say "Baldy" Goodall is regarded by "Kanaka" as a "sort of father".

YOUNG Freddie Graham out visiting every night and twice on Sunday - tents mates fear the worst.

O'REILLY & "BUTCH" Miller say Waac Catcher over rated - no good to them.

BEER ISSUE.

WE have been asked to state that a cash statement showing the financial position of the Coy Bear Account will be published shortly. This should allay any suspicion that profits, vast or otherwise, accumulate from the sale of beer. : : : It is worth pointing out that headaches are all that accumulate - and those not from drinking the issue, but from the tedious task of keeping a check on tallies. In one issue there were close on eighty broken bottles which could be accounted for - and several which could not owing to loss of tops.

CAPT. Boyd advises that he will pass souvenir airplanes at present being made, but points out that no guarantee can be given that the Base Censor will pass them for postage home. : : : THE planes we have seen, while sticking very close to one pattern, are nevertheless well done and must have accounted for most of the leisure time of some weeks. The palm for the best neck-lace must go to Jim Toner.

JACK ADAIR greatly enjoyed putting sandwiches for the dance - and the company too.

RAY Barnaby now a happy Spr. - the long waited letter arrived Sunday - she had not been out with a ---

JACK Mason, down from the C. FE. Store to help George Linday along, says he has not added to his "gallery" - something wrong somewhere.

"SCOTTY" Hampton dived to bottom on Sunday. He spluttered - "Should not have had all my hair cut off - it was a good cushion".

ON looking in to see Jim Taylor one night we were greeted with the shout - "Keep your mouths shut - or it will be in the damn Dozerdust". And not one would talk. Even Sp Clark hung his head.

THIS IS NOT A HOMER.

The Wife's Sister.

GONOPHONE News Service gives you the latest in what we think, what we hear, what we hope and what we wish. You may emphasize whichever angle appeals to you and depend upon it, the Service never lets you down. It brings you, all the way, from South America, the story that Mexican and Brazilian troops are coming to New Caledonia to release WORKS for more important work elsewhere. Closely following that flash came the tongue wagger that Major Blucker was to make an important announcement on Monday. He did not, but the story went the rounds that we would all be home for Christmas. Before that cooled there came the oil from the "higher-ups"....to the effect that "Werks was going to be disbanded early in February & that that personnel would join an engineering Unit in the forward area. The precise date was not revealed - too much to expect from "higher-ups"; but the first week in February was the goods. Just to maintain interest the news that the US Navy had offered to convey - not convoy - the N.Z. troops home for furlough. The offer had been turned down by the N.Z. Govt. No one wished to go! The visit of two officers gave speculators the opportunity they were waiting for -- "the visitors would not be here for nothing" - obviously - but for what? "To arrange the immediate future of Werks. It was even hinted that Burnham & Linton were being prepared to welcome home the boys from Nainouli Land. And at that the Gonophone peters out.

KEEPING THE DUST DOWN.

EX DON R. Tommy Stokes & Driver Bill Lawson are now on the Water Waggon keeping, not the brewers, but the dust down. They report that they make twenty trips a day to the tank which means that they distribute eight thousand gallons of water daily on the roads around the hospital. Not bad going is it?

A Services Section lad up in our one-time camp is doing a good trade with Kanakas by swapping old torch batteries for souveniers. We are asked if the lad's name isno, perhaps we'd better not.

HE is a shy lad, is our "Tired" Norton; you see him leaning idly against a truck cleaning his mug with sand - that is if the day is not too hot. Sometimes he carries on a conversation with Claude Lowe, but he usually talks to himself - says it is easier. He brightens considerably at nightfall, in fact, he becomes almost energetic. No longer tired, shy or quiet as he makes his way to the Waacery where he meets the "wife's sister" & takes her to the movies. Yes, it is a fact, that is the story he tells and he has the impudence to believe that will pull the wool over our eyes. What we want to know is what he tells the "wife's sister"! It must be a good one to get him where it does. We suggest that sapper Clarke and Sgt. Bowman get in touch with our "Tired" friend, maybe he will give them the works.

WHAT BOOTS IT?

TUESDAY morning found camp intently gazing at the distant hills; somewhere up there Surveyor Lonnie Boot and Banker Alfie Bluck were lost - there was almost unanimity on the decision. They had left Saturday afternoon on a "hike". Not expected to return until Sunday, their non-appearance on Monday raised a few doubts. By evening it was alleged that two American platoons had been lost in the same hills - there was some doubt whether they had ever been found. Fred Kronast was on his toes - two search parties were packing rations, everyone wanted to join in the search; signals were being learnt, there was talk of securing a plane, rope, wire, strips of cloth and tins of bully beef were all being packed. And he who hinted that the non-appearance of the hikers may be no more than delayed return through misjudgement was looked upon as a fool, a spoilsport & callous heel. As the parties got ready binoculars continued to play across the hillsides. At last away went the parties - hand picked every one of 'em... An hour later Lonnie Boot and Alfie led one party home - & very nearly had to go out for the other.

