

Digger

VOL 2. NO. 16.

WORKS SERVICES ENGINEERS.

APRIL 22.1944.

THIS IS NOT A HOME ISSUE.

AT a meeting of the Graham Clan the other morning, Noel and Fred agreed that Nocal was too good leave for another few months. Fred says "No Graham ever walked out on a job half done" - so we will stay. (OC for your information)

ALF Bluck reports that ex-tent mate Tommy Stokes is now teamed up with Cpl. Georgeson at Base - we hope Tommy keeps clean of the "Treachereous" Whitten.

BOB Mackie and Bill Hanlon report that it is only a matter of weeks before they have "Killer" Cain a keen Nationalist. "Killer" says Bob "is a very sensible man".

GORDON MACALE says he is now settling down to a "steady Kanaka life" - result of association with Kanaka Jewellers perhaps.

ANOTHER old timer to move out is Sgt. Lipanovic who leaves on Monday for BRD.

ON GOING HOME.

ELSTWIERT we publish the names of Works Coy. personnel who are returning to Essential Industries in New Zealand. It would not be difficult to furnish a much longer list of those of us who feel that Essential Industries should call us too. No Churchman waits the "call" so eagerly as the Nocal weary Kiwis. ::: ONE of the patients who was through all the campaigns in the forward area said that the thought uppermost in the thoughts of all the men taking part in the campaign was "to get home". Probably the highest tribute to the folks back home and to N.Z. itself. ::: IT can be said of Works Coy. personnel who are returning, that they go back with the conviction that they did a damn good job of work while over here, and that during their period here they were worthy representatives of the country to which they are returning.

"WHAT IS THE BANK OF N.Z. LIKE ON OVERDRAFTS TO FARMERS?" - this was a question we overheard several Works personnel put to Alf Bluck this week. (Alf's line of bull was - if I am in the bank your O.K. You'll find me at Cambridge)

THE meaning of the word "Gook" is vague, but it applies to anything native and is used by servicemen in the forward areas. So far as we can ascertain, it has been coined in this war.

WE congratulate Lieut. Mann and party on the completion of the Kiwi Club which was officially opened on April 14.

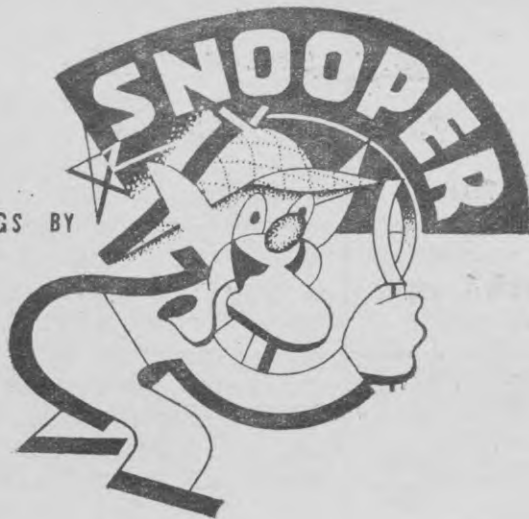
WARNING: to all ranks:

Q.M. Johnny Sutherland goes to Base Camp Monday 24th.

BOB Johnston still in hospital and likely to be there another fortnight. He sends regards to Naiculi Numbskulls.

This is not a "homer"

