

(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.

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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 see 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 help 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.

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