SNOOPINGS BY SNOOPER.

NOT a hope of gettin' the notes under the door this week - had to wait until the Editor was out & rush in with them. Hope he doesn't censor too heavily. And I reckon Capt. Boyd oughta put me on that beer ration state - all I get are the few drops the boys leave in the cans, and that aint too much. Say, did you go to the dance on Thursday night? I was there. Music a bit late in startin', but once the band started to play "I'll fall in love again", you shoulda seen the way the sappers brightened and rushed the girls. I was knocked flyin'. Snoopin round early in the week I got my eye on one called "Sunshine" - gosh she's nice. I'll tell you about her later. Then I got all mixed up with the "Family". Heard about 'em? Very exclusive.. mostly S/M's. First there is "Flatspin", the Big Sister who peddles a good line of kiddin'. She has developed an affectionate soft spot for Big Brother Freddie. They looked into each other's eyes, they walked hand in hand in the moonlight and she sighed softly in the moonlight - but there aint no hay round these parts. Then there is Big Brother Stuart, so tall and strong and, as "Flatspin" says, "with such appealing ways". He and "Tut" sat together most of the night & she was heard to say while dancing - "I could never do this if you did not hold me tight" so he tightened the squeeze and smiled the smile of the silent strong man. Another heavy line at the end of a dance was followed by a longing gaze and ended with "wasn't it won-der-ful!" There is young Brother Charlie whose style was cramped at the dance by an injured hand, but he too, did a heavy line with Kay who says "My Charlie has the cutest little laugh & the catchy smile of puffed cheeks. She watched him do a batch of Sgts Scenes on Sunday on the way to the beach trip. Next to the Brothers tent are the poor relations - they are only Sgts & not at all encouraged. Young Alex Bowman snorts as he asks "who the hell they think they are!" He doesn't approve of people who do not like dancing with sappers. Course Bill Lawson and Trixie are pretty pally - got a keen eye for beauty has our Bill. An' I saw Dave Holwell showing some smart footwork with Maxine who found

a heavy ground swell. ::: TELL you something good to watch was the Parade at Noumea on Armistice Day. A French dame just about pushed me down a drain at a corner and I got all mixed up in a Kanaka woman's red dress, but I wormed my way to the front of the crowd. Say, did I poke my chest out when WORKS came along. You shoulda seen Major Blacker take the lead, he looked good, then came Fred Kronast as RSM, he fair made Noumea shake. I clapped like hell, so did 'crowd. Made a Yank say "them New Zealanders sure got a big hand" - an' they sure did. Guess the W.A.A.C.S. were pretty smart. After they went past I heard someone say that the "New Zealanders looked they were personally responsible for show put up by their country" :: SAY - what ya think of the exhibition of highland dancing - my girl too - at the dance. Guess that Sgt. went try to cook up something for Lieut Wise again. It was like this. Lieut. Wise had "Sunshine" booked for a dance and he kept slippin', but he finally booked one, but he didn't know that it was a Highland Scottish. "Sunshine" saw the M.C. and suggested changing it, 'cos she knew Lieut. Wise wouldn't like it. But the Sgt. wheezed up the orchestra to play it & put it up to "Sunshine" to try Lieut Wise out. But you should have seen his face fall when he heard what the dance was. But he wasn't going to be fooled. He saw the Sgt. standing by grinning - so he promptly says " - carry on" Sgt - and the Sgt. had to do the dance.:::.. GUESS this is where the Editor steps in. More next week.

JIM FINGLAND WINS.

"The difference between a N.Z. Soldier and an American Soldier in the dark gave rise to some good guesses, but Jim Finland was the one who scored a direct hit.. he wrote - "I cant see any difference". And that is the answer. The puzzle came from the Waacery - when it was discovered that in the dark both N.Z. & U.S. troops behave much about the same. Jim put the emphasis on the "See", but it should go elsewhere. Call for the three dollars. The

"WHAT DO you think of New Caledonia?" we asked more from habit than interest, as one does at first meeting. "I rather like it - it is not unlike New Zealand" was the casual reply. Were we speechless? Wouldn't you be? There was no homesickness here, no kidding, just plain matter of fact truth and with it - a lovely smile and a twinkle in her eyes that made you want to sit a night and write poems about them. "Of course", she continued, "I had about fifteen months in Fiji, and that makes a difference. Yes, she came from Fairlie"; but added that she managed to put up with Christchurch. We then asked how she would like to settle down on a farm in this country. She said she would not mind, provided it were up north (Say, know where we can pick up a bit of land round here?) She is fond of farming and likes the outdoor life, can play tennis, ride a horse, knows something of cows (Sprs. please note) dances well and thinks country life the best, but is anxious to see something of Europe and other odd spots on the globe - New York for instance. Guess her name.