SNOOPINGS BY



HEARD Fred Kronast say he saw me hoppin' outa the truck at the Anso Vata dance on Wednesday night, so I 'spose I'd better have somethin' to say about it, before Fred says too much. ::: THERE ain't a place just like it round the South Pacific. In fact, you'd have to go to some some sea port before you'd strike the same. The building is low built, parked away off the road among a lot of trees and there was a lot a natives hangin' round outside.. You dont get in unless you have a girl to dance with; an M.P. stops you at the door till he stamps the back of your hand. How did I get in? Oh, I just slipped in with a big sailor who had a small coloured girl who didn't look more than 10 years old. She was pretty too. I made for one of the seats right across from the door. ::: TOOK me a while to get used to the place. There was coloured women ranging from black curly headed Kanakas to the dark skinned French girls. And I guess the ages ranged from the kid of 10 to an old dame of 69. Course I needen't say it, but the few N.Z. Waacs looked mighty good in their white dresses. Everybody was cycin' 'em - so was I. Couldn't see my "Sunshine" there. ::: ONE end of the hall was a bar where you could buy Coke and beer, and sit down at the tables and drink. In the middle of the hall there was a place roped off for dancin' where the lads did the jitterbug so much I thought I was watchin' a movie of a Frisco dance hall. At the other end of the hall there was dancin' too, but not so much - mostly talkin' ::: SAW the Editor there, and heard some of the lads say to him "By God, if you put anythin' of this in Dozerdust, lookout. And keep that young "Snooper" out of this too. Didn't hear what the Editor said, but I guess I'll have to lay off. ::: MIND you the show was well conducted, but it sure is an experience to go, and I reckon some of you chaps oughta go along some ime. You'll enjoy it. Let me know when you're goin'.

RETAIL GATHERING.

DUNEDIN: April 24. ON Friday evening personnel of Works Constr. Coy. met to bid farewell to Lieut. R. Torrie of Services Section who is returning to New Zealand under direction of Manpower Committee to take over duties as Country Engineer to the Monganui Country Council.

A full muster of all in camp faced Spr. Gordon Macale as Chairman of the gathering when he called on the opening toast - to the King - of the evening. At the table with the chairman was Major E. Blacker, OC of the Coy, S/M Gordon Berry, of Services Section, and the guest of the evening. ::: DON McLean and "Butch" Miller led the community singing, while "Human Bullet" Boot gave a spirited rendering of his hot number the W. of J.. ::: IN proposing the toast to Lieut. Torrie, Major Blacker paid tribute to his unflinching good humour and that, in the twelve months the Coy. had been in New Zealand had not had a difference on anything more important than "whether bagpipes were music". He wished Lieut. Torrie many years of happy and prosperous life in civilian atmosphere of North Auckland. ::: S/M. Berry, S/Sgt. J. Matheson, CSM F. Kronast, Spr. G. Mawale, Spr. T.P.H. Buckley and Spr. J. Gibb also spoke. The latter saying that, as batman to Lieut. Torrie, he had tried to go to N.Z. with him (groans and shouts), but found that it was not possible. He expected he would have to work much harder now that Lieut. Torrie was going. CSM: IN rising to reply to the toast, Lieut. Torrie was greeted with prolonged cheering. "I am both glad and sorry to be leaving" he said, for his association with the Unit had been a most happy one from the first day of arrival when he came over with the Advance Party. Services Section had been a most happy family, and he hoped that it would remain so, and he hoped to renew the friendships he had made when the Unit returned to N.Z.. ::: IN the course of the evening several speakers extended a hearty welcome to Lieut. Torrie to visit the South Island; they promised he would not be disappointed. This was questioned by several speakers - one going as far as to call North Auckland the "California of the New Zealand". He was somewhat upset to learn that California was mostly desert. Lieut. Torrie promised to investigate.

FOOTBALLERS INJURED.

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PETER O'REILLEY TAKES IT:

C on Depot. April 16. In a game on Saturday, Peter O'Reilly sustained a sever injury to his neck and was admitted to the Kalavere Hospital. He will be confined to hospital for some weeks. He is said to liken himself to the proverbial chicken. Ken Clements also stopped a nasty jolt which led him to hospital for treatment to his eye.

"HOMERS" ALL AND HAPPY.

"TOO SURPRISED TO SPEAK"

Dumbca: When he learnt on Friday that he was going home under Manpower direction, "Tired" Norton was "so surprised He could not speak" to use his own words. With him were Bill Apperly, Ron Bull, Bert Stoner, Fred Smith, Lyall Newport, J. Parker and G. Anderson. They were all very happy when they got the news, but as "Tired" Norton pointed out "it would have been much better to have gone home with the lads". Cliff Foster who left last week said at the last minute that he wished he were staying to go back with the main body. :::When the lad left today they carried with them the best wishes of everyone, and everyone wished them well.

