

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.

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GOOD SHOOTING:

ISLAND RECORD

Dumbca. 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.

Dumbca; 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.

Dumbca: 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.