"KANAKA" has big water fight & does a bunch of Kanaka scones as a bucket of water cools his blood.

COOKHOUSE GOSSIP.

MAURIE Corrie locked in to say he is now able to bend his elbow again. He thinks Bert Butler's trips to Noumea have a Javanese touch about them and that he should take up Steve Nash's hobby of knife throwing. From all accounts Steve is making good headway with the knives up top. Maurie is somewhat disappointed at the slow progress the cooks and orderlies are making at the Waacery. Says the boys are too tight to buy the Waac Catcher hair oil. H.A. Craig is still bumping up the scales, and the cooks suggest that Q.M. Sutherland increase Fat Willie Hart's issue of raisins and Fat Spread, as Willie is at a standstill. Dave Smith proves a disappointing entrant in the Fat Man competition, but as a toiler is always there. "Snowy" Lord is enjoying his rest here, but is not doing too well with his "cutie" up the hill. Quiet Man Dacombe

BOB Wood and Dave Holwell thrashed out the question of whether men could lay claim to a greater share of beauty than could women - and they agreed that man is the more beautiful creature (W.A.A.C.S please note and requested not to hold it against them) To hell him make up his mind Dave had a collection of Vargas Girls on the walls (says they keep his moral up too). But finds that his tent mates gaze most at them. Final argument in favour of male beauty is that all male animals most attractive - even the guinea pig. Well, there is it.

IKEE Smith almost threw a fit when he learnt he was passed over for a half bottle of beer on the bellog that he did not drink. Ask him about it.

ON seeing the new sign for the Sgts Mess (not yet up) the other night, Doug Comrai exclaimed, "Good Lord, the bludgers are getting flash", wonder if we could get a pretty one for the men's mess! (Looks like you have it now Doug.)

IN a recent issue we referred to Cpl. R.E. Robb as "A.E. Robb". We apologise to him and wish to assure him that the pyjama incident lost none of its kick through use of incorrect initials. He also asked us to state that he is not going back to the bush after the war. We hope he can avoid that unpleasant experience.

and Rolli Sothorn, the two new orderlies are stirring the cooks up and are likely to be stayers. Bob Robinson has given up boxing for keeps now that he is working out a Housie Housie system. Maurie Rimmer talks too much in his sleep. Tommy Atkins looks like becoming a big time gambler - he is frequently seen at the Housie now, though there is no signs of his drawing more than the two dollars per pay day. In the Sgts. mess Harry Goffin as O.C. makes a good job and is also a patron of the Housie where he holds more than his own. That so Charlie?

PROMOTERS GRAY & PASCO report that entries for the Sweep are pouring in and that no ads will be taken in Dorendust, but that the paper may have a seat at the Auctioneer's table on Friday night. A very large crowd is expected on the night of the auction. Promoter Pasco hopes to be able to give a broadcast commentary for benefit of Bluff investors. The entrance fee of half a dollar is proving no barrier and buyers are not restricted to any area. ::: DRAW for horses takes place on Monday night at seven o'clock in the mess. It is suggested that all interested should be there in plenty of time. On Friday night the auction takes place. This is the big event and promoters are toying with the possibility of having to call in a guard from B.T.D. Detachment. One recommendation is that the Sgts. should take on the duty of guards - it is thought they would look well with fixed bayonets. Only those who have paid the entrance fee of half a dollar prior to the draw will be allowed to bid for horses, so if you wish to start a string of stables, plunk in your name on the half dollar list right away. All horses are to be put up for auction; the owner of the horse has the privilege of deciding whether he will sell. If he does so, he receives half the auction price; and if he does not sell, but buys at the auction, he must pay half the price of the bid into the pool. Prizes will be paid from the gross proceeds on the basis of 70%, 20% and 10%. The auctioneer's decision is final. Promoters say they are beginning to feel the strain of organising. Gray says very few patrons hand out a can of beer to him on his rounds. Pasco says that does not worry him as he has given up drinking until his return to Invercargill - which recently returned to hops. That, says Pasco, was one of the most heartening bit of war news he has heard for months. He and George Moreton, Jeff Mannix and Jack Matheson have all been very happy since the election. Both promoters think they will be able to sport a few cigars for the big night. (What about a box our way?)