NORMAN PITT IN 4th. GEN.

Dumbca: April 18. Norm Pitt, ex-member of Services Section, who was transferred to Forward Area as Bulldozer Driver, had the misfortune to lose two fingers of his left hand. The ironical feature of the accident which cost him his two fingers is that he had just received word that he was to go home to the farm by direction of the Manpower.

BOILER ERECTION:

Dumbca: Special: Work on the Boiler continues to push ahead on a 7 day work schedule.

RUGBY SEASON OPENS.

Two Games Played.

The opening game of 44 was played last Saturday April 15 when scratch teams from 4th. N.Z. Gen. Posp. and Works Constr. Coy. met in a practice try out. Neither teams had found their football legs, but the game gave promise of some good play in the future. ::: ON Sat. 22. both teams again met after a week of loosing up, and victory went to the Hosp. team with the score 3 - Nil. ::: Discussing the game Team Captain, "Bunny" Spencer said the game was open, fast and gave the spectators something worth watching. The Hospital team backs were well supplied with the ball who made the most of the advantage. In the latter half of the game the advantage was with the Works team, but they did not have the "wind to make all they could have of the superiority". In the forwards, Maurie Corrie played a good lead. Johnny Mason as 5/8 was in good fettle. The outstanding play of the afternoon was that of Pat Cathcart. The team consisted of.

Forwards: R. Alderson. W. Lawson

"Bluey" Pederson.
G. Lyons. M. Corrie.
J. Craig. T. Skelton.

Backs. "Sherty" Attwood.
J. Mason.
P. Cathcart.
J. Hawthorne.
F. Kronast.
J. Fleming

A feature of the afternoon was the refereeing by Bert Lawrence. "Bun" anticipates some good games this season and thinks that Works, once the team hardens up, will be a "tough nut to crack".

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OWING to the difficulty of obtaining data on the formation of the Union the issue reviewing the history of the Works Constr. Coy. has been postponed until the material can be gathered. It is hoped that censorship regulations permit the copy being made a home issue. Contributions are invited from all ranks. What about an articles from the lads in the forward area. OK Re

(by the "Gook")

IN this issue we present the first of a series of articles on the above by the "Gook"

which is the pseudonym adopted by a well known writer now in uniform.

" " " " "

GENTLEMEN, allow me to thank you for the privilege of contributing to your Unit newspaper which I regard as a singular honour.

DOZERDUST combines so many unusual features that it reveals the Kiwi as a soldier who is interested in more than the latest pin-up girl.

CONSEQUENTLY, it is with some trepidation that I approach the subject on which I undertook to write. You are probably more familiar with the subject than I. My excuse, however, is that an outsider sometimes sees the implications of a setting more clearly than does those who are closely related to what is taking place.. How far I succeed I leave you to decide.

IN this series of articles I wish to flash-light what seem to me to be vital goal posts towards which we are moving. You, like many other soldiers in the Pacific, wish to return to your country; that thought is uppermost in your minds all the time. A thoroughly normal desire; you have your homes, your wives, your children, your friends and, I would add, you have a country of which you can be justly proud

The Difference.

WHAT is frequently overlooked by many soldiers is that since 1939 no one has been living a "normal" life. New

Zealander along with other members of the British Empire have gone through an Inferno that makes Dante's Hell look like a fraternity meeting. In the early stages of the war between the Japs and Chinese I saw hundreds of children literally starving to death; I saw small kids grey haired, and insane-pregnant women-women raped by so many soldiers that they lost their reason. That, gentlemen, is merely part of of the forgotten details of war while you were living a "normal" civilian life.

Might Have Been.

TODAY you are taking part in the same war. It might have come to your homes - it might have been your children who were starving to death, it might have been your wives who were insane. It might have been your country that was treated as just another Chinese province. It did not happen. But the progress of the Japs in the first few months of their onslaught should have revealed to you how easily you might have been conquered.

THE early success of the Japs also revealed that New Zealand, along with Australia, can no longer regard isolation as a source of strength. From now on for you the Pacific will be a daveline - just a point where you meet your enemy. A frontier that will be as easily crossed as Queen Street.

A Small Nation. Moreover, your country has outgrown the pioneer

stage; you are now a small nation with obligations much more momentous than those your grandfathers shouldered when they landed in N.Z. A hundred years from now there will be men and women in New Zealand bearing your name; your photographs will no doubt be preserved, perhaps some of your letters, and even the souvenirs you made in New Caledonia

They Will Ask.

YOUR descendants will look back on your work, knowing that you were one of the men who helped shape the N.Z. of 2044. Today many of you look back on the pioneers & think of the opportunities they missed; the land they could have bought cheaply, the mines they could have found, the money they could have saved. You can see what they could not.

What Do You See ?

IT is worth remembering that your descendants may look at your faded photograph on the wall and ask why you did not see the opportunities that lay before you in 1944. Opportunities that were vastly different from those of 1860 or 1900. They may ask why you did not see that by combining with Australia, Fiji and Samoa, New Zealand would join in a federation that would be so strong no European power would dare attack. It might be asked why you did not know that by 2044 the Japanese, the Malaysians and peoples of Indo-China would become a united people, powerful and hungry to rule the white China who today is the sick man of Asia maybe the Russia of tomorrow.

Excuses.

YOU may say, but we are members of the British Commonwealth. True.

See page 5.

But remember that some day it may be England that calls on you, on your fleet, or whatever the fighting force is. You may think this suggestion fantastic; you may not connect your present activities with anything so grandiose; you may even look upon your present activities as a sheer waste of time. A lot of soldiers do? They do not stop to remember that they do not see the whole picture; no man can see or know everything. I may know more of what may happen than you do. That is only because I have been closely connected with events and people. There are others who know much more than I. I am compelled to put my trust in them. I very often disagree. But that does not entitle me to bellyache when I bump the bottom.

Where Will You Stand ?

IN order to help get a better insight into what might happen, I propose discussing in the next article what would happen were N.Z. to withdraw from the European theatre and concentrate its fighting forces in the Pacific. How would that affect you and just how long you might be required in the strategy of the Pacific.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

Recently the Base Camp was visited by one, Sgt. MacIvor. One of his first requirements being, as he required somewhere to spend the night, a bedcot and the necessary covering. He duly approached the A/QM and was promptly and courteously received and attended... even to the extent of assistance to the Sgts quarters. Next morning the QM naturally expected the articles supplied to be returned with perhaps some sign of appreciation. INSTEAD, the above mentioned Sgt. decamps hurriedly without returning any of the above mentioned articles borrowed - the QM having to collect them himself. Perhaps in a belated effort to repair the omission was the appearance in last week's Dozer dust an article referring to the above incident. The A/QM when confronted with the article had to be assisted to his cot... He was foaming at the mouth and muttering to himself. No wonder most QM's are tough; for courtesy, apparently does not pay.

J. Bruce.

A/QM Base Camp.

For comment see next column.



Gonophone News

DURING the last few days maliciously minded persons have gone out of their way to spread the rumour that Gonophone News Service would find all source of copy cut off owing to the Army's Manpower Survey of Works personnel. Apart from effect on morale of our readers we consider that, in the interests of national unity, all forms of rumourmongering should be visited with the most devilish punishment the Army can devise - in fact, there are several N.C.O's in Works whom we could recommend with confidence for the job. GONOPHONE NEWS finds that the Survey greatly increases copy. Our ace reporter, Gordon Macale, and the "Treachorous Whitten" report feverish activity at all Gonophones in Necal. FROM most reliable sources it is understood that when present schedule of work is completed another more comprehensive plan will be handed over for construction and that it will cover at least six months.