THIS IS NOT A HOME ISSUE.

WHEN it became known on Monday night that Lt-Col. E. Sayers had granted permission to use the I.B. Block for a dance on Thursday nights an appreciation of the way in which construction of the hospital had been carried out, no time was lost in forming a committee to get everything under way. Sister M. Talbot and Cpl. Brown represented Sisters & W.A. A.C.'s respectively, Padre Michael and Cpl. Miller the hospital personnel and Cpl. A. Wagner & Spr. A. Bradley Works. A temporary floor was laid down and soon polished into good shape. The orchestra looked like proving a bother; an effort was made to secure a French one, this failing, efforts were turned in the direction of an American band. Col. Sayers came to the rescue by securing, by courtesy of Brigadier Dove, a five piece orchestra from Div. Band. Needless to say, the dance was voted a "good show". For most present dancing in the open was an innovation - and one that is eminently suited to the climate. Thanks are due to Sgts. Cheater and "Snow" Peterson for assistance with supper and cake; to Tom Yuell, "Pop" Drayton, Percy Seagat and Mauris Woods of Works for their share in cutting sandwiches. Sister Hill, of the hospital staff, earned the thanks of the committee for her assistance in advice and guidance in arranging for the catering.

WHAT are Scotchmen like as escorts? About average, do you think, or would you say that in taking three W.A.A.C.s for a swim, our Len McGregor shows they rate high.

SGT. Larsen is up for a day or two from Con Depot. We asked him how long he was staying - "no longer than I can help" was the encouraging reply. (He must like us)

THE other day some one asked a S/M how long he was going to be out on a job for. The S/M replied "Permanently - for three days at least"

SAM Burroughs has a black eye. Claims he got it boxing. Did he?

NEW HEBRIDES.

DISCOVERED - 1660 by Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, famous Spanish navigator and one of outstanding explorers in Pacific.

VISITED by Chevalier de Bougainville in 1768. He proved Santos an Island and not part of Australia, as commonly thought.

1774- Captain James Cooks visits islands.

1884- French missionaries established missions at Anaitom, Owing to native hostility had to evacuate to Loyalty Islands. 1897 another mission established at Port Vila.

1895 - French officially took possession, establishing military posts at Vate & Malicolo.

OCT. 24. 1887 French & English established conjoint sovereignty over archipelago.

1902 - Condominium Govt. governed since inception.

POPULATION - mainly of Melanesians origin. In some island Polynesian strain noticeable.

1878 - population (native) estimated at 200,000. By 1910 it had diminished to 72,000. Today not more than 40,000.

WHITE Population - 197 British, or under British protectorate. 750 French & 2300 Tonkinese under French protection. Germans, Swedes American and Canadians number 43, mostly under French protection.

AGRICULTURE- 85 French plantations, 18 English. Former develop cocoa & coffee; latter coconuts.

SOCIETY Francaise de Nouvelles Hebrides owns 1,830,000 acres - lots sold to French Colonists. Organised by an Irishman - State controlled.

RELIGION- Witchcraft. Medicine man influential.

LARGER islands are - Espiritu-Santo, Malicolo, Ambrym, Epe, Vate & Erromango. Sant 5520 foot above sea level, highest point.

OF volcanic origin.

PORT Vila, the capital, 128 miles from Noumea.

LOYALTY ISLANDS sixty miles south-west.

CUSTOMS - hot stones used for refined forms of torture. To curb adultery an application of a hot stone to offending part said to curb appetite. To ensure that fugitives do not run away a hot stone is secured to the leg behind the knee.

"THERE exists among the natives a sort of aristocracy, affiliation and mysterious graduation which they obtain by sacrificing pigs with huge teeth. The animals reared with great care; castrated, two upper teeth broken off, to allow rapid growth of corresponding lower teeth which attain great size. Fed by women, they are sacrificed after dancing & consecration rites. Whoever offers them as a sacrifice wins special distinction giving him influence and respect in the tribe. Long toothed pigs also useful in all manner of transactions."

THE following is a translation of an entry in an autograph book made by a French soldier.

- " I like the Kiwi because he is a good fellow.
- " I like him because he is poor.
- " I like him because he must do everything with nothing
- " I like the Kiwi because he is like we French.

There it is.

In France the infantry are known as such, but French Colonial Infantry are called " Marines". This accounts for the number of road signs " Marines Francais " and for the number of French Soldiers seen wearing the anchor & cable insignia. (C.F.)

BOXING is picking up again, though most of the enthusiasts have found the going too tough in this climate. Dave Holwell proves the most consistent attendee. The postponement of the sports was too much for the athletes - the last committee meeting decided to defer sports until later when training would be dispensed with.