STILL another report says that when present plans are completed the Unit will undergo a course of Field Training before going on furlough. It is also thought that N.Z. manpower demands will largely be met from men withdrawn from the forward area. ACCORDING to reporter Macale a large number of Services Section are keen to remain in Necal on a maintenance party - a fact the OC will no doubt take into consideration when making the selection. AS we go to press, we learn that all N.Z. Waacs are to return to essential industries. No comment.

We offer A/QM Bruce our sympathy and declare he was submitted to outrageous treatment. Indeed he is fortunate that the Sgt. complained of did not decamp with bedcot and all. We have not interviewed the Sgt. in question, as he would merely have a plausible alibi that may require the A/QM to be assisted to his cot again. We trust that our worthy Base QM has fully recovered from the shock of such base treatment. EDT

EXTRACT FROM A DIARY.

Echoes From Waiouru.

The following extract is from the diary of a member of Works Constr. who at the time of writing was a member of 3rd. Div, area 6, Waiouru.

17.4.43.

" Another day of active rumours commenced this morning when the OC informed us that from Today you may consider yourselves on the Active Service " list. He added that he knew no more of our immediate future that we did - and we know nothing.. :::: AFTER being dismissed we were recalled for a change parade; marched down to the QM only to be marched back again and told that the change would take place later. We were warned to stay in the " lines " as there would be another parade for " tropic outfit " in a short time.::: WE were just back in the huts when the Sgt. bawled us out again for another parade where the names of all tradesmen were taken. From this we gathered we were all going as labourers in uniform - a guess that was accompanied with much profanity. Back in the lines for a few minutes, when out we go again, this time to sign pay cards. Then the lunch parade. :::: AFTER lunch there was another parade and we were told that Lt-Gen. Pattick would inspect us on Monday. On falling out we were told there would be another parade later in the afternoon. We played cards for an hour when we were again called out and addressed by the OC on the dangers of spreading rumours. No one took any notice of the drivel. A good many knew that he was just as keen on repeating rumours as the rest of us- or so the orderly Room clerk let it be known. Marched down to the QM again - one of the other companies should have gone, so we came back empty handed.::: There are a lot of rumours floating round: today's batch include.

That we move out of here for Trentham on Tuesday.

That our rifles and web are to be handed in tomorrow.

That we are not going to New Caledonia, but to " some other Island".

Alex told me that the priest had told him no further opportunity would be given R.C's to obtain Rosaries and beads, which meant that

we were going straight on to the ship.. The story went round that all outward mails from Waiouru were held up from today. Eric is very worried. In a letter he wrote and posted tonight he told his people all the Sgt. had told him. Foolishly Eric mentioned the Sgt's name and said he had given confidential information. Eric expects the provos at any moment. And so ends the day.

""""""""""

GOOD SHOOTING:

ISLAND RECORD

Dumbea. April 20. In a practice shoot today, S/Sgt. Jim Craig registered 111 out of a possible 115 which is understood to be the highest score made on the Island. Cpl. Bill Ferguson excelled himself in the same shoot with a score of 103 out of a 115 possible. Frank Harvey also knocked the 100. The score of 106 made by CSM Fred Kronast earlier in the week will have to be bettered or Fred will find himself down on the list. The challenge shoot between a Works Team and 4th. N.Z. Gen/ Hosp. has been postponed.

ORIGINAL POSTINGS UNALTERED; CAPT. W.P. BOYD MAKES GOOD CHOICE.

Dumbea; April 18. In discussing the formation of Works Senstr. Coy. personnel with Capt. W.P. Boyd today, he remarked that just over twelve months ago he interviewed the majority of the Coy. personnel - carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, electricians, and others specialists who make up the Coy. On the strength of the interview men were posted to the various sections - and there they have remained. Every one a " whopacker"! Good work Capt. Boyd!

" CLEAN OLD MAN ":

GOES HOME.

Dumbea: This Day. Our early readers will learn with regret that Sgt. George Lindsay, better known as " The Clean Old Man ", our first delivery boy, is returning to N.Z. For some weeks he has been in hospital under treatment. He thinks Washdyke atmosphere will provide a complete cure. We wish him all